

Bomber County Gateway Trust Report on progress

Phase 1 was the foundation work. Last December we cleared the site, checked for buried archaeology and **Geodyne Limited** tested the soil. **Oakfield Surveys** set out the excavations and we dug out what looked like an Olympic-sized swimming pool.

Over 20 tons of steel reinforcement from **Hy-Ten** were delivered and this was tied and installed by **MJ Structures** and 1300 tons of concrete was poured by **Midland Reinforced Concrete Limited** and **A-Cast Flooring** in very cold and windy conditions. Base plates to locate the steel podium onto the foundation were fabricated by **Game Engineering**. The site was expertly set up and controlled by **Jessops Construction Ltd** while this operation took place with Safety supervision by **Waldeck Consulting**. **Breedon Aggregates** provided the concrete, **G S Hughes Ltd** provided 600 tons of stone for temporary roads and **A-Cast Flooring** provided the metal track haul road and put hands to the concrete pump. Work went on into the night and floodlights **Flying Hire Events** lit up the heroic scene so as to be visible from the road. The concrete pour operation was filmed from above by **Hivis-ion Ltd** to produce this fabulous image of the concrete pour.



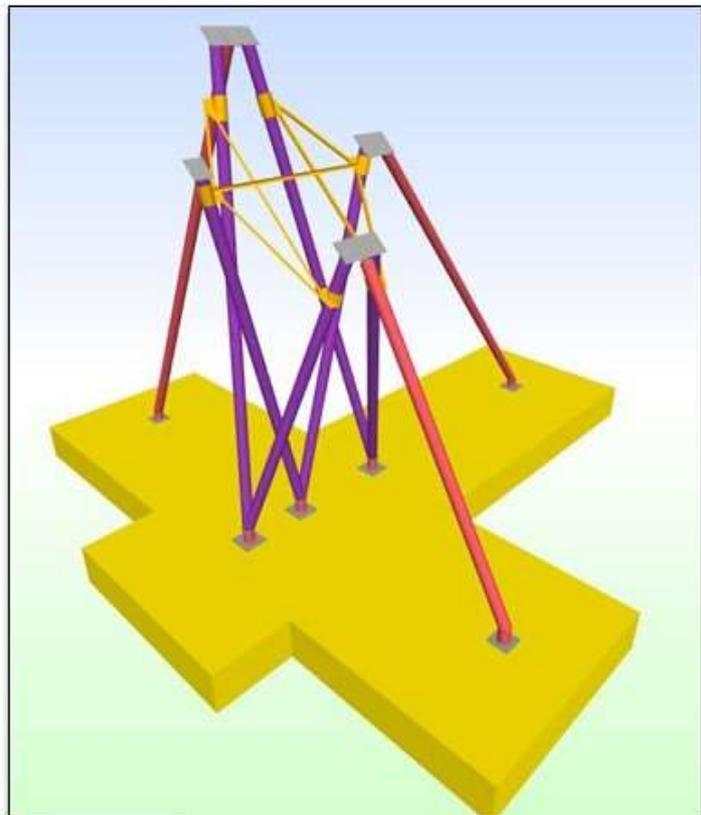


Meanwhile the engineers **BSP Consulting** got to grips with a digital scan of a real Lancaster (Just Jane at East Kirkby) by **Faro Ltd** and have been beavering away doing calculations and engineering drawings.

Phase 2 was the steel podium support and here, **William Hare Ltd** and **TATA Steel** stepped up to supply and fabricate this section for us.

This was erected on site in December again under **Jessop Construction's** careful supervision.

This meant that, for the first time, motorists on the A46 could see the work above ground and to locate exactly where the landmark will be. We're expecting lots of interest from this point.





Phase 3 will be the plane structure itself on top of the podium and we will be working hard on that in the coming weeks.

We already have secured the services of **Timmins Engineering** who have pledged to construct the plane structure. They are currently preparing shop drawings.

MHME Lincolnshire Ltd are now fabricating the props, gun turrets etc.

Also **A2P2 Ltd** have promised to prepare CAD files and provide the labour to clad the skin of the plane.

But we still need to pay for the final engineering designs and then to buy the steel for these contributors to work with!

Fund raising events are being coordinated by **Fraser Brown Solicitors** and **Hammond Property Services** with a successful auction held at Hemswell Court with guest of honour, "Dam Buster" **George Johnny Johnson** which raised £25,000.

Jennie Holland PR Services have spread the word to the national and local press and secured a flood of donations from the public.

Atkinson Evans Accountants are keeping us legal and above board with the Charities Commission and HMRC and we've raised awareness of the project with a digital image created by **Domino Design**.

Our MP **Dr Caroline Johnson** proudly told the Prime Minister in the House of Commons that we were starting the project.

But the final piece of the jigsaw is this – this project is really a £750,000 undertaking and we've raised around £150,000 in cash donations. But because of the astonishing generosity of the firms listed above, they've provided around £500,000 of value to the project on their own.

What it means is that we “only” need another £100,000 to be able to finish. In broad terms, we only need to complete the engineering calculations and buy the steel for the plane structure – that's galvanised structural members for the frame and Cor-Ten plate for the cladding.

Although you've already given so much we would be so grateful if you could challenge your clients, suppliers and sub-contractors to join in the project and help allow “On Freedom's Wings” to take its place in the heart of Bomber County.

We made a promise to these Bomber Command Veterans (and they all promised us) that we would meet again when we unveiled the landmark. Most are still with us thankfully and we are determined to honour that promise.

