

Scotswood to North Brunton improvement scheme Newsletter - Autumn 2021



What are we doing?

The A1 Scotswood to North Brunton scheme is the widening of the A1 between J74 and J79 within the existing highway boundary.

Once finished, there will be three narrower lanes between junctions 74 and 78 and three standard lanes between junctions 78 and 79. All the existing bridges and structures and slip roads will remain. We're also using low noise surfacing throughout the scheme.

Once complete the scheme will provide wider economic benefits for business users and freight. Improved links between locations of economic importance in the region, such as Team Valley Employment Zone, Intu Metrocentre and Newcastle Airport will unlock development potential.

How far have we got?

We have continued to make great progress with the A1 Scotswood to North Brunton scheme.

We have completed the new central concrete safety barrier and are starting to install new lighting columns in the centre.

Traffic has been moved over into the new lanes 2 and 3, closer to the concrete barrier, for the full length of the scheme.

The majority of the vegetation clearance was also completed in August.

What comes next?

The completion of the full traffic switch in August has allowed our team to start the earthworks and drainage works on the verges in the southern section of the scheme between J74 and J77.

In the northern section of the scheme (J77 and J79) our earthworks team have been excavating the existing verges to steepen the embankments to create space on the mainline carriageway for the additional lane. We've also started to install a new drainage system which is designed to deal with increased surface water runoff that will be created by the new lanes and to reduce any future flooding risks.

The new lanes will increase the road capacity and allow traffic to flow more freely.

Once these lanes have been created and linked in to the slip roads at junctions we will then have some landscaping and planting to finish.



When will the work be finished?

We are working towards fully opening the road to traffic by **Autumn 2022**.



How are we helping?

An outdoor activity centre run by the Scouts has had a facelift thanks to workers on National Highways' A1 Scotswood to North Brunton road upgrade.

In the true spirit of the Scouting movement staff from the company's delivery partners Costain and Jacobs gave up their time to make a number of improvements at Whickham Thorns, near Gateshead.

These have included upgrading what was a muddy track from the car park into the woodland area into a surfaced footpath and making and delivering concrete blocks for the Scouts to sit on around the fire pit.

The work was carried out after Gateshead Scouts took over the running of the centre and approached the project team to see if they could help with any improvements as part of National Highway's commitment to support local communities.

Construction workers volunteered their time to carry out a number of tasks including the improvement of muddy paths.

Supporting local good causes

Our team get involved in regular charity events and support local good causes.

The Jerusalem dance challenge during the pandemic has provided many with moments of joy. Our team decided to take part, videoed the challenge and raised money for the Lighthouse Club charity. We haven't got a total figure yet, however the last count was £220.

In August we had an Afternoon Tea bake sale and raised £163 for Gateshead foodbank.



The project had its first Considerate constructors visit in August, after the first virtual assessment in Dec 2020. Following on from the visit the team were awarded a certificate of excellence.

What's happening around Team Valley?

We are also widening the A1 between Birtley and Coal House. This will increase the capacity to three lanes northbound and four southbound. This work started earlier this year and will continue until 2025. You can find out more on our webpage:

www.highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/yorkshire-and-north-east/a1-birtley-to-coal-house/

More information



www.highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/yorkshire-and-north-east/a1-scotswood-to-north-brunton/



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2. Exit left into an emergency area or onto the hard shoulder.
3. Put your hazards on.
4. Get behind a safety barrier where it is safe / possible to do so, and keep well away from moving traffic.
5. Call National Highways on **0300 123 5000** then a breakdown provider for help.

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For more advice about what to do if you break down on a motorway or major A road, scan this code, or go to highwaysengland.co.uk/breakdowns



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