

SILBURY HILL CONSERVATION PROJECT

Update 27: progress for 21st Dec 07 – 10th Jan 08

Engineering Update

Backfilling works

The project closed down over the Christmas period from 21st December 07. Works have now re-commenced to complete the mechanical infilling of the central tunnels and to install the pipes and walls required to allow the filling of the remainder of the tunnels.

The condition of the central tunnels remained unchanged over the Christmas period, with no signs of deterioration or ground movement. The mechanical infilling already emplaced has consolidated extremely well with no evidence of settlement or loss of compaction, providing re-assurance that the infill will perform as designed over the long term to prevent any settlement or movement within the hill.



Figure 1: Tunnel conditions 7th Jan 08

Hill Summit Works

The void on top of the hill has remained unchanged over the shutdown period.

Hill Side Works

On the evening of Thursday 3rd January/early Friday 4th January 2008, following extremely heavy rain, three small areas of collapse, some 1 to 1.5m deep each, appeared on the south side of the hill. These areas were all previously visible as depressions in the hillside and are directly linked to earlier collapses over the outer sections of the Merewether and Atkinson tunnels.

The upper two areas of collapse were into previously detected voids above the re-excavated Atkinson tunnel. The lower of the three collapses led to a breaking through of material into the re-excavated tunnel itself. This material has now been cleared by Skanska and mechanical backfilling operations at the centre of the hill have recommenced.

The newly exposed sides to the areas of collapse will be archaeologically recorded prior to being backfilled with chalk as part of the current programme of conservation works. This backfilling will be undertaken once the tunnel beneath has itself been filled.



Figure 2: hill side collapse features