

# North Devon Link Road (NDLR) (Portmore to Borner's Bridge) Newsletter 3 (August 2021)

**GRIFFITHS**  
civil engineering and construction

## Progress and New Traffic Management Set Up

Installation of the barriers safeguarding the works area and removal of the temporary traffic lights has allowed traffic to move more efficiently. 40 mph speed restrictions have improved safety along the entire stretch and assisted with the flow of traffic.

We are expecting the busiest of summers due to Covid restrictions on travelling abroad. Travel delays during the peak holiday season are to be expected.

We continue to set up work compounds at key areas along the NDLR, these are near key junctions we shall be working on namely Borner's Bridge and West Buckland Junction. Our site near Landkey is already established and we have Office facilities now at Curtis House, Pathfields Business Park, South Molton. Each of these facilities will be key to our progress along the NDLR.

## Abnormal Loads



Having reduced the road width, we have developed a procedure to manage Abnormal Loads along the A361. These are predominantly large caravans. Some come with their own Escorts, but others do not, and our Traffic safety officer is required to escort them through and organise the diversion route signage. Oncoming traffic is diverted from Landkey to North Aller roundabout (or vice versa) whilst following traffic travels behind the load for the estimated 20 minutes it takes to get through the works area.

Sometimes abnormal Loads can arrive without notice, so we hold them and send them through during off peak daylight hours avoiding school ending hours 3 to 4pm.

A letter explaining how this happens has been sent to residents and businesses along the diversion route. Further details can be found on our website at <https://community.alungriffiths.co.uk/projects-in-your-area/north-devon-link-road/abnormal-loads/>

For all Traffic related matters 24/7 call Traffic Safety Control Officer (TSCO)

Tel: 07889 225393\*

Your Public Liaison Officer for the NDLR is Jim Aitken of Griffiths. He can be contacted.

E: [NDLR@alungriffiths.co.uk](mailto:NDLR@alungriffiths.co.uk)

T: 0330 041 4637\*

\* Calls to these numbers are charged at national call rates and included in inclusive minute plans from landlines and mobiles

Calls are monitored out of normal work hours and a voicemail facility is available.

Please check out our project website

[community.alungriffiths.co.uk](http://community.alungriffiths.co.uk)

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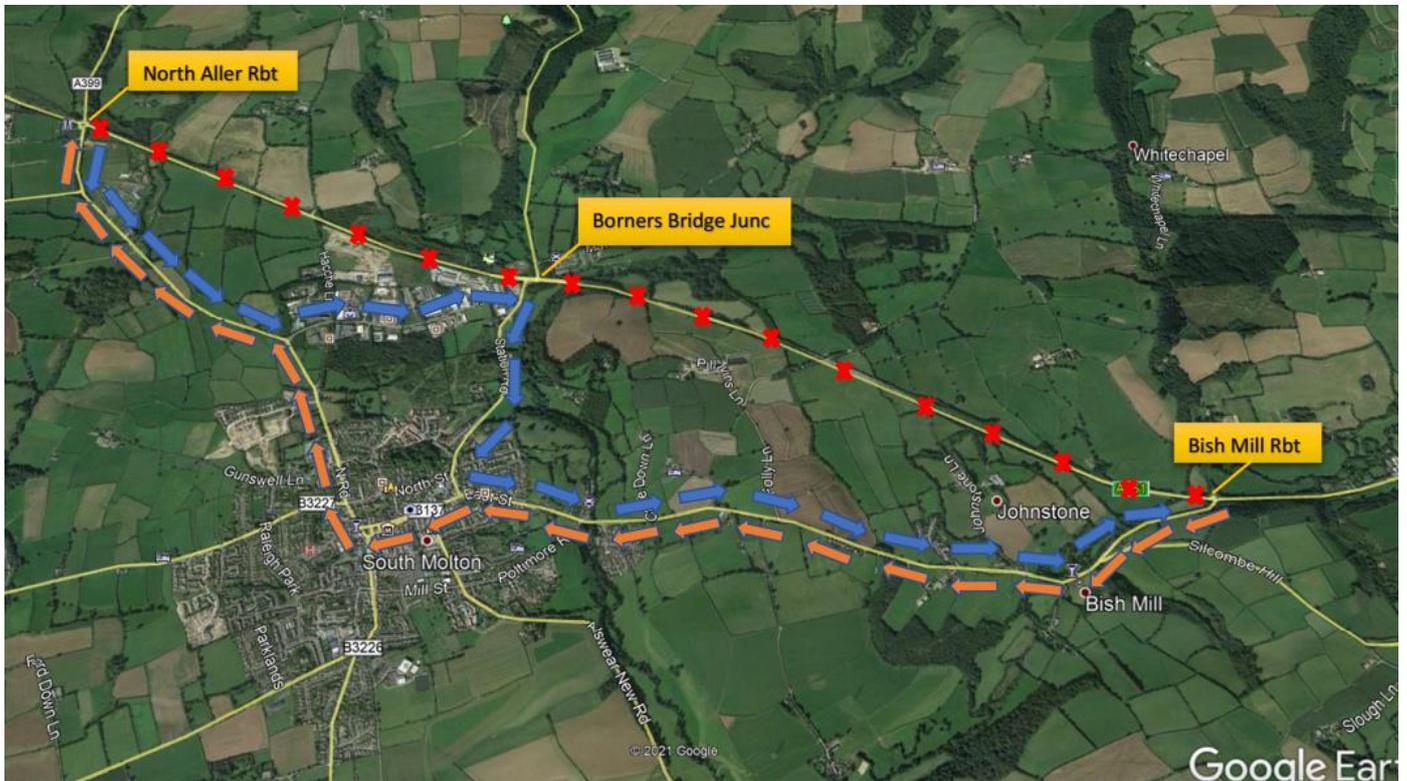
SCAN ME



