

## Scheme Update – April 2020

### Introduction

We at the Stafford Western Access Route (SWAR) scheme hope you are staying safe and well during these very unprecedented times and thank you for your continued support.

### Why construction work is continuing

With ever changing Government guidelines, the Stafford Western Access Route scheme has been assessed on whether the works can be carried out safely in accordance with the latest Government advice and would the works remain productive and economically viable following the impact of COVID 19.

Staffordshire County Council, Amey Highways and the supply chain are taking the current situation regarding COVID 19 extremely seriously, we currently have many measures in place to ensure the safety of our workforce and the general public. In line with Government advice, Construction Leadership Council and Construction Industry Taskforce; highways and construction workers can and should keep working as long as they are fit and well and practise social distancing.

Construction activities on the delivery of the SWAR scheme will continue where it is deemed safe to do so during the coronavirus pandemic. This in turn will help protect the economy during the pandemic.

### Why Piling operations have re-commenced and planned programme of future works

Following a two-week suspension, the piling operations have been reviewed by the Piling Contractor and Amey Highways to ensure that the works can be carried out safely.

It is currently planned for the driven piling works to last for approximately 10 -15 working days (planned completion expected week commencing 04/05/2020), subject to encountering unforeseen ground conditions, availability of resources or a change to Government advice.

Approximately 765 out of the proposed 841 precast concrete driven piles have been installed with driven piling works 91% complete. Our piling activities are carried out in accordance with planning conditions & scheme specifications (Working Hours 8am – 6pm). We will continue to monitor these works by our acoustic specialist to ensure compliance.

We apologise for the noise and disruption which is being created by the piling works, but unfortunately this cannot be avoided due to the nature of the operations.

### Staffordshire County Council's cabinet member for economic growth Mark Winnington said:

"It is vital that we are maintaining construction work that will maintain long-term economic stability.

"Our teams will continue to work where they can, but we will continue to take decisions on whether we continue to operate road schemes considering public safety, the safety of our employees and our suppliers' operations. We are listening and responding to resident concerns throughout the project."

"What is right for one site may not be right for another and it is important that our local judgement applies unless and until any further restrictions are applied in support of the overall health strategy. The overriding priority is the safety of the public and our employees."

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