

Highways

August 2023

Bringing People Together



octavius

Welcome



Gavin Pritchard

Managing Director, Highways

Welcome to the second edition of our Highways update, the first received such a positive reaction we hope you enjoy this one as much.

When I was appointed Managing Director, Highways, in January I knew the business through the lens of my previous role, as Commercial Director and had certain views about it. I knew it was a good business. I knew we were doing some great things. The last seven months has shown me where we're doing that, how we're doing that and the amount of effort that goes into doing that.

Our projects are well managed, well driven and there are a lot of people working really hard to make our work happen, safely and successfully. I'm continually impressed by it. Whenever I go to site, I'm pleased by the level of customer feedback we get. We don't have a host of customer problems; where we have issues we deal with them.

Our customers appreciate what we do. They appreciate the way our people conduct themselves and behave. For me, that's a hugely important part of who we are and what we want to be as an organisation.

Since becoming MD I've seen at firsthand how much opportunity we've got, opportunity I believe we will make the most of if we can just be a little bit bolder and challenge ourselves a bit more.

What do I mean? Recently a customer asked us what our approach and processes were that made us so successful and great to work with. What's our secret sauce, our magic potion? We found it hard to answer, not because we don't know but because we're not used to taking credit where it's due and promoting ourselves and our abilities. Our competitors aren't so shy; let's be confident in what we do and why our customers should be doing it with us.

The addition of R&W Civil Engineering to the Octavius family opens even more opportunity for us, bringing something a little bit different to our offer, an extra string to our bow. We can now serve a different set of customers who have a different set of problems with a very agile, reactive service that meets their needs, something we currently only do on a specific framework for a specific customer.

Since the R&W acquisition was announced, customers who are saying: "You do this great in the South, can you do it in the Midlands? Or in the North?" We need to find a way to replicate the R&W model and move it to areas where we have existing strength as Octavius Highways, grow our customer base and grow geographically, building upon the great work we're doing on SDF and our recent appointment to YORCivil3. The foundations are strong, our challenge now is to build on these.

One of the foundations of our growth is the knowledge and experience we have and our ability to share this across projects and teams. I'm sure we do a lot of great stuff without realising how great it is. Our Business Performance team (Gavin, Kim and Ben) are great at facilitating knowledge exchange so let's work together to make sure we do so. What one person does in their role or on their site might have a hugely positive impact on another person or job.

I'm super positive about our future and proud to be leading the Highways team. There's so much good being done across the whole business and I'm excited about what we're doing now and what we can be doing in the future. Please take a moment to catch up on everything in this update, and please don't hesitate to let me have your thoughts and feedback.



What does the Highways team do?

The UK's Road network plays a pivotal role in bringing people together, connecting communities and building the UK economy.

We collaborate with partners on frameworks with National Highways, Connect Plus M25 and local authorities, delivering a wide range of enhancements to provide safer, cleaner and greener roads that meet demands for owners and provide efficiencies of public funds.

Welcoming R&W

We're delighted to have completed the purchase of the business assets and most of the customer contracts of R&W Civil Engineering Limited and R&W Limited (R&W). This move marks a significant milestone for both companies and reinforces our commitment to growth and market leadership.

The combined offering of Octavius and R&W has the capability to both self-deliver and integrate an SME supply chain to deliver a broad range of highway and civils projects for a variety of customers; from small reactive responses to large major projects, regionally and nationally, safely delivering these with a consistent collaborative approach that is underpinned by our aligned core values.

The R&W team will also provide the potential to self-deliver some of our existing projects across Rail as well as Highways. The R&W Business will operate as a third business unit within Octavius, alongside our Highways and Rail Business units.



Progressing at High speed

Following 12 months of collaborative planning our EKFB team successfully installed 21 pre-tensioned concrete U beams, each weighing in excess of 55 tonnes, to support the new Oxford Road overbridge that we're constructing in Aylesbury. It will eventually carry local highway traffic safely over the new HS2 route.



To help with this huge task the team had a 650-tonne telescopic crane on hand. The crane was operated from a specially designed working platform reinforced with geogrids to minimise the use of granular material; helping to reduce our embodied carbon emissions.

The new three span continuous bridge structure will be approximately 70 metres long and approximately 14 metres wide. It's all part of the programme of works that we're carrying out to realign the A418, to facilitate the new HS2 railway line.

Congratulations to all involved in the safe, professional, and efficient delivery of the works.

