Connecting Leeds
TRANSFORMING TRAVEL

ARMLEY GYRATORY

Newsletter

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@ConnectingLeeds @ConnectingLeeds www.leeds.gov.uk/ArmleyGyratory 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.



June 2024- Armley Gyratory looking east towards Leeds City Centre including the bridges installed on Gelderd Road and Spence Lane.

The story so far

Since our previous newsletter in April, much has progressed at the Armley Gyratory project and the scheme continues to meet many important milestones.

Most significantly May played witness to the successful installation of the new Spence Lane footbridge.



The new Spence Lane footbridge including a wider access ramp for non-road users.

The footbridge ramps were completed over five nights of works, which focused on the meticulous preparation by all parties needed for such a sizeable and complex installation. The footbridge main span was then delivered in conjunction with a full road closure and under a police escort from Junction 2 of the M621 during a Saturday evening in mid-May.





the main walkway provides an improved deck width of four metres.



The Spence Lane footbridge is the second of three bridges to be completed at the Gyratory after the installation of Gelderd Road footbridge (picture opposite) in January 2024. The new footbridge weighs in the region of 50 tonnes, spans just under 33 metres and will provide both an improved bridge deck width of four metres and wider access ramps, as part of the over-arching focus on longevity, sustainability, and the safety of non-road users in and around the Gyratory.

All works at Armley Gyratory are delivered with safety and programme as priority, and therefore, after months of focused collaboration and teamwork, the project team are delighted not only with the result but also that we managed to re-open the carriageway over seven hours ahead of our original deadline.

This part of the project has proved a significant undertaking and required detailed planning by the Principal Contractor, their supply chain, and Leeds City Council in order to successfully complete such a complex and critical phase of the works.



Weighing in the region of 50 tonnes the main span was delivered under a police escort from Junction two of the M621.



The bridge span covers a length of just under 33 metres.

What happens next?

After the completion of this phase of works, we can look forward to the commencement of the final phase, that being the replacement of Wellington Road footbridge (A58) which is currently in the final stages of detailed design development and planning with a view to both removal and replacements taking place during 2024/2025.

The first part of which will take place this summer and road users are being urged to plan ahead, as significant disruptive work is planned in and around Armley Gyratory.

Plan ahead: Armley Gyratory major highways work over the school summer holidays

Road users are being urged to plan ahead this summer as significant disruptive work begins around the Armley Gyratory. The work has been planned to coincide with the reduced levels of traffic over the school summer holidays, which aims to minimise disruption for all road users.

- **Armley Gyratory Wellington Road footbridge final phase**
  - Wellington Road (A58) – Between Monday 8 July to 21 July night-time inbound and outbound lane closures from 8pm until 6am. From Monday 22 July permanent inbound and outbound lane closures until the scheme completes.
  - Wellington Road footbridge demolition starts 8pm Saturday 27 July.

Removal of Wellington Road (A58) footbridge

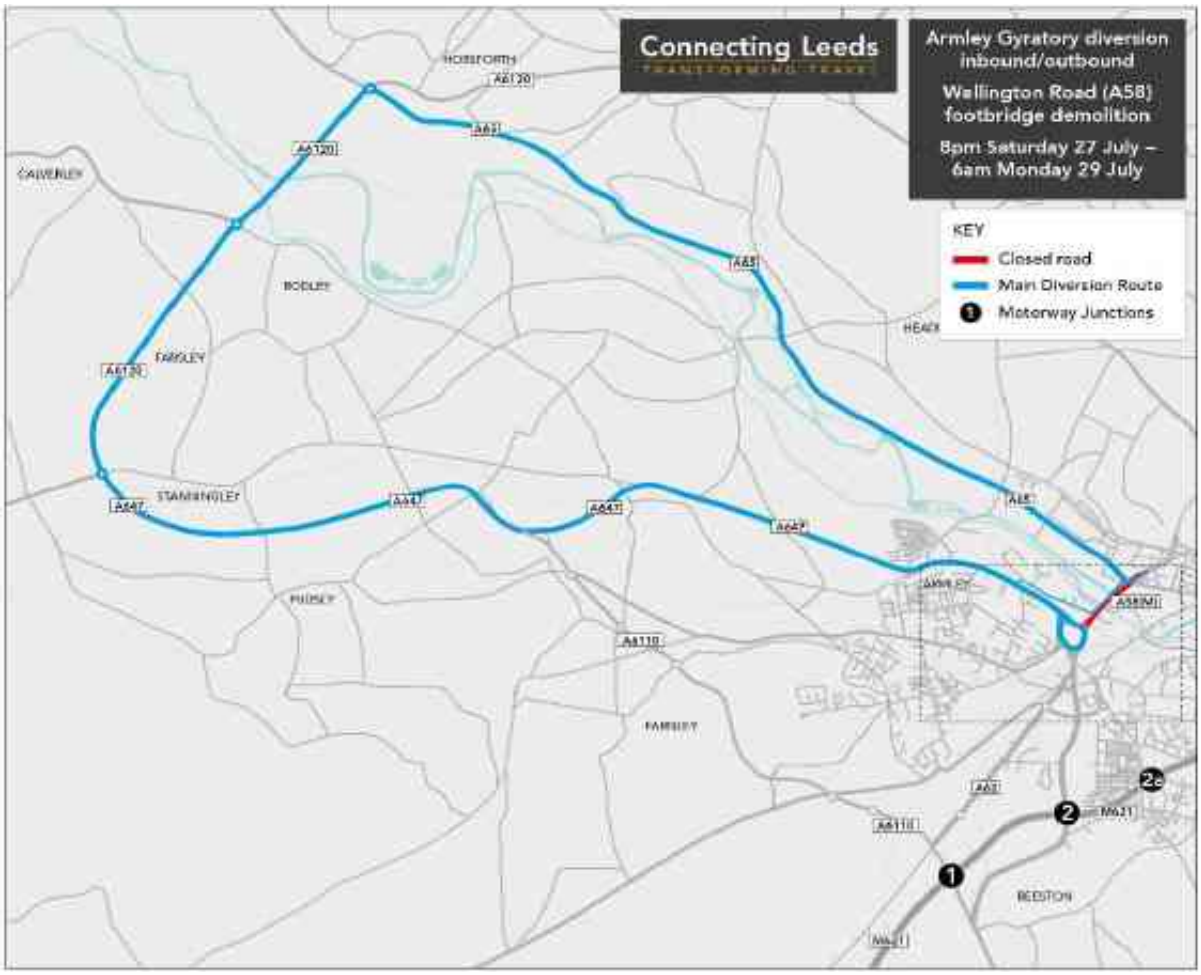
The removal of the Wellington Road footbridge (A58) over the Armley Gyratory is to begin at 8pm Saturday 27 July and end by 5am Monday 29 July. This is the third and final footbridge around the Gyratory to have new wider and more accessible footway, after Gelderd Road and Spence Lane.

