



LOWESTOFT

February 2022 Newsletter

Welcome to the latest edition of the Gull Wing Newsletter, looking at the developments in and around the site. Despite stormy weather and high winds, much progress has been made during the past month and we've taken delivery by sea of the first steel bridge deck section (NAV1).

In this month's edition we will also be highlighting one of our Apprentices as part of Apprenticeship Week, as well as details on a Voluntary Tree-Planting event that took place.

Gull Wing Now on Instagram



From February 2022, the Gull Wing project will be adding to its Social Media with a new Instagram account. We will be looking to post regular images from on and around the site.

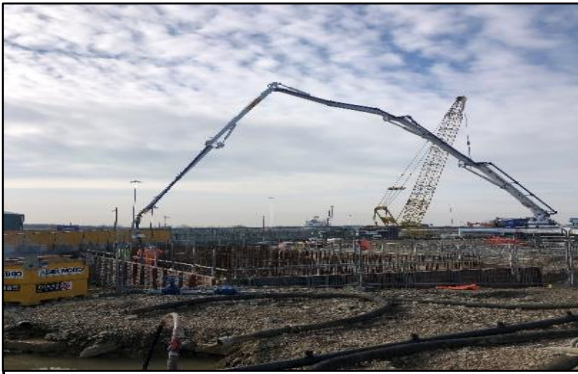
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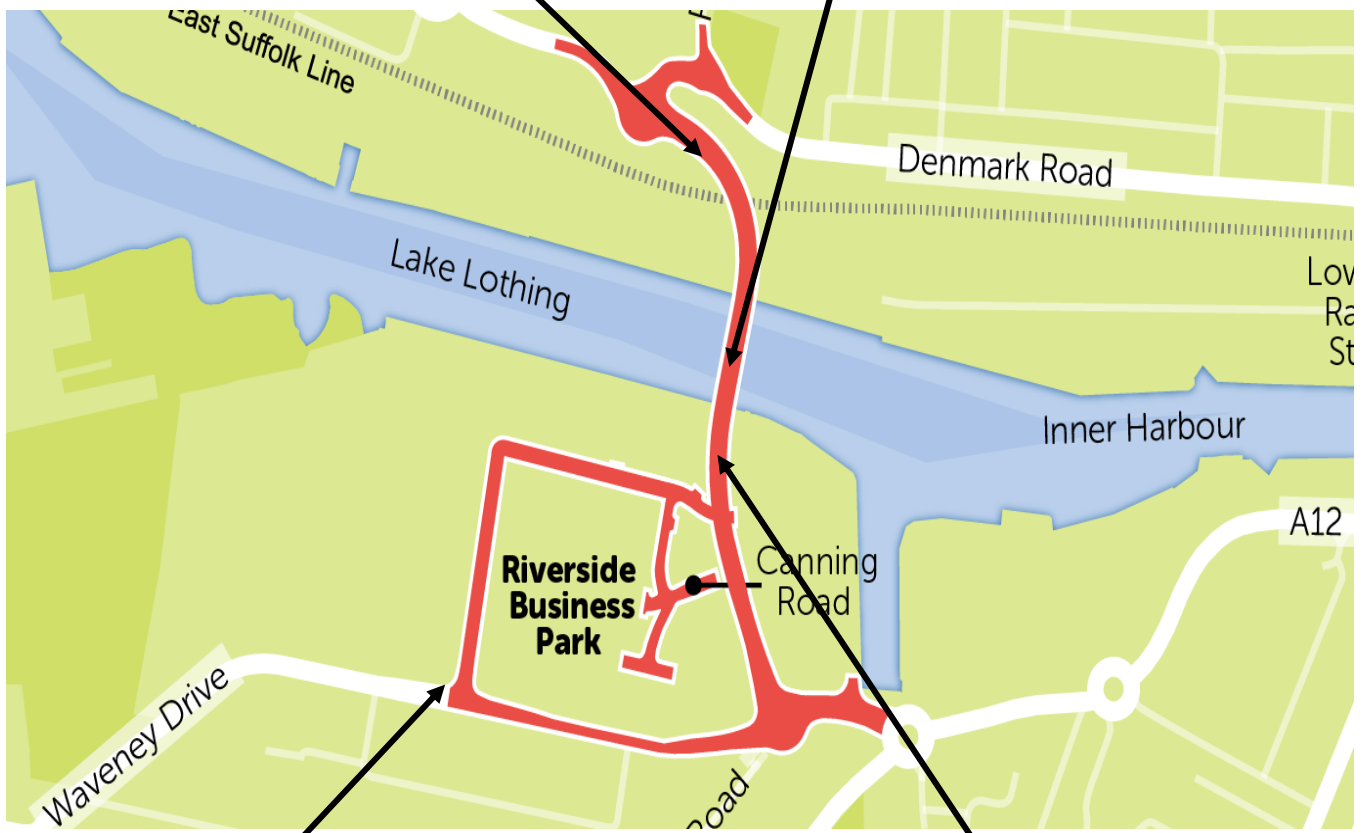
Recent Site Achievements – Around the Site



