

Arborfield Cross Relief Road - Newsletter

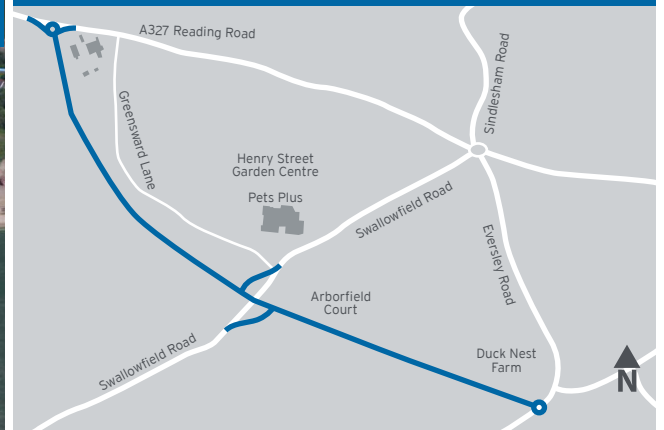
June 2020

» Project Overview

Aerial view of the ACRR corridor at Reading Road Roundabout



Arborfield Cross Relief Road Scheme Map



» Work to date

This last month has been another busy one. We've been pressing ahead with the necessary operational works whilst maintaining the two-metre rule in line with Government advice and guidance. As it stands, we are still on track to complete this scheme by the end of this summer.

Since the May issue of this newsletter we have completed a series of works, as shown here:



The old pavement to the side of the new road is being dug up. This will be laid as a verge with planting to the approach to the new roundabout



Construction of the maintenance lay-bys which provide stopping opportunities for road users needing to stop for a short duration



Works to the drainage swale



Pond liner installed within pond 3 at Duck Nest Farm roundabout



New carriageway kerb lines laid at western tie-in with Bridge Farm roundabout



New asphalt laid under the green bridge



Works are progressing along section of Swallowfield Road between junction with Greensward Lane and Castle Hill



New street lighting columns erected at Bridge Farm roundabout



New asphalt laid around the Swallowfield Road arm of the new staggered junction

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Other works completed include: Construction of new combined footway/cycleway; drainage, kerbing and carriageway construction ongoing; new ducting installed; existing asphalt road and kerb-lines removed; new filter drains at toes of embankments installed; embankments and verges from Bridge Farm roundabout to Duck Nest Farm roundabout top-soiled; swales excavated; water-proofing of green bridge completed; street lights installed around the roundabout at both ends of the new road.

» Wildlife in our Community

With areas of fill now nearing completion, badger tunnels will be placed underneath the footpaths and at the top of the green bridge. Badger proof fencing has been installed which will encourage the badgers to cross at the specified locations.

Badgers are widespread in Europe and are of the same family as stoats, weasels, otters and pine martens, but much larger at 12 to 14kg. They are omnivores, but rate as Britain's heaviest carnivore and have a sense of smell 500 times better than humans.

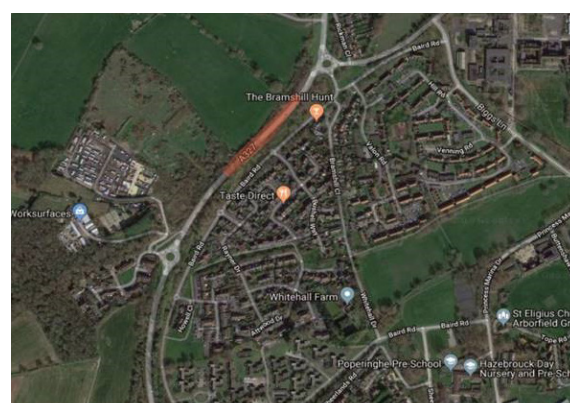
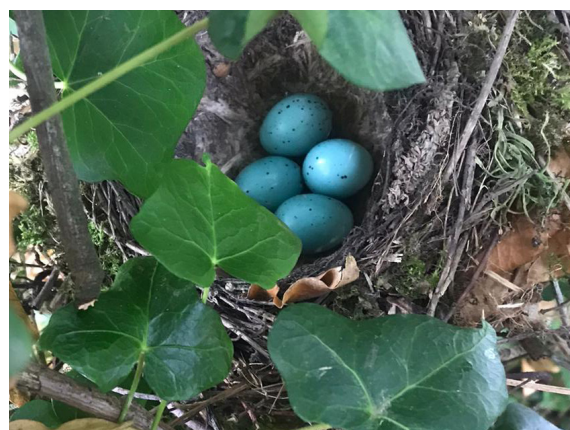
Their main food is earthworms but will take anything edible they come across. They mate at any time of the year, but have delayed implantation, so the young are born in February after an eight-week gestation. The cubs are weaned at 12 weeks and begin to come above ground then. They can live from three to 14 years.

Spotted!

