

A19

Testo's junction improvement
Community newsletter

Summer 2019



Investing in your roads

At Highways England we believe in a connected country and our network makes these connections happen. We work hard to improve our major roads and motorways – engineering the future to keep people moving today and moving even better tomorrow.

The A19 Testo's improvement scheme is a critical part of our five-year £15 billion investment and will improve journeys between the A19 and surrounding road network. These planned improvements for A19 Downhill Lane, will also unlock development potential at the nearby Nissan and International Advanced Manufacturing Park (IAMP) sites.

Since starting the scheme in March 2019, work is progressing well. The overbridge on the A19 North

of Testo's is now removed, giving us room to start constructing the flyover which will carry free flowing traffic on the A19. Substantial excavation has taken place, as we start the construction of the roads connecting Testo's and Downhill Lane. We're also starting work on temporary road widening on the westbound side of the A184, ahead of future cycle lane and footpath construction.

Site update

Our site compound is now in place and we've installed the first set of traffic management, speed cameras and CCTV, which helps us to recover any broken-down vehicles quickly and safely.

We've started removing earth from the centre of the roundabout and we're starting work on the new slip roads. Now we've successfully demolished the overbridge we have enough room to start building the flyover.

We're also coordinating work at A19/A1058 Coast Road including using materials they dug out as part of the scheme.

Community update

Thirty people from the project spent a day volunteering at West Boldon Lodge, helping with many projects including installing a parachute canopy over a fire-pit, building footpaths and moving a piano into the woodland. We've also donated topsoil for the community allotments.



Our team helping at West Boldon Lodge

Younger audiences

Working alongside the regional Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM) hub and Business in the Community, we've been involved with nine schools and colleges, including Boldon School, Whitburn Academy and St. Joseph's in Hebburn. We've spoken to over 1,000 young people who are benefiting from involvement with our project. Our community engagement manager Stuart Culley, takes a proactive approach and speaks regularly to younger people about the scheme.

Stuart and the team recently took part in a large event held at Virgin Money in Gosforth, called STEMtastic 2019. We set a challenge to some of the children who attended to build their own version of the Testo's flyover, using floor mats and building blocks.

We've also spoken to young people about careers in STEM at an event at Darlington's Dolphin Centre that formed part of the town's festival of ingenuity.



Community engagement manager Stuart Culley, with school children at STEMtastic 2019 in Gosforth.

We're always looking for more opportunities and welcome the opportunity to become involved further – please get in touch with us at

a19testosjunctionimp@highwaysengland.co.uk

Whitburn Academy careers day

We spent the day offering an insight into working for Highways England at a careers fair at Whitburn Academy aimed at years 10, 11 and 12. This was a great opportunity for the engineers of tomorrow to start thinking about their careers.



Left to right - Tom Rogers, Neil Davison, Amy Higginson

Charity fundraising

Since starting the scheme in March 2019, we've raised £365.56 for the Charlie and Carter Foundation, Hospitality and Hope, and the Chloe and Liam Together Forever fund.

We also donated £250 towards the rail and civil engineering awards at Newcastle College.



Donating Easter eggs to the Freeman primary intensive care unit who supported the Carter family.

The future

Our next major milestone will be moving all traffic from the A19 on to the new slip roads and connections from Downhill Lane.

We'll focus largely around the excavation and new drainage. Once completed, we'll go on to surface the new sections of road.

When the surfacing is in place, we'll paint the white lines and install studs and barriers, before this stretch of road is then opened to the public.

When traffic starts to use these slip roads, we'll continue to build the flyover above the roundabout.





Downhill Lane update

The A19 Downhill Lane team is currently progressing their detailed design for the scheme, whilst also following the Development Consent Order process (DCO).

The DCO for Downhill lane is in the examination period, meaning that the Planning Inspectorate has up to six months to carry out the examination.

During this stage interested parties who have registered by making a relevant representation are invited to provide more details of their views in writing. Careful consideration is given by the examining authority to all the important and relevant matters including the representations of all interested parties, any supporting evidence

submitted and answers provided to the examining authority's questions set out in writing or posed at hearings.

The preliminary meeting, issue specific hearing and open floor hearing were held on **Tuesday 13 August**.

If you'd like to represent yourself or an organisation, you can attend the second open floor hearing, the details of which are set out below:

Hearing type	Venue	Time and date	Access and parking
Open Floor Hearing 2 (OFH2)	George Washington Hotel Stone Cellar Road High Usworth Washington Newcastle Upon Tyne NE37 1PH	6pm Tuesday 15 October 2019	Free Parking available at the venue

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[@a19testosjunctionimp@highwaysengland.co.uk](https://twitter.com/a19testosjunctionimp)



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