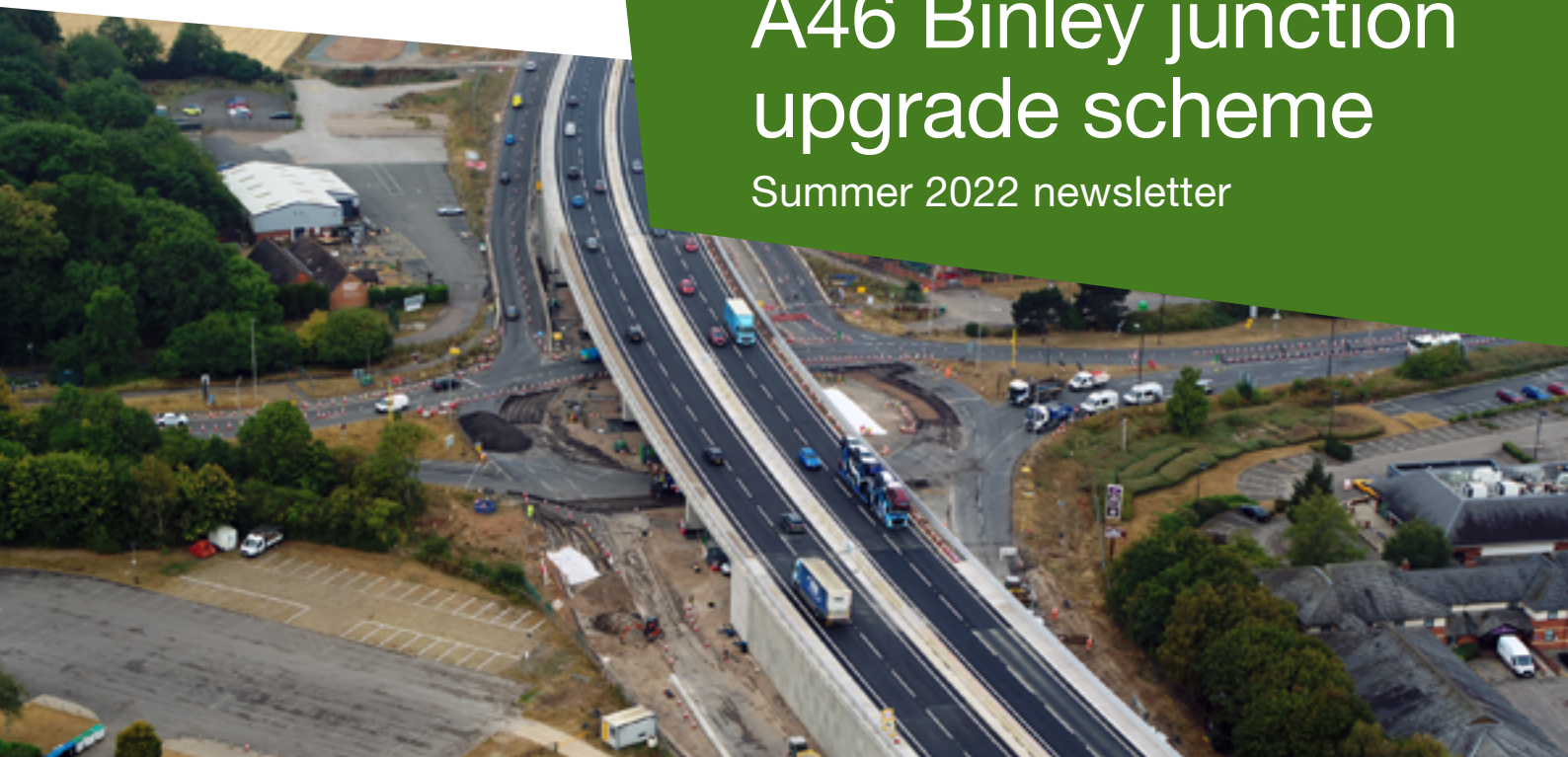


A46 Binley junction upgrade scheme

Summer 2022 newsletter



Welcome to the summer 2022 edition of the A46 Binley junction upgrade scheme newsletter.

In this issue we'll share the latest information and updates from the project delivery team about the scheme.

