

Horsted Keynes Carriage Shed Extension - Progress Report

Following last Autumn's successful fund-raising for the walls of the new shed and Heritage Skills Centre (HSC) we are pleased to report on a great deal of work that's been done on the HSC during the past few weeks, together with further progress on trackwork in the yard.

The first stage of cleaning and painting of the steelwork with protective paint was completed during July (photo, below). The second stage, to spray the steel frame with fire-resistant 'intumescent' paint is almost complete, but slightly delayed, pending further deliveries of this specialist paint.



HSC steelwork cleaned, and painted with protective paint

However this has not stopped progress in other areas. The construction sequence for the external walls of the HSC has proved a little complex. The dwarf wall below the cladding has to be in place before the cladding can be fixed. However, the wall itself has to be tied to the internal studwork for stability, and the studwork has to be fixed to the cladding support rails. The sequence is therefore support rails, studwork, dwarf wall, and then cladding, followed by windows and doors.

The fixing of the support rails has progressed alongside the fitting of the ground floor external stud work, and both are now complete now complete (photos below).



Fixing of cladding support rails in progress



Completed ground-floor studwork

Arrangements are in hand to complete the dwarf wall below the cladding (seven more courses of brickwork) which will then lead onto the fixing of the cladding during September.



Blockwork on the ground-floor interior (shed) side of the HSC

The rear wall of the HSC is now 80% complete to first floor level (as above), with two bays left open for the time being to enable us to bring in the materials for the first floor. Now that the perimeter walls are in place the size of the building is more evident - approximately 250 m² on each of the two floors (as seen in the next two views).



Interior of HSC, looking south



Interior of HSC, looking north

The final section of the concrete apron at the north end of E-road (the maintenance area) is in being prepared for concreting during the next couple of weeks, together with the floor for the new electrical distribution room at the north end of E road (seen below).



Preparations for concreting at the north end of the maintenance area



Crossing installed for new point

Outside the shed, more work has been done on the running-in road to complete the final turnout, and to reinstate the old headshunt (above). B and D roads are now permanently connected, enabling stock to be shunted out of B-road for the first time since the old pointwork failed a couple of years ago (below).



Track into D road (paint shop) and B road of the existing shed now completed

*Barry Luck, OP4 Project Manager (Infrastructure)
18 August 2019*