

Ash Road Bridge update

January 2024

Get in touch: AshRoadBridge@vollkerfitzpatrick.co.uk
Visit our web page: www.guildford.gov.uk/ashroadbridge



Welcome to our Ash Road Bridge newsletter

We've been busy on site since the project kicked off in earnest in September. Since then Storms Babet, Ciaran and Henk, have kept us on our toes, but we've still managed to get a lot done, including:

- clear the sites on both sides of the railway, keeping the topsoil to use later
- install site offices on the south of the railway including parking spaces for staff
- build the embankment on the south side which has now settled
- constructed piling mats on both sides of the railway. These are temporary working platforms so the piling rig can operate safely
- excavated flood attenuation ponds on the north side of the railway
- installed welfare facilities for staff on the north side
- constructed the main embankment on the north side to the roof of the new flood relief culvert
- the piling rig is now on site on the north side and will be returning to the south side to complete work there by the middle of February
- Foreman Road between Ash Church Road and Foreman Park has been closed and works have started to form the new road and divert existing services
- works on the roundabout on Foreman Road has started and the new drainage has been installed along the new Persimmons access road



Foreman Road roundabout



Widening Foreman Road

Community Forum

Thirteen people joined us for our first community forum on 16 November, who were, in general, positive about the scheme. We gave them an update on the project and then the floor was open for questions. Concerns were raised about:

- lack of footpath on Foreman Road between Woodroffe Close and Vyne Walk
- pedestrian crossings on Grange Road

Both of these issues fall under Surrey County Council's remit and are not part of the Ash Road Bridge scheme. Participants were advised to contact Surrey County Council through the website. [Making a request for highway improvements - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk) (opens new window). If you have any new questions you'd like to raise, please join us for our next Community Forum on 22 February at 5pm on Teams. If you're not already signed up and would like to be involved, please email AshRoadBridge@VolkerFitzpatrick.com.

Pile rig arrives on site

After a couple of delays, the pile rig arrived on site on the south side of the railway on 30 November. The Continuous Flight Auger (CFA) method of piling was chosen for Ash Road Bridge. This is classed as a low noise and no vibration method of piling. This method was chosen because of the proximity to the railway. Holes both 900mm and 1050mm diameter, up to 23m deep, will be 'drilled' into the ground and filled with concrete to create the foundation for the bridge. The piling rig is now working on the north site and will be returning to the south site to finish piling following some complications with the installation of the early piles. Piling works are now planned to be complete by the middle of February.



Piling rig arriving on site



Piling rig in action

How will pedestrians get across the railway when the bridge is open?

This was the most asked question at the drop-in sessions we held for residents in September. We were able to reassure residents that the level crossing will be closed to vehicles only. Pedestrians will still be able to cross the railway at the level crossing until such time as a footbridge is installed.

Over 400 people visited us at the Ash Centre over two evenings. They were able to see the plans for the bridge, find out about traffic diversion routes while the work is taking place and ask the project team questions.

The traffic diversion routes [can be seen on the our website](#) (opens new window).



This map (right) shows the pedestrian diversion from the station to Foreman Park. You can see this map on our website where you can zoom in for more detail.

Giving something back

Part of the scheme involves giving something back to the community, known as Social Value. It can take a variety of forms, from employing local people to using local suppliers, from getting involved with local charities to offering local schools and colleges work experience opportunities. So far VolkerFitzpatrick Limited (VFL) have:

- raised £1000 from suppliers to buy Christmas presents for local children whose families receive food parcels
- employed 17 local people on site
- taken part in a local 'Construct Fest' which was held at Surrey Sports Park on 30 November. Todd Davison who is an apprentice data analyst at VFL, was there, offering students an insight into digital careers within the construction industry
- taken part in "The Big Interview" at Ash Manor School. VFL Project Manager, Colin Bexley, helped students prepare for job interviews



Members of the Food Parcels Project team, some of the VFL team and Cllr Carla Morson



VFL's Project Manager, Colin Bexley, interviews a student at Ash Manor School

Top marks for our scheme

Our Ash Road Bridge project has been rated as 'Excellent' by an independent organisation aimed at raising standards within the construction industry.

An independent assessor from the Considerate Constructors Scheme (CCS) gave us a score of 43 out of a possible 45 points.

Following the assessment, VFL's project manager, Colin Bexley, said: "We're delighted that our hard work to deliver this project with consideration has been recognised by the Considerate Constructor Scheme. Well done to all the team on this great achievement."

The next assessment will take place in April.

Working hours

Our current working hours are:

- Monday to Friday – 8am to 6pm
- Saturdays until the end of January – 8am to 6pm
- Saturdays after January – 8am to 1pm

Want to know more?

Visit our website for project updates. Visit [Find out about Ash Road Bridge - Guildford Borough Council](#) (opens new window).

You can also email us on AshRoadBridge@volkerfitzpatrick.co.uk with any queries, to sign up for email updates and join our Community Forum.