



Issue No. 54
27 November 2014
Public Relations Office, SHG

St Helena Airport

Access Road

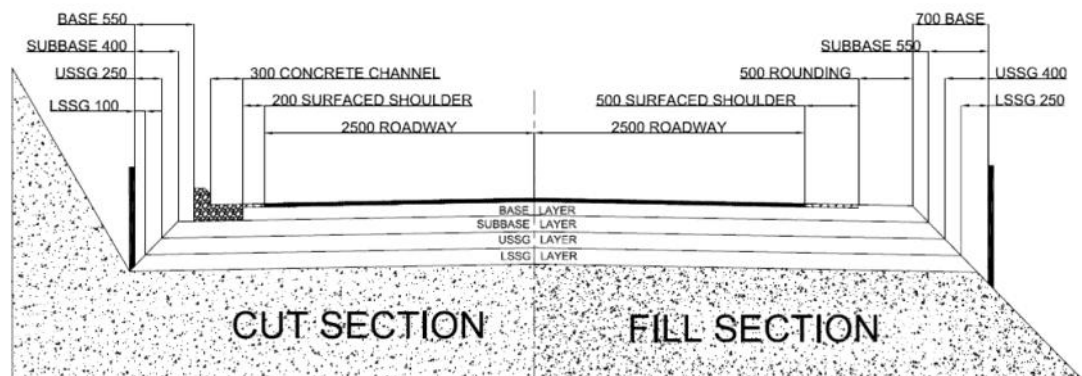


Airport Access June 2013 Road Through Bottom Woods

© Remi Bruneton

The Airport Project team is interested in what the St Helena public has to say. The Stakeholder Engagement Forums allow interested persons to attend public meetings which inform residents and businesses about the works associated with the Airport Project, and give opportunities for discussion. One of the issues highlighted in the most recent Stakeholder Engagement Forum on 23 October 2014 was the Airport Access Road Structure. Presentations gave a visual display of progress on the Road, and areas where the public and structure roads cross were brought to the attention of the public, who were asked to be mindful and to adhere to speed limits and safety signs.

Future disruption is also envisaged as the final layers of the road are added. The Landscape and Ecological team outlined the LEMP project at the meeting, which included one to one discussions on what residents along the Access Road would like to see planted in areas directly affecting them. Planting schemes and landscape designs along the Airport Access Road continue to be developed, with the use of plant species matching the preferences of residents in areas such as Rupert's, Deadwood and Bottom Woods. We encourage residents to make suggestions for plants that are functional - for example, for visual screening, windbreaks, or for animal fodder - or simply to visually enhance the area. Please contact Ross Towers, LEMP Project Manager, on email ross-towers@sainthelena.gov.sh or by telephone on 22721.



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SAFETY ON THE ACCESS ROAD



Airport Access Road Near Cooks Bridge October 2014 © Nick Stevens

In recent weeks, there has been considerable concern over the increase in unauthorised use of the Airport Access Road. **This is a public an environmental safety issue.** The Access Road, as part of Airport Project construction, is necessarily closed to the public in most areas. Signs clearly indicate when access is restricted.

Unauthorised use of the Road might result in an accident, and all usage will be reported to the police and dealt with appropriately. Motorbikes and 4 x 4's in particular have been reported accessing the road. This is unsafe as there are continuous heavy plant movements all week (including weekends), and excavations on the road are not protected in the same way as on public roads. Off roading in construction areas risks damage to environmental sites and heritage features.

St Helena Government and Basil Read strongly remind everyone that these areas remain closed to public vehicles in the interest of safety.

The common safety road signs are shown below.



NO ENTRY
AUTHORISED
PERSONS ONLY

NO ENTRY

When you encounter this sign, access is forbidden beyond it, due to construction activity. Only site workers are authorised to access the road beyond this point. Even when the road looks clear there may still be danger ahead and entry is not permitted.



TEMPORARY SPEED LIMIT

This sign requests drivers to proceed at or below the speed stated, for the purpose of road safety (yours and the workers). This is often in place to help embed new road features and to avoid incidents when large machinery is manoeuvring on the road.



CAUTION - HEAVY PLANT

This sign warns that heavy plant or major equipment is being used on the road ahead. This sign warns of unusual activity over and above that normally expected in a construction area.



DFID PROJECT SUPPORT

This month the Air Access Team said farewell to Amanda Parry, Project Support, St Helena Airport, DFID, as she moves on to work on another project.

Amanda joined the Airport Project in August 2010, she was brought in at short notice when the UK Government lifted the 'pause' on the project.



Amanda was already known to St Helena from her work on the programme desk from 2005 to 2007, which included a visit to the Island. Amanda has worked tirelessly on the St Helena Airport Project for more than four years and will be greatly missed.

She now takes on a new challenge in Sierra Leone as part of DFID's response to the Ebola outbreak.

The Air Access Team thanks Amanda for all she has done and wishes her well for the future.

"Thank you!"