

# Improving the road **A1** Dishforth to Leeming Newsletter Issue 3 • Autumn 2011

## Keeping you informed

**W**ork started in March 2009 to upgrade a 12 mile section of the A1 between Dishforth and Leeming to motorway standard and is due to be completed by spring 2012. The work is being carried out on behalf of the Highways Agency by Joint Venture Carillion Morgan Sindall. ■

### Project update

We are now into the third and final year of the project and on the 6 October 2011 we reached a major milestone with the completion and opening of a 2.3 mile section between Dishforth (J49) and Baldersby (J50). Detailed planning, efficiencies adopted through lean construction techniques and value engineering have all contributed to opening this section of road early and reducing the impact on the travelling public and local community.

The Lean project techniques we adopted allowed the contractor

to maximise daily outputs of key materials for example 2000 tonnes of surfacing laid and 420 linear metres of concrete surface water channel extruded each day.

The scheme involves upgrading 21km of dual carriageway into 3 lane motorway including providing 20km of local access road for non motorway users. Quantities of materials used in construction are staggering (shown opposite). Despite the length and enormity of the project the team achieved 2.75 million safe hours over a 22 month accident free period during the height of the operations from late 2009 to mid 2011. ■

Work to complete the scheme remains on target for spring 2012.

**2.5 million tonnes of earthworks**

**2 million tonnes of imported fill material**

**980,000 tonnes of road construction material**

**110 miles of drainage and 16 balancing ponds**

**11 new bridges, 5 refurbishment bridges and 6 old bridges demolished**

**42 major service diversions**

## Wildlife gets the VIP treatment



So far we have planted 3300 individual trees and 24 hectares of woodland. Also 45km of hedgerows and created four wildlife ponds to date.

## A rare encounter

A flock of Twite (25 birds counted) were recorded feeding in the Leases Quarry site compound during the second week in March 2011. The Twite is a small brown bird and is part of the finch family. The Twite is one of the rarest breeding birds in the UK with a population of between 6,000-15,000 pairs and is of international conservation importance. The birds at Leases Quarry were on a 'stop-over' during their migration back to the Pennines from eastern England where they spend the winter.



We have created four new wildlife ponds adjacent to the road scheme, which are proving to be very successful. Ongoing ecological monitoring work has shown that Great Crested Newts have found a new habitat in our ponds.



As the scheme developed, we discovered several badger setts that were going to be directly impacted by the works. In the wider area of the scheme, replacement setts for the badgers were built. These were built prior to closing the affected setts to allow the Badgers to relocate without causing too much distress. The ecologists laid peanut trails to encourage the badgers into their new setts and this appears to have been successful as several setts are now occupied. ■

# Going for gold



The A1 Dishforth to Barton Carillion Morgan Sindall Joint Venture has been honoured with a GOLD award at this year's Considerate Constructors ceremony.

This award recognises our project team's excellent standards of consideration towards the workforce, our neighbours and the environment. ■

## Recycling

We recycle approximately 99% of site waste. Above, you can see a loading shovel filling the crusher with waste concrete. The concrete will be converted into a product suitable for use in the construction of embankments elsewhere on the scheme.



## 2,750,000 safe working hours

A staggering 2,750,000 safe working hours were recorded on the 10th June 2011. This is equivalent to 275 people working their entire working lives without a recordable accident.

Road works are a dangerous environment, and our road workers safety depends on drivers taking care at road works and driving more slowly.

Driving through half a mile of roadworks at 50mph takes just ten seconds more than at 70mph. We would like to thank you for your continued support in protecting our road workers. ■

# Open to traffic

- Londonderry Local Access Road Junction opened to traffic on the 12th June 2011
- Baldersby Junction is open to traffic
- Leases Link Road is open to traffic
- New junctions and local access roads

## New Junctions:

- New motorway junction at Leeming.
- Revamped motorway junction at Baldersby.
- Improved motorway slip roads at Dishforth.

## New Local Access Roads with:

- Roundabouts at Sinderby and Leeming Bar.
- T-junctions at Cowfold, Greengate Lane, Londonderry Burneston, Street Lane and Stapeley Lane.
- Other existing junctions upgraded.

## Communications equipment

As part of the scheme we are installing a range of equipment which will help us provide better information to drivers on road conditions, or help drivers contact us in an emergency.

- 30 emergency telephones, dialling direct into the regional control centre for assistance.
- CCTV cameras at Baldersby and Leeming Junctions for road monitoring.
- Message Signs Mark 4 (MS4), giving drivers advance information of incidents in the road ahead using Text or Pictogram message facilities.
- Motorway Incident and Detection System (MIDAS), loops in the road which detect traffic flow and work with the MS4s to set signals alerting road users to slow traffic or queues ahead.



## Previous Issue

If you'd like to view previous newsletters we have published you can find it on our website at:

[www.highways.gov.uk](http://www.highways.gov.uk)



The site liaison officer is Michael Leighton, you can contact him by email at: [Michael.J.Leighton@a1d2b.com](mailto:Michael.J.Leighton@a1d2b.com). Alternatively you can email us at the Highways Agency at: [a1dishforthleeming@highways.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:a1dishforthleeming@highways.gsi.gov.uk)

## Safety at roadworks



The Highways Agency is working with the industry and road users to reduce the risks of working on the roads.

For the safety of roadworkers and all road users, 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.

Got a question or comment?

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