

**Norwich Northern Distributor Road  
Norwich, Norfolk, United Kingdom  
Balfour Beatty / Norfolk county Council**

**BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award category: Community Engagement Award**

**Project overview**

The £110m Norwich Northern Distributor Road (NNDR) Infrastructure project will see a 22km dual carriageway running around the north of Norwich, from A1067 to the west of Norwich to the A47 Postwick Junction to the east.

The project includes:

- 12 new roundabouts
- Over 1.5 million m3 of earthworks
- 8 bridges including ‘green’ and ‘dark’ for mitigation/enhancement purposes
- Seven bat gantries and one bat tunnel
- Two bat ‘houses’
- Installation of over 100 bird, 100 bat and 10 barn owl boxes
- 7000m of permanent and temporary amphibian fencing
- Provision of new Great Crested Newt habitat
- A workforce of 300 including site and office staff

It is estimated the NNDR will bring over £1bn of economic benefits to Norfolk, providing jobs and helping businesses in Norwich and Norfolk as well as making a significant contribution to the

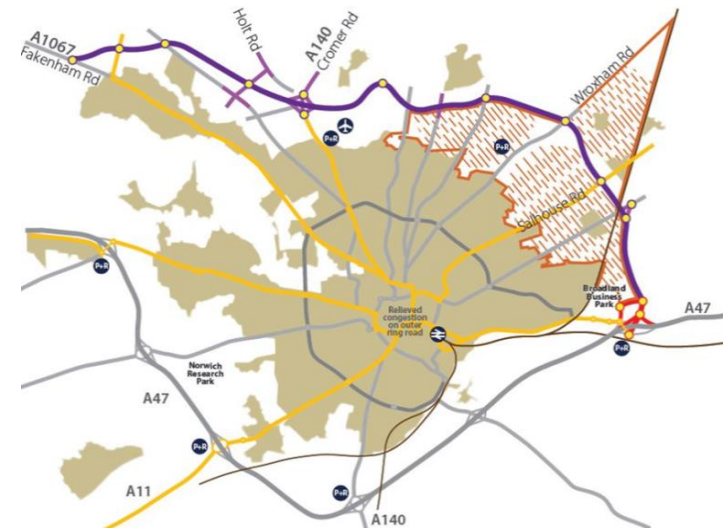
national economy. The project commenced in January 2016 the anticipated completion date is March 2018 .

**What were the biodiversity conditions on site, prior to the enhancement?**

The NNDR traverses through agricultural land as well as passing through woodland plantation. Planning for the project, including the local biodiversity has been subject to surveys and mitigation proposals, which are included within the project Environmental Statement.

**Were there any specific reasons that led to this project?**

Norwich city centre will benefit from reduced congestion, improved public transport services, cycling and walking improvements, the potential to bring over £1bn of economic benefits to Norfolk, providing jobs and helping businesses in Norwich, Broadland



*Route of the project:*

and North Norfolk. The project will provide a high-quality link to Norwich International Airport – vital to business, and supporting Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft’s designation as a national Centre for Offshore Renewable Engineering. The provision to provide the relief that will allow further bus and cycle route improvements, including Bus Rapid Transit also £5.7m being invested in cycling in Norwich through the Push the Pedalwavs programme.

### What were the biodiversity measures taken?

Mott MacDonald (on behalf of Norfolk County Council) undertook extensive work during planning (surveys & mitigation) and delivery, with support from the Balfour Beatty environment team. The project features extensive environmental measures that will help it disappear into the landscape, add thousands of native trees and shrubs to the countryside, protect wildlife, and enhance biodiversity. Embankments and cuttings, planted with trees and shrubs, will shield the road from view. For every mature tree felled during site clearance, more than five will be planted. Tree, shrub and hedgerow planting will add up to more than 61Ha of broadleaved woodland.

### Wildlife:

- Site clearance carried out ahead of bird nesting season
- Protection for birds found nesting on site
- Installation of 10 barn owl boxes
- Installation of 100 bird boxes
- Over 800 Great Crested newts relocated, plus 600 smooth newts, 100 toads and frogs.
- Use of 'newt' sniffer dog to confirm site clearance
- 4 new newt ponds, improvements to others including installing additional hibernacula
- 2 bat houses, including a maternity roost cellar have been constructed
- 81 bat roost boxes installed
- Bat-friendly crossings including 2 green bridges on foraging routes, 7 bat gantries, and an underpass
- Badger fencing along road near known populations
- Phased clearance in areas where reptiles have been identified



*Bird feeder made by the pupils at Horsford C of E*

### What were the biodiversity measures taken?

#### Planting:

- 30,000+ trees of various sizes
- 151,000 shrubs
- Wildflower and grassland seed mix on open ground

The project is supporting STEM, engaging with HMP Norwich in regards to their offender programme, engaging with local schools through the delivery of wildlife workshops (including the donation of bird and bat boxes) supporting two local charities: East Anglian Air Ambulance and East Winch RSPCA wild rescue.

The project has worked with sub-contractors to deliver a resurfacing project on behalf of a local scout group

## How would you best describe the project?

Enhancement

### Further information

Balfour Beatty has through their 'Involved Plan' trained 18 STEM ambassadors who provide support to local schools, colleges and academies and to date has included the following:

Local school engagement:

- Wildlife workshops to 165 pupils at Horsford C of E, activities: making bird feeders and dissecting owl pellets
- Wildlife workshops to 200 pupils at Spixworth Infants, activities: making bird feeders
- Creation of outside learning areas using felled timber from the project at two local schools (Spixworth Infants and Woodland View Junior School)
- Rackheath Junior School - engaging the school with on-site tree planting, supporting the school gardening and eco clubs
- Taverham Junior School - supporting the eco club
- Valley Primary School - Science & Engineering week

### Career Days:

- Institute of Civil Engineering
- Open Academy (Norwich)
- City Collage Norwich
- University Technical College Norwich
- Downham Market Academy – career speed dating, organised through Inspired Youth

The Balfour Beatty ethos is investing in the future and to date the project has employed and/or supported

- 9 Graduates
- 8 Apprentices
- 2 work placements
- 3 work experience places

With respect to local communities, Balfour Beatty with support from their sub-contractors refurbished a local scout group car park, which has improved access for all groups using the facilities.

We have supported the East Winch RSPCA Wildlife Rescue through volunteering days and also with donations to a number of their appeals, in addition funds are continuously raised for the East Anglian Ambulance. In total over £6000 has been raised by staff and operatives for a number of good causes.



*Engaging with local school children*

## What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

It is imperative that as a responsible company Balfour Beatty proactively invests in the future as well in those communities that are subject to our works, this is why we place a strong emphasis on positive engagement