Starting from Monday 8 July there will be lane closures both inbound and outbound along the A58, lasting up to six months to allow for the construction works to safely take place.

Wellington Road footbridge is a 25 metres span footbridge, comprising a temporary truss span that was installed in 2001, following impact from a vehicle which damaged the concrete main span. It will be demolished on site and the materials recycled.

The new footbridge will be 43.5 metres long and three metres wide. It will cross over the A58 and includes improvements to both approach ramps to better meet the needs of non-motorised users and people with disabilities. All the new upgraded footbridges are designed to ensure they will need less maintenance work and inspection, over future decades.

Future partial weekend closures are planned to complete the works, possibly early in 2025 and details available on the project website www.leeds.gov.uk/ArmleyGyratory



Wellington Road closure – vehicle diversion route



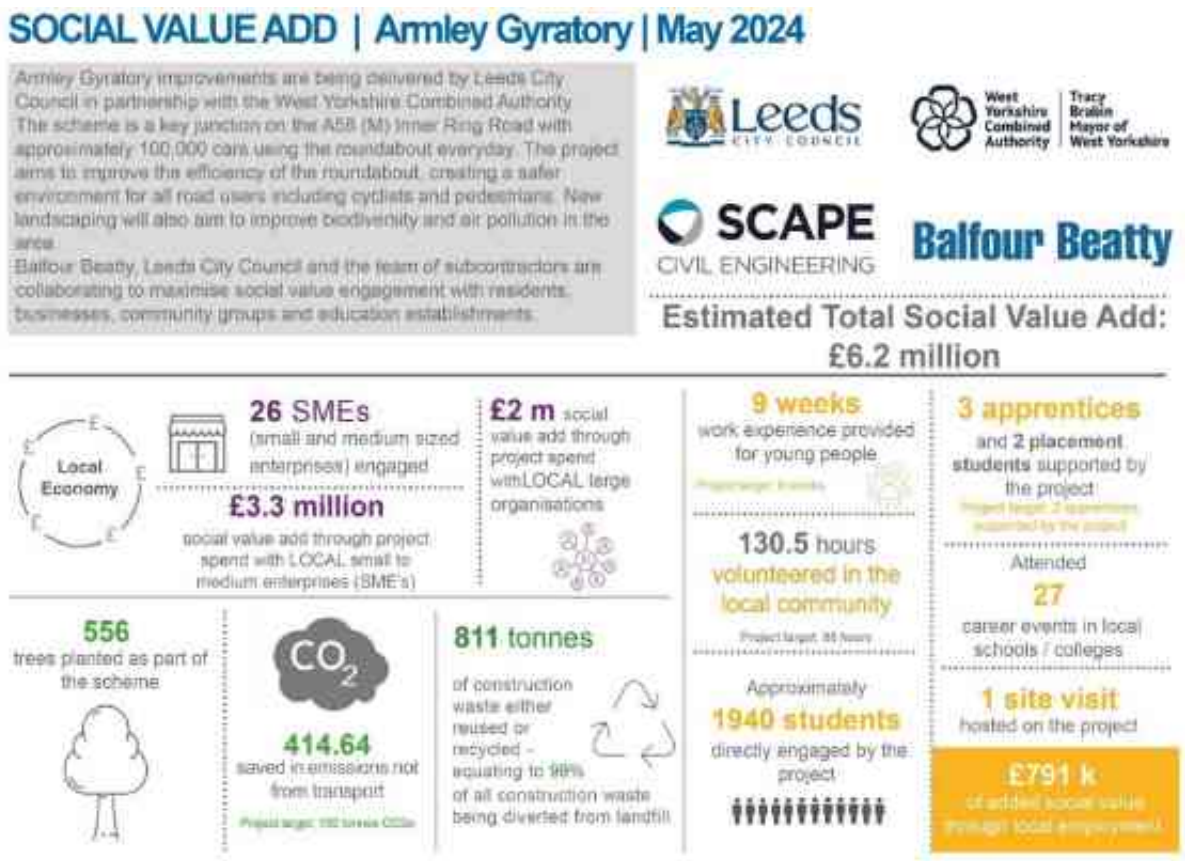
Wellington footbridge – pedestrian diversion route

