

A1 Coal House to Metro Centre

Quarterly Newsletter November 2015

Welcome to the latest newsletter about our scheme to widen the A1 between the Coal House and Metro Centre junctions. In this edition we provide an update on the construction work and what's happening next. We also take a look at what we have been doing to support the local community, highlight changes to the traffic management and discuss what's happening during the Christmas period.



Demolishing Chiltern Gardens footbridge

We have now been on site for over a year and would like to thank you for your patience and cooperation during the improvement works – Thank you!

Progress and what's next

Although there is still a lot of work to be done and a winter to get through, we're on track to complete the work and open the new lanes to traffic in spring 2016.

The new lane on the southbound carriageway between Metro Centre and Dunston junctions and between Lobley Hill and Coal House junctions has now been constructed.

We have started excavating the northbound sections. This is where we are installing metal sheets and rock baskets to support the embankments and create space for the new lane.



Kerb line on southbound carriageway between Metro Centre and Dunston junctions.

We're installing the new street lighting system between Metro Centre and Dunston junctions. We're pleased to report that the lighting along the southbound section is now complete.

The large rainwater storage pond being constructed at the A184 Gateshead Quays junction is ready for the pond liner which will make it water-tight. We will then start connecting the new drainage and installing a pumping station.



Rainwater storage pond at Gateshead Quays junction.

Excavation of the embankments between Lobley Hill and Gateshead Quays junction has created space for the additional A1 lanes. It's also created space for the connector roads that will be provided for traffic wanting to travel between those junctions only. The slopes are being stabilised using metal rods called soil nails. These will be covered with mesh where the slopes are shallow and with a concrete facing where the slopes are steeper. This is to ensure that the soil remains in place.



Excavation of embankments between Lobley Hill and Gateshead Quays junction.

The rock face at Gateshead Quays junction will be treated with concrete to prevent loose pieces breaking off and falling on to the carriageway.



Rock face at Gateshead Quays junction.

Chiltern Gardens Footbridge

We are designing the new Chiltern Gardens footbridge. The bridge will provide access over the A1 for cyclists as well as pedestrians. As part of these works we are renewing 600 metres of the existing footpath to allow both pedestrians and cyclists to use it. It will link with the area's existing cycle network. In the new year we'll publicise details of the bridge, including when we will be installing it.

Traffic Management

In August 2015 the traffic management layout on the northern section was switched to create a new working area for our construction teams. The switch was carried out over five nights and completed on time. You will now start to see the new road layout taking shape.

Before the Christmas break there will be further traffic management switches between Coal House and Gateshead Quays to allow us to continue work on the northbound sections of the A1 and the central reserve.

Visit our scheme webpage for the latest news about road closures. Details are provided at the end of this newsletter.

Christmas timetable

To minimise the impact on the travelling public during the Christmas shopping period, there will be no full road closures from 20 November until the new year.

From the 19 December 2015 to the 4 January 2016 the site will be closed for the festive season. The traffic management will remain in place to keep road users safe, but two lanes will be open on the northbound and southbound carriageways.

Community

Balfour Beatty and two of its sub-contractors, APlant and Tarmac, teamed up to carry out a community project to resurface the entrance to the Tyne United Rowing Club based in Newburn. Balfour Beatty provided the peoplepower, APlant donated the machinery used for the work and Tarmac donated the materials recycled from the A1 surfacing works.

The club has an Olympic medallist amongst its members and has strong links to the local schools and universities in the Tyne and Wear region. The club also contributes to the health and wellbeing of the community by teaming up with Gateshead Council to run weight loss programmes using their indoor fitness facilities.



Entrance to Tyne United Rowing Club prior to resurfacing.



Entrance to Tyne United Rowing Club following resurfacing.

We are pleased to announce the A1 improvement work has created 206 jobs. The majority of people employed on the site come from the North East area. Our newest team member, Stuart Smith, joined in October 2015. Stuart was a process engineer for SSI at South Bank Coke Ovens, which closed recently. Stuart will be looking after the Lobley Hill to Gateshead Quays section of the site.



"I have lived, studied and worked in the region for most of my life and I'm excited to be working on a major highway improvement scheme that will bring economic benefits to the area."

Key Facts

- Over 4000 cubic meters of earth and rock have been removed from the existing slopes and the rock face at the A184 Gateshead Quays junction.
- The rock excavated from the A184 Gateshead Quays junction is sent to a free quarry for recycling. The rock is crushed and processed for reuse on many other build projects around the region.
- The newly installed kerbs on the southbound section are made of light-weight material from recycled plastic bottles. They are robust, have a longer life-cycle than traditional concrete kerbs and are easier to maintain.

Contact us

If you want to know more or have any queries, please contact Balfour Beatty's public liaison officer Claire Firbank on 07824406050, or by email at: Claire.Firbank@balfourbeatty.com

You can also write to the scheme project manager Lynne Biddles at:

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or email Highways England at:

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How to find out more

For the latest information about this scheme, follow us on Twitter @HighwaysNEAST

For the latest traffic updates follow Tyne & Wear travel @TyneWearTravel

www.tyneandweartravel.info will provide real travel time information across the North East network.

For more information visit our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/pages/Improvement-Scheme-A1-Coal-House-to-Metro-Centre/1445181179044091

Or visit our website: www.highways.gov.uk/roads/road-projects/a1-coal-house-to-metro-centre-improvement/

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