

# A585

## Windy Harbour to Skippool

May 2021

Welcome to the latest edition of the A585 Windy Harbour to Skippool project newsletter, keeping you up to date with the latest information on the project. Since our last update, we've been continuing our construction work, and preparing for the next phases.



*View west over Windy Harbour junction.*

### What's happening

Our main site compound on Garstang Road East is now complete. To reduce our environmental footprint, we've installed units that recycle rainwater and use low-flow taps to minimise the amount of water that is consumed.

We've also launched our 'A585 In Bloom' competition, where we encourage our teams to get creative with their planting skills at both our Skippool and Garstang Road East site compounds. The competition will not only improve the biodiversity of our workspaces, but it will also improve employee wellbeing and encourage teamwork.

**Skippool junction** - work is progressing well.

We're now in phase two of work and have completed the removal of the existing roundabout. We plan to lay a temporary road surface before phase three can begin, which will involve widening the carriageway.

As our work continues, the reduced speed limit of 30mph will remain in place to keep our workforce safe. Over the weekends when no work is taking place, we'll remove as much of our traffic management as possible to improve the flow of traffic at this location.

**Skippool Bridge junction** - work to construct a retaining wall at Skippool Bridge and the new access road to Old Mains Lane will start this summer. This will include removing the existing street lights, signage and footways.

**Lodge Lane bridge** – we're about to start phases one and two, where we'll construct a temporary access road at Lodge Lane, and divert underground cables and pipes. We'll also construct a new access road to Singleton Hall before removing the existing access point.

**Poulton junction** – work to widen the carriageway will start this summer. The temporary traffic lights will remain in place to make sure our construction vehicles can cross the junction safely.

To build the project safely, traffic management measures, such as narrow lanes and reduced speed limits will be in place. 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. We kindly ask everyone to be extra cautious when travelling through our roadworks, and thank you for your continued patience.

### **Maintenance work on A585 Amounderness Way –**

Our maintenance team are planning to renew the road markings on the A585 Amounderness Way/ Dock Street, between the junctions of West Drive and Adelaide Street in Fleetwood. This will take place from the 21 June to 14 July, between the hours of 8pm and 6am.

For safety, we need to close the A585 Amounderness Way/Dock Street overnight. This will be done in small sections at a time, and localised signed diversion routes will be in place.

For more information on this and other work in the region, visit [highwaysengland.co.uk/regions/north-west](https://highwaysengland.co.uk/regions/north-west)

## **Archaeology work update**

The archaeology work north of Garstang Road is now complete. Work is continuing south of Garstang Road and east of Lodge Lane, with the aim to finish in June 2021.

Our recent findings include the partial remains of the Skippool Watermill. Although we do not have an exact date when the mill was constructed, it is shown on the first edition of the Ordnance Survey map in 1844.

The remains of a headrace channel leading to the watermill wheel were found along with a wooden filter. This was designed to stop debris clogging up or damaging the wheel. It looks as though the angle of the walls and the narrowing of the channel were designed to direct and increase the flow of water to the wheel.



*The headrace channel, with the wooden filter (pierced with holes) in the foreground next to the red and white ranging pole.*

## **Environment**

We've been carrying out tree and hedgerow removal along the project. This is to create the needed space to build the new bypass. We work closely with our environment and ecology teams, and carry out necessary surveys before any vegetation is removed.

We plan to put the following measures in place to ensure we minimise any impact on wildlife and habitats:

- Bird boxes will be installed on trees at suitable locations across the project. This will help nesting birds during bird nesting season.
- New planting is proposed at suitable locations along the project.

- Install bat boxes and bee posts, build new ponds and grassland areas, all of which will increase biodiversity.



*An adult Soprano Pipistrelle bat.*

## Work in the community

### Easter delights

Over the Easter break, the team paid a visit to the Blackpool Teaching Hospital NHS Trust Children's ward, and local youth homeless charity Streetlife. We donated one hundred chocolate eggs to patients, nurses and care workers to show our appreciation for their continued hard work in the community.

### Introducing Smart Giving

Here on the A585 Windy Harbour to Skippool project, we really want to leave a lasting positive stamp in the local community. So, we're introducing an initiative called Smart Giving. Smart Giving is a way of giving back to the community through the donation of time and construction resources to local projects, charities, schools and vulnerable groups. If you'd like to find out more information on how this works, please get in touch with our team (contact details are at the back of the newsletter).

### Local milestone marker

We recently removed a historic local milestone marker from Mains Lane for safe keeping whilst construction takes place.

A member from our Oxford Archaeology North team attended to oversee the safe removal of the marker, together with representatives from Fylde Borough Council and Singleton Parish Council.

The marker was safely lifted and transported to a safe storage place until such times it can be replaced in a suitable spot.



Overseeing the removal of the milestone marker on Mains Lane: Conservation Officer, Catherine Kitching, together with Fylde Borough Councillor - Matthew Lee, Chair of Singleton Parish Council - Bob Gallagher and Singleton Parish Councillor - Chris Ibbotson.

## Otter-watch

Our ecological surveys have found evidence of otters foraging around Main Dyke (south of Garstang Road). Spraints (droppings) have also been found, which is how otters mark their territory. We'll continue to work with our environment and construction teams to make sure the otters are not disturbed.



