



A1331 Link Road Phase 1 Contractor Progress

Project Newsletter #2
July 2025



Progress so far

Having established the site compound at the start of the project, we relocated the site entrance access to the northern side of the new A133 roundabout in June.

To keep traffic moving smoothly during this phase of the project, we completed, then opened the northern side and have since switched operations to complete, and open, the southern side. With the team working diligently, and with minimal road closures, we plan for the roundabout to be fully operational by the autumn.

The pedestrian footpath along the northern roundabout has been completed, allowing for eventual connection to the walking and cycling lane of the A1331. Kerbs, gullies and streetlighting preparations have been completed ready to install new streetlighting columns.

Our environmental team are on site regularly to monitor our ecological impact and we've recently installed bat screens to protect bats from project traffic.



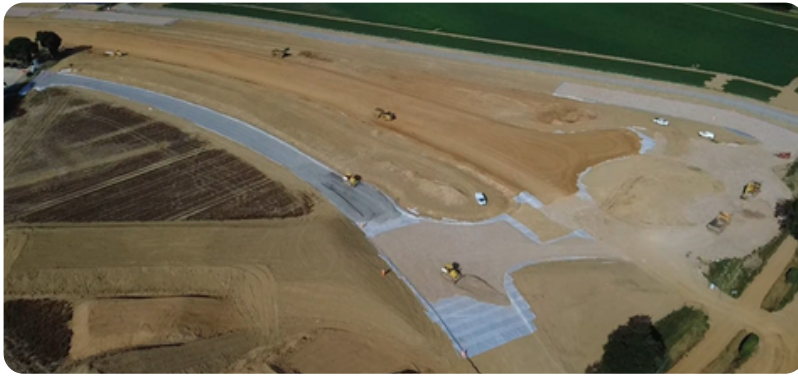
bat screens



roundabout surfacing



new compound entrance



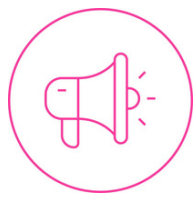
Work continues on the main stretch of road for the new A1331 Phase 1 with ongoing earthworks and fill work taking place across the entirety of the road.

Sustainability

We are currently undertaking a trial of using Syntech Biofuel for our site compound generator, the results of which will be published in our next newsletter. Biofuel is made from waste vegetable oils and is the most sustainable fuel made in the UK today. By harvesting and reusing waste products, we aim to make a positive intervention to poor environmental outcomes, and build a circular economy of clean energy and fuel.



We look forward to the ICE Institution of Civil Engineers East of England Merit Awards where the A1331 Link Road Phase 1 project has been shortlisted for Best Project – Sustainability. This award highlights initiatives by teams to integrate sustainable practices at any stage of the project lifecycle (strategy, planning, design, construction and handover), including environmental, social, and economic aspects. We will learn at the awards on 11th September if the project has won.



Stakeholder Engagement & Social Value

In June we held a public drop-in session at the Innovation Centre on the University of Essex Knowledge Gateway. This event was held in collaboration with Milestone, contractors delivering the Rapid Transport Scheme (RTS) along the A133 from our works. We had over 85 attendees across the morning, providing a great opportunity for our project team to hear resident and stakeholder feedback, share the progress of our works and outline our upcoming milestones.



Our social value team have also been out and about in the local community, supporting schools, organisations, charities and community groups with targeted and sustainable engagement. We visited Trinity School Colchester to support Year 10s with a mock interview day, which for many was their first ever experience with an interview. We discussed drawing on their volunteering, sports and recreation experiences to highlight their qualities and skills for future employment. With Octavius supporting initiatives across Essex, we also visited Rayne Primary School in Braintree for a fun-filled STEM day. Pupils learnt all about the challenges of construction and enjoyed a number of design and build activities. The Spaghetti Tower Challenge was a particular hit! To date, this project has generated £3.5m worth of social value for Essex.

