

Welcome to the latest edition of the A585 Windy Harbour to Skippool project newsletter, keeping you up to date with the latest information and our progress on the project.

Who are Highways England?

Highways England operates, maintains and improves the motorways and major A-roads across the north-west. Our project is not just about people who drive on our roads, we want to improve conditions for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders, and provide links to the wider transport network. We work towards improving connections, increasing capacity and making journeys as reliable as possible, whilst maintaining the roads to the highest levels of safety. We also understand the importance of our environment and communities, that's why we're working hard to minimise our impact, helping to reduce noise and improve air quality.

Progress so far

Following our last update in November 2020, we've been busy preparing for the next phase of construction, including:

- Undertaking drainage inspection surveys.
This entails using a high pressure washer and inserting a CCTV camera to assess and inspect the drainage pipes. The surveys are needed to help us understand the current condition of the drainage system.
- Carrying out tree and vegetation clearance before the bird nesting season starts in March. It's necessary to carry out these works prior to this period to ensure birds, their nests and eggs are protected.
- Building our main site compound at Garstang Road East.
- Continuing the archaeology work within the tent on Garstang Road East. The purpose of the tent is to ensure any findings are protected from the elements of weather. We expect the archaeology work to finish by May 2021. We hope to share the findings with the local community once lockdown restrictions have been removed.

A585 Skippool junction and Skippool Bridge junction phasing plan



West side phasing

<p>Phase 1: Skippool junction</p> <p>From January 2021</p> <p>Type of work: removing the existing traffic islands</p> <p>Traffic management: narrow lanes and reduced speed limit</p>	<p>Phase 2: Skippool junction</p> <p>From February 2021</p> <p>Type of work: removing the existing roundabout</p> <p>Traffic management: narrow lanes and reduced speed limit</p>	<p>Phase 3: Skippool junction</p> <p>From March 2021</p> <p>Type of work: widening of the carriageway on the north side of Amounderness Way/Breck Road</p> <p>Traffic management: narrow lanes and reduced speed limit</p>	<p>Phase 4: Skippool junction</p> <p>From November 2021</p> <p>Type of work: widening the southern side of Amounderness Way/Breck Road.</p> <p>Traffic management: narrow lanes and reduced speed limit</p>	<p>Phase 5: Skippool junction</p> <p>From June 2021</p> <p>Type of work: widening the carriageway, removing the existing traffic island on Breck Road</p> <p>Traffic management: narrow lanes and reduced speed limit</p>	<p>Phase 6: Skippool junction</p> <p>From November 2022</p> <p>Type of work: constructing the new traffic islands</p> <p>Traffic management: temporary 4-way traffic lights</p>
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East side phasing

<p>Phase 1: Skippool Bridge/Skipool Bridge junction</p> <p>From January 2021</p> <p>Type of work: construct new bridge north of Skippool Bridge, divert underground cables and pipes, construct retaining wall construct the new access to Old Mains Lane</p> <p>Traffic management: narrow lanes and reduced speed limit</p>	<p>Phase 2: Skippool Bridge/Skipool Bridge junction</p> <p>From August 2021</p> <p>Type of work: divert underground cables and pipes, construct retaining wall</p> <p>Traffic management: narrow lanes and reduced speed limit</p>	<p>Phase 3: Skippool Bridge/Skipool Bridge junction</p> <p>From December 2021</p> <p>Type of work: remove the existing Skippool Bridge, divert underground cables and pipes, widen the carriageway construct the new Skippool Bridge</p> <p>Traffic management: narrow lanes and reduced speed limit</p>
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What's next?

While our work has been continuing away from the road, our first phase of construction on the highway will be centred around the Skippool junction and Wyre roundabout. Here we will be:

- removing the existing traffic islands and roundabout (in phases)
- widening the existing carriageway. This will enable us to construct a new bridge to the north of the current Skippool bridge. Once the new bridge is complete, we'll divert traffic onto the new bridge before removing the old one.

During this phase we'll need to use some traffic management measures, so we can build the project safely. This will include narrow lanes and a reduced speed limit of 30mph. Installing these measures allows us to keep the traffic flowing in both directions, maintain capacity, while still allowing us the safe space we need to work in.

Other activities will also take place at other locations along the project, including constructing a new bridge and building a temporary diversion road at Lodge Lane. We're proposing to construct a new access road into Singleton Hall, before closing the existing access. We also plan to remove a few trees on Garstang Road East and divert utility services in preparation for the construction of the new Poulton junction.

Calling all schools and community groups!

Are you interested to learn more about the project we're delivering? Is your school having lessons about the environment? Wanting to know more about the archaeological findings? If so, then please get in touch! We have a team of experts who are happy to help. Please get in touch with our Customer Liaison Officer David Whitelow (details are at the back of this newsletter) and we'll be happy to arrange something for you.

Get to know the team

During lockdown, getting to know the project team can be difficult.

So, going forward we'll be introducing you to a different member of the project team. Our first team member is

Customer Liaison Officer David Whitelow (AKA Dave).



When did you join the project?

"I joined the project in January 2020 and have worked as a Community Liaison Officer for over 30 years."

What is a typical day in your role?

"No two days are the same, one day I could be visiting residents and people in the community, another day I could be spending time with site engineers and walking through fields with landowners. The role is very varied, but I always have time to speak to our customers. Covid-19 has been particularly challenging, as it's stopped me from visiting people and organisations face to face, it's been very frustrating. I'm looking forward to times when it will be safe for me to meet everyone, but I'm always at the end of the phone for anyone."

What do you feel is important in your role?

"It's a privilege to have the opportunity to focus on our customers and the community, it's important to listen to what our customers say and to hear their views and gain feedback. It provides me with an opportunity to act upon anything promptly. We welcome all feedback and suggestions; it helps us to continually improve our service to our customers."

How can people get in touch with you?

"People can contact me directly either by phone or email"

Tel: 07935 759224

Email: david.whitelow@kier.co.uk

Next time we'll be interviewing Graduate Engineer Emily Carmichael. If you have a question you would like to ask Emily, feel free to email the team (contact details are at the back of the newsletter).

Environment

We've installed specialised newt exclusion fencing around the work areas, where it is suspected that great crested newts are present. The fencing is installed deep in the ground and has a fold at the top to stop the newts from entering the construction site and therefore prevent any delays to our work.

Great crested newts are a protected species. The fencing will enable us to relocate the newts to a safer environment whilst we carry out our works. We are working closely with Natural England to ensure any identified newts are relocated in a safe and controlled way.



**Did you know?
Female great crested newts grow to be larger than males!**

The great crested newt exclusion fencing

How to find out more

All of our newsletters are in the format of an e-newsletter. To sign up for updates or to find out further information on the project, please visit our website:

highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/north-west/a585-windy-harbour-to-skippool/.

Alternatively, you can follow us on Facebook **Highways England: North-West** or on Twitter **@HighwaysNWEST**

If you have any questions regarding the project, please do not hesitate to email our dedicated project inbox at A585windyharbourtoskipool@highwaysengland.co.uk Or call us on **0300 123 5000** (24-hour Customer Contact Centre).

You can also contact the project Customer Liaison Officer, David Whitelow by email or by phone (Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm)

Email: David.Whitelow@kier.co.uk

Phone: **07935 759224**



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