Traffic congestion and poor journey reliability on the A46 has led to slower speeds, longer trip times and more queuing for drivers. By upgrading the junction at Binley we'll unlock this congestion, support economic growth and improve journey reliability across the West Midlands.

Scheme update

Our work on the junction improvement scheme has been progressing well since our last update. Since starting construction however, we've faced some significant challenges but despite these, we have made exceptional progress in what have been difficult times.

Motorists can now benefit from the new flyover which opened in July, slightly later than the original spring opening date that we'd planned and which we'd previously communicated. It separates long distance and local traffic and drivers staying on the A46 no longer need to slow down to use the roundabout which will reduce congestion at peak times and make journeys safer.

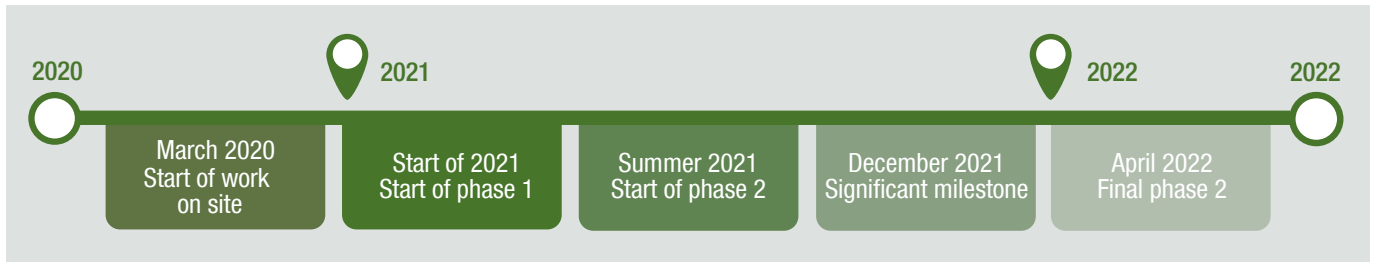
We're now in the last phase of the scheme and we'll finalise our work to re-align and complete construction of the new slip roads and to fully reconstruct the roundabout. This includes laying new kerbs, paving, surfacing and road markings, as well as updating traffic signals, signs, street lighting and environmental fences. This work will involve closures so keep an eye on our social media channels and scheme webpage for updates.

Who's working on the scheme

National Highways appointed Osborne Infrastructure Limited as the delivery partner for this project. In April 2022 Osborne Infrastructure Limited became an independent entity and was rebranded as Octavius Infrastructure.



What have we done so far?



Project timeline so far

- March 2020
 - ▶ We started working on site in March 2020. Our early works included carrying out surveys and diverting utility services such as gas and electricity.
- 2021
 - ▶ In early 2021 we started phase 1. We moved traffic in to narrow lanes, towards the central reserve, creating space and allowing us to safely start building the four slip roads.
- 2021
 - ▶ In spring/summer 2021 we started phase 2. The new slip roads temporarily became part of the carriageway layout so we could start work on the new flyover in the centre of the road.
- December 2021
 - ▶ We reached a significant project milestone, lifting 32 beams in to place to form the flyover. Read on to find out more about how we completed this task.
- April - June 2022
 - ▶ A series of closures throughout April, May and June were carried out, starting phase 3, the final phase of works on the scheme. The

closures allowed our teams to safely resurface the existing carriageway which became the new junction slip roads.

- July 2022
 - ▶ The flyover opened at 04:38 on 29 July, with through traffic no longer needing to stop at the roundabout.
- Summer - Autumn 2022
 - ▶ Now the flyover is open we'll continue to work on the roundabout underneath, updating traffic signals and finalising work to vehicle safety barriers, signs and road markings. The new slip roads will also be moved onto the final alignment.



What work have we been doing?