Enroute to greener carparking

Our team working at Wellcome Genome Campus, in Hinxton are making excellent progress on the singular deck modular carpark, following the successful completion of a concrete pour, in excess of 300m³ across the deck and ramp, safely and on time for our customer. The team are currently installing the cladding and solar panels.

Our innovative foundation less carpark solution in collaboration with Siderpark, has a modular steel framed design, that provides a quick, efficient and cost-effective solution to transform an existing area into revenue generating parking.

In one month's time we will have doubled the customer car parking capacity at the campus to nearly 300 spaces. The solution will provide many environmental benefits as the 276 PV solar panels will save a significant amount of carbon emissions. It will also feature our first ever heated ramp!



We look forward to seeing the final works!



Providing efficiencies for our customer

Well done to our team who were working on the Cotton Mill Lane project for successfully completing five months of bridge reconstruction works on the life expired bridge, safely and on time for Hertfordshire County Council. The scope of the works included partial bridge demolition, utilities support and protection, reconstruction of bridge abutments walls, new bridge beams and bridge deck, reconstruction of verges, footways, carriageway, and guard rails.

As the bridge is in a busy area and crosses the River Ver, the team collaborated closely with several stakeholders and with the Environment Agency to ensure the works didn't impact the river or restrict water flow. Also, recognising that relocating several services around the area to accommodate new parts of the bridge would be extremely costly for our customer, the team worked with our designer to develop a bespoke solution. The tailored design strategically positioned the new beams and deck around the existing infrastructure, mitigating the requirement to move existing services and providing several efficiencies.

Revitalising March

Our Eastern Highways Alliance (EHA) team mobilised on site in June to begin the regenerating the public realm in March, a market town located north of Cambridge and Broad Street.

The team have made fantastic progress so far, dug the carriageway for the new drainage, traffic islands have been removed; except for the pedestrian crossing island in the centre. All has been completed under traffic management. The 111 year old Grade 2 listed Coronation Fountain has also been dismantled and removed from the area and it will be relocated later on in the programme.

To keep local community informed of the works, the team are hosting weekly coffee morning, to answer queries and concerns during the works and a monthly newsletter which is available to the local residents and businesses.

Over the next quarter works will be progressing further along the main high street including continuing to excavate the carriageway, install the new drainage system, laying out new kerb lines.

The project will transform the existing road layout and create a new public realm; creating more open, social and pedestrian friendly environment. The programme scope includes replacing the two existing northbound lanes, replacing the traffic lights with a single lane and a new mini roundabout, new road signs and markings, new streeting lighting, removing existing public toilets and much more! The works will significantly improve traffic flow and reduce delays at all approaches to the junction.



111 year old fountain



Artist impression – south side



Super success in the Scheme Delivery Framework (SDF)

A huge congratulations to the SDF North West team for completing several packages safely and on time for our customer:

- Resurfacing works on the A580 to M60 carriageway
- Surfacing and asphalt kerbing along slip roads 9 and 11 on M62 Junction
- M6 southbound surfacing
- Early contractor involvement (ECI) driveway drainage works on the A585.
- ECI M60 Junction 21 improvements.

M25 team go above and beyond to delight our customer

The M25 team will soon be completing the Geotech cutting stabilisation project in Potters Bar.



After several years of meticulous planning and trials, the M25 team have mobilised in Swanley, to replace the deteriorating strengthening plate system on the east bridge. Thinking differently to consider the carriageway and substructure conditions, the team have devised a bespoke innovative engineering solution which involves sequentially removing the existing steel plates and replacing them with a total of 182 carbon fibre-reinforced polymer rods (CFRP), a first on the M25 network! In comparison to traditional steel plates, the fibre rods are lighter weight, less likely to crack and able to withstand the harshest environmental conditions. They are also resistant to corrosion and decay, ensuring that the structure can remain safe, operational and sturdy for many years! To minimise disruption to road users the team have only closed one lane and started works on the east side first and are mainly undertaking works overnight.

The team have made fantastic progress so far since starting in July as they have already nearly completed strengthening on one lane of the East Bridge. This has included removing the asphalt, waterproofing layers, the steel plates, grout layers and cutting groves into the deck slab which facilitates the installation of the fibre rods. After removing the first row of the existing steel plates the team recognised that more repairs than anticipated were required to the delaminated concrete. To ensure the programme can be completed on time for our customer, the team quickly arranged more resources for an additional weekend shift to complete the extra repairs, all planned and completed in just three days!

