

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2021



Despite the various challenges faced by Covid-19 as well as the Great British weather we've all experienced over the winter, we've been making fantastic progress at Mercia Park since our last update before Christmas.

With all of the groundworks now completed the new buildings on site are starting to take shape, the first of which is due to be ready later this year, and we're now well over half way to finishing the site's landscaping – which you can read about in our construction update.

Alongside construction on site we're continuing our programme of highways work and will soon be starting some improvement works on the Junction 11, M42 roundabout.

This will include the installation of new traffic signals, resurfacing of the carriageway and slip roads, as well as enhancements for pedestrian and cycle access.

Temporary road closures

To do this we'll need to put in place some overnight closures throughout May and June – full details are available on page 3.

Thank you for bearing with us, we know any work in the public highway can be frustrating and would like to apologise in advance for any disruption. Our team will be getting through the work as quickly and as safely as possible.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you can also find out about some of the sustainability initiatives we've committed to as part of construction at Mercia Park, as well as an update on the local groups and organisations who are benefitting from the project's Community Fund.

If you would like to contact us or provide feedback about any aspect of the development, full details are provided below and on the back page of this newsletter.



Contact us

As a reminder, if you have any questions about construction-related activity or queries about anything you have seen on site you can contact the site team directly by calling **01604 678 960**.

Alternatively, for non-construction related enquiries please email us on info@merciaparkconstruction.co.uk

Construction update

Construction work at Mercia Park is progressing well, with the initial phase of earthworks and excavations now completed. This saw us move and remodel over one million m³ of earth to create the new building plots.

The programme was designed to ensure as little material as possible was transported away from the site – meaning we minimised HGV traffic on local roads and reduced the impact on the environment.

Most of the excavated earth has been used in the ‘bunds’ or mounds around the perimeter of the site that will help to screen the buildings.

We’ve also begun to install some of the acoustic fencing as another of the measures we’re committed to that will help manage the site’s impact.

Around 70 per cent of the planting for the site’s extensive landscaping has been completed. This includes tens of thousands of new trees and shrubs being planted as well as the creation of almost 30-acres of new woodland.

In excess of one million m³ of earth moved



70% of landscaping completed



7,500m of drainage installed



£764k spent with local suppliers



BUILDING WORK PROGRESSING



Steelwork going up for the new Jaguar Land Rover buildings

The first of the buildings to be completed will be DSV’s plot to the north east of the site, near the A444. The steelwork, roof and windows on the main warehouse, cross dock terminal and offices are now complete, and the external finishes are progressing well. Internal works are now underway ahead of the planned completion later this year.

Over the last few months, the groundwork for Jaguar Land Rover’s (JLR) five units has successfully been carried out and the first of the steelwork for the new buildings started at the end of April.

We’ve also installed an onsite concrete batching plant next to our site compound located near to the A444.

This will not only allow us to have a seamless continuity of supply throughout the project’s lifecycle, but importantly help to reduce the number of vehicle movements to site by approximately 37 per cent and recycle 100 per cent of the water needed to wash out the delivery vehicles.

Committed to sustainability

As part of our aim to create a sustainable development that will provide long-lasting socio-economic benefits for North West Leicestershire and the wider area, there are a number of sustainability initiatives we have been trialling:

Net zero construction – Working with Winvic we will be making the construction of JLR’s buildings at Mercia Park ‘net zero’ – balancing the total amount of carbon emissions produced and the amount removed from the atmosphere.

We’re aiming to achieve this by carefully calculating all of the carbon emitted associated with construction of the buildings and identifying measures to reduce this where possible. All of the carbon remaining after this process will be offset using industry leading guidance.

Green diesel trial – An alternative fuel called Green D+ HVO (Enhanced Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil), made from 100% renewable raw materials is being trialled at Mercia Park.

Known as ‘green diesel’, 124,000 litres of the fuel is expected to be used during the project and its performance will be monitored throughout the trial.

