

Folkestone – A Brighter Future

Newsletter Issue 9



Aerial shot of the site compound and Folkestone.

To members of the public,

The Folkestone - A Brighter Future Scheme has progressed significantly over the recent months.

Cheriton Road

We have successfully completed the first phase of rain gardens along Cheriton Road. A rain garden is a small area planted with water-tolerant vegetation. Rain gardens collect surface run off – including rainwater - from nearby roads, filters pollutants, and provides a natural habitat for wildlife. Once all the rain gardens have been constructed in this area, we will plant a mix of wildflowers and 18 new trees. We aim to have these works complete by April 2026.



First section of rain gardens located at Cheriton Road

Shellons Street/Guildhall Street

Over the past month along Shellons/Guildhall Street we have been removing and re-laying new granite slabs, gradually working our way back towards shop entrances whilst maintaining access at all times. As you may have noticed we have opened a large section of this area creating wider access for pedestrians.

In February we will work our way up Shellons Street to the junction with Gloucester Place. This will involve switching the traffic management, erecting safety fencing, and installing three-way traffic



signals so we can construct a half-raised tabletop crossing. We will then need to carry out drainage works in the area by installing and connecting gullies to the existing connection.

Middelburg Square East

In January we carried out new carriageway works on Middelburg Square East. Asphalt was added to the newly constructed table ramps, traffic management was switched and safety fencing was erected. We broke out for new gullies and connections, and more asphalt was reinstated to the roads. Over the next week we will be carrying out new footway works by breaking out redundant kerbs and footway and removing redundant railings.



Traffic Management switched at Middelburg East – newly constructed tabletop crossing.

Middelburg Square South

In early December we carried out new footway works including the installation of granite flag paving and erected bus stop signage in the area. The permanent F2 bus shelter will be installed soon. In February we will be carrying out new carriageway works – including drainage works and the installation of new kerbs - at the entrance/exit of the Asda NCP carpark. These works will be carried out throughout the night to keep disruption to a minimum. The permanent bus shelter – F4 – will be installed in April 2026. We expect all permanent bus shelters at Middelburg Square to be installed by the end of April.

Middelburg Square West

Earlier this month we continued with drainage and road construction works. Traffic management was switched to facilitate this which involved lane closures to Middelburg Square, and the installation of footway signage. Safety fencing was erected so we could break out the redundant traffic island section.

In the coming month, old streetlights will be removed and new lights installed. New planters will also be constructed and filled with soil. We will also begin the construction works for the new rain

gardens by excavating and installing new pipes which will then be connected to the sewer chamber.

Bouverie Square Public Realm Area

January marked the start of work on the public realm area of Bouverie Square. In February we will begin work to install an infiltration tank at the former bus station. The infiltration tank will facilitate rainwater reuse to help water the eventual garden square. This process involves breaking out redundant concrete carriageway and kerbs and carrying out a vacuum excavation – a digging method that uses suction – at the site. We will then place and install the infiltration tank and backfill the remaining excavation.

Shorncliffe Road Junction

Throughout January we carried out new footway works and installed new kerbs, edgings and Belisha beacons. New street light columns were connected, and new tactile and corduroy paving slabs have also been installed. In February we will begin to install rain gardens along the road. To allow these works to take place we will need to close Cheriton Gardens and Manor Road at the Shorncliffe junction. This closure will be from the 26th of January until the 20th of February. apologise in advance for any inconvenience this may cause.



Resurfaced pavement, and Belisha Beacons at Shorncliffe junction.

Archaeology

The archaeology watching brief has resumed after the Christmas holidays, focusing more on Cheriton Road and Sandgate Road due to the excavations taking place. At this current time there is nothing to report on. Any findings will be featured both in this newsletter and in a separate report.



Community works

In January several representatives from Jackson Civil Engineering attended two career talks for year 8 students at Folkestone Academy and Turner Free School. Here they discussed the vast variety of job roles in the civil engineering industry, and how students could go about accessing these roles. A public engagement event also took place at Folkestone Town Hall with The Shepway Bus Users Group with Jackson discussing upcoming works and if any would affect any bus routes.

For more information on the roads scheme, please visit Kent County Council's website.

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/road-projects/planned-road-projects/folkestone-a-brighter-future>

For more information about Folkestone – A Brighter Future please visit Folkestone & Hythe District Council's website www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/FABF

For any further enquiries, please send an email to Folkestone@jackson-civils.co.uk or call the Jackson PLO on 07974 416435