The team will soon switch the traffic management closure to lane 1, to carry out strengthening works for another eight weeks and will then reopen fully to traffic.

Well done to the team for thinking differently and ensuring we delight our customer.

Connecting communities in Chelmsford



The team received a fantastic score of 44 out of 45 following a site inspection by the Considerate Constructor Scheme.

Congratulations to our team working on the Chelmsford North East Bypass Scheme, in Essex for safely and successfully lifting and installing the bridge beams onto the new reinforced concrete abutments. This was a critical milestone in our journey to completing the new bridge, for our customer Essex County Council.

Thinking differently to keep everyone safe and minimise working at height, the team installed the permanent and temporary formwork deck on the bridge beams at ground level ahead of lifting the beams into place. This safe method also helped to drive efficiencies in the overall programme for completion of the bridge deck.

The new highway bridge is being constructed on a green field site, which is part of a wider scheme to support the economic growth and development in the county, to improve accessibility for the residents of Essex. The scheme involves building a single span integral bridge structure and approach embankments. Comprising of weathering steel beams with a reinforced concrete deck, integral abutments and piled foundations. It will allow the quarry operations to continue whilst the construction of new main bypass road is completed, ahead of becoming a public highway.

The team have been carrying out works since September 2022 and are progressing well for completion next month. The reinforced concrete wingwalls are under construction, service diversions in place and formwork is being prepared on the diaphragm in preparation for the concrete pour to complete the structure.

The site team have also hosted several tours including for students at Chelmer Valley High School and for our graduate trainees. Throughout the tours, students and our trainees had the opportunity to see technical civil engineering in action and learn more from members of our supplier, Nusteel and our senior leadership team.



Thank you to everyone involved for hosting the training day, achieving this key milestone and eliminating key risks to ensure everyone can go home safely.

Car Park team learn to be leaner

To help recognise efficiencies within our Car Park enquiry process Kim Coxon, Lean Champion held a value stream mapping workshop with our Car Park delivery team, to visually map out our current process from the point we obtain an enquiry to the point of contract.

The team reviewed the risk and opportunity of our current process and developed an improvement action plan using the 3Cs technique. The visual management focuses on cause, containment and countermeasure, which allows all concerns and suggestions to be developed methodically, ensuring that the root cause issue is removed, and long terms solutions are implemented instead of short-term workarounds.

Well done to the team for continually improving our processes to deliver for our customers.



Leaving a lasting legacy up North



Thank you to the A1 Wentbridge team for helping the local community and leaving a lasting legacy, following officially unveiling a new timber outbuilding, garden furniture and an enhanced garden area for Bless Community Support, in Upton.

The team alongside our supply chain have been working hard over the last three months to resurface the area around the existing poly tunnel and installed new foundations for the outbuilding. They have also donated over £7,500 worth of equipment including tables, benches, toadstool table, stools, planting beds and a five-star bug house!

The Bless Community provides workshops for young children and the elderly to help eliminate loneliness and isolation. The new greener area will provide vital support for people living with Alzheimers/Dementia and will help young children learn about the environment.

National Highways have created a short video about the works, you can watch it [here](#).

Thank you to everyone involved in this important project.

Celebrating our people

Helping to make the highways healthier

A huge congratulations to our Supervisors Sean Broughan and Greg Kneller who are members of our M25 team, for being recognised in the One Community Healthier Highways awards; which is the partnership between Connect Plus and all its supply chain partners. Healthier Highways is an initiative working with Steve Perkins Associates, aiming to make workplaces healthier and share awareness of health issues in the construction industry.

Sean and Greg both recognised activities that could be harmful to health and lead to permanent damage. To help keep their teams healthy and safe they implemented better methods to mitigate risks.



Greg receives his certificate and £50 voucher from Chris Hudson, Highways Director



Sean receives his certificate and £50 voucher from Nick Howard, M25 Framework Manager



Gade Valley Awards

Along with our partner Connect Plus Services, we held an awards evening at the amazing venue in the Tower Bridge, with all our suppliers who were involved in the Gade Valley Viaduct project, to celebrate and recognise everyone's hard work and dedication throughout the 6-year project.

Our winners:

- Peter Quinn, Senior General Foreperson – Health, safety and wellbeing
- Rafal Dzieciaszek, Project Manager - Programme
- Sarah Askey, Social Value Manager – Environment
- Mark Averill, Senior Site Manager - Quality
- Martin Parsons, Senior Project Manager – Excellent in leadership.

