

8 January 2014

Guided tours to Roman Archaeological site at Catterick

Interested members of the public are invited to visit the current archaeological excavations at Catterick, North Yorkshire which have been revealed as part of the Highways Agency's A1 Leeming to Barton improvement scheme.

On Saturday 24 January 2015, there will be guided tours from Catterick racecourse car park (North of A6136) to one of the sites currently being excavated. This work is ahead of bridge widening and road construction undertaken as part of the upgrade of the A1 to motorway status in North Yorkshire.

Tours to the excavation will be every hour from 10:30 am, through to 2.30pm (final tour). They will be led by archaeologists from the Carillion - Morgan Sindall Joint Venture and English Heritage, with on site interpretation from the archaeological team (Northern Archaeological Associates). In a cabin at the car park there will be the opportunity to look at a small display of photographs and finds from the recent Roman excavations on the A1.

Dr Stephen Sherlock, archaeological clerk of works commented: "We held a very well attended series of tours at the end of May but it has become clear there are still a number of people interested in seeing for themselves what has been uncovered during the archaeological works. We have arranged these tours as another opportunity for people who weren't able to come last time."

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Notes to editors

The Government announced funding, as part of the 2012 Autumn Statement, to allow work to start on 12 miles of the A1 between Leeming and Barton in this financial year.

Work to widen an 11 mile section of the A1 between Leeming and Scotch Corner, and to create an alternative route for local traffic, started in spring 2014. The scheme will unlock growth and boost the economy by creating a continuous motorway-standard route between London and Newcastle (including the M1 and A1M). It will also improve journey times and increase safety.

When the scheme opens to traffic in 2016/17, journey times between Leeming and Barton will be reduced by approximately 20 per cent, and over a sixty-year period, the improvements are predicted to save around 20 lives and prevent around 450 serious accidents. The work is also estimated to generate 750 jobs in the construction industry over three years.

Ends



Caption: The Roman site on the North side of the River Swale, near Catterick, North Yorkshire.

Issued by Regional News Network North East on behalf of the Highways Agency.

**For further information please contact Kate Read on 0191 216 2473.
Media enquiries out of hours should be made to the Highways Agency National
Press Office (24hrs) on 0844 693 1448.**