

North West UPGRADE

BUILDING A STRONGER GREENER WATER NETWORK

United Utilities

Water for the North West

Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience Programme (HARP)

Big North West Upgrade

Between 2025 and 2030, United Utilities are delivering one of the biggest infrastructure upgrades in over a century, helping to create a more resilient North West.

The programme is one of the most ambitious the region has ever seen, bringing an environmental transformation that improves 500km of the region's rivers and enhances the resilience of water services whilst helping one in six families struggling with their bills.

This five year, £13bn programme addresses the challenges of climate change, population growth, and rising demand. Transformative investment in infrastructure that boosts the reliability of supply and reduces spills from storm overflows; that introduces nature- based solutions and rainwater management; that supersizes metering and slashes leakage; and investment that creates new jobs and supports local businesses.

Building a stronger network

At the heart of this upgrade is the jewel in the North West network, the 110km Haweswater Aqueduct, a vital artery supplying 570million litres of top-quality drinking water to over 2.5million customers across the region.

Over the next 8 years, the Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience Programme (HARP) - the largest ever water infrastructure scheme to be delivered in the North West - will see nearly £3 billion invested in building long-term reliability, ensuring a more resilient water supply for now and generations to come.

Working in partnership

Core to this renewal programme, construction partners Cascade Infrastructure and STRABAG UK have been appointed to design, build and deliver the project. To construct over 50km of new underground tunnels – much of them big enough to drive a vehicle through – the consortium will use state of the art boring machinery to tunnel 100m below the surface to replace six sections of the existing aqueduct in locations across Cumbria, Lancashire and Greater Manchester.

Operational by 2034, the upgraded aqueduct will ensure we have a water system that supports the ambitions of the North West, one that safeguards drinking water supplies for generations to come and one that benefits both our communities and our environment.



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Part of the Big North West Upgrade and our biggest ever investment in water and wastewater infrastructure, HARP will maintain drinking water supplies across Cumbria, Lancashire and Greater Manchester for future generations.

It will see 50km of tunnels replaced within the 110km long Haweswater Aqueduct replaced by Cascade Infrastructure who have been appointed to design, build, finance and maintain the new infrastructure. STRABAG UK are delivering the design and build of the tunnels on behalf of Cascade Infrastructure.

110km

pipeline built between 1933 and 1955

570 million

litres of drinking water transported daily

2.5 million

customers supplied in Cumbria, Lancashire and Greater Manchester

50km

of tunnels, across six sections, replaced through HARP

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HARP in your area

From our Haslingden Road compound, we will bore two tunnels, one heading north to Huncoat and the other south to Bury. A smaller tunnel, running to New Hall Hey and then onto Townsend Fold will also be constructed from this compound.