Congratulations to all our winners and nominees!



Shortlisted for Highways Heroes Awards

We're delighted to share that many of our colleagues have been shortlisted for the National Highways Heroes' Awards, which recognises the value and importance of those unsung heroes who work on the network everyday.

Whether it's saving someone from danger or risk of injury, helping a member of the public to safety, or supporting a team member in the face of abuse, the Highways Heroes' Awards recognise individuals who have coped admirably in the face of adversity. The awards also recognise those that have helped someone or improved a situation, either in the communities they work in or to unconditionally support fellow workers in their team.

Emilia Dawson, Graduate Engineer, Aron Frost, Assistant Site Manager and Daniel Lancley, General Foreman have all been shortlisted for the awards and will receive a personal invitation to attend the gala evening which will take place on 30th November 2023.

Emilia and Aron were both nominated for dealing with a potentially life-threatening situation safely and quickly, when a fire broke out in a bin storage attached to a property close to our Trowbridge site. They quickly alerted the homeowner, used a fire extinguisher to keep the fire under control until the fire brigade arrived, averting any severe damage. Daniel was nominated for kindly helping passengers in a vehicle who had broken down in a layby arrive in Lydden. Upon noticing the vehicle on the road Dan stopped in the layby, offered to drive the passengers to their home nearby so they could collect their second car, which saved them waiting several hours on the road for the recovery to arrive.

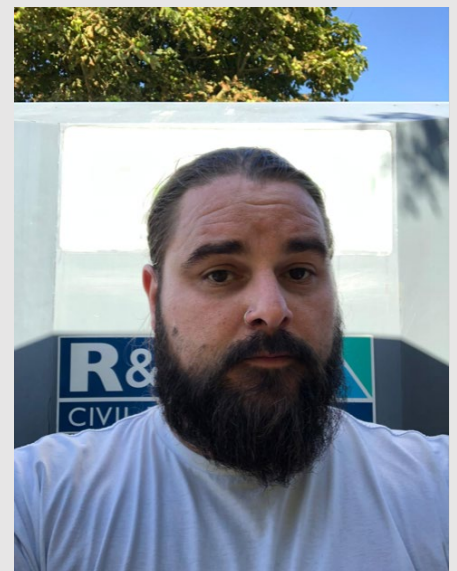
Congratulations all and good luck for the awards night!



Emilia Dawson, Graduate Engineer



Aron Frost, Assistant Site Manager



Daniel Lancley, General Foreman

Looking after the communities we work in



Social value delivered between April and July 2023



£11,622,350.34 total Social Value added



Over £5.1m social value created through spend with local suppliers



£1.8m social and environmental benefits added



Our people have volunteered 340 hours of their time to support the community

Canal cleaning with our partners



We joined forces with other suppliers within the M25 One Community, to help the River and Canal Trust in Enfield create a cleaner and greener environment.

The group spent a day collaborating together and were split two teams to remove a significant amount of overgrown floating pennywort. One team worked hard to cut the pennywort, load it on to the canoe and rowed the canoe along the river to the bank where the second team helped to unload the pennywort using buckets.

The team's support with essential upkeep of the river will help insects and fish thrive in the cleaner water flow.

Thank you to everyone who got involved. Also, to all our colleagues from the One Community for offering your time to a great cause.

Social media spotlight

Siderpark UK
413 followers
2mo · 🌐

01

Work has just started on a new car park in the UK.

On an area of 3,417 square meters we will build a raised floor, without digging, increasing the parking spaces from the current 158 to 293.

The project includes the installation of photovoltaic shelters with a peak power of 152.60 kWp. Of the 135 parking spaces we are about to add, 10 will be equipped with an electric charging station.

Efficiency, safety, sustainability, but also aesthetics. In fact, the car park includes an elaborate exterior cladding system made up of aluminum slats with variable inclination (brise soleil) on 3 elevations and a facade with climbing plants on the fourth elevation.

We can't wait to show you the final result! Fortunately, considering how fast the work is proceeding, we won't have to wait long :)

We thank our partner **Octavius Infrastructure Limited** also for the filming.

#parking #sustainability #safety

The Resolute Group
10,055 followers
2d · 🌐

02

Octavius Infrastructure Limited Infrastructure Ltd has bought the assets and most of the contracts of **R&W Civil Engineering**.