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 or visit 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.

We apologise for any inconvenience felt by the work at Armley Gyratory and would like to express our continued thanks to all residents for their ongoing patience as we work to making the gyratory safer and more accessible for everyone.

Social value updates



For over two years, the Armley Gyratory team has successfully fulfilled their pledge to promote the construction industry and the wealth of opportunities in the industry within local schools and colleges. 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.

To date, the project team have engaged with over 1900 students in Leeds.



Additionally, the project team find many ways to volunteer and give back to the communities in which they work. For example, one member of the project team from Armley Gyratory joined up with Litter Free Leeds and a host of other volunteers from across the area's other projects to litter pick in Harehills for three hours.

The team proved that they were streets ahead when it comes to waste removal as between them, they successfully managed to bag and remove over 30 bags of rubbish.

Making the grade

As part of promoting the construction industry, importance is placed on raising the standards across the sector and ensuring that these are checked against a stringent framework to see how improvements can be made.

Registering with The Considerate Constructors Scheme (CCS) is one way in which construction companies can work to improve their practices. The Armley Gyratory project has been registered with CCS since the start.

CCS supports members to raise their standards in being a considerate constructor and build trust with the public. The code has very specific criteria and standards which it marks registered sites against to help make positive changes to the way we work and to operate more responsibly and respectfully.

As a project Armley Gyratory successfully maintained their perfect CCS score, gaining 45/45 which is the maximum score obtainable against the Code of Considerate Practice.

Top marks were given in each of the three categories:

- Care for the environment
- Value the workforce
- Respect the community

This follows on from the team achieving the same score at the end of last year and gives real substance to how the team continue to maintain the excellent standards previously achieved and their ongoing commitment to raising industry standards.

An example for all

Ensuring everyone gets home safe is the most important part of any project. This commitment to safety is delivered on projects throughout the region and applies to not only members of our project teams but also to anyone within our local communities.



A great example of such was recently seen at Armley Gyratory as George Bagshaw (Balfour Beatty) and Joe O'Connell (K Rouse), were recognised for putting their safeguarding training into action. George and Joe spotted a group of very young children playing adjacent to the live Gyratory. They advised them of the dangers of playing there, encouraged them away from the road and walked them back towards the nearby housing estate where the children recognised their surroundings and returned home safely.

Throughout the incident, George and Joe demonstrated outstanding safeguarding procedures and processes which made sure the children were safe from harm and will hopefully go some way to reducing the chance of something similar happening in the future.



A bright future

Earlier this month, nearly £500 of anti-graffiti top coat paint was donated to Armley Action Team to protect their 'Gelder Rose' street art mural on Gelder Road, Armley. This mural was created by local artist collective *We belong here* alongside local young people- providing creative learning opportunities and artistic collaboration.






The purpose of the mural was to improve the appearance of the area, creating a more welcoming and colourful location; and to engage local young people creatively about their local area.

The mural is a beautiful example of local social impact in action, and we are delighted to have supported the project with the donation of the eight litres of top coat paint, to help protect the mural for many years to come.

Biodiversity in bloom

As part of any project, we continue to use our capability, knowledge and inhouse components to deliver sensitive works, which go a long way to ensuring we minimise any negative environmental impact we have within our local communities.



Although much is focused on key phrases such as net zero, climate control and the reduction of our carbon footprint, projects also seek to enhance the environment, such as creating a biodiverse backdrop in order that wildlife (such as the bees pictured), are encouraged to the area and can thrive. Bees are only one element, but they alone are integral to our physical health with a very long list of crops relying heavily on the pollination of bees.

A great example of biodiversity in action can currently be seen at Armley Gyratory, where alongside the belated arrival of summer, the schemes visual landscape has really started to take shape. There is a mixture of healthy trees, shrubs, perennial meadow, and wildflowers currently flourishing. Additionally, the earth retaining wall has also sprouted into life, all adding to the aesthetic and environmental pull of the project.



It's great to see such a vivid and environmentally friendly landscape created on one of our schemes.





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

If you have questions about the scheme, you can email us at: 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.

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Kind regards,

The Armley Gyratory and Connecting Leeds Team