A song thrush has been seen nesting in the area. Its distinctive song, which has repeated musical phrases, has frequently been referred to in poetry. Its eggs, as seen here, are very pale blue with a few large dark speckles

» Upcoming works

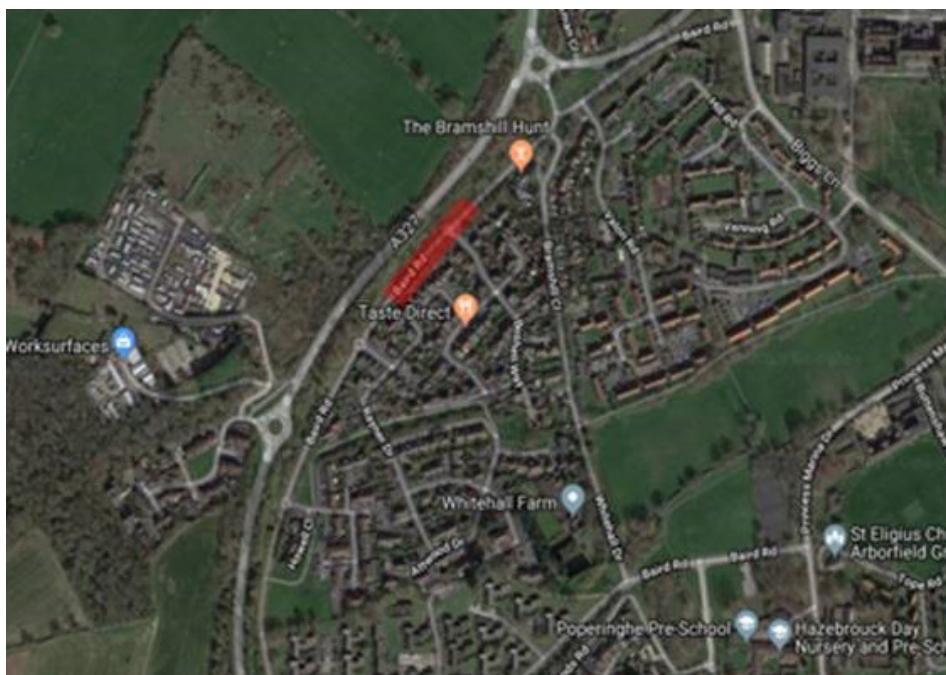
Temporary traffic signals will be in operation on Baird Road - from between the roundabouts with Langley Common roundabout and Arbery Way roundabout - from 8th July 2020 for up to three days, as shown on map, adjacent. This will then change to a priority traffic management system between the roundabout at Arbery Way and Rayner Drive - from 13th July 2020 for seven days (including the weekend) and will be in operation for 24 hours. These two periods of traffic management will allow us to install a new utility duct along the verge and through the road through which a new electrical cable will be installed to connect the new lighting columns to the existing electrical system along Baird Road. The mains connection is planned to be carried out late July. This traffic management is planned to stay in operation for this extended period as an alternative route has been identified which will help reduce the amount of vegetation clearance required to complete these works and therefore is better for the environment and the local surroundings.



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Two-way temporary traffic lights will be in operation on A327 Eversley Road - between roundabouts with Langley Common Road and Wokingham Lane - from 6th July 2020 for up to 10 days (excluding the weekend) - as shown on map adjacent - daily from 8am to 6pm. The temporary traffic lights will be removed at 6pm each night. This is to allow us to install new ducting within the verge for powering the new lighting columns and new carriageway kerbs for the second half of the new roundabout. These works were originally planned to be carried out at night, however subject to the relevant approvals to limit the noisy work at night these can now be carried out during the day, subject to traffic counts through this road which will be monitored over the next two weeks.



Daily public safety will remain a priority, as will the access to the Emergency Services. Additionally, access for local residents will remain open at all times.

Due to the nature of the works, noise levels may be higher than normal which we appreciate may be an inconvenience. We will obviously be doing everything practical to keep any intrusion to a minimum and mitigate the impact as far as possible.

We apologise in advance for any inconvenience and kindly ask you to bear with us whilst these necessary works are carried out. Please note these are indicative dates and are subject to change a short notice for reasons beyond our control. For further information and latest updates, visit Wokingham Borough Council's social media pages- www.myjourneywokingham.com



and to help plan your journey, visit One.Network

» Impact of COVID-19 on our works

Works we're carrying out are subject to Standard Operating Procedures, or SOP. SOP cites that activities deemed essential to maintaining the programme, may take place within two metres where necessary. This includes, but not limited to; limiting the amount of time working within two metres, wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and increased hygiene measures. To view the full list of latest Government advice and guidance relating to social distancing in the construction industry visit www.builduk.org/coronavirus

Should you have any concerns or queries, the number to call is **0800 121 4444** or you can e-mail arborfieldcross@balfourbeatty.com

For further information please visit: www.wokingham.gov.uk/roadworks-and-outdoor-maintenance/major-new-roads/