The Enquirer revealed last week that R&W was in talks with a potential buyer and had filed a notice of intention to appoint an administrator. Octavius has now finalised a deal for the firm after it went into administration.

Private equity owned Octavius was formerly known as Osborne Infrastructure. Octavius said the "acquisition aims to ensure, wherever possible, continuity for R&W employees, customers, and supply chain alike."

It added: "Octavius is committed to ensuring a smooth transition for all, minimising disruption as far as is possible."

John Dowsett, CEO Octavius said: "R&W is an organisation that we had identified in our acquisition strategy some time ago as a great fit both culturally and in terms of their complimentary capability. Securing this acquisition supports our ambitious growth plans to become a market leading transport infrastructure provider."

Social Media Captions

01. Hinxton car park-
Siderpark UK,
LinkedIn.

02. R&W acquisition –
LinkedIn.

03. SDF team host our customer on site–
LinkedIn.

04. Supporting the Stamp it Out campaign – LinkedIn.

05. Bridge beams installed in Chelmsford-Kerin Construction,
LinkedIn.

06. R&W acquisition –
LinkedIn.

Hazel Birdsall MCIPR · 2nd
Regional Communications Manager at National Highways
2w · Edited · 🌐

03

Thank you to **Michael Benni ENG MICE** at **Octavius Infrastructure Limited** for hosting during a communications visit to A1 Wentbridge Viaduct & Wentedge Bridge last week. It was incredibly useful to get a sense of the work being delivered by **Metrail Construction Limited**, **Tarmac Jacobs** & **Octavius Infrastructure Limited** out on site and for the opportunity to take images and video which we'll later share with customers on the next project update.



Kevin Robinson · 2nd
Making a difference doesn't have a job title
3w · 🌐

04

Very proud to announce that **Milestone Infrastructure** have become the latest organisation to sign the **Stamp It Out** commitment to pledge to make workforce abuse something we strive to make socially unacceptable. Alongside incursions these two issues are the greatest risks we see to our workforce so to see yet another organisation join **Balfour Beatty plc** **Octavius Infrastructure Limited** **Skanska East West Railway Company** **Keltbray Arcadis** and many others pledge their support is something which is an unbelievable step forward

Andy Butterfield Phil Clifton Steve Crofts Brian Hammersley FCIHT FIHE Tristan Miles Vip Gandhi Rich Smith Lizi Stewart Lizz Robinson Sian Whittaker Stuart Pollard Joanna Hitchen Gallacher (She/Her) Dan Raffles Ellie Deaton Helen Blood Neil Levett Simon Waterfall Hayley Terrell Iain McDonald FIHE Rachel Heaps Kari Sprostranova Alison. Hews David MacCabe Duncan Davies Morgan Wilson Paul Boss Steve Helliwell Paul Dooley Justin Manley Jim Dawson Andy Johnson Paul Gott

Daniel Carey · 2nd
Director at Kerin Construction
2w · 🌐


05

Great to visit Chelmsford this week after a huge milestone was achieved at weekend.

We now have the bridge and retaining walls to go at

Our team are doing a fantastic job. We are Proud to be a part of this project alongside **Octavius Infrastructure Limited**

Larry Wright
Spencer Harrison



5 comments · 1 repost



Milestone become the latest organisation to sign the Stamp it Out Commitment
stampitout.uk · 1 min read

The Construction Index Ltd
31,618 followers
1d · 🌐


06

Meeting PAS 6493 | Octavius saves R&W | Van Eile profits up 50% - <https://lnkd.in/eHeHD8FW>

#engineering #growth #neurodiversity #BSI #building #infrastructure #steelwork #electrical #revenue #buildingmaterials #development #investment #pipeline #contract #batterypower

Van Eile Octavius Infrastructure Limited R&W CIVIL ENGINEERING LTD Severfield Kane Group Breedon Group plc Audley Group Places for People Anglian Water Services Clancy

