

SILBURY HILL CONSERVATION PROJECT

Update 32: progress for 5th April – 25th April 08

Project Update

All of the conservation work on the hill itself has now been completed by Skanska. This includes the filling of the crater on the summit which had previously opened up back in 2000, when the 1776 shaft opened up on the top of the hill. The infilling involved delivering a total of 580 tonnes of chalk to the summit, 497 tonnes of which was pumped up in the form of a chalk paste, as discussed in previous updates. This paste fill has subsequently been capped with crushed chalk (figure 1) which was hauled to the top of the hill using the monorail and winch system.



Figure 1: completing the hilltop works



Figure 2: The finished hilltop works

A temporary chestnut paling has subsequently been installed around the fill area (figure 2) to ensure that this is allowed to completely dry out safely. Once it has done so it will then be removed.

Work has also been completed to backfill the depressions on the south slope of the hill above the entrances to the Merewether and Atkinson tunnels (figure 3). Here the turf that was retained has been reinstated on the chalk infill.

Bare patches to this area and the summit fill will be seeded with an appropriate seed mix before leaving site.

With all the work to the hill now completed Skanska are progressing with the site clearance. All of the polystyrene temporary infill material from the crater has been removed and the hilltop completely cleared, whilst the scaffolded and sheeted entranceway to the tunnel has been dismantled and removed.

During the coming week they plan to finish clearing any remaining materials from the hill and to remove the temporary access roadways. Following that, Skanska will complete clearing the compound area, and ensure the site is left in as clean a condition as practically possible to do so.



Figure 3: The completed hillside works