

GRIFFITHS



The A40 Project

Project Bulletin
Summer Edition



Project Update

Welcome to our summer project update. Work has progressed at significant speed over the spring and summer months across the project, with substantial achievements being made on earthworks and drainage. Some areas now also have tarmac laid, but there is still considerable work to be completed during Autumn/Winter of this year. A significant amount of work has been completed during the working week, especially to move the circa 150,000m³ of material across the eastern end of the project utilising up to ten large dumpers and three large excavators, with dozers and rollers also needed to maintain quality.

Successful Construction of the Online Section at Ffynnon Woods

After extensive planning and preparation, we were able to successfully construct the online section, which included a significant difference in levels between the now old section of the A40 and part of the new A40 at Ffynnon Woods, located west of Llanddewi Velfrey. To facilitate this, the A40 was closed between 8 pm on Friday, 16th June 2023, and 5 am on Monday, 19th June 2023. Throughout this period, we faced some challenging times. However, by monitoring it hour by hour, collaborative decisions could be made to safely get the activities completed to schedule. We were grateful for Preseli fuel station who kept our team energised. After multiple shifts and a tremendous team effort, which included the supply chain, the road was safely re-opened on time, and the traffic now gets to experience the first section of the new A40, which is a vast improvement over the old.

"A significant online section has now connected west of Llanddewi Velfrey thanks to amazing collaboration between various organisations and a very committed team working around the clock in shifts during a 57-hour operation to get the job done safely. While it was challenging, it was also enjoyable and rewarding, and that's why the team Build Better Civil Engineering. I would like to thank the local communities affected by those works and the residents in North Pembrokeshire for showing such great understanding while we closed the A40 to complete this challenging task." **Andrew Davies, Project Manager**

An additional side road near the A40 was closed and carefully managed to allow for an uninterrupted emergency services route around the affected area, which was successfully utilised throughout the weekend.

We currently have a workforce in the region of 150 helping to continue progress on this project, ensuring we meet our various milestone dates. Work will now continue at speed through the summer months, with the majority of construction taking place off-line and some distance away from the current A40.



Earthworks and Structures:

We have made considerable progress on the construction of several culverts and underpasses. We have completed 5 out of the 13 structures, varying from approximately 1.8m to 6.5m in diameter. These structures will be used for a variety of purposes, from agricultural, pedestrian, and multi-use purposes to animal underpasses and water drainage.

The culverts are manufactured out of corrugated steel, arriving in curved pre-cut plates (similar to flat-pack) and are then bolted together with thousands of bolts per structure to complete the circular culvert. The benefit here is that each culvert can be delivered on one or two lorries depending on size and length, as opposed to alternative concrete designs arriving via many more lorries and crane assembly.



Over the past few months, we have focused efforts on the Redstone Bridge, with teams having now installed the large 30-tonne bridge beams that were transported from Ireland on top of the two abutments. For those who have seen it, they were lifted into position using a locally supplied 250-tonne crane, which all went to programme given favourable weather back in early June. Work around the bridge will now continue over the coming months with the construction of the small walls at the rear of the large vertical abutments, together with the reinforced concrete deck that provides the route for vehicles and pedestrians/cyclists once the surfacing is laid. This bridge allows the new A40 to travel under the raised and realigned section of Redstone Road with the road tying back into the old A40 following a traffic switch early next year.

(Bridge Beams being placed)



Progress in the Working Areas

Across the entire project, we have been operating between 15 and 20 articulated dump trucks (ADT) at any one time, working alongside other heavy plant to complete the movement of earth and stone across the scheme. The majority of focus has been on the working area that will link up Redstone Bridge to the new Penblewin Roundabout, as well as the area that will link Llanfallteg Bridge to the brand new roundabout yet to be constructed east of Llanddewi Velfrey Village, making the most of the dry weather of summer 2023.

We have already made significant progress in these locations, and we anticipate that we will continue to do so over the coming months, much of which will be dependant on weather conditions. We will also be working at the far east and far west ends of the Scheme. It is programmed that early in 2024, the public will see this progress by potentially running on further sections of the scheme to allow sequenced work to continue.

