

A46

Binley junction upgrade

Opening ceremony

February 2023



Welcome

Today, we celebrate the completion of the A46 Binley junction improvement scheme, which is located to the south east of Coventry.

Over the last 3 years, National Highways has worked in close partnership with Octavius Infrastructure and a number of other suppliers to build this successful scheme.

We are delighted to welcome our guests to the official opening ceremony today.

Scheme improvements

The A46 in Coventry is a link between the East and West Midlands, and beyond, forming a key part of the national strategic road network. The route is vital in connecting Coventry and Warwickshire to the M1, M6 and M69 in the north, and the M40, M45 and A45 in the south.

The Binley roundabout was one of the most heavily congested junctions in the region at peak times. It had a poor safety record and was difficult to maintain.



What we've achieved

Over almost three years of construction, the scheme has delivered the following improvements:

- improvement of the Binley junction by raising the A46 with a new four-span dual carriageway flyover structure over the existing signalised roundabout which connects the A428 Rugby Road (east) and Brandon Road (west).
- the construction of a new northbound off-slip road consisting of two lanes.
- the construction of a new northbound on-slip road consisting of two lanes that merge into a single lane.
- the construction of a new southbound off-slip road with a single lane widening to two lanes on approach to the roundabout.
- the construction of a new southbound on-slip road consisting of two lanes that merge into a single lane.
- upgrading access for pedestrians and cyclists, providing safer and improved access underneath the flyover.
- installing a toucan crossing from west to east along the A428, crossing the A46 beneath the new flyover.

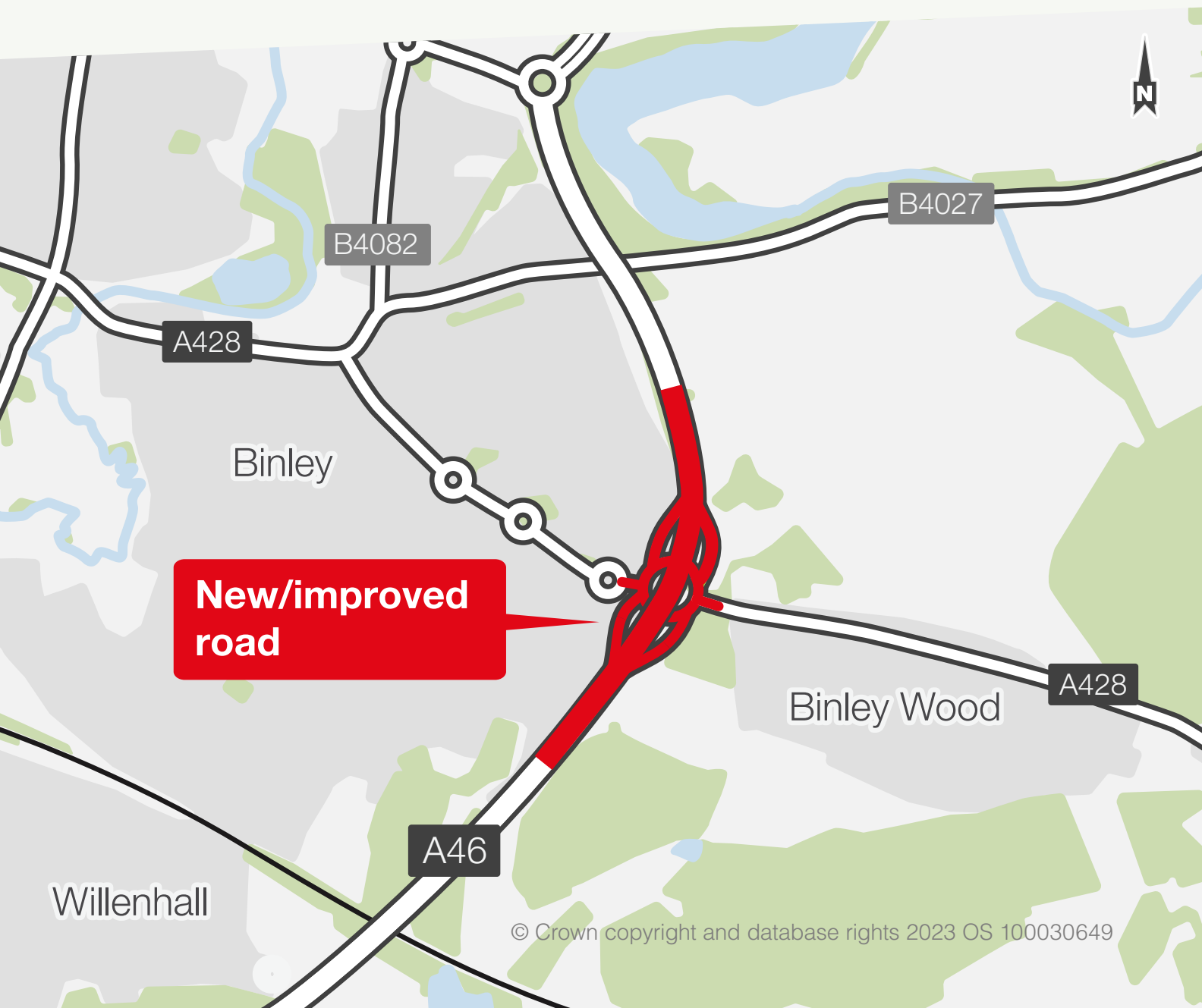
The scheme will:

- improve traffic flow at peak times by separating long distance and local traffic.
- increase road capacity and relieve traffic congestion, providing a safer and smoother flow of traffic at this busy junction.
- improve and support the growing economic efficiency in the region by reducing congestion and improving the reliability of journey times.
- improve safety for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists.
- have a minimal neutral impact on the natural and built environment.