Sustainability and Innovation Hub – Winvic will soon be installing a ‘Sustainability & Innovation Hub’ on site that has been designed to showcase the new technologies being used in the development and provide a space to inspire the next generation of talent. When safe to do so, it will also host educational visits from local schools, colleges and universities.

HIGHWAYS WORK

New site entrance and access roundabout

The creation of a site entrance and a separate new roundabout on the B5493, which provides the principal access into the development, has largely now been completed.

We'd like to thank the local community for their patience while this work was carried out earlier this year and apologise for the inconvenience of the two-week extension which was

necessary as a result of poor weather conditions at the time. This has meant the team was able to complete the works in one go and not prolong the disruption over a period of time.

Temporary overnight road closures: 16 May – 13 June 2021

Junction 11, M42 gyratory

Our appointed contractor, Winvic Construction, will be carrying out a programme of overnight improvement works to the gyratory system at Junction 11, M42.

This will include the installation of new traffic signals, localised widening, and resurfacing of the carriageway and slip roads. We'll also be making enhancements for pedestrian and cycle access at the J11 roundabout, including the introduction of tactile paving for vulnerable users.

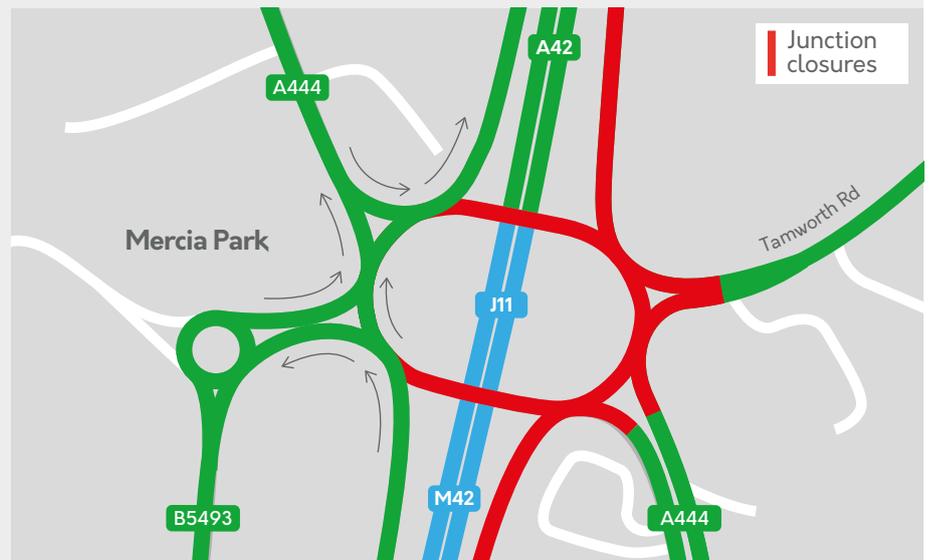
To carry out this work safely, full night-time closures of the slip roads will be required from 16 May 2021 for a period of up to four weeks, which will be taking place in two phases.

All of these works will take place at night only (between the hours of 21:00 – 06:00) and diversion routes will be clearly signposted. Please note some diversions on local roads may be in place from 20:00.