Whilst the team continues with the progress, utilising significant numbers of workers and plant on the project, it is refreshing that the project is continuously supported by all those we interact with. We appreciate the project is well overdue, and we are doing our very best to ensure this project is completed as early as possible to leave this legacy here for you all to use. We maintain our engagement with the local community, ensuring we keep everyone up to date with progress, key activities, and traffic management impacts. Should anyone need to reach out to the team, please don't hesitate to drop us a call, message, or email.



(Llanfallteg area, which cannot be seen from the current A40 or sideroads)

(Penblewin looking in the direction of Redstone Bridge)



Community

We have been continuing to help those in the community where we work, including providing assistance at community events as well as construction-related activities to help enhance community amenities in the area.



Griffiths as Principal Contractor works collaboratively with our wider supply chain. CR Civils, subcontracted by Griffiths as drainage specialists on the A40, kindly provided a team of 5 ground workers plus plant, machinery, and

Current Working Hours

We anticipate that our working hours will increase to maximise progress and efficiency.

These updated hours will be as follows:

Monday to Friday
7:30am to 7pm

Saturdays & Sundays
When required

(Working hours will vary depending on project demand and other factors such as weather)

materials and assisted at the Narberth Cadet Hut by removing badly worn and uneven paving slabs, and improving the drainage provisions of the hut by creating 25 metres of underground drainage.

The Griffiths team also provided assistance to Bloomfield Community Centre by clearing a largely disused area at the rear of the centre, levelling the area, and providing stone to create a surface that could be utilised by the children attending community playgroups.

Further community benefit efforts will now focus on Llanddewi Velfrey village itself and what further improvements can be made other than the already beneficial detrunking works that will take place at the tail end of the project.

We have continued to engage with local schools and facilitate work experience opportunities. We enjoyed hosting students from Ysgol Preseli on their bi-monthly educational sessions and wish the students the very best for their future careers in design and engineering. We also recently took part in a Career's Wales career's carousel initiative at Haverfordwest High.

It was our pleasure to host an Institution of Civil Engineers networking event in July.

ICE members from West Wales and Swansea City Club attended to view first-hand progress on the project and to learn more about some of the engineering challenges and the impressive work currently underway.



We were also pleased to welcome delegates from NRW at an educational event organised by our NRW Framework Manager to review the recent use of Corrugated Steel Buried Structures (CSBS), providing a first-hand look at their durability and their benefits, such as the significant carbon savings of using CSBS over more traditional alternatives.

Plans for Summer and Autumn 2023

Penblewin Roundabout

We will be starting to work at Penblewin after the summer holiday period. As you can see below, a significant part of the roundabout will be impacted by this work. We are aware of the disruption caused while working in this area and are currently looking at reducing the need for 4-way traffic lights by rearranging the programme of works to ensure minimal disruption occurs.



Earthworks

Foundations for the A40 will progress at speed, and we are anticipating significant developments between Redstone Bridge and Llanfallteg Bridge, including Penblewin, along with the commencement of construction works at both ends of the project.

Infrastructure

Having made good progress on the permanent side road between Penblewin and Henllan, just west of Ffynnon Woods in this area, we will be looking to open this area to landowners that require unobstructed access to their fields and properties.

Ecology and Archaeology

We will complete the final clearance of vegetation in September in line with our strict ecological calendar. Planting of over 200,000 remaining trees will commence later this year. Archaeology is in its very final stages, and we will be looking to host a community event to learn about what discoveries have been made. Further information will be provided in the Autumn newsletter.

All traffic information and updates will be available on the Traffic Wales website, <https://traffic.wales>

Further information on the scheme can be found on the Welsh Government website

gov.wales/a40-llanddewi-velfrey-redstone-cross-improvements or our community

Griffiths website community.alungriffiths.co.uk If you would like to contact the team, please

get in touch by emailing a40lvrconquiries@alungriffiths.co.uk or phoning our public liaison team on **0330 107 1504**