



NJUG CASE STUDY

CASE STUDY 17: Reinstatement in a National Park – The A590 Bypass

The National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG) is the UK industry association representing utilities on street works issues. The thirty-eight companies¹ we represent work to deliver gas, electricity, water and telecommunications to both individual consumers and UK plc.

NJUG members need to continue to drive forward further improvements. We have therefore developed the NJUG Vision for Street Works, which revolves around six main principles:

1. Safety is the number one priority
2. Damage to underground assets is avoided
3. Utilities work together and in partnership with local authorities to minimise disruption
4. Utilities deliver consistent high quality
5. Utilities maximise the use of sustainable methods and materials
6. Street works in the UK are regarded as world class

This case study is an example of NJUG delivering on these principles and turning the Vision into a reality.

Overview:

The A590 High and Low Newton Bypass involved the construction of a new 3.8km dual carriageway, bypassing three small villages within villages. The scheme was situated wholly within the Lake District National Park.

The Lake District National Park is the central and most visited part of the Lake District. For this reason, the Laing O'Rourke team faced the challenge of constructing the road and carrying out the associated works, whilst maintaining the aesthetics that have ensured the area's renowned beauty.



¹ NJUG's current members are Energy Networks Association (representing electricity and gas), Water UK (representing all water and wastewater companies), National Grid, Openreach, Virgin Media and THUS, a Cable and Wireless Business. Our associate members are Clancy Docwra, Skanska McNicholas, Balfour Beatty, Morrison, Morgan Est, NACAP, PJ Keary, First Intervention, Carillion, Enterprise and Laing O'Rourke. Including members through trade associations, NJUG represents thirty-eight utility companies.

Case Study

Protection of the area's reputation as a beautiful holiday spot required the A590 team to consider the area's existing landscape when approaching the reinstatement of the area. They were also mindful to consider how their works could enhance the biodiversity in the area.

To this end, the team salvaged all the reusable old stones from the stonewalls that had to be demolished, and trialed various techniques for their reinstatement to make sure that they would be able to match the reinstated walls with those left standing. A test wall was built with one end constructed from new stones, the middle from a combination of new and old stones, and the end section from old stones. Only once the team had convinced themselves and the client that they were capable of reinstating the walls did demolition take place.

Following their success in a similar project, wing walls and retaining walls were designed to be clad with a material that would tie in with the local surroundings. The team attempted to employ local master masons to perform the works, however due to the lack of local contractors, a proven contractor from Wales (previously employed on a similar project) was brought in. The use of cladding also enabled the team to leave crevices in the walls for wildlife to roost in.

To ensure the continued biodiversity of the area, the team constructed four balancing ponds as part of the works. Road run-off from both the construction and final phases of the project was directed into the ponds, ensuring constant damp conditions. Various water-loving plants were introduced to the ponds, which provide a healthy living and breeding environment for insects and other animals.

The final landscaping work of the project involved re-planting the affected verges and fields. The team sourced their wildflower seeds locally, which ensured that the final product would tie in with surrounding landscape and generate good will in the community. Using local wildflowers also ensured habitat compatibility with the wildlife currently living in the area.

Through their sensitivity to the environmental and public issues associated with constructing a road through a highly visited National Park, the A590 team achieved the following benefits:

- Successful reinstatement of the stone walls
- Re-use of techniques found to be successful on previous projects, adding to Laing O'Rourke's overall capability
- Enhancement of the local biodiversity through the construction of balancing ponds and the planting of local wildflowers
- Good will from the local community through local sourcing of materials and personnel

The A590 team successfully constructed a new road through a highly environmentally and publicly sensitive area. They took care to tie the new road into the existing landscape, and landscape the disturbed sections with a view of further enhancing the biodiversity and growth of the region.



LAING O'ROURKE

The logo consists of the company name "LAING O'Rourke" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The text is centered on a black rectangular background. Above the black rectangle is a thin yellow horizontal bar, and below it is a thin red horizontal bar.