


# A131 Chelmsford to Braintree Route Improvements – Sheepcotes Roundabout



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December 2019

 Working on behalf of Essex County Council

## Background

This is the final phase in a series of works carried out by Essex County Council that form part of the A131 Chelmsford to Braintree Route Based Strategy, designed to improve safety on A131/A130 route linking Braintree to Chelmsford as well as supporting future economic growth of the area.

## What are we doing at Sheepcotes Roundabout?

- Providing a dedicated left turn slip from Braintree Road (A131) to Essex Regiment Way (A130). Reducing the size of the central roundabout island to allow two traffic lanes from Essex Regiment Way (A130) to Braintree Road (A131).
- Widening the roundabout approach on Essex Regiment Way (A130) to two lanes.
- Constructing an underground attenuation tank and Hydro brake manhole in the centre of the roundabout. The storage tank will hold up to 160,000 litres of surface water, and the hydro brake will be used to control the flow of water to minimise the impact of storm/surface water generated by the highway improvements.
- Constructing a new storage pond to further capture the storm/surface water from the new road layout and address possible flooding concerns.

Improvements to Sheepcotes Roundabout started in September and are anticipated for completion during spring 2020.

## Progress

What a wet start to the scheme! The works have progressed despite the wet weather that we have experienced during October and November. This has made the ground conditions difficult for the machinery and operatives. Despite this Jackson Civil Engineering reprioritised construction activities and reprogrammed with no additional disruption to the travelling public.

### Sheepcote Roundabout

The existing road splitter islands on all approaches to the roundabout have been removed and traffic island areas have been replaced with full road construction. This will allow more room for traffic management.



The attenuation tank system has been fully installed together with much of the associated deep drainage.

The roundabout is taking shape, the kerbing is all installed along with associated drainage works.

Resurfacing of the roundabout is ongoing to complete the full depth reconstruction works.

### A131 Braintree Road

Existing BT cable diversion works has been undertaken without any disruption to the service.

Embankment shaping has been completed and road widening has started.

### B1008 Braintree Road, A130 Essex Regiment Way

Surface water drainage construction including installation of drainage pipes from the centre of the roundabout across the carriageway along with the installation of street lighting ducts is complete. All kerbing and road widening works has been



completed and the temporary road surface is now ready for the traffic management to be changed to start construction on the opposite side of the road.

### B1008 Braintree Road, B1008 Essex Regiment Way

Deep drainage installation which will lead to the storage pond has been completed allowing for the road widening works to start. A fin drain is being installed on each verge which are narrow trenches that may be thought of as 'high-tech' land drains. They utilise a 'geo-grid' sandwiched between layers of 'membrane' or 'geo-textile' which act to direct any groundwater and/or surface water directly into a traditional piped drainage system.

## Traffic management

Construction works will continue over 24 hours and to ensure the safety of both the public and roadworkers, we have segregated our working area, separating the public from plant movements and material delivery.

Night time works will continue until the end of January

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**GOOD WORKS**

2020 which include four way traffic lights to moderate traffic flow, sequencing will change night by night to allow access to different areas of the worksite.

It will be necessary to have two full overnight road closures, which will include a diversion route. This will take place over one weekend to complete the road reconstruction and resurfacing works. This has been provisionally scheduled for February 2020 and we will confirm the dates the new year.

### Christmas traffic management arrangements

Works will finish for Christmas from 3pm on 20 December 2019 returning on 6 January 2020. During this time overnight traffic management will be removed and the traffic management will consist of the daytime configuration only which consists of narrow two-way traffic lanes on each approach to the roundabout.

### What's next

- During December, work will continue to complete the Hydro brake unit and install the chevron blocks on the roundabout island.
- Excavation of the attenuation storage pond will commence to capture the storm/surface water from the new road layout.
- Installation of the deep drainage construction and street lighting ducts will continue within the A131 Braintree Road western verge. During January, once construction work within the western side of the A131 Braintree Road is complete, traffic management will be moved to the Eastern verge. This will allow the road widening associated with the dedicated left turn slip to commence and traffic will be moved over to use the newly constructed road on a temporary surface.

### Our environment

Essex County Council have been working closely with ecologists over the last year to carry out ecological surveys and vegetation clearance prior to the start of these works in September 2019.

An area of ancient woodland that is protected by A Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) has been cordoned off.

This is an internationally recognised program addressing threatened species and habitats and is designed to protect and restore biological systems.

### How to find out more?

Essex County Council website will be updated with information about the scheme as works progress.

<https://www.essexhighways.org/transport-and-roads/highway-schemes-and-developments/highway-schemes/a131-chelmsford-to-braintree-route-improvements.aspx>

If you have any questions or comments about the scheme, please contact the **Essex County Council customer service team** on 0345 603 7631 or <https://www.essex.gov.uk/enquiries>.

## Improving the image of construction

The Considerate Constructors Scheme was set up to improve the image of the construction industry. The scheme aims to encourage best practice beyond statutory requirements and show the industry to be considerate. Jackson Civil Engineering are doing everything possible to apply the Scheme's Code of Considerate Practice:

- ensuring the professional appearance of our site,
- respecting the community,
- protecting the environment,
- securing everyone's safety,
- caring for the workforce.

As you may be aware from the banners around the site, our site has signed-up to the scheme and the monitor visit is scheduled for January 2020.

**Site reference: 11785 Freephone: 0800 783 1423**

**#love construction**

### Thank you and Merry Christmas

We would like to thank you for your patience and understanding whilst we have been carrying out this important work.

The team wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

### Working in partnership

The project is being carried out by Jackson Civil Engineering on behalf of Essex County Council.