What's been happening in your area

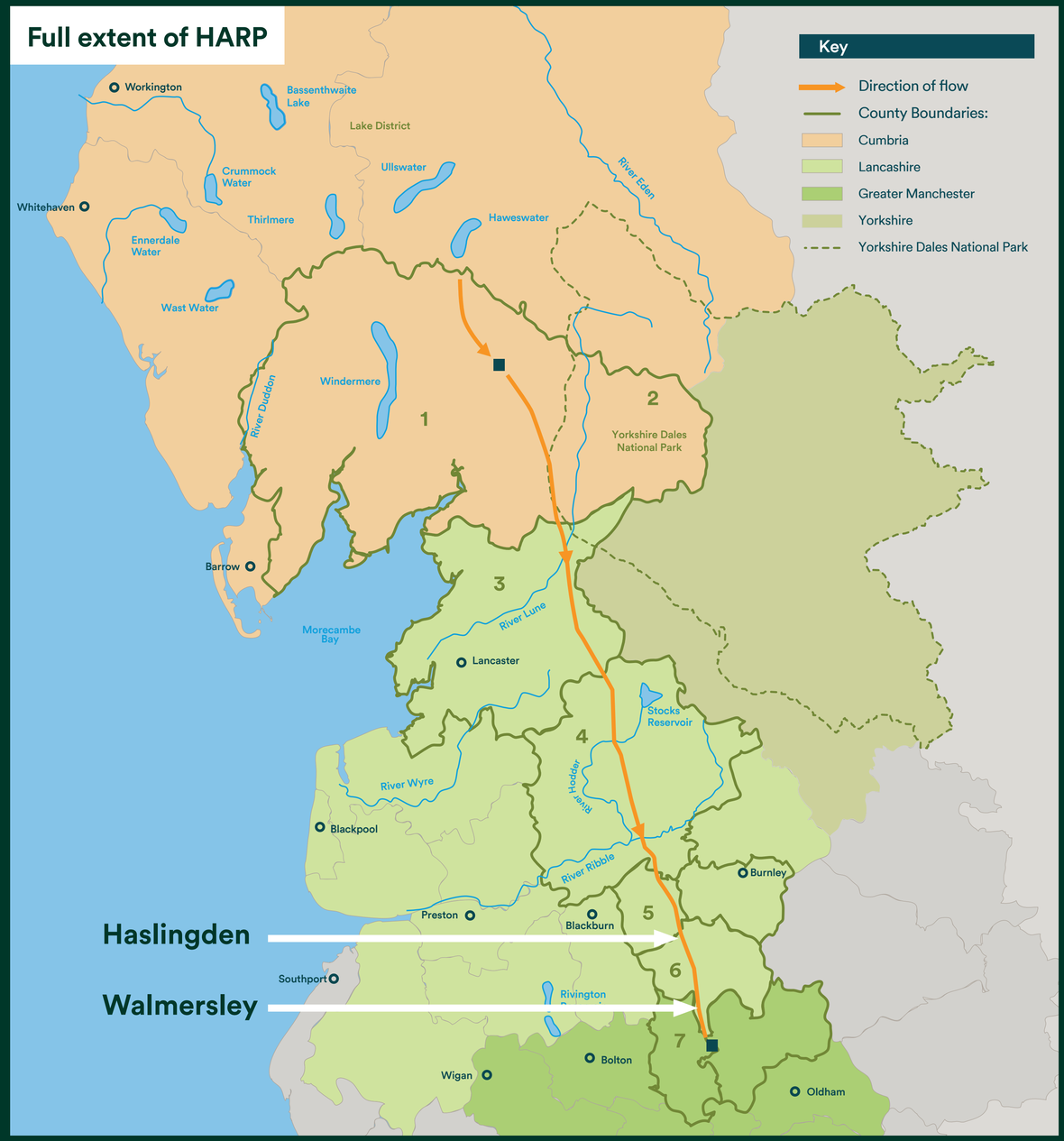
Our roundabout improvement works are now underway to help provide safer and more efficient access for construction vehicles. Temporary welfare units have been installed for site staff while the permanent site is being set up. We have also started earthworks to prepare the site by levelling and shaping the ground.

What's happening next

Works to improve Haslingden Roundabout will continue until spring following a change to the progamme. Earthworks will also continue as we construct our permanent access road from Manchester Road. Fissure grouting is scheduled to begin in January and is expected to continue for approximately six months, helping to prepare the ground ahead of tunnelling.

Giving back as we work in local areas

- We will volunteer in local communities
- 30% of our workforce will be from local communities
- 25% of project spend will be with SMEs
- We will deliver an apprenticeship programme
- Launch of a community investment fund



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Haslingden Road roundabout improvement and site access works

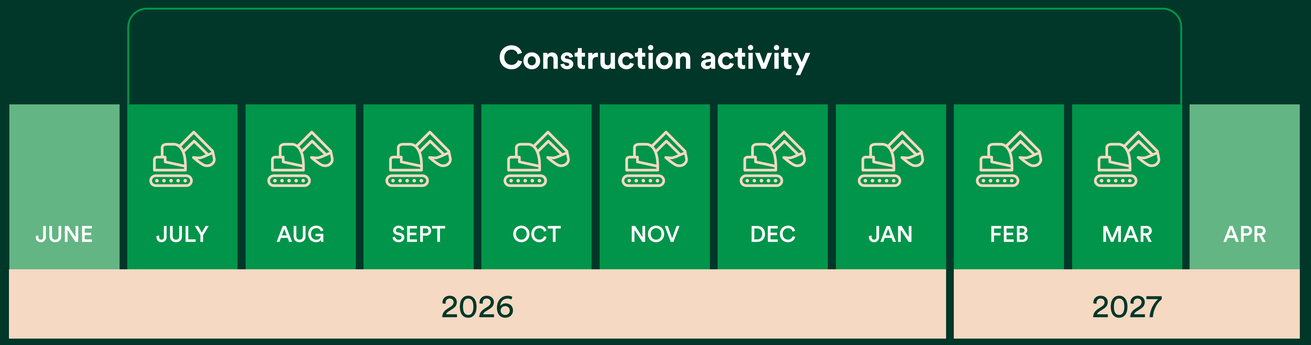
To keep traffic flowing whilst we deliver our works, we need to:

