

# Newsletter



@ConnectingLeeds @ConnectingLeeds [www.leeds.gov.uk/ArmleyGyratory](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/ArmleyGyratory) [Connectingleeds@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:Connectingleeds@leeds.gov.uk)

## Project Introduction

Armley Gyratory is a key junction on the Inner Ring Road to the west of Leeds city centre. It is a major entry/exit point for traffic travelling through and into the city with an estimated 100,000 vehicles passing through daily.

Improvements to the gyratory aim to:

- Improve safety for all road users.
- Allow traffic to flow more freely, minimising traffic impacts on local roads.
- Provide more appealing and accessible routes for pedestrians and people who cycle.
- Help facilitate improvements elsewhere in the city, like closing City Square to vehicles.
- Improve the local environment through new landscaping.

This project is part of Connecting Leeds' work on several major highways' schemes, which are all part of transforming travel in the city and across the district.



*Aerial photo indicating the progress made at the Armley Gyratory Project*



## The story so far

Since our previous newsletter in December, phase two of the Armley Gyratory has continued to take shape and progress over recent months has provided further key milestones, most significantly the successful weekend replacement of Gelderd Road footbridge which was completed during one weekend of closures in mid-January.

Gelderd Road is the second of three footbridge replacements with an aim of improving footways as part of the overall Armley Gyratory scheme.

Following extensive planning and preparatory work, the existing single span bridge which was installed in the 1970s and measuring 28 metres in length, 1.8 metres wide and weighing 40 tonnes was removed with an SPMT (Self Propelled Modular Transporter) within the carriageway closure and brought back within our central compound, where it will be broken down for recycling.



Scan to watch!

We then completed our abutment facilitating works and subsequently lifted the new and significantly wider new bridge into place using a similar footprint.

To watch the video documenting the weekend replacement, please scan the **QR Code**.

The new bridge will significantly improve accessibility and safety for all non-motorised users including the access widening and the provision of two new rest areas. The design of the footbridge will ensure minimal maintenance over the next century, enhancing our commitment to sustainability and longevity.

All the works were planned and delivered adjacent to a live trainline, without any disruption to Network Rail and completed the works five hours earlier than originally scheduled.



A further undertaking that gives greater substance to the challenges faced on the Armley Gyratory project was the completion of the pressed sheet piling.

Due to the continued complex nature of the site, there was several restrictions in place surrounding vibration from National Grid due to the presence of a live high voltage cable. This meant that traditional vibration installation could not be adopted and instead an expert solution was sought using a collaborative approach from the wider team.

With input from a specialist piling subcontractor (SPI) a robust methodology was approved to allow for the insertion of 90 linear metres of piles to form the cofferdam for the new Spence Lane bridge foundation.





This included the use of onsite vibration monitors and a brand-new hydro-press rig to ensure all piles were able to be installed safely in line with the original scope of work.

This milestone marked another step towards the over-arching project goals and gave credit to the team's ability to adapt to constantly changing environment and the overall fluid nature of the project.

Tree planting around the Gyratory was finalised in January with a staggering 196 trees planted around the project site alone. This variety of flora is helping spread green vibes into the middle of one of Leeds' busiest traffic routes.

Despite this, we have continued to make significant inroads to our over-arching commitment to re-plant 3 to 1, and a total of 669 trees during the project lifespan.

This has already seen trees ranging from fruit to maple and Oak to cherry planted by volunteers throughout the local area including Beeston, Holbeck, Farnley, Temple Newsam, Chapel Allerton and Hunslet.



The latest of these volunteer days took place a mere 1.3 miles from the project site at Armley Park. The five project volunteers were joined by three local councillors and with the expert guidance of the Leeds Countryside Rangers, we planted seven walnut trees which helped us edge closer to our original tree planting promise.

To read more on the tree planting which is continuing to take place across Leeds, please visit [www.leeds.gov.uk/armleygyratory/trees](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/armleygyratory/trees).