A - North Abutment Pile Cap



B - Pier 4 – Rotary Bored Piling



C - Colin Law Way – King Post



D - Pier 3 – Pour Complete

A

North Abutment Formwork, Reinforcement and Pour

Following the completion of installing the steel reinforcement and formwork, the concrete for the North Abutment pile cap has been poured. The next stage of work here will involve fixing reinforcement and formwork for the above-ground structure

B

Pier 4 – Rotary Bored Piling

Equipment is now in place and we have started the next stage of the marine based works. The piling rig will work from a platform on top of the cofferdam piles previously installed. We will be installing deep piles, up to 60m deep, into the lake bed to form the permanent foundations to Pier 4 that will support the bascule section of the bridge on the southern side of Lake Lothing.

C

Colin Law Way Completion of King Post Retaining Wall

Following the piling and installation of the steel beams for the king post retaining wall, precast concrete infill panels have been installed, marking the completion of the wall's construction.

D

Pier 3 – Concrete Pour

February also saw the concrete pour for Pier 3 on the South Approach, following steel rebar and formwork installation. Approximately 250 cubic metres of concrete was poured, marking the first Pier of seven in total to be poured on the project.

Work will soon commence on surrounding structures at Pier 3 including the Plant Room / Control Tower basement walls and superstructure.

National Apprenticeships Week



As part of National Apprenticeships Week this week, members of the Gull Wing team virtually visited East Coast College to deliver a presentation on Apprenticeships at Farrans. The students that were in attendance are all currently studying Level 3 Engineering alongside other A Levels at Lowestoft Sixth Form College.

The session gave students an insight to the diversity of opportunities involved in the construction of Buildings and Civil Engineering projects like Gull Wing, raising awareness of alternatives to Higher Education and the variety of routes into the construction industry.

It was a pleasure to talk to the students and we hope to see them on site in the near future!

Meet the Team – Apprenticeship Week

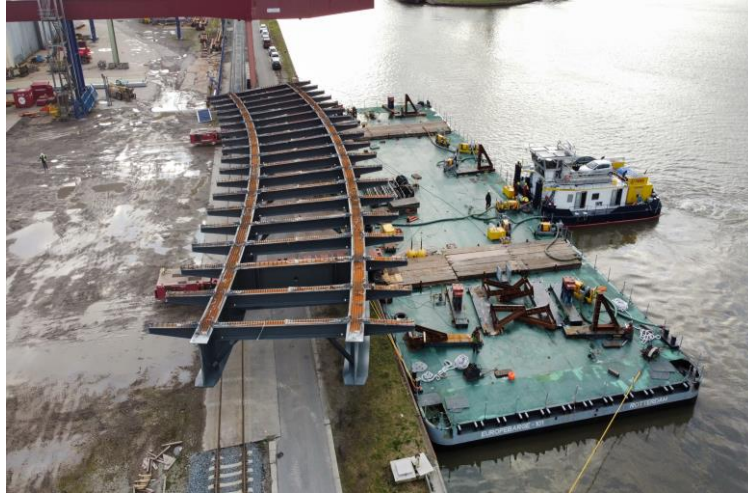


Hi, my name is Fred, and I am a Civil Engineering Apprentice. As part of the apprenticeship scheme my university fees are paid for and I am given a 1 day a week-day release period for studying my degree. What drew me towards a apprenticeship with Farrans was the ability to gain on-site experience, especially on such a large and varied project in my area, in addition to the academic knowledge gained from the university degree.

