

Guided Busway Update

April 2007

This is the fourth in a series of newsletters from Cambridgeshire County Council to keep you informed about progress on the Guided Busway project.



Staff have moved into the Guided Busway offices at the construction site near Longstanton.

What's happening now with the project?

A start of works ceremony was held in March at the Guided Busway construction site near Longstanton. The Secretary of State for Transport, Douglas Alexander MP was there to mark the occasion and completed the final piece of work on the concrete manufacturing facility that will produce all of the guideway beams.

Preparations at the construction site are now very nearly complete and staff have moved into the offices on site.

Work on the new wildlife habitat near Over is progressing well. The earth works will be finished shortly and planting will take place in April and May. Fencing to protect newts is also being put up in preparation for work on the old railway bridge over the River Great Ouse.



Councillor John Reynolds, Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Services for Cambridgeshire County Council and Secretary of State for Transport, Douglas Alexander MP finish the final piece of work on the manufacturing facility.



Ian Stewart, Chief Executive of Cambridgeshire County Council meets Douglas Alexander, at the Guided Busway start of works ceremony.

The first 15 metre guideway beam is likely to be cast in June this year. When in full production the manufacturing facility will produce approximately 360 metres of guideway beam a day. Workers have been clearing vegetation along the track between Longstanton and Cambridge in preparation for laying foundations and then guideway beams. A 1.5km test section of guideway will be constructed first to test the construction method.

Work is also underway to prepare for the construction of a bridge over the railway line near Addenbrooke's Hospital.

The new bridge will carry the guideway and also a cyclepath and footpath. In order to build the bridge the County Council needs permission from Network Rail to work over the live railway line. This permission has been granted for later this year so work will be carried out at this time, even though guideway beams will not be laid in this area until 2008.



Work is still underway to complete the large shed where the guideway beams will be made.



The manufacturing facility where the concrete for the guideway beams will be produced is now complete.

Investigation work into the old railway bridge over the River Great Ouse near St Ives is also underway. The Council's contractor, Edmund Nuttall Ltd is assessing the strength of the bridge foundations. It is expected that the majority of the viaduct will need to be

dismantled and replaced in order to make it safe for the busway and new bridleway to be built on it. When the bridge is being dismantled there will be no access over the bridge until the whole Guided Busway opens in Spring 2009.



Old railway bridge over the River Great Ouse.

Bus services

Legal agreements have now been completed with three local bus companies who will all run services on the guideway. Stagecoach, Huntingdon and District, and Whippet Coaches have committed to buying new buses and running commercial services on the scheme. The bus companies will now be working with the Council over the next two years to finalise details such as timetables, ticketing and other operational issues.

Operators and Council sign busway agreement : (left to right) Bob Menzies, Head of Delivery - Cambridgeshire Guided Busway for Cambridgeshire County Council, Andy Campbell, Managing Director of Stagecoach in Cambridgeshire, Peter Lee, Managing Director of Whippet Coaches, Dennis Upton, Managing Director of Huntingdon and District and Councillor John Reynolds.



Construction timeline

As with any large construction project this programme is subject to change. The Council will update the programme in each edition of this newsletter.

Activity	Start	Finish
Establishing a wildlife area at Over Cutting	Nov 06	May 07
Establish site offices near Great Ouse bridge (St Ives)	Apr 07	Apr 07
Longstanton to Cambridge construction	Jul 07	Aug 08
Work on Great Ouse bridge	May 07	Jul 08
Construction of trial guideway section at Longstanton	Jul 07	Dec 07
Work on new bridge over railway line near to Addenbrooke's	April 07	April 08
Further site clearance from Longstanton to St Ives (Avoiding the bird nesting season)	Aug 07	Mar 08
Further site clearance from Cambridge Station to Trumpington	Aug 07	Sept 07
Establish site offices at Long Road, Cambridge	April 07	Jun 07
Construction from Cambridge Station to Trumpington	Oct 07	Sept 08
Work on Hills Road Bridge	Jan 08	Sept 08
Further construction from Longstanton to St Ives	Mar 08	Winter 08/09
Work on Windmill Bridge at Over	Feb 08	Jun 08
Construction of St Ives P&R	Nov 07	Sep 08
Construction of Longstanton P&R	May 08	Nov 08

How can I find out more?

If you want to know more about the Guided Busway project or if you have questions or concerns about anything to do with construction, please contact the Guided Busway team on 01223 716972, e-mail us on guidedbusway@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or write to us at

**Cambridgeshire County Council
RES 1504
Castle Hill
Cambridge
CB3 0AP**

There are also lots of details about the project on our webpages at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/guidedbusway

If you would like a copy of the text in this newsletter in large print, Braille, audiotape or another language please contact the Guided Busway team using the details opposite.

The next update about the project will be available in June 2007.