■ Highway construction

- ▶ Moving traffic into narrow lanes towards the central reservation to create the space to build the new slip roads
- ▶ Constructing slip roads by cutting earth from one area to another and bringing in aggregates where there was a shortfall
- ▶ Installing new drainage
- ▶ Moving traffic to the new slip road on a temporary alignment to create space in the central area to build the new flyover bridge and reinforced earth ramps

■ Flyover bridge

- ▶ Installing steel reinforced piles which form the underground foundations for the new bridge
- ▶ Constructing the reinforced concrete bases for the new bridge on these new steel reinforced piles
- ▶ Building the new reinforced concrete pier columns and abutments to the new bridge on the new bases
- ▶ Installing the new steel bridge beams

■ Flyover approach ramps

- ▶ Clearing the site of old drains, vehicle restraint barriers, signs, street lights and carriageway
- ▶ Installing the ramp wall reinforced concrete panel foundations
- ▶ Installing the reinforced concrete panels with the restraining straps all held in place with the imported aggregates placed behind the panels

■ We've also

- ▶ completed work at the ends of the slip roads at merge and diverge points
- ▶ completed work to tie in the A46 carriageway, which includes work in the central reserve
- ▶ moved into our new compound and offices
- ▶ created a new pond on the south east quadrant
- ▶ installed temporary traffic signals
- ▶ created temporary routes for pedestrians and cyclists



What are we doing next?



Following the successful installation of the bridge beams over the first two weekends in December 2021, we've built the reinforced concrete deck, reinforced concrete parapet copings and installed the metal parapets, concrete barriers, kerbs, ducts, drainage, lighting and signs, along with the road surface itself, to the new flyover bridge.

Now that we're moving in to the final phase of the scheme, we'll continue to build these elements on the north and south approach ramps, working largely in the central area behind temporary static traffic management barriers before opening the flyover to traffic this summer. Once the flyover is open we'll still have some traffic management in place for a short period of time to allow us to safely clear the site, install lighting and update signage.

Traffic Management

During April and May we've had a period of separate northbound and southbound carriageway closures on the north side of the scheme. These

closures were needed to allow us to safely resurface the existing carriageway. These roads will become the new junction sliproads and once complete will allow the southern road layout to be tied into the existing carriageway.

We understand this work has been disruptive, but it's been essential to allow the work to be completed safely for our customers and workforce.



Resurfacing the existing carriageway which will become the new junction slip roads

Project milestone - beam lift

In December 2021 we reached a significant stage in the scheme. To ensure that the project remained on track we needed to lift 32 steel bridge beams into place across the junction with the A428 to form the flyover.

The beams had been constructed in plants in Bolton and were transported by lorry to the site.

To carry out this work safely, we needed to close the Binley junction (A428). This meant there was no access to either carriageway of the A46 between Tollbar End and Walsgrave roundabouts and no vehicle access between Coventry and Binley Woods on the A428.

These two full weekend closures were undertaken overnight over two weekends from **Friday 3 December to Monday 6 December and Friday 10 December to Monday 13 December.**

The impact of undertaking closures at this time of the year on the lead up to Christmas was immediately recognised by the project team. Not only would this affect the local community and major stakeholders

surrounding the junctions but also the thousands of motorists using this major route.

So, to ensure that the public were fully informed of the operation we:

- delivered letters to over 26,000 households and businesses
- briefed the local MPs and councillors
- briefed emergency services, the hospital and local authority representatives
- printed 70 posters and circulated to local businesses to display. Digital posters were also shared with key partners
- updated the National Highways scheme webpage and regional social media channels regularly
- visited local businesses personally
- published a press release
- undertook radio interviews with the National Highways regional project lead
- produced an FAQ document to be used by the National Highways control centre and strategic partners



- collaborated with Transport for West Midlands who then produced a toolkit which was distributed to their stakeholders
- provided safe viewing areas to allow the public to witness the operation
- issued traffic management bulletins to local stakeholders
- utilised signage on the strategic network (M6, M40, M69) to give drivers approaching the closure information, allowing them to make informed decisions about their route

- provided advance notification signage on the A46 carriageway several weeks in advance to ensure frequent users of the A46 were aware of the closures.

As a result of this campaign, and by providing stakeholders and communities with the opportunity to understand the need for the closures and their impacts, we successfully completed the beam lift with minimal disruption.

Scan the QR code to view a timelapse video showing the moment the beams were lifted in to place



Project milestone – opening of the Binley flyover

As Birmingham eagerly anticipated the opening of the 22nd Commonwealth Games on the night of 28 July, 28 miles away in Coventry, team Binley were enthusiastically awaiting the start of the night shift that would see the opening of the new flyover, just in time for the games.