- Widen the junctions on the Haslingden Road roundabout
- Create a temporary access point to our site from Haslingden Road
- Create the main access road to our site from the Manchester Road

We will keep people moving by:

- Keeping a single lane open on all junctions of the roundabout at all times
- Putting in place a fully signposted pedestrian diversion route

These works were previously expected to be completed by December 2026; however, the programme has since been revised and the works are now anticipated to be completed by the end of March 2027.







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Haslingden compound set up

How we will access the compound

- Access to the Haslingden Road compound will be from Manchester Road.

What we have been doing

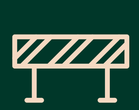
- We have set up interim welfare units for our workforce, created internal haul roads to travel around site, carried out earthworks to clear the site and will start to create the shafts where the Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) will be launched.

What to expect as we set up

- Traffic management on local roads
- HGV movements to and from site
- Plant and equipment on roads

How we will use the compound

- The Tunnels will be constructed using TBMs starting from the Haslingden Compound and tunnelling to Huncoat to the north and Bury to the south. A smaller TBM will start at our Townsend Fold compound and finish at Haslingden.
- We will tunnel approximately 100 metres below the ground.
- The TBM will run 24-hours a day. This will require some activities to be carried out during the night within the site compound area.
- Vehicle movements to and from site will be limited to between 7am - 7pm during the week and 7am - 1pm on Saturdays.



Establishment of interim welfare and site establishment works
Early Summer 2026



Start of site earthworks
Late Summer 2026



Opening of access junction Manchester Road and start of tunnel shaft construction
Early 2027



Tunnelling works start
2028



Tunnelling works complete
2031



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Being a good neighbour

We have carefully planned our activities to minimise any impact on local residents, businesses and the environment, and will implement measures including:



- Carrying out noise, vibration and ecology surveys
- Reducing our impact on air quality by ensuring all our plant complies with Stage 5 emissions standards
- Ensuring safe and efficient logistics with minimal environmental impact by enforcing the National Construction Logistics and Community Safety (CLOCs) standard
- Employing dust suppression measures
- Managing site lighting so we don’t cause disturbance
- Using wheel washes to prevent muck from going on to the roads