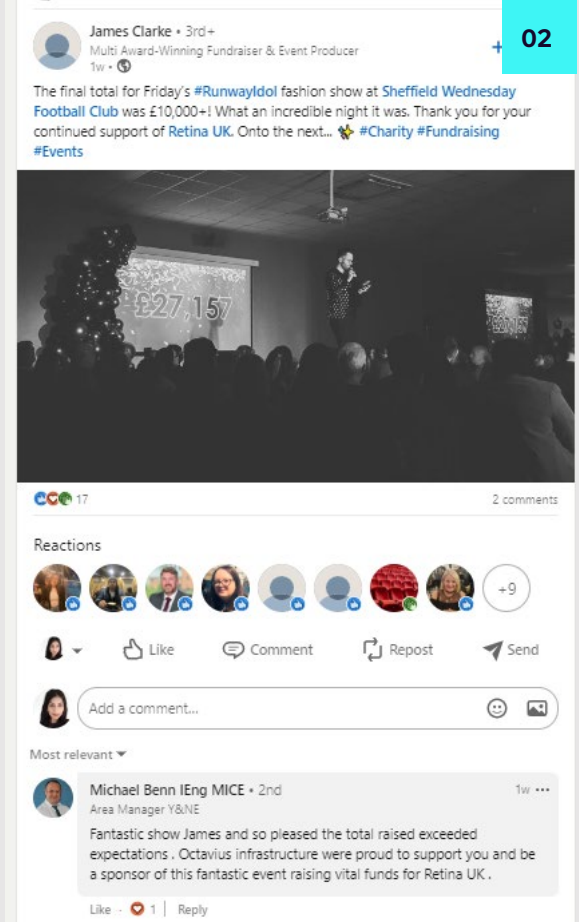
Construction Index News



Social media spotlight



01



02

Social Media Captions

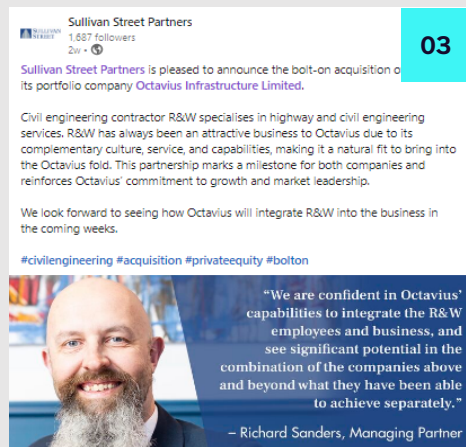
01. R&W acquisition, LinkedIn, The Resolute Group

02. SDF team support Retina UK fashion show event, LinkedIn

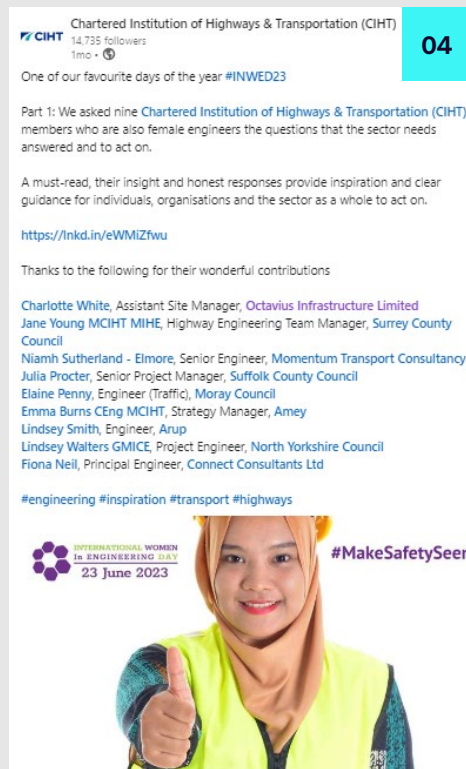
03. R&W acquisition, Sullivan Street Partners, LinkedIn.

04. International Women in Engineering Day- CIHT LinkedIn.

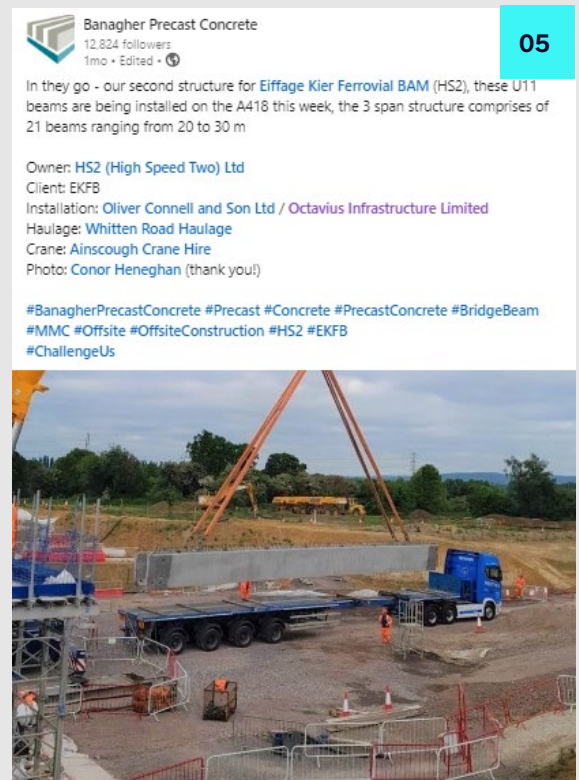
05. Bridge beams installed in Aylesbury- LinkedIn.