Project timeline



Scheme map



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Roundabout and flyover development



July 2021



November 2021



December 2021



March 2022



July 2022



September 2022

Environment

One of our objectives for the scheme was to ensure there was minimal impact on the natural and built environment. As such, the scheme was planned and managed to reduce or eliminate any adverse impacts on species of interest and their habitats, particularly within the local nature reserves that bordered the scheme.

The landscape surrounding the scheme included areas of grassland, arable land and ancient and deciduous woodland.

We constructed two new ponds primarily to provide natural pollution control and act as sustainable urban drainage for water that runs off the road

surfaces. These ponds have been carefully landscaped and planted up in order to provide a habitat for wildlife including amphibians and reptiles.

We have undertaken extensive landscaping within the site boundaries. Barriers alongside the new northbound entry slip road aid in protecting local housing from the impacts of the road and close board fencing on the southbound entry slip road provides screening to nearby Piles Coppice.

All landscaping uses native vegetation found in the local area to encourage wildlife and provide a green corridor linking the scheme to adjacent protected habitats.



Making a difference in our community

The scheme has helped parish councils, community groups and local students in a variety of ways:

- We've supported Coventry Foodbank, part of the Trussell Trust. Throughout the duration of the project we've made regular contributions including a massive 165kg donation in October 2022.
- Through a £35,000 cash injection from our designated funds programme, we've helped protect and improve access to Piles Coppice, an ancient woodland close to the project. We replaced damaged fencing and installed new bollards, making the area feel safer and improving access.
- We've helped the nearby rugby club by utilising the project's plant machinery to water rugby pitches in preparation for its use as a training venue for the 2022 Commonwealth Games.



Local students and education

Project staff have worked with local schools and universities to raise the profile of the construction industry and help break down the barriers to roles within this sector.

Team members delivered presentations to students at nearby Caludon Castle School outlining careers available in the engineering sector. Students were also able to test their engineering skills with a variety of engaging practical exercises.

We also welcomed visitors from Warwick, Coventry and Southampton Universities to the site. Civil Engineering students received presentations on the project and a tour of a working site, allowing them to witness the construction process close up.





Achievements

In December 2021 the scheme reached a significant milestone. Through two full weekend closures of the roundabout we lifted 32 steel bridge beams into place to form the flyover.

Safety

In the 3 years worked on the scheme, almost 500,000 hours have been worked. The temporary speed limits that have been in place throughout the scheme have protected both road workers and road users.

Supporting the local economy

The scheme will improve traffic flow and provide improved access to local businesses, bringing a boost to the local economy. The scheme integrates with national, regional and local plans and policies, and supports

the regeneration of south Coventry through improved access and increased capacity. This is evidenced through the increased development around the scheme.

The 2022 Commonwealth Games

In August 2022 we supported the delivery of a transport plan for the Commonwealth Games (CWG). A number of venues hosted a wide variety of sports across the region including Rugby Sevens held in Coventry. Working closely with Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), we helped provide a reliable Games route network for athletes, officials and spectators by opening the flyover in time for the opening ceremony of the CWG. We also lifted roadworks throughout the period of the Games which allowed over 1.5 million spectators to travel to and access various locations throughout The West Midlands.



Picture captions:

Previous page, left - New fencing installed at Binley Woods.

Previous page, right - presentations to students at Caludon Castle School.

Top - students from Coventry University on a site visit.

Left - Octavius Community Manager Robert Pettipher delivering the final donation to Coventry Foodbank.



Local company Beechwood Trees and Landscapes Ltd were one of the first contractors on site



The first cars travelled over the newly opened flyover at 4:28am on 29 July 2022

An award winning project

Safe working is essential and Octavius were delighted to win the National Highways Excellence in Safety award in 2021, demonstrating that safety is always put first.

Other awards which celebrate their outstanding contributions, innovations and achievements which have improved customers' overall satisfaction with our roads include:

- Considerate Constructors - certificate of excellence for achieving a level of excellence across:
 - appearance;
 - community respect;
 - protecting the environment;
 - securing everyone's safety;
 - valuing the workforce
- CIHT West Midlands 2022
- Emerging professional award 2022
- Collaboration award 2022
- Binley beam lift operations (highly commended)
- Environment and sustainability award 2021
- SIPS compound



Emerging Professional Award Winners 2022



National Highways Industry Awards Winners 2021

Facts and figures



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 original A46 was opened in 1923. Although the road still runs from Bath to Grimsby, it follows a much different route nowadays than it did when it opened, especially around Coventry. Significant work has been done to improve and meet the changing needs of road users and this scheme is the latest of many over the years. National Highways will be celebrating the centenary of the road numbering system throughout 2023.

Beam Lift – December 2021

In December 2021 the scheme reached a significant milestone. Through two full weekend closures of the roundabout we lifted 32 steel bridge beams into place to form the flyover.



Binley junction beam lift - December 2021

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