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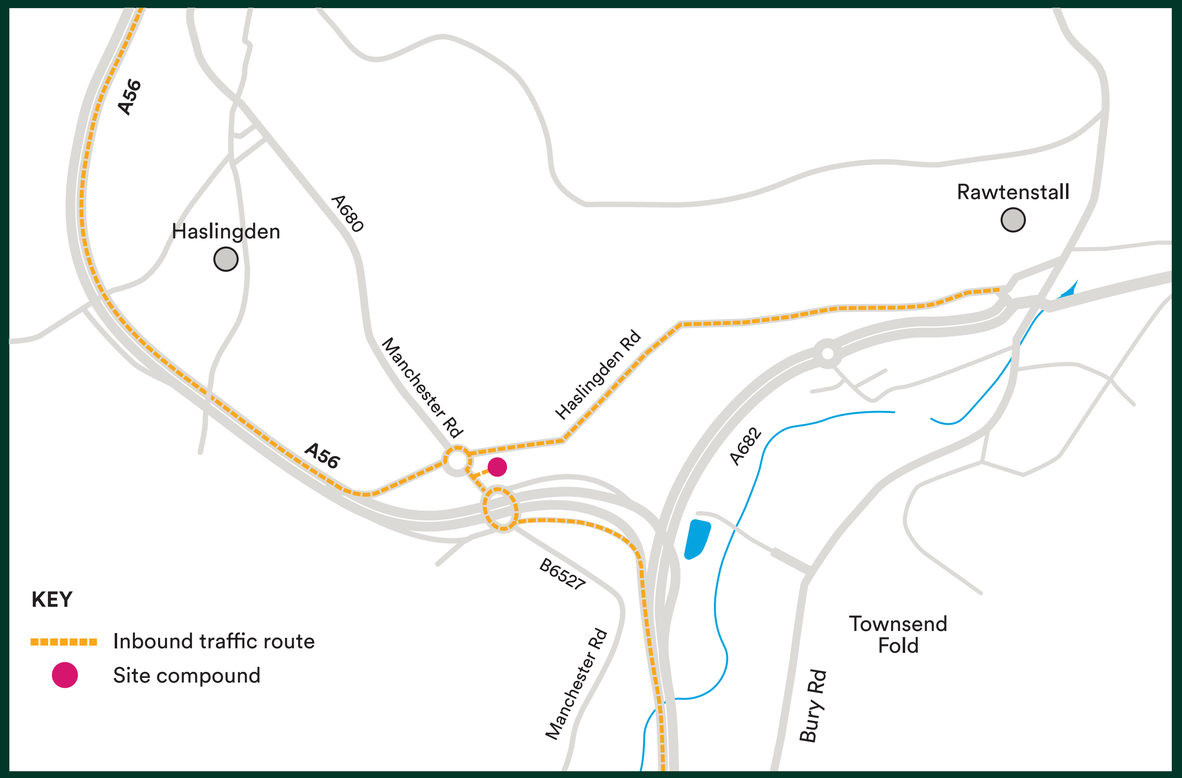
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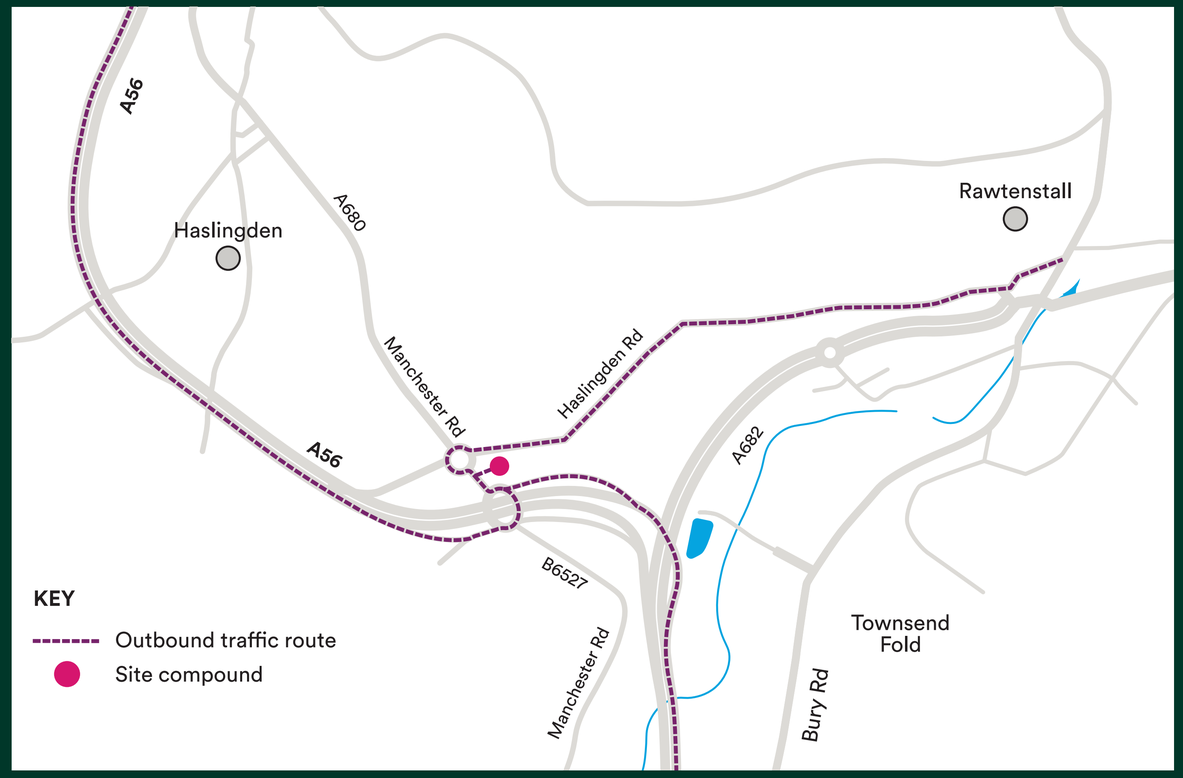
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Moving around the area – accessing and exiting the compound

Expected one-way movements (daily)			
Phase	**LGV trips**	**HGV trips**	**Estimated duration**
1	34	40	Summer 26 – Early 27
2	34	60	Late 26 – Early 27