03



04



05

What's next?



Eastern Highways Alliance (EHA)

- Start on site on the next Cambridge Fen roads resurfacing scheme for Cambridge County Council
- Complete Chelmsford Bulls Lodge Bridge in September for Essex County Council
- Progress with Kings Lynn NORA £8.2m project until the summer of 2024, to develop the trading estate ready for plots to be sold in very challenging conditions
- Continue progress at Clophill Roundabout for Central Bedfordshire Council until the financial year
- Progress with the March regeneration scheme works.

Hertfordshire framework

- Continue with supply chain design for Much Hadham and Aldenham footbridges
- Commence multidisciplinary special inspection, testing and maintenance package on the 750m long Kings Mead Viaduct, which supports the A10 over the River Lea, the New River and the Hertford East branch line. Work will involve extensive confined space working and mobilisation of two underbridge units
- Progress and complete Breakspear and Whiteheart footbridges. The package of works includes painting, renewing the waterproofing and repairs to the footbridges that cross the A414 in Hemel Hempstead.

- Complete waterproofing and surfacing works two adjacent structures which carry the A602 over the railway and London Road in Stevenage

Regional Delivery Partnership

- Progress with Walsgrave design stages

M25 framework

- Continue with Swanley East Deck bridge strengthening project, the project is on track to complete mid-November
- Begin expansion joints M25 ECI package begins to enable a robust design and joint replacement for the next financial year
- Commence with River Mole bearing replacement, which requires temporary works to enable the jacking of the bridge to allow for the bearing to be replaced. Works are planned to be completed in mid-November.
- Carry out waterproofing works at the end of Dartford tunnel, works are planned during nights in October
- Continue with painting, bearing inspections and drainage works at Boston Manor Viaduct, due to be completed in September.
- Continue with other M25 investigations including at Holmesdale tunnel, various concrete structures for concrete delamination, off site trials for manhole replacement for Bow Arrow bridge, and waterproof investigations to enable waterproof replacement works next year.

EKFB

- Princes Risborough to Aylesbury line (PRA)- Complete a 10-week blockade to carry out earthworks and to construct the North and South embankment approaches that will facilitate the HS2 line.

Scheme Delivery Framework (SDF)

- Resurfacing and drainage remedial works to three slip roads at Junction 17 of the M6
- Install 35 new road traffic signs along the A590.

- Carry out carriageway resurfacing with drainage remedials along the A66 Warcop Bends to Brough
- Install a new retaining wall along the A590
- Carriageway resurfacing and bridge deck waterproofing along the A66 Threlkeld
- Carry out works on three different schemes on the A590 Meathop Roundabout. Works include a new carriageway crossover, slot drainage, new traffic signs, carriageway surfacing and installing footpath installation for non-motorised users.
- Carry out bridge deck refurbishment works on the M55 Blue Moor
- Drainage repairs and flood alleviation on the A66 Greta Bridge
- Install a new boundary fencing, installation of new traffic signs, landscaping works on the A494 By-Pass
- Complete drainage repairs within the verges, cross carriageway and central reservation on the M60 Junction 16-17, Irwell Valley
- Progress with replacing Wentedge Bridge Pier that is close to the Wentbridge viaduct project. The remaining works in phase 1 include moving the formwork with the southbound verge abutment, placing foam concrete in the soffit of the bridge beams. Also, realign the highway drainage and the verge VRS, civils work, gully connections and surfacing.
- Continue with Wentbridge Viaduct waterproofing works which includes plinth construction for the verge safety barrier, replace damaged hanging brackets to maintenance walkway, undertake some intrusive surveys on the brackets. Also, install internal drainage downpipes and connections, waterproof the deck, reinstate the verge VRS and resurface and line over the deck.

If you have any feedback or if you would like to contribute to the next issue please contact:

anjni.thakrar@octaviusinfrastructure.co.uk