

A1

## Scotswood to North Brunton

We're open to traffic

Autumn 2022



# What we've achieved

This section of the A1 is one of the busiest sections of road in the North East with pre-covid levels of 110,000 vehicles using the route every day.

Over the two and a half years of construction we have:

- **Built an additional lane in each direction over a distance of 8km.**
  - **Installed a new concrete safety barrier and upgraded lighting to current standards.**
  - **Upgraded the drainage system, by using a sustainable drainage pond which filters rain that runs off the carriageway, making the water flowing into the river at Ouseburn cleaner and better for the environment.**
  - **Installed new overhead signs to better inform customers and make journeys easier and safer.**
- What this means for the North East region:
- **Helps unlock economic growth - by improving accessibility to jobs and services whilst also supporting new business and development opportunities and housing developments along the A1.**
  - **Allows better movement of goods and access to transport hubs.**
  - **Creates free flowing connections with reduced delays and accidents meaning improved journey times and reliability.**
  - **Delivers a safer and more serviceable network with reduced heavy traffic, delays and accidents between junctions 74 and 79.**
  - **Environmental and biodiversity benefits - additional planting and improvements to community spaces such as Wickham Thorns activity centre.**
  - **Improved links between important locations in the region – including Team Valley Employment Zone, Metrocentre and Newcastle Airport.**
  - **Less traffic on local roads – journey times have improved, meaning drivers are more likely to stay on main roads – which are more suited to moving large volumes of traffic – and off local highways.**

# Making a difference in our communities

We are passionate about improving our local communities. We have achieved this by; supporting schools with building bug hotels, raising money for charity, sponsoring the Blaydon Race and planting flowers in community green spaces. We have been able to leave a great legacy and inspire both our future engineers and budding ecologists.

## Spring time bloom

In winter 2021, a task force made up of the project team, Catherine McKinnell MP, The Mayor of Newcastle, Habib Rahman and Parish Councillors, came together to plant over 5,100 daffodil bulbs in Blue Bell Dene.



5,100 daffodil bulbs planted in Blue Bell Dene.

## Educational environment session

The community team were able to work with more than 40 early years pupils at the Broadwood Primary School next to the scheme. We discussed biodiversity awareness, built bug hotels, and planted wildflowers in the school garden.

Broadwood Primary pupils planting a tree.



## Whickham Thorns activity centre

We were approached by a local scouts troop and asked if we could help them improve a local activity centre. This area was an important community leisure facility and we were happy to help.

Footpaths through the site were worn and muddy under foot, so we provided and laid material to create a solid footpath that is accessible for all.

We also cleared vegetation around the car park and made a clear area where the scouts were able to pitch their tents

for camping. We also provided concrete blocks for the scouts to sit on around a campfire. During the work, the scouts were offered a free ice-rink, we therefore levelled the ground so it was a suitable space for them to install it.



# Award winning project

Costain-Jacobs were delighted to win the National Highways Award in 2021, which celebrated their outstanding contributions, innovations and achievements which have improved customers' overall satisfaction with our roads.

Safe working is essential and the following awards are proof that Costain-Jacobs always put safety first:

- North-East health and safety company of the year 2021.
- Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA) award, health and safety company of the year 2021 - Costain.
- North-East health safety and wellbeing award 2022.

- Constructing Excellence North East (CENE) award was to Costain Jacobs Partnership, Regional Delivery Partnership North 2022 for 'Health Safety and Wellbeing'. It is in this category that we are now in the national Constructing Excellence finals later this year.



# Local environment and employment

We are always looking for new and innovative ways to reduce our carbon footprint and support the local area. In partnership with Costain Jacobs, we have reduced our carbon emissions by more than 12,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> as part of the scheme. We did this through reusing materials where possible and using alternative construction methods such as:

- Reuse of existing sign gantries – 1,744 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- Alternative retaining solutions eliminating sheet piling – 5,721 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- Using a SuDS pond (Sustainable Urban Drainage System) to avoid alternative water treatment – 440 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- Substitution of large diameter concrete drainage pipes with plastic – 48 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- Reuse of c41,000t excavated and demolition material on Scotswood and other Costain schemes – 176 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.