Prior to starting at the Gull Wing I was an engineering student at University Technical College in Norwich, studying a Level 3 extended diploma. Despite most of the course being taught online I still managed to finish with a Distinction. Despite having good grades and work experience, it was still difficult finding a degree level apprentice as most companies I applied for had cancelled their apprenticeships due to covid. However, two weeks before leaving college I had a conversation with someone from Farrans, who had been in contact with the college talking about two large engineering projects in the area. I successfully applied for the Gull Wing.

Looking forward, in the next few years, I hope to see the completion of this project, which I joined at its start. Following that, I look forward to being moved to different Farrans project within its Civil Engineering division.

NAV 1 Arrival



The first major steel section of the Gull Wing bridge in Lowestoft has arrived!

The North Approach Viaduct (NAV1) section arrived at the construction site on Lake Lothing on Tuesday March 1 on a barge following a 32-hour crossing from Ghent in Belgium.

Fabricated by Victor Buyck Steel Construction, NAV1 is approximately 55m long.

On delivery it weighed 380 tonnes and, when ready to move into its final position spanning the East Suffolk railway line, it will weigh approximately 1,450 tonnes.



The complex process of navigating the barge into the inner harbour and then transferring the steel structure from the barge on to the site was overseen by a team of experienced civil engineers, port masters and marine experts.

In the coming days it will be moved to a special platform where a concrete slab deck will be cast in situ before the entire span is moved and placed in its final position during a weekend long railway possession.

NAV 1's arrival was dependent on weather conditions remaining favourable and it needed to arrive during a slack tide to travel into the inner harbour.



Councillor Matthew Hicks, Leader of Suffolk County Council, said: “I am delighted to welcome the arrival of the first section of a bridge that will make a huge difference to people and businesses in Lowestoft for many years to come.

“It will remove a major impediment to growth by reducing congestion and improving connectivity, something that is central to the regeneration of not just Lowestoft but the wider Suffolk and Norfolk region.”

Peter Aldous, MP for Waveney, said: “This is an exciting development as people can now begin seeing for themselves the bridge taking shape.

“Once complete it will transform the way we move around and do business in Lowestoft and will be a landmark of which we can all be proud.”



Neil Rogers, project director on Gull Wing bridge for Farrans, said: “The arrival of NAV 1 is an important milestone for the progress of the Gull Wing project and also for our team, who have been working hard to prepare for the technical challenges involved in receiving and moving such a large section of the bridge.

“Victor Buyck began manufacturing this structure back in July 2021 and we are pleased to now have this integral piece on site, following meticulous organisation in both Belgium and in Lowestoft.

“More large sections will be arriving during the coming months and the local community will be able to see the bridge coming together above the water line. Work has been progressing well and there have been significant changes to the landscape of the site throughout the last year.”

Upcoming Works



- Marine Rotary Bored Piling to Pier 4
- Bridge Pier Construction
 - Pier 2
 - North Abutment
 - Pier 7
- Completion of Drainage & Services for Southern Access Roads
- Completion of Utility diversions
- Preparation for Colin Law Way Opening
- Soil Stabilisation/ Deep Soil Mixing Northern Approach
- NAV1 - Preparation and Deck Construction

Social Values Update

54 Local Companies on the Supply Chain (Within 70 miles of Site)

5 Full Time Positions Filled (NEET, LTU, Local Job Seekers & Education Leavers)

7 Graduate Positions Filled

5 STEM and Local History Talks delivered to Local Primary Schools

9 Kickstart/Kickstart+ Positions Advertised

264 Local People (Supply Chain and Subcontractors) worked on the project so far.

6 Careers Talks/Events delivered to Local Secondary Schools and Colleges

57 Local Farrans employees on the Project so far.

Woods Meadow Tree Planting



During mid-February volunteers from the Gull Wing team joined East Suffolk Norse to plant some trees in the new Woods Meadow Country Park development in Oulton. Despite the cold, rain and wind they made good progress. We look forward to coming back in the Autumn to continue the work.

Further Information and Contact Details

For more information on Gull Wing, visit www.gullwingbridge.co.uk
You can email the project team at info@gullwingbridge.co.uk or telephone 01502 512779

If you no longer wish to receive updates about the Gull Wing bridge please email us on info@gullwingbridge.co.uk and we will remove you from the mailing list.

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For up-to-date information about roadworks in Lowestoft, please visit one.network

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