*First installed in 1970, the old bridge was 1.8 metres wide.*



*The new footbridge is more than twice the width of the old one.*



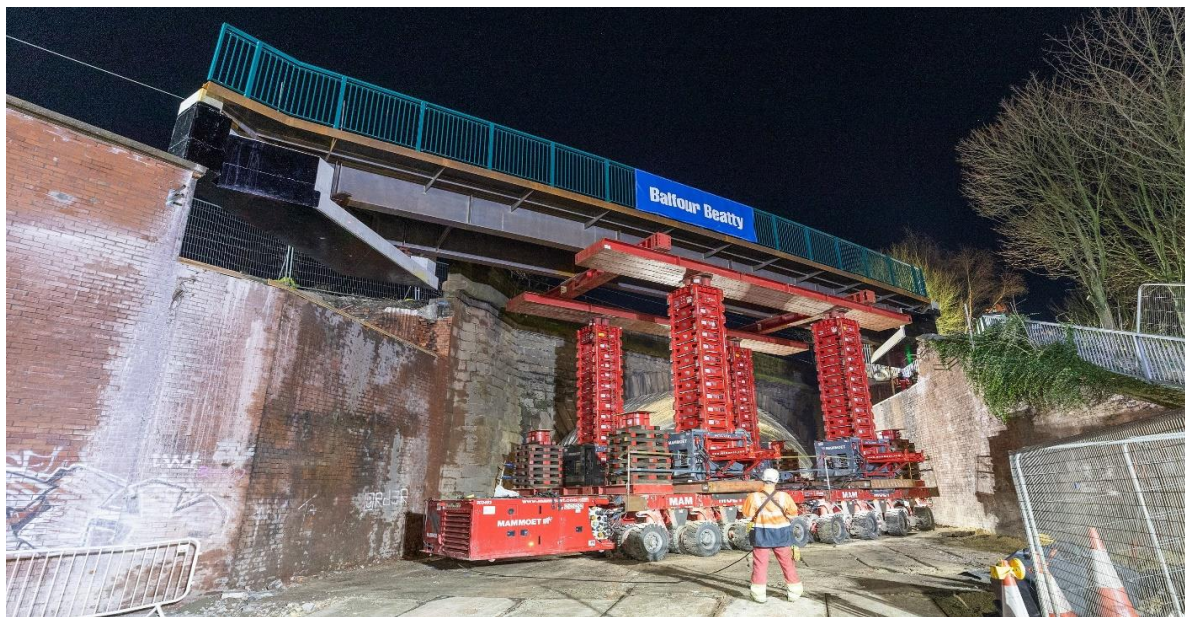




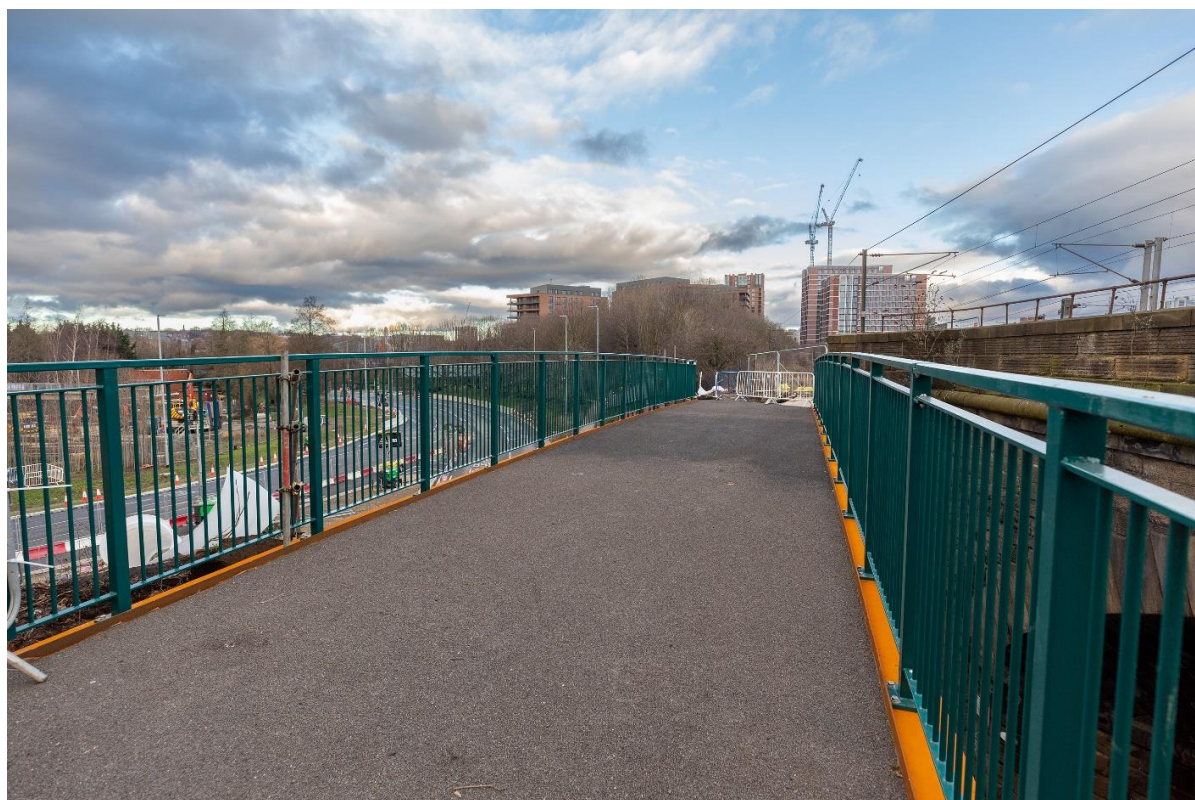
*The new footbridge was transported using a special configured Self-Propelled Modular Transport (SPMT)*







