

UPDATE ON CHIDEOCK LANDSLIDE WORKS

Phase 1 works were completed to programme at the end of October 2023. This work involved comprising the installation of gabions (stone-filled steel wire baskets) which has stabilised the base of the slope and removed the risk of any further slip on the existing failure plane. Additional drainage channels to limit groundwater build-up within the remaining slope installed in early November.

Unfortunately, heavy and persistent rain from early November onwards has hampered ability to lay and compact engineering fill (soil of a known particle size / composition) to stabilise the upper slope, leading to a delay. A redesign exercise involving the incorporation of additional large stone material to provide temporary stability to the upper slope and allow for continuation of engineering fill installation has been completed, and the import and laying of this large stone is in progress.

The current estimate is that, due to the above, we're around 4 weeks behind original programme date, with completion now estimated for end of March 2024. This is a conservative estimate based on continued poor weather. Should we have a dry December / January period, this should move forward again. I'm sorry for any frustration that this may cause but must stress that the safety of both our workforce and the travelling public is always our top priority. As I'm sure you'll appreciate there has been an enormous amount of inclement weather in recent months but I can assure you that colleagues are doing everything in their power to expedite progress. The groundwater levels are constantly monitored to determine how much progress we can safely maintain, and all parties involved in the scheme are fully committed to completing the scheme at the earliest opportunity and removing the traffic management allowing for free flowing traffic conditions to return.

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