## Get to know the team



While lockdown restrictions are easing, getting to know the project team can still be tricky. Going forward we'll present a different member of the project team. This month we're introducing Emily Carmichael, one of our Graduate Site Engineers:

### When did you join the project?

*I first joined the project in September 2019, after graduating university with a BEng (hons) degree in civil engineering.*

### What is a typical day in your role?

*As a Graduate Site Engineer, every day is different and brings new and exciting challenges. I have recently been working with archaeologists to support them in uncovering the history of the land local to the project, and working on the design and construction of the main compound.*

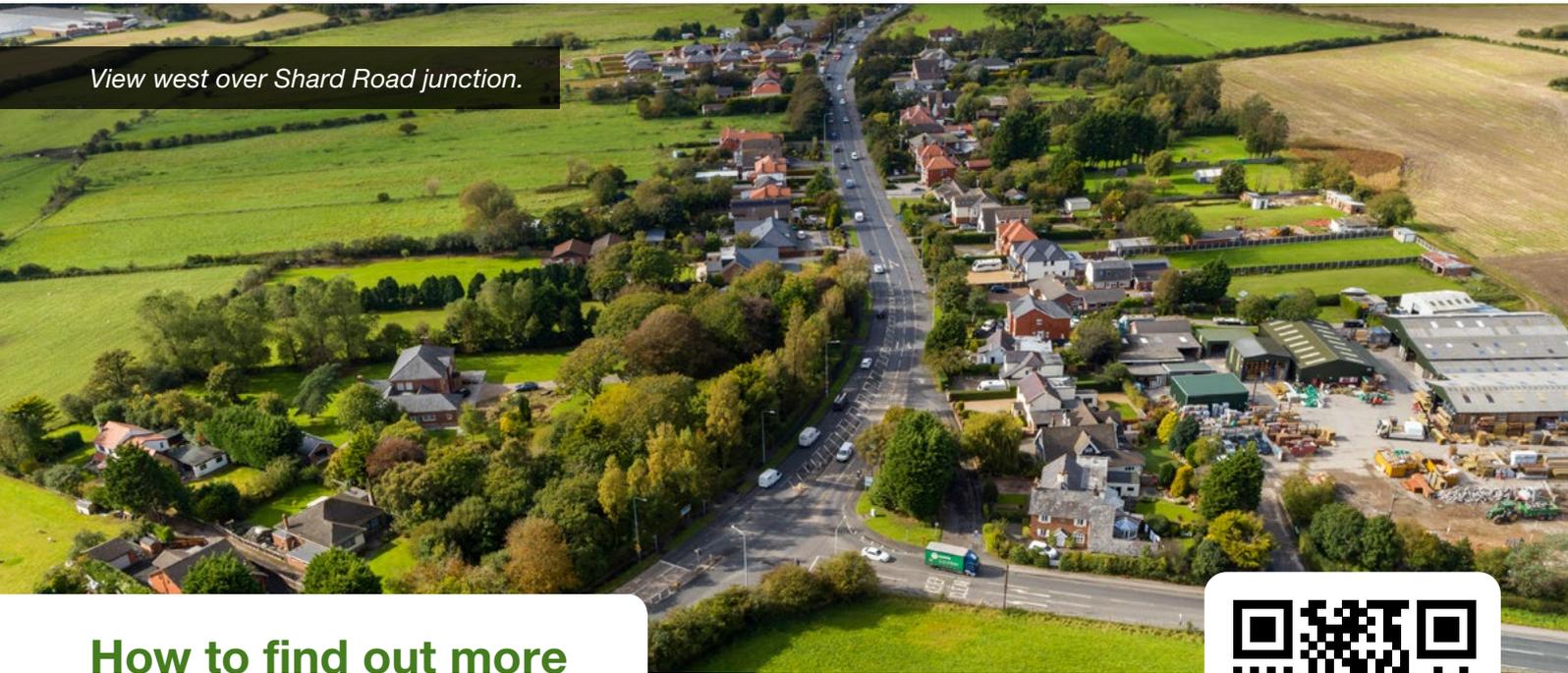
*I am often on site, surveying the land and setting out the work areas. My role consists of office-based tasks as well as field tasks. On top of my role as an Engineer, I volunteer as a STEM (Science, technology, engineering and maths) ambassador and an EDI (equality, diversity and inclusion) champion. I enjoy promoting diversity and inclusion within the workplace by encouraging the younger generation to pursue a career in construction and engineering. Covid-19 has brought challenges, however, the team has worked extremely hard to keep work progressing.*

### What do you feel is important in your role?

*I am grateful for the opportunities and responsibilities I'm given and each day I feel like a valued member of the team. When you see something that you've been working on come to life before your eyes, it's extremely rewarding to say, "I was a part of that".*

If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.

View west over Shard Road junction.



## How to find out more

To sign up for updates or to find out further information on the project, please visit our website [highwaysengland.co.uk/A585-WH](https://highwaysengland.co.uk/A585-WH). Alternatively, you can follow us on Facebook [Highways England: North-West](#) or on Twitter [@HighwaysNWEST](#)



## Have your say

Do you want to share your thoughts and feedback with the team? Visit our [A585 Windy Harbour to Skippool feedback tool](#) to have your say. The feedback tool includes an interactive map, where you can click on a specific location to make a comment or provide us with your general feedback.

If you have any questions regarding the project, please email our dedicated project inbox at [A585windyharbourtoskipool@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:David.Whitelow@kier.co.uk) Phone: **07935 759224**

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