

this week

Cover all users

The best ideas tend to be the simplest, and the example from Bristol this week is a case in point. Ironwork in the highway, particularly when positioned on bends, is the bane of cyclists' and motorcyclists' lives. Given the volume of utility plant in the highway, positioning of these access points is not always planned with these vulnerable road-users in mind. Consequently, the city is trialling a new manhole cover with anti-skid surfacing to counter the problem.

Anyone who regularly travels on two wheels will tell you that traditional ironwork can be perilous, particularly when they are worn and road conditions are wet. Riding over one of these units and the subsequent sensation of your rear wheel sliding out from under you can be sickening – particularly when you are in the close proximity of a Number 10 bus. The best course of action, usually, is to avoid these covers where possible but this is not always practical in the flow of traffic.

The new cover, described on page 11 of this week's issue, is manufactured by Saint Gobain Pipelines and Stirling Lloyd. Instead of the surface castellations of more traditional ironwork units, the cover features a 2mm-deep tray in which diamond bauxite is fixed, using a special adhesive. The units have been tested on access roads around the manufacturer's factory.

About 100 of the new units will be installed as part of a 'whole-route approach' in the city's £500M Broadmead development. The site features a road with numerous bends and the council has already specified anti-skid surfacing for half of the road system, and so the new manhole covers provide the missing link.

The decision to use the new covers is in response to highways safety auditor's recommendations and, perhaps significantly, the council's motorcycling forum.

Highways officers' efforts are also in anticipation of a new British and European Standard requiring friction-testing of the covers that is due in 2008, but is likely to be delayed.

One hopes this will get back on track and, assuming that Bristol's trial proves to be successful, that other authorities will follow suit. The city is attempting to provide a network which is safe as possible for all road-users, surely an ambition that should be shared by all professionals in the industry.

Matt Hobley
Editor

Editor: Matt Hobley (020 7973 6642 editorial@hgluk.com) • Deputy Editor: Belinda Totton (020 7973 6632) • News Editor: Lee Baker (020 7973 4659) • Reporter: Luke Walsh (020 7973 4765) • Chief Sub-Editor: Neil Browning • Special Correspondent: Eugene Silke • Designer: Jacob Bland • Editorial Director: Michael Burton • Commercial Manager: Rajni Sharma (020 7973 6615 rsharma@hgluk.com) • Sales Director: Emma Sabin (020 7973 4641 esabin@hgluk.com) • Senior Sales Executive: Natasha Nel (020 7973 4683 n.nel@hgluk.com) • Events Development Manager: Katie Phillips (020 7973 6695) • Product Manager: Paul Mortimer (020 7973 6693 p.mortimer@hgluk.com) • Production Director: Linda Alderson • Managing Director: Graham Bond

Subscriptions & back issues: 020 7973 6694. One year, £99; two years, £168; three years, £223

Published by Hemming Group Ltd, 32 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 2SS Tel: 020 7973 6400
Printed by Headley Brothers Ltd, Invicta Press, Ashford, Kent
No. 5878 Vol. 194 ISSN 0039 3606 © Hemming Group Ltd. 2006

Every effort is made to ensure that the content of this publication is accurate, but the publisher accepts no responsibility for effects arising there from. We do not accept responsibility for loss of or damage to unsolicited contributions. Opinions expressed by the contributors and advertisers are not necessarily those of the publisher. This publication is protected by copyright and no part may be reproduced in whole or in part without the written permission of the publisher.

surveyor

www.surveyormagazine.com



• p16 Patchy workmanship



• pi-xii What lies ahead?



• p21 Customer relations

Pages 4-12 NEWS

Plus the training column.

Page 14 EXCHANGE

Letter to the editor and coverage of Surveyor/HAUC (UK)'s Street Works 2006 conference

Page 15 A VIEW FROM THE STREET

Encarns tackles England's tarnished image on a visit to Westminster.

FEATURES

Page 16 – HIGHWAYS MANAGEMENT

Roger Elphick reviews the research and introduces a condition indicator for reinstatements.

Page 19 – HIGHWAYS MANAGEMENT

Neil Caldwell follows the evolution of sustainable road-repair technology.

Page 21 – HIGHWAYS MANAGEMENT

Nick Sharman reports on one company's approach to raising customer perception in highway services.

Page 1-11 HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE 2006

Preview of this year's conference and exhibition, with an introductory view from Jim Crick on the state of local authority roads.

Page 24 DIARY

Events, courses and conferences.

PAGE 25 SPECIALIST SERVICES

Directory of suppliers.

Page 26 CLASSIFIED

Appointments and tenders.

“Quote of the week
‘We have to find practical, affordable options that will have an immediate effect.’
Middlesbrough mayor, Ray Mallon, on tackling congestion on a route into the town centre. Page 6

Cover image: Mark Wohlwendner

