

**UTILAYER**

Proven performance

A422, SUNRISING HILL, WARWICKSHIRE

The challenge

Sunrising Hill on the A422 is a steep hill (16% gradient) on a busy road between Banbury and Stratford upon Avon with a number of sharp bends on the descent. The previous surface of hot rolled asphalt (HRA) and 20mm pre-coated chippings had become highly polished. This presented problems for heavy vehicles ascending the hill. It also increased the risk of serious accidents for road users when descending the hill. The new surface would be subject to high stresses from heavy vehicle braking and lateral forces generated by the tight turns.

Our solution

Tarmac Contracting was asked to propose a resurfacing solution at one of the regular Technical Working Groups that was held as part of an ongoing partnership with Warwickshire County Council and Balfour Beatty. The new surface needed to have a low texture and thus give more aggregate contact with the tyre footprint. It also needed to use a high PSV aggregate to prevent future polishing. UTILAYER was recommended as a 50mm single layer solution over the existing binder course. Using a high performance polymer-modified binder (PMB) and a carefully designed aggregate grading, it achieves a strong, flexible and durable surface.

Results and benefits

The existing surface was planed out and UTILAYER was successfully installed in a single layer over a three day period. As a result of this work the texture on this busy stretch of road was restored and safety was improved for road users. As expected, the long term durability of the new road surface has also been impressive. The cover image was taken in January 2018. Despite the high stresses that this section of road is subjected to, the surface texture has been maintained and there is no visible sign of cracking or deformation.