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Keeping you informed

To ensure no one misses out on the latest HARP news, we'll keep you up to date in a variety of ways:

- Door knocking ahead of disruptive works
- Direct mail newsletters
- Advance traffic notifications on roads
- Social media posts aligned to construction milestones
- Local press releases
- Sharing information on site signage and hoardings
- Setting up dedicated Community Liaison Groups to share information and gather feedback
- Events and roadshows
- Updates to **www.unitedutilities.com/harp-updates** or scan the QR code

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Haslingden Road roundabout improvement and site access works

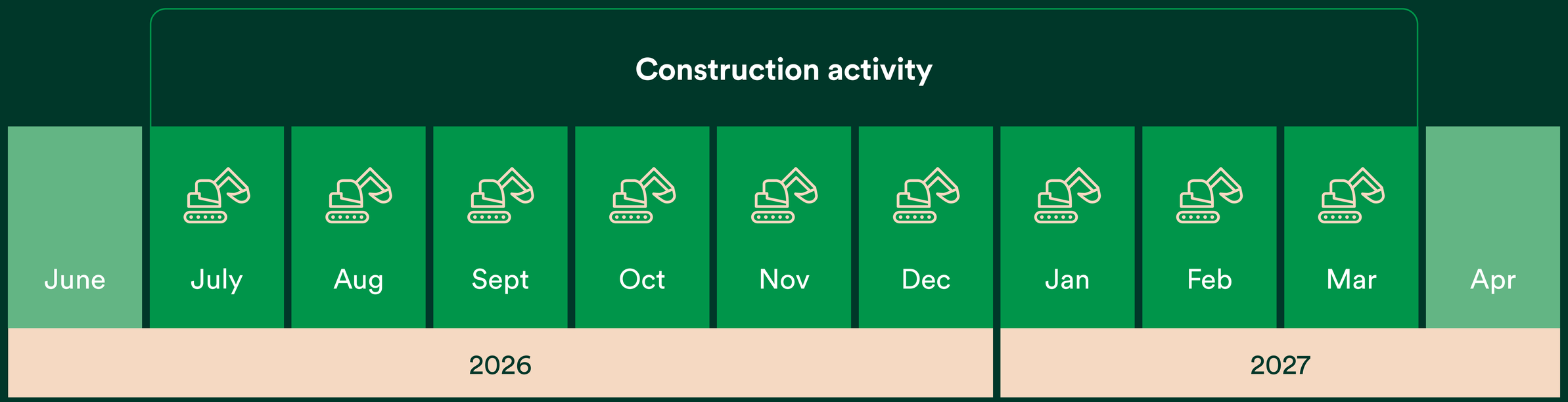
It has been confirmed that works will stop on Friday 18 December 2026 until Monday 4 January 2027 over the Christmas period.

The section north of the roundabout near Skyside Hotel reopened at the beginning of November.

We have then begun works over on the south western corner of the roundabout at the end of November where the crossing over Manchester Road towards Tesco entrance will be diverted in some of the phasing.

We will keep people moving by:

- Keeping a single lane open on all junctions of the roundabout at all times.
- Putting in place a fully signposted pedestrian diversion route.



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Ground Improvement Works

What is fissure grouting?

- Before tunnelling begins, we will carry out fissure grouting within Haslingden compound from early next year for approximately six months.
- Fissure grouting involves drilling a series of boreholes and injecting a cement-based grout into small natural cracks within the rock. This helps reduce the movement of groundwater and strengthens the ground ahead of shaft and tunnel construction.
- All works will take place within the site boundary.

Why are we doing it?

- To prepare the ground for future tunnelling works
- To help manage groundwater in the area
- To improve ground stability during construction
- To support the safe construction of the shaft and tunnel

What should residents expect?

- Drilling rigs and specialist grouting equipment operating within the compound
- Construction activity taking place within the site boundary
- Some temporary noise associated with drilling works
- Ongoing monitoring throughout the works

Some temporary noise may be noticeable during drilling activities. Noise levels reduce significantly with distance from the site, and nearby buildings provide additional noise reduction. Existing background noise from surrounding roads, including the nearby dual carriageway, is also likely to influence how the works are perceived. Acoustic barriers and other mitigation measures will be used where appropriate to help minimise impacts. Significant disruption at nearby homes is not anticipated.



We will monitor the works throughout and take steps to minimise disruption wherever possible.