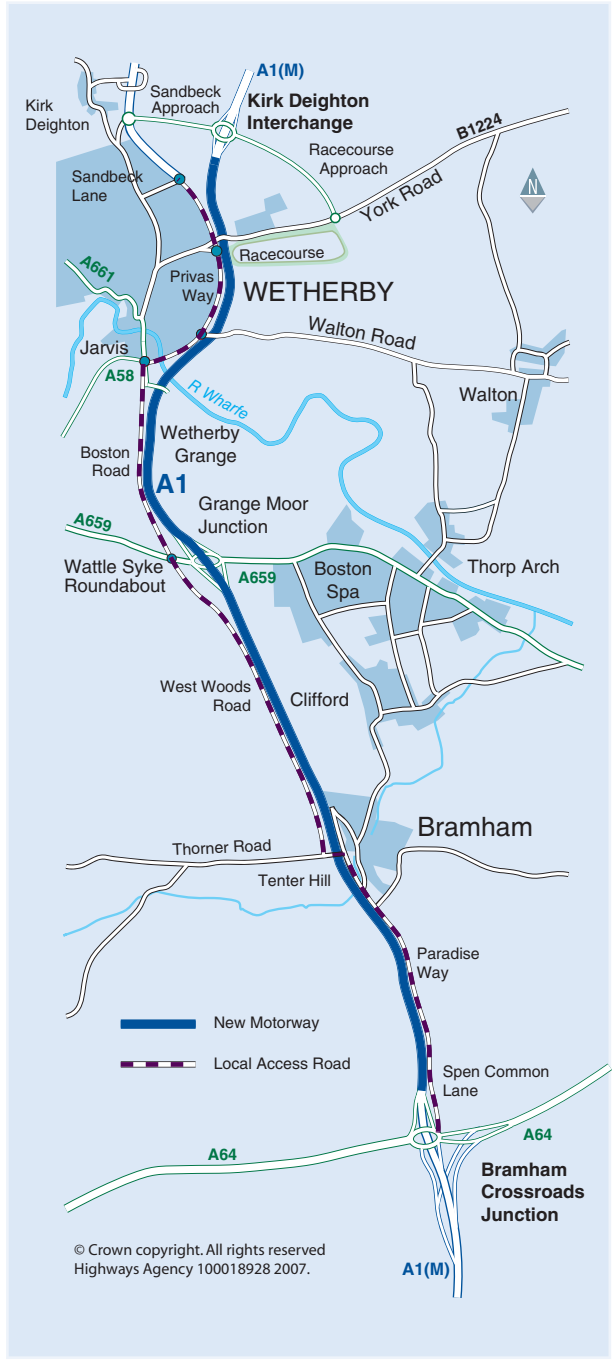


Bramham to Wetherby | A1 Motorway Upgrade

Newsletter No 1 • December 2007



Work so far

The A1 upgrade scheme has been underway since May and is progressing well. The start of the project was officially marked by Wetherby resident, Gillian Hudson. Gillian's late husband, the former Mayor of Wetherby, Councillor David Hudson, cut the first turf for the Wetherby upgrade scheme back in 1986. Almost 30 years before him, Gillian's late father-in-law and County Alderman, Major Joseph Hudson, marked the official start of work for the previous Wetherby bypass scheme in 1957.

Wetherby Racecourse

In October a new-look Wetherby Racecourse was unveiled at the first race meeting of the season following major work to realign part of the race track. The changes were required to accommodate the upgraded stretch of the A1 near Wetherby. More than six hectares of new specialist racing turf and improved turf was laid to construct a new lengthened home bend and new home straight.

Walton Road

The Walton Road southbound exit slip road has been permanently closed since July. It is one of six being closed as part of the project.

Wetherby Grange

Work is also ongoing to alter the layout of Wetherby Grange roundabout, which will accommodate a new access road, currently under construction between the A659 at Grange Moor and the roundabout. Once completed in spring 2008 it will reduce congestion and improve safety. Until then there will be some lane restrictions and narrower lanes on the roundabout and its approach roads at all times.



A1 project team and Wetherby resident Gillian Hudson at the official start of work ceremony.

Upcoming work

Beams are due to be lifted into place for a new bridge over the River Wharfe in January 2008. Details will follow.

Four new local access roads, which are under construction are due to be opened next year; Spen Common Lane to Tenter Hill, Tenter Hill to Wattle Syke and Wattle Syke to Wetherby Grange will open early next year and Walton Road to Sandbeck Industrial Estate will be completed towards the end of next year.



Construction work alongside Wetherby bypass looking north.

Questions and Answers

What about dirt and noise from the construction works?

Nuisances, such as noise, dust and mud, created by construction work are restricted by law and wherever possible, are being kept to an absolute minimum. Working times are agreed with local authorities and noise levels are continually being monitored at a number of locations along the route. Water bowsers and sprays are being used to keep dust down in dry weather. Road brushes, tractor brushes and wheel washes are also being used to minimise the transfer of mud from the site to local roads.

What are you doing to ensure safety?

As with any improvement scheme, we are bound by strict laws about the safety of the site and all aspects of safety are taken into account for the duration of the scheme. We are also visiting local schools, offering site safety presentations and highlighting the dangers of playing near construction sites.

What about environmental issues?

Care of the local environment is one of our main priorities. Archaeologists and ecologists have been undertaking work and research at the site. Ecologists are working to ensure that animal and bird life is not disturbed by the construction work and a team of archaeologists have worked at a number of key sites along the route. 42 bat boxes and one owl box were also installed at the start of the project to provide a habitat for roosting bats.



Bat boxes being installed along the route.

Got a question or a comment?
08457 50 40 30
email: ha_info@highways.gov.uk
24 hours a day 365 days a year
Live traffic information
08700 660 115
www.highways.gov.uk
24 hours a day 365 days a year

calls from BT landlines to 0845 numbers will cost no more than 4p a minute and to 0870 numbers no more than 8p per minute mobile calls usually cost more.



Construction work at the new local access road at Tenter Hill Bridge.

Who is carrying out the work?

Balfour Beatty Regional Civil Engineering Ltd was awarded an Early Contractor Involvement contract in 2003. Together with design consultants Atkins Ltd they are delivering the project on behalf of the Highways Agency.

Who to contact

Matthew Dobbie,
Community
Relations Manager.
Tel: 01937 583 241
Mob: 07919390739



Aerial photo of scheme at Wattle Syke Roundabout.

Safe driving at roadworks



During 2006 two workers were killed and 19 seriously injured in the course of their work on Highways Agency roads.

For the safety of all road users and roadworkers, when you are approaching roadworks:

- Keep within the speed limit – it is there for your safety.
- Get into the correct lane in good time – don't keep switching.
- Concentrate on the road ahead, not the roadworks.
- Be alert for works' traffic leaving or entering roadworks.
- Keep a safe distance – there could be queues in front.
- Observe all signs – they are there to help you.

Remember that tiredness can kill. Take regular breaks from driving.



Directgov

Straight through to public services
www.direct.gov.uk

Highways Agency Publication code PR275/07
Publications Group Leeds n070207