

A1 – Blyth Junction Improvements

Newsletter No. 1

August 2006

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Work to improve the existing Blyth roundabout junction on the A1 is due to start early September 2006. The work is part of the £86 million improvement project to upgrade the existing roundabouts to new two-level junctions on the A1 between Blyth and Peterborough.

We will replace the existing roundabout with a new two levels motorway style junction which will improve safety and ease congestion to the current road network by separating A1 traffic from the local traffic.

Why is the improvement needed?

The Blyth junction has a poor accident record with 24 accidents in the past 5 years. Additionally, the junction suffers frequently from congestion and lengthy delays during peak hours.

What's happened so far?

We held the draft Orders Exhibition in March 2005 and the Public Inquiry in September 2005 at the Barnby Memorial Hall in Blyth. Orders have been made and we are now ready to start the work on site.

What does the junction consist off?

We will replace the existing roundabout with a two levels junction. The A614 and B6045 will be carried over the A1 which will be lowered substantially. Slip roads will be provided on and off the A1 to small roundabouts. The roundabouts will be connected via an overbridge. The existing entrance to Moto will be closed and a new single entrance & exit point provided on the new eastern roundabout. The road to Harworth will be moved further North along the A614.



How will we manage the traffic?

Initially, we will start by constructing the new roundabouts and this will not disrupt the exist A1.

Where possible, work will take place on the A1 at off-peak hours to minimise disruption to the road users. However, some work will require the A1 to be reduced to one carriageway with single lane running in both directions. This will increase congestion temporarily, especially during peak hours.

What provision will be made for pedestrians and cyclists?

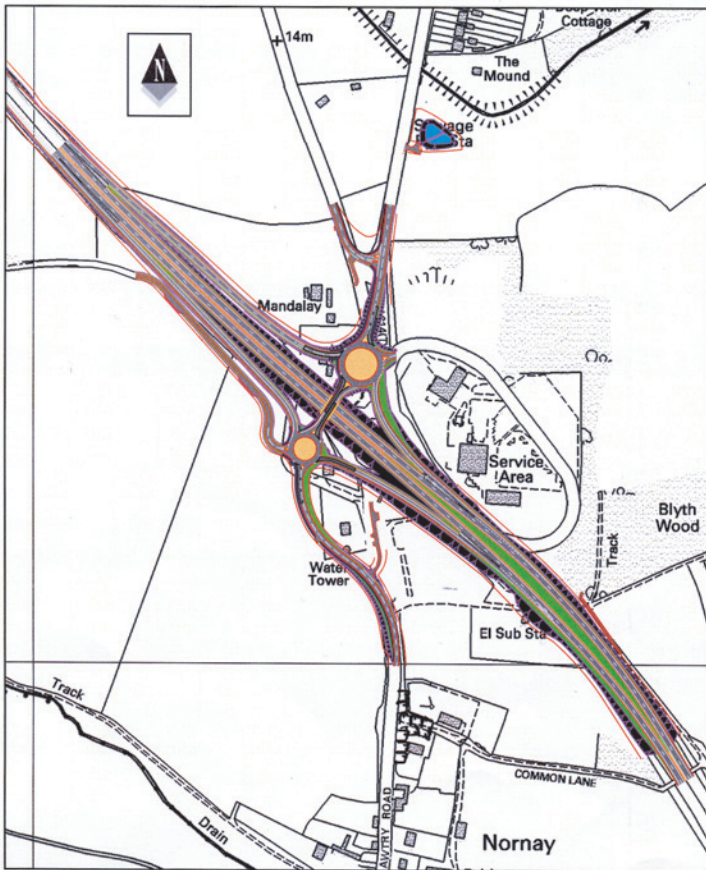
Access through the works for pedestrians and cyclists will be maintained at all times, although arrangements will vary as the works progress.

What preparation have we done far?

We have undertaken surveys on site in January 2004 to identify, excavate and record any archaeological finds. We will continue to monitor the site during the work in case of any further evidence uncover.

As part of the site clearance we removed some trees and hedges in February 2006 to avoid disturbing the birds during their nesting season.





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Works programme

Stage 1 – Early September to October 2006

We will set up the contractor's compound and carry out further ecological and further archaeological surveys in fields adjoining the A1 and A614.

Stage 2 – October 2006

We will build the new roundabouts, new slip roads, and new sections of the B6045 and A614. Bawtry Road to Harworth will be closed for approximately 2 months.

Stage 3 – October 2006 to July 2007

We will build the new bridge, new link-road and new A1 carriageway at the North of the existing roundabout.

Stage 4 – July to August 2007

The northbound carriageway will be closed and all traffic will be diverted onto the southbound carriageway with single lane running in both directions. We will complete the tie-in of the new northbound exit-slip road to the existing northbound carriageway.

Stage 5 – August to October 2007

We will remove the existing roundabout. The northbound and southbound carriageways will be opened to traffic as normal.

Stage 6 – October to December 2007

The southbound carriageway will be closed and all traffic will be diverted onto the northbound carriageway with single lane running in both directions. We will construct the new southbound carriageway from the Moto service station through to the tie-in with the existing A1 carriageway.

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Stage 7 – December 2007

Scheme completion.



Invitation to attend Start of Works Exhibition

This is an opportunity to find out more about the construction of the junction and to meet the members of the project team. The exhibition will be held at the ;

Barnby Memorial Hall in Blyth, Nottinghamshire on

**Friday 8 September 2006
1:00pm – 8:00pm**

**Saturday 9 September 2006
10:00am – 4:00pm**

Please come along and take this opportunity to discuss the improvement and ask any questions you may have about the works.



Other neighbouring roadworks on the A1

Newark, between Coddington and Balderton

Drainage work and replacement of the concrete carriageway with conventional surfacing.

Tinwell, Rutland

Bridge refurbishment, strengthening existing parapets and edge beam, and resurfacing. September 2006 to January 2007.

Little Ponton, Lincolnshire

Bridge protection work, extra concrete around the bridge piers and upgrading the safety barriers

Long Bennington, Lincolnshire

Bridge Protection Works extra concrete around bridge piers and upgrading the safety barriers.

Please check our web-site for more details.

Contact Information

Nick Cookson

Public Liaison Officer
Interserve Project Services Ltd

Tel: 07918 166 193

Email:

nick.cookson@interserve.com

Paul Tully

Project Leader
Highways Agency

Tel: 08459 55 65 75

Email:

a1blyth@highways.gsi.gov.uk

Website:

www.highways.gov.uk/roads/projects/4455.aspx
(To get updates emailed automatically - simply follow the 'on-line' instructions here.)

Further Information

For real time traffic information:
08700 660 115

24 hours a day, 365 days a year

(0870 numbers will cost no more than 8p per minute when calling from BT landlines; mobile calls usually cost more)

www.highways.gov.uk/trafficinfo

For general Highways Agency Information:

08457 50 40 30

(0845 numbers will cost no more than 4p per minute when calling from BT landlines; mobile calls usually cost more)

Email: ha_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk

Safe driving at roadworks



During 2005, five workers were killed and 12 seriously injured in the course of their work on Highways Agency roads. This was the worst year since 1999.

For the safety of all road users and roadworkers, drivers approaching roadworks are advised to:

- 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.

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