## Upcoming Work – Borner's Bridge – Night Closures 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> September

In September we shall begin to prepare the working and traffic management environment to commence work at Borner's Bridge Junction. This initially will involve installation of barriers similar to these already deployed to allow a safe working area. **It will mean 2 nights of Road Closure between North Aller Roundabout and Bish Mill Roundabout with traffic diverted between 11pm until 4am each night on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> and Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.**

**The Borner's Bridge Junction will be closed to all traffic at this time.** This means diversions between Bish Mill and North Aller roundabouts along the B3226 and B3227 (eastbound blue route / westbound pink route).



North Molton area and neighbouring villages and hamlets residents will be aware of local roads to use to access or cross the A361. The official diversion route north of Borner's Bridge will be signed for larger vehicles or those unfamiliar with the area during closure. We shall be contacting local businesses immediately north of Borner's Bridge separately to explain the limited closure and diversion routes.

### Borner's Bridge New Traffic Management post-diversions

Once the barriers are installed, they will prohibit some movement at Borner's Bridge Junction. **The below simplified plan shows how the new traffic configuration is anticipated to be for the next twelve months whilst the new roundabout is constructed.** Like the other sections of the works a speed restriction to 40mph will be in place for the duration of the works.

- Traffic entering the A361 from South Molton will be able to **TURN LEFT ONLY**. If traffic wants to head towards Tiverton direction or North Molton then they should proceed to North Aller Roundabout and return along the A361.
- Traffic entering the A361 from North Molton will be able to **TURN LEFT ONLY**. If traffic wants to head towards Barnstaple or cross to South Molton they should proceed to the Bish Mill Roundabout and return along the A361.

The below simplified plan of how the traffic management will be arranged after the barriers are installed can be seen on the next page.

Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

## Borner's Bridge Traffic Management during Construction



## Behind the Lines – What's Happening Behind the Traffic Management (TM)

We have received quite a few emails stating that there is no visible work going on to justify all the TM put in place. To date we have been conducting what is known as site investigation and enabling works. This clearly started with some site clearance work and there is more yet to come. We have to work under constraints of various ecological licences and have to work methodically and sensitively to protect the local ecology.

In addition, we have drainage surveys to conduct using CCTV technology. We also must dig trial holes to positively identify the location of all buried cable and services before we begin the main excavation works.

Ground Investigation works identifies the type of soils that exist throughout the scheme. This investigation work then informs the design for the permanent works, which is currently under development.

We have also been undertaking carriageway surveys at night to check the underground structural condition of the existing carriageway and the extent of any additional improvement works required

The enabling works currently underway also includes the construction of Haul Routes behind the temporary barriers (see photo opposite). These enable access for construction plant and machinery to undertake the permanent works.



## Community Involvement

A community Liaison Group has been established between Project Management and local Councillors that will meet at the end of every month to discuss any local issues with the construction of the project.

Of course, anyone can contact the project via the contact details on the first and last page of every newsletter or via the Griffiths Community Website for the project. All complaints and enquiries are recorded and will receive a response within a few days.

## Ecology

Working with our ecological sub-contractors TACP, who maintain a watching brief over all groundworks, we have relocated slow worms found on site.

Professional surveys have been conducted along the works area and no bat roosts have been found.

## Further News Soon

Another newsletter will be published early September giving details of further night time closures of the A361 as we install more traffic management temporary barriers at Portmore to Landkey and West Buckland to Filleigh Cutting.

These will include some diversions overnight only.

We are still finalising dates.



## Species on site at North Devon Link Road

**Dormice and their nests**  
Dormouse nest

**Reptiles**  
Slow worms

**Breeding Birds**

**Other species to be aware of:**  
Signs of activity within the scheme have been identified and badger Setts are within or near the scheme boundary.

**Badgers and Otters**

**Bats**  
Many trees within the scheme boundary have been identified for bat potential.

**Logos:** GRIFFITHS civil engineering and construction, TACP, Devon County Council



Department  
for Transport

**GRIFFITHS**  
civil engineering and construction

You can get in touch via our web site [community.alungriffiths.co.uk](http://community.alungriffiths.co.uk) or by contacting our Public Liaison Officer Jim Aitken on 0330 041 4637\* or [NDLR@alungriffiths.co.uk](mailto:NDLR@alungriffiths.co.uk)

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