

June 2025



Project Update

We are pleased to share that the new Link Road has been open to traffic since December 2024. Some minor work will continue overnight, but this is expected to cause little to no disruption.

You may have noticed that landscaping is underway along the new Link Road. Over 40,000m² of roadside planting has been completed so far, featuring a wide mix of native UK-grown trees and shrubs such as oak, hazel, hawthorn, and wild cherry. In addition, 50 large specimen trees—mostly oaks, pines, beeches, and whitebeams—have been planted near roundabouts and junctions. More than 106,000m² has also been seeded with a variety of wildflower and grass mixes to support local biodiversity. There's more to come, with another 18,000m² of planting and 55,000m² of seeding planned. All of the new landscaping will be maintained by our specialist sub-contractor for the next five years.

- **Portmore roundabout to Landkey roundabout and footbridge**

The new junction and footbridge are now complete. The roundabout improves access to and from Landkey and will also serve the upcoming Westacott development. The footbridge provides a safe crossing and links the large development area to the wider community.

- **West Buckland Bridge**

This new bridge was designed to echo the style of a traditional masonry arch, helping it blend in with the historic surroundings of Castle Hill's park and gardens. It also offers a safer crossing point over the A361.

- **Borners Bridge Roundabout**

Borners Bridge roundabout has replaced the old staggered crossroads, making it easier and safer for vehicles to turn.

Griffiths in the Community: Local Support in Action

Over the course of the project, Griffiths has become a familiar and valued part of the local community, taking real pride in giving back and supporting good causes across North Devon. From school donations to charity fundraisers, here are just a few ways the team has made a difference:



Backing Local Schools & Young People

- Donated wood chippings to help Kingsley School develop a new ecology zone as part of its Earth Centre initiative
- Delivered wood chippings to Landkey Primary School
- Supplied construction-themed play equipment and signage to Swimbridge Pre-Schools
- Hosted school and college visits, including pupils from Petroc College, St Peter's C of E, Filleigh Primary, and South Molton Primary

Supporting Events & Community Spaces

- Sponsored much-loved local events like the 2023 Landkey Wassail, Mission Unbreakable South Molton, and Skate Molton
- Supported the North Molton Parish Hall with the improvement and resurfacing of their parking area
- Construction of a path around the Swimbridge Community area

Getting Involved for a Good Cause

- Took part in the Rugby Ramble in support of North Devon Hospice
- Joined the Santas on a Bike ride to raise funds for Children's Hospice South West
- Held two well-attended 'It's a New Day' wellbeing and recruitment events, bringing people together and opening doors to new opportunities

From fundraising to practical help, Griffiths' involvement has left a lasting, positive impact—and they're proud to be part of this vibrant community.

Protecting Wildlife Along the A361

During construction, our environmental team was on site full-time to make sure all environmental measures were properly followed. They worked closely with the construction team to ensure that protected species were identified and safeguarded before and during work. Species such as dormice, otters, badgers, birds, bats, hedgehogs, and reptiles were regularly monitored. Whenever any were detected, the team advised on the correct steps to take to protect them, helping the project stay in line with environmental guidelines.

One of the key discoveries early on was a large dormouse population near the A361. With a license from Natural England, a range of measures were put in place to protect them. These included early planting of hedgerows and woodland, temporary habitat corridors, a purpose-built dormouse crossing, and over 200 nest boxes. More than 100 nests were found during the early stages, and buffer zones were created to shield them until they were no longer occupied.

Other wildlife-friendly measures included bat and bird boxes, otter fencing, and fish baffles. The landscape design supports these habitats and meets the target of a 10% Biodiversity Net Gain. Environmental monitoring will continue post-construction to track the long-term success of these efforts.

