

A19 / A1058

Coast Road Junction Improvement Scheme Community newsletter: **July 2018**



Welcome to the July edition of Highways England's A19 / A1058 Coast Road Junction Improvement Scheme newsletter for local residents, businesses and road users.

Investing in your roads

At Highways England we believe in a connected country and our network makes these connections happen. We strive to improve our major roads and motorways – engineering the future to keep people moving today and moving better tomorrow. We want to make sure all our major roads are more dependable, durable and, most importantly, safe. That's why we're delivering £15 billion of investment in our network – the largest investment in a generation.

The Coast Road Junction Improvement Scheme is a critical part of this investment and will improve journeys between the A19 and the surrounding road network, which is great news for the local and regional economy.

Since our last newsletter back in February work has progressed well and we're now three quarters of the way through the project. We have now completed all the piling work, more than 580 piles have been installed to support the new structures which end to end will cover 7-miles, the same distance to make a return journey through the Tyne Tunnel to Silverlink.

Work has started on removing the 80,000m³ of soil, that's enough to fill 32 Olympic sized swimming pools, to create the underpass. So far we have removed over 25,000m³ which is being stored nearby at Wardley and will be used on the forthcoming Testos junction improvement scheme.

Site update

You might have noticed quite a bit of activity in the central reservation on the south side of the roundabout over the last few months. This has been because we have been installing some new drainage. But rather than cause further disruption for drivers, we have been carrying this work out underground. Micro-tunneling is where a machine is used to create a tunnel under the A19 so we can install drainage for the new underpass, around 9 meters under the existing road level.

This machine moves 40mm per minute and is creating a tunnel wide enough to install the drainage pipe which is 1,200mm in diameter. The machine has been lowered into one of the three vertical shafts using a crane and the machine slowly makes its way underground removing soil as it goes along.

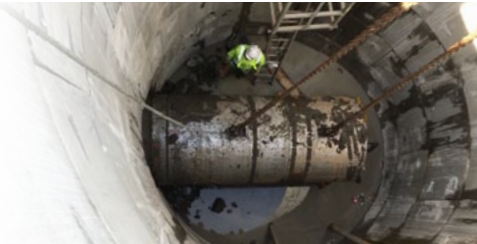
The pipes which stretch 350 metres have now been installed on the south side of the roundabout.



Micro-tunnelling machine cutting head



The tunneling machine is lowered into the shaft



Community update

This year we are taking part in the Year of Engineering and as part of our work to raise awareness of this campaign we have been working with local schools to raise the profile of the scheme and promote engineering careers. This has included attending some career awareness events to enable us to discuss the kind of careers available in construction and engineering.

As part of this campaign nine schools are taking part in our competition to design and build a model school using some recycled materials. The competition will run until the end of September and be judged the first week in October. The winning school will receive a glass trophy for the Best School Engineering Project 2018.

Back in March we held a public awareness event at the Silverlink Shopping Park and received some very positive feedback from members of the public on progress. We continue to work closely with local stakeholders to update them on progress and listen to their needs and plan closures around them where possible.

Site visits

We invited the press to come along on Tuesday 8 May to see the progress being made, highlighting the milestone of less than 12 months left on site and the start of digging out the earth under the roundabout to create the new underpass. The interviews with Steven Cox from Highways England and Omar Elhalhuli from Sisk Lagan were broadcast on ITV Tyne Tees, BBC Look North, and BBC Radio Newcastle. Articles were also included in the Newcastle Chronicle and Northumberland Gazette.

We accommodated a site visit from Transport Focus, the transport watchdog, who were very impressed with the progress on site and commended us on our professionalism. We also had a visit from the President of the Institution of Civil Engineers Lord Robert Mair who was also given a tour of the site.



Left to right – James Keogh of Sisk Lagan, explains what is happening on site to Lord Robert Mair

Keeping you up to date

Time capsule

We visited Hadrian Park Primary School with the Mayor of North Tyneside Norma Redfearn for the children to see the time capsule and its contents before it is buried for a hundred years. The capsule will be buried at the end of June when the children will start a 'countdown' to when it is dug up again in 2118. The Mayor has agreed to unveil a plaque on 22 August. The plaque to commemorate the event will be fixed on the base of one of the new pedestrian and cycle bridges.

Charity update

We have decided to support one charity throughout this year, The Lighthouse charity, which supports construction workers and their families who experience hardship through illness or injury. To start the fund-raising efforts one of the project team Jonathan Gibbons will be taking part in the Great North Run in September. Over the last 2 years we have raised £4,357 for numerous charities.

Awards

We have won a couple of awards over the last couple of months, and these include:

Highways England Supplier Recognition Award – Community engagement



L to R – The project team from Highways England and Sisk Lagan pick up their award from Jim O'Sullivan (far right) Chief Executive of Highways England.

This supplier has continually gone the extra mile to ensure local residents are engaged as well as trying to engage members of the wider community who would otherwise have been missed by traditional community and media methods. They have provided numerous examples of the positive impacts they have had on the community, including open days at retail parks, libraries, universities and visiting every school in the area.

Also, Mark Surley Structures Project Manager, Frances Senior, Engineer with WSP and Sandra Evenden Stakeholder Manager attended the award ceremony in Edinburgh and were awarded a Bronze award.

What's next?

Over the next few months we will continue to remove the remaining 55,000m³ of soil to create the underpass under the Silverlink roundabout and install the remaining underpass drainage.

Following the installation of the bridge beams on the A1058 westbound carriageway we will be reopening the carriageway towards the end of summer. Traffic is also due to be switched over Middle Engine Railway Bridge where the barriers have been extended and the road widened.

We will be installing the new gantries for improved signage and work will continue on the base units for the 2 new pedestrian and cycle bridges. The bridge structures which are currently being fabricated off site are due for delivery in October.

Keeping you up to date



Online:

Up to date information will be posted on our scheme web page as it becomes available, at: **www.highways.gov.uk/A19-A1058CoastRoadJunction**



Email alerts:

You can sign up to receive email alerts as they are made via our web page at: **www.highways.gov.uk/A19-A1058CoastRoadJunction**

Alternatively, you can contact the project team direct at:

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