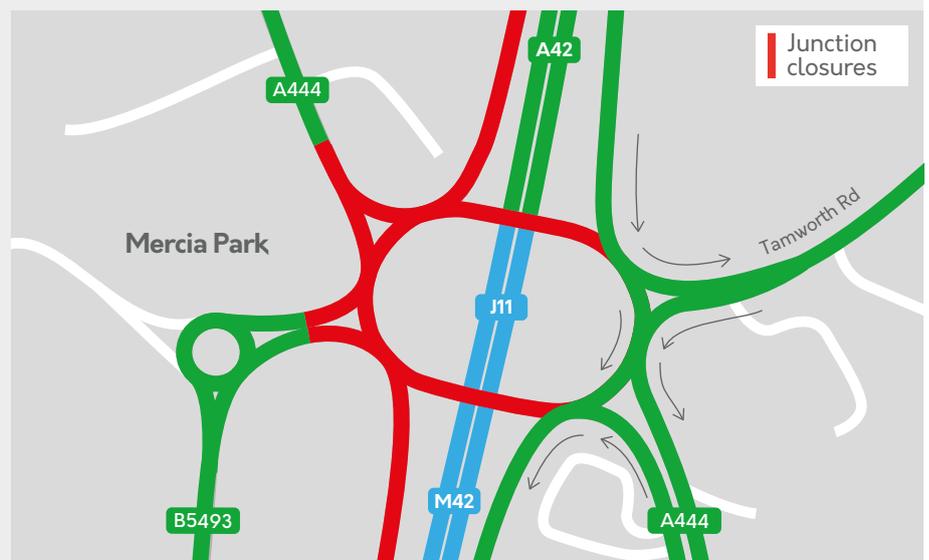
All of the roads affected will be fully re-opened every day at the end of each shift.

Details about the work and the necessary temporary diversion routes have been agreed with Highways England and local authority highways teams, and important stakeholders including the emergency services have been notified ahead of work starting.

Information about our highways programme is available on our project website. Thank you for your patience during these essential works.



Eastern section, 16-28 May – overnight closure of the A42/M42 on/off southbound slip roads; Tamworth Road junction; A444 south junction.



Western section, 1-13 June – overnight closure of the A42/M42 on/off northbound slip roads, B5493 junction; A444 north junction

Local employment

In our last update we confirmed we had launched a local Employment and Skills Partnership as part of our commitment to supporting employment opportunities and raising skill levels in local communities.



All of the project's contractors and subcontractors are being encouraged to recruit locally – recent analysis suggests this has been having a positive impact as over a quarter of the workforce are from the local impact area. Employment opportunities continue to be promoted through the partnership – recently we've recruited local people into positions ranging from gatekeepers and graduate engineers to site cleaners.

Separately, the first Mercia Park-linked training programme is starting in May through an online course run by North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College.



The programme will link up with Job Centre Plus and other agencies supporting those out of work or looking to start a career in the construction industry.

Mercia Park Community Fund

The Mercia Park Community Fund Panel met in March 2021 to review the latest round of applications for funding from local groups and organisations.

A total of 12 local projects have since been awarded a total of £40,731, bringing the total amount awarded so far to £132,218. Some of the projects that have been supported include:



- **Austrey Village Hall** – the Community Fund grant has improved access to the local village hall for wheelchair and disabled users through the installation of a new ramp. Central to the heart and soul of the community, the activities hosted at the hall make a big difference to the physical and mental wellbeing of many residents.
- **Appleby Magna Cricket Club** – new equipment, including a scoreboard and sight screen, is set to build on the club's recent success, which is looking to inspire future generations of male and female cricketers as it hosts junior, women's, and county cricket matches throughout the coming season.
- **Coneyberry Millennium Green Trust** – located in the nearby village of Clifton Campville in south-east Staffordshire, funding has been awarded to the Trust to help improve and reinstate a community pond and encourage wildlife to thrive, as well as create new pathways on the village green. Maintained entirely by volunteers, Millennium Green is due to host an annual country fayre that attracts people from all over the Midlands.

The next round for applications is now open – the closing date for new applications is 6 August 2021. These can be made via the Leicestershire & Rutland Community Foundation, which is independently administering the fund, through its website: www.llrcommunityfoundation.org.uk/apply-for-funds/

Get in touch

During construction, and once the site becomes operational, we remain fully committed to engaging with the local community.

If you have any questions about construction-related activity or queries about anything you have seen on site, you can contact the team directly by calling **01604 678 960**.

Early insight to any issues the community may have, will allow us to respond in a timely manner.

For any other questions about the project, including about the Community Fund, you can email us on info@merciaparkconstruction.co.uk

For more information about the project, please visit our website: www.merciaparkconstruction.co.uk