# Timeline

Spring/Summer  
2020



■ **Site clearance.**

Winter  
2020-2021



■ **Central reservation  
construction  
and structure  
re-enforcement.**

Spring  
2021



■ **Grouting of the  
old mine shafts.**

Summer  
2021



■ **Work starts in the  
verges to prepare  
for the new lanes.**

Early Autumn  
2022



■ **Open for  
traffic**

Summer  
2022



■ **Final  
preparations**

Spring  
2022



■ **Drainage work  
complete  
and planting  
continues**

Winter  
2021/2022



■ **Construction of  
the new lanes  
continue.**

Autumn  
2021



■ **Construction of the  
new lanes begin.**

# Facts and figures



More than  
**1,900**  
people have  
worked on  
the projects



At the height of  
work, we had  
more than  
**150**  
workers on  
the site



With  
more than  
**15**  
different  
contractors  
on the site



More than  
**65%**  
of workers  
from the  
local area



More than  
**70**  
apprentices  
directly  
working on  
the scheme



More than  
**3,500**  
trees planted



More than  
**15,200**  
shrubs planted



More than  
**4,200**  
hours of  
volunteering



2023 marks 100 years since the road numbering system was introduced, classifying and identifying all roads in Great Britain. This system greatly assisted the rapidly growing number of road users, and helped with the management and maintenance of the expanding road network in the early 20th century.

The Great North Road had already been designated the A1 in 1921. Since then, much work has been done to improve the A1 to meet the changing needs of road users: this scheme is the latest of many over the years. National Highways will be celebrating the centenary of the road numbering system throughout 2023.

# Testimonials

What people think about the scheme:

**Graeme Mason, Chief Sustainability and Communications Officer:**

“Newcastle Airport welcomes the improvements made to the A1 from Brunton to Scotswood Road. The upgrades will help ease congestion on the existing road network and improve connectivity for passengers making their way to Airport. Thanks to the additional lane, the Airport’s arriving passengers will now benefit from improved access heading to the north and south of the region.”

**Mark Robson, Project Manager for a large north east contractor who commutes daily through the scheme, said:**

“I wanted to drop you a quick email to say how impressed I have been with the way in which you have been running things on this scheme. Every day I have travelled along the A1 (at various times of the day), and I have been genuinely impressed by the high standard of health and safety measures in place, the clear programme methodology been implemented, and the general quality of the works being completed. I have never been delayed and the traffic flow has been generally unhindered (much appreciated!).”

**Cllr Martin Gannon, Chair of the North East Joint Transport Committee said:**

“We welcome the completion of the A1 Scotswood to North Brunton improvement scheme. One of the key aims of our North East Transport Plan is to be carbon neutral by 2035, and schemes like this, which focus on significantly reducing congestion on busy stretches of the A1, move us closer to reaching this target.

“We are supportive of the efforts of National Highways to improve sustainable travel in and around the area by upgrading a footpath as part of the road improvement scheme, and also of their installation of a sustainable drainage system to safely discharge road surface water, which will help our local environment and allow people greater ease of travel.”

**Owen Wilson, Transport for the North’s Head of Roads, said:**

“The opening of the A1 Scotswood to North Brunton improvement scheme brings much needed additional capacity to an important corridor for the North East.

“This vital level of investment to improve the long-term reliability and resilience of local roads is critical in supporting economic growth in the region.

“Improved links to areas such as Team Valley Employment Zone, Metrocentre and Newcastle Airport will bring a wealth of benefits to communities and businesses in the North East including access to more jobs. A more accessible and integrated road network for the region also means better, cleaner, safer journeys and connections for all road users.”

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

## Contact us

- Email: [A1Scotswood.toNorthBrunton@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:A1Scotswood.toNorthBrunton@highwaysengland.co.uk)
- Website: <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/a1-scotswood-to-north-brunton/>

© Crown copyright 2022.

You may re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence:

visit [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/)

write to the **Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU**, or email [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk).

Mapping (where present): © Crown copyright and database rights 2022 OS 100030649. You are permitted to use this data solely to enable you to respond to, or interact with, the organisation that provided you with the data. You are not permitted to copy, sub-licence, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.

This document is also available on our website at [www.nationalhighways.co.uk](http://www.nationalhighways.co.uk)

For an accessible version of this publication please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.

If you have any enquiries about this publication email [info@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:info@nationalhighways.co.uk) or call **0300 123 5000**\*. Please quote the National Highways publications code **PR210/22**.

National Highways creative job number CRE22\_0063

\*Calls to 03 numbers cost no more than a national rate call to an 01 or 02 number and must count towards any inclusive minutes in the same way as 01 and 02 calls.

These rules apply to calls from any type of line including mobile, BT, other fixed line or payphone. Calls may be recorded or monitored.

Printed on paper from well-managed forests and other controlled sources when issued directly by National Highways.

Registered office Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford GU1 4LZ

National Highways Limited registered in England and Wales number 09346363