*The new footbridge will offer safer and more accessible routes for pedestrians and cyclists.*



*The full installation was completed in just one weekend and five hours ahead of plan.*





## What happens next?

With the installation of Gelderd Road footbridge finalised, landscaping and finishing works will take priority prior to the next major milestone being the construction of the Spence Lane Footbridge, which is anticipated to place in the early part of summer 2024.

Once at this point, we can look forward to the commencement of the final phase, that being the replacement of Wellington Road footbridge (A58) which is currently under detailed design development and planning. The works associated with this being both demolition and replacements are anticipated to take place during 2024/2025.

The on-going works at Armley Gyratory are vital and extremely complex and will involve traffic and pedestrian diversions when necessary.

We would ask anyone with concerns to visit Plan Ahead Leeds [www.leeds.gov.uk/planahead](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/planahead) or visit [www.leeds.gov.uk/armleygyratory](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/armleygyratory) or follow Connecting Leeds on Social Media for a comprehensive outline of work scheduled and what impact this may have on your journey.

Please note that all works are weather dependant and therefore this could change when delays take place.



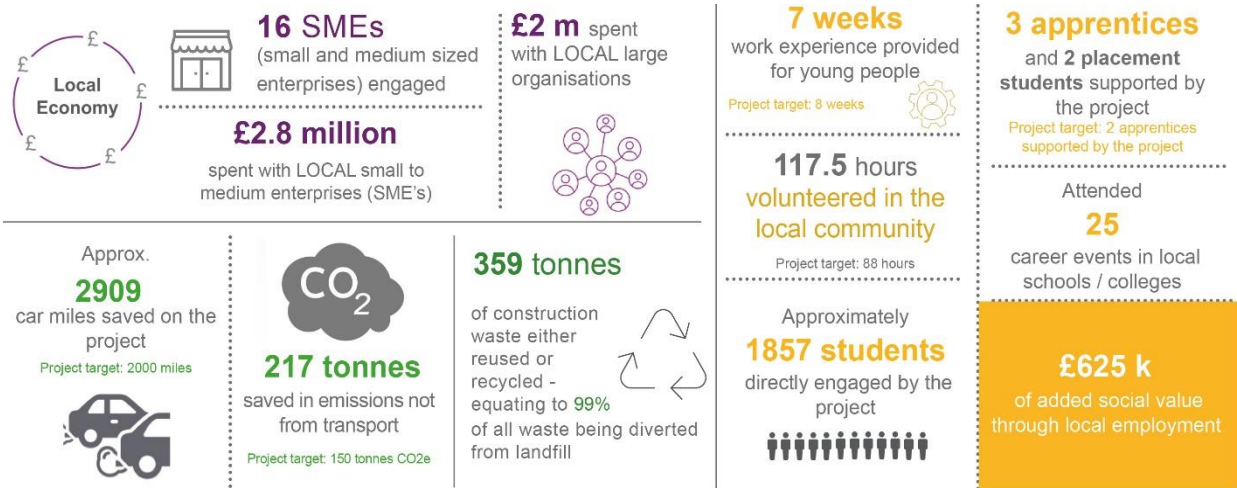
## Social value updates

### SOCIAL VALUE ADD | Armley Gyratory | January 2024

Armley Gyratory improvements are being delivered by Leeds City Council in partnership with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. The scheme is a key junction on the A58 (M) Inner Ring Road with approximately 100,000 cars using the roundabout everyday. The project aims to improve the efficiency of the roundabout, creating a safer environment for all road users including cyclists and pedestrians. New landscaping will also aim to improve biodiversity and air pollution in the area. Balfour Beatty, Leeds City Council and the team of subcontractors are collaborating to maximise social value engagement with residents, businesses, community groups and education establishments.



**Estimated Total Social Value Add:**  
**£5.5 million**



### Engaging the Next Generation

For two years, the Armley Gyratory team has successfully fulfilled their pledge to promote the importance of active educational involvement on the project. This has seen a consistent number of visits to local primary and secondary schools to advise on the career pathways that are available in the construction industry.

The Armley Gyratory has seen another cohort of student interactions in the early stages of 2024 meaning the project has now reached out to an incredible 1,857 students.

The first two months of 2024 was no different as members of the team continued to help raise students' aspirations and awareness of the opportunities available to them including a visit to the Farnley Academy, where they held a series of mock interviews.







The Armley Gyratory Project also continued its proactive approach to engaging with the educational community as they extended invitations to more work experience students on site.