In the weeks leading up to the planned opening of the flyover, the team faced a few challenges, potentially putting the opening at risk. As well as extreme temperatures impacting concreting and resurfacing works, there were also issues with the delivery of materials. These challenges brought together the great minds of colleagues from National Highways, Octavius and Arcadis but with remarkable focus, resilience, and collaboration, one by one they were overcome.

As the night approached, it was time to prepare for the big opening. With traffic management in place, it was safe to start, and the team began. Over several hours they worked hard completing

all the white lining, road markings and stud work. Just before dawn with the finish line in sight, it was time to put the sweeper to work and clean up the carriageway and finish the final housekeeping. The traffic management was then removed, and it was time to celebrate an excellent night's work.

At 4:38 am and ahead of time, the flyover was finally opened in both directions and the first vehicles drove across, an extremely proud moment for team Binley and everyone involved. It was a fantastic milestone achieved and just in time for the Commonwealth Games, with Coventry showcasing the finest rugby sevens action in the games.



Click on the QR code to watch a video of the moment the first cars drove over the flyover



Community engagement

According to recent research, misperceptions of the range of careers available in the construction sector and what they entail is rife in schools. This lack of knowledge and poor communication is a key contributor to the skills crisis the construction industry currently faces. A report that surveyed parents and schoolchildren revealed that:

- 52% of young people have never given a career in construction any consideration
- boys are more likely than girls to receive advice on construction careers and apprenticeships.
- only 17% of youngsters feel they receive high-quality, wide-ranging careers advice at school with a further 38% stating that advice was non-existent or not useful
- 9% of parents would actively discourage their child from pursuing a career in construction

To help break down these barriers, staff working on the A46 project have been working with local schools and universities to raise the profile of the construction industry. This work has entailed staff from the scheme undertaking both virtual and physical visits to Caludon Castle School, a business and enterprise school, located near to the scheme.

Project staff have assisted by undertaking presentations, both in person and virtually, to year



10 students on “Introduction to Civil Engineering” and year 7 students with “Guess My Job”. They also presented “Careers in Civil Engineering” to sixth form students which included a planning exercise that engaged the students.

The A46 project team have also welcomed visitors from Warwick, Southampton and Coventry Universities. During their visits, students who are undertaking engineering degrees have been able to visit the site and witness the construction process close up. This has given them a chance to see engineering techniques in action on a working site that they have learnt about in their studies.



Facts and Figures

Some interesting facts and figures about the construction of the flyover itself:



We sank 94 concrete piles into the ground for the flyover.



During the weekend closures we installed 32 beams, with a combined weight approximately 720 tonnes.



We have compacted 125,000 tonnes of stone to create the approach ramps.



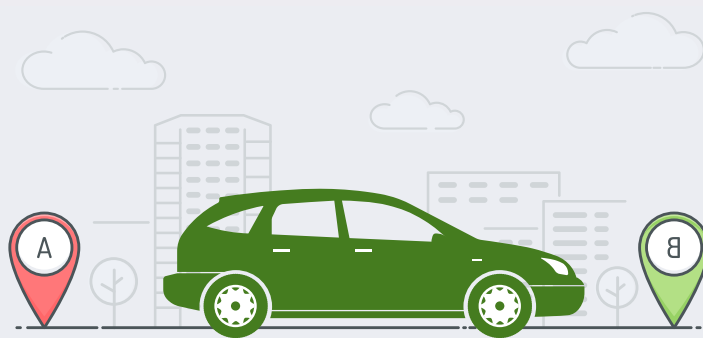
To complete the bridge deck, we needed to pour 900m³ of concrete.

Travel advice



We're continuing to work with Transport for West Midlands and other stakeholders including Coventry City Council to help keep you informed about what's happening on the A46 at Binley junction.

For up to date information and advice on travelling around while works are taking place you can follow Transport for West Midlands @WMRoads and @TransportforWM or visit <https://www.tfwm.org.uk/plan-your-journey/major-roadworks-and-events/a46-binley-junction/>



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

Contact us

If you have any questions or want more information about the A46 Binley junction upgrade, you can:



Email:
A46CoventryJcns@nationalhighways.co.uk



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Please quote the National Highways publications code **PR174/22**.

National Highways creative job number BHM22_0093

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