

Blackamoor Lane Remediation Project

Issue 11, October 2010

McArdle



Welcome to the eleventh issue of the Newsletter for the Blackamoor Lane Remediation Project. Within this issue of the Newsletter we will explain how we will excavate and then fill a grid cell.

temporary route and bridge

Residents will note the construction of the temporary route is nearing completion with tarmac now having been laid on the temporary roadway.

The bridge section has been re-scheduled with the delivery and placement of the bridge now anticipated for the week commencing 1st November. Following the delivery of the bridge there are some final finishing works which will take approximately one week to complete. This will include the erection of signage on the surrounding road network.

We estimate that residents may therefore expect to see the first lorries using the temporary route towards the end of the week commencing 8th November to remove stockpiles of material from the slurry wall and Japanese Knotweed operations.

main works

All on site preparatory works are now complete including the installation of the wheel wash.

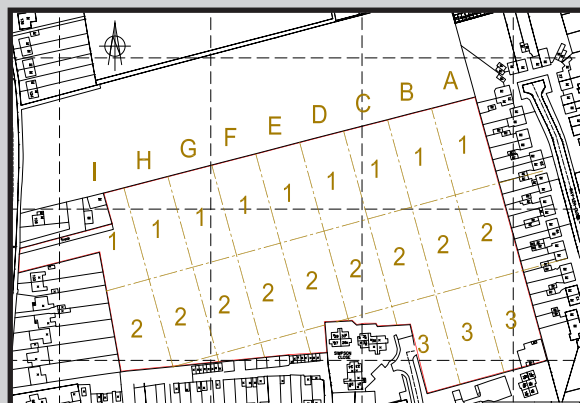
The re-scheduling of the temporary bridge has led to an adjustment to the commencement of the main excavation works which are now anticipated to start the week commencing 15th November.

We will commence this month with grid cell A1 as shown on the adjacent plan. We will update residents on progress and which grids we expect to be working on in the monthly newsletters.

The weekly work activities schedule (which is available on the website, on the notice-boards and in the Information Centre) will

also show the works programmed for the coming month.

If residents have any queries regarding the main works we would urge them to be raised through the telephone helpline or the Information Centre.



how we dig and backfill a grid cell

The site has been divided into grid cells as a means of controlling the excavation and back-filling operations.

All grid cells will be excavated to different depths as they have different profiles, therefore the time it will take to dig each grid cell will vary depending on these factors. The works begin with the installation of wellpoints around the edge of the grid. Wellpoints act like big plastic straws which are positioned approximately 5-6 metres below existing ground level. They are connected to a pump which will suck ground-water from the ground within that grid cell. This will allow the excavation to be undertaken in relatively dry conditions.

The water from the pumping operation will be treated and tested by the site's independent environmental engineer (RSK). While this process is happening, the water will be stored in the holding lagoons on the site's northern boundary. Once confirmed as being suitable for discharge by RSK, the water will then be sent down the sewer.

Once the dewatering has reduced the amount of water within the grid cell (which could take a few days), the excavation can commence. This will involve an excavator working its way through the grid cell by excavating in 5 metre wide strips down to the base of the pit.

The excavation process will be carefully monitored by RSK who will be present at the face of the excavation. The engineer will test the base and sides of the pit after the contaminated material has been removed to ensure they meet the 'clean up' criteria agreed with the Environment Agency and the Council.

Lorries will use the site's internal haul route to

access the sheeting gantry where they will be lined with heavy duty polythene to prevent any residual liquid leaking out of the lorry. They will proceed to the face of the excavation where they will be loaded directly if the material is identified as being contaminated. The lorries will proceed to the wheel wash and the checking station where they will be covered and given a final check to ensure they are clean before they are allowed on to the highway.

If we find material which is clean and looks like it could be re-used, (for example testing shows that some of the capping layer could be re-used), we will place it in a stockpile and RSK will test it to see if it is acceptable for use. The stockpile will then be covered until the test results are available.

After the base and sides of the excavation are confirmed as meeting the clean up criteria, the hole will be backfilled with clean material which has also been tested by RSK to ensure it is acceptable. The material will then be compacted using a roller to ensure it is fit for its intended use, i.e. to support flats and houses. RSK will verify the compaction has been undertaken to the level required. As well as undertaking a verification role, RSK will be present at the face of the excavation with hand held air quality monitoring equipment which will detect the presence of vapours in the air. This is in addition to the air quality monitoring equipment on the site boundaries which provides a ring of protection to residents.

As we mentioned in last month's newsletter, during the course of excavating the cells, we will encounter waste which will have odours of varying intensity. We would assure you that these odours, whilst noticeable, will not cause a risk of harm to residents.

information centre & drop box

The Information Centre and drop box (to receive residents written comments) are both located immediately to the right hand side of the main site entrance in Blackamoor Lane. The Information Centre is open 2-4pm on Mondays and 9-11am on Saturdays.

24 hour helpline: 0845 2584164; RBWM: 01628 683800