This approach has seen four students visit over three weeks from Leeds College of Building and a further site visit of 14 students and with feedback so positive it further showcased why such inclusion can help translate their classroom learning into real life activities.

*'I really enjoyed my experience, and the staff were really accommodating.'*

*'The placement was extremely interesting with workers able to explain their roles into engineering as well as others that we worth considering. Seeing the work first hand gave me a real feel of the job.'*

## National Apprenticeship Week 2024

This month saw the annual celebration of Apprentices in the workplace as the 'Skills for Life' themed, National Apprenticeship Week took place, running from 5-11 February 2024. The week itself is a way in which we can assist in shining a light on the undoubted value, benefit and opportunity that apprenticeships can bring.

The Armley Project has always encouraged a regular flow of apprentice involvement working on the scheme. The latest of which is Paul Blurton who is an Apprentice Civil Engineer.

Paul is currently undertaking a degree apprenticeship which sees him work four days on site and one day for study at Leeds Beckett University as part of his Civil Engineering Degree.

Paul said of his apprenticeship, *'I am fortunate that I have been able to rotate around different teams within Highways & Transportation. This enables me to gain a greater understanding of Civil Engineering at all stages of the project life cycle, from the initial planning stages, design, supervision on site, maintenance and disposal.'*

*'Initially I worked in Transport Development Services and S38/278 Highway Adoptions. I then moved to a Highways Maintenance Depot where I helped to deliver some smaller new works schemes for other LCC departments as a contractor whilst at the same time working closely with an experienced highway drainage engineer on maintenance schemes.'*







Paul then moved to the Armley Gyratory scheme at the end of September as the project moved from phase one to phase two and he continues to make the most of the opportunity.

*'I am fortunate that the role offers me the chance to work with experienced people and help those more senior to keep the project moving forward and achieve its targets. I have spoken about being an apprentice on numerous occasions and would always recommend this for anyone interested in civil engineering as it really suits people who enjoy on the job learning, whilst working towards gaining professional qualifications with the institute of civil engineers.'*

As part of National Apprenticeship Week 2024 it was great to see how Paul is thriving from the mix of academic and on-site learning offered via an apprenticeship and the confidence and real time benefits that this career pathway can offer.

## Getting in touch

Please sign up for the 'latest news' on the project by visiting the website and registering your email:

[www.leeds.gov.uk/armleygyratory](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/armleygyratory)

If you have questions about the scheme, you can email us at: [connectingleeds@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:connectingleeds@leeds.gov.uk)

You can also join the conversation on social media by following @ConnectingLeeds on Twitter and Facebook.

We would like to take this opportunity to apologise for any inconvenience and assure you that every effort will be made to keep disruption to a minimum.

Kind regards

The Connecting Leeds Team

