



DORSET

Local Enterprise Partnership

**A338 Blackwater
Junction and A338
Southbound Widening**

End of Project Report

July 2020

Project Summary

These works formed a large part of the BIG Programme, a major economic growth plan focused on improving connectivity, easing congestion, protecting existing jobs and creating new jobs in and around Bournemouth Airport and Wessex Fields.

The works included:

- Bridge Pier Protection to the B3073 Blackwater Bridge.
- Bridge Widening and replacement of Crash Barriers on the River Stour Bridge.
- On slip and off slip lane widening.
- Construction of an Auxiliary Lane for Southbound traffic joining the A338 from Blackwater Junction towards Cooper Dean.
- Revised layouts and renewal of equipment of the East and West traffic signal junctions.
- Increased capacity and reduced queueing to deal with traffic flow at the East and West Junctions
- Additional and improved cycling provisions
- Improved footway links to local amenities
- Improved sustainable drainage systems
- Updating of crash barriers and signage.
- Installation of communication ducting.
- Resurfacing and strengthening of the existing A338.
- Installation of reflective noise barriers near properties at Blackwater Junction.
- Low maintenance planting and verge maintenance.
- Installation of Otter fencing.

Aims

- Alleviate traffic congestion at and in vicinity of Blackwater Junction by improving journey times and traffic flow in the area.
- Reduce road casualties at and in vicinity of Blackwater Junction.
- Improve access to the airport and Wessex Fields to support job creation of up to 10,000 jobs in the next 10-year period and stimulate Economic Growth.
- Release land at Aviation Business Park and Wessex Fields for development

Objectives continue to be met following successful completion of this phase as recorded in Outcomes and Outputs.

Project start date	April 17
Project construction start date	December 2017
Project completion date	July 2020

Change Requests

- (i) Re-profiling £1.1m of the growth deal funding from A338 Widening scheme to Blackwater junctions to fund the extended on/off slip lanes at Wessex Fields.
- (ii) Approval of revised PFA spend profile as per the Forecast Growth Deal funding: £285,000 (2016/17) & £1,217,000 (2017/18)
- (iii) Request that southbound A338 widening and Blackwater Junction Improvements costs and reporting be combined as the schemes will be delivered as one (October 2018).
- (iv) Transfer of £1.3m from FWP (A348/A3049) Corridor project to Blackwater West Junction (March 2020).
- (v) Transfer of £502,500 from FWP (A348/A3049) Corridor project to Blackwater West Junction (June 2020).

Outputs and Outcomes:

Outputs

- (i) Improved connectivity to wider transport network. – Achieved
- (ii) Alleviate traffic congestion and increase capacity in vicinity of Blackwater East Junction joining the A338 southbound towards Bournemouth. Reduce queueing and tailbacks to Hurn Roundabout at the Blackwater West Junction whilst improving access on to the A338 northbound
- (iii) Improve access to the airport to support job creation and help achieve overall BIG aims of creating up to 10,000 jobs in the airport area over a 10-year period – Ongoing in conjunction with outstanding improvements to Blackwater Interchange due to be completed in late Spring 2020
- (iv) 2.94km of carriageway was resurfaced, 2.13km of new carriageway lane provided and 0.82km of cycleway constructed

The scheme was constructed predominately within the existing highway boundary. Additional land was required from the forestry commission at the Blackwater West Junction. These phases of work will help to open-up land adjacent to the project for leaning/commercial floorspace or buildings including housing, contributing to the overall project aims.

Outcomes

The A338 Blackwater Junction and A338 Southbound widening scheme will support outcomes of the BIG Programme. The following outcomes have been achieved since April 2015.

Outcome	Number
Jobs created at Aviation Business Park	1,125
Private investment leveraged at Aviation Business Park	£143,939,000

Land Unlocked (Ha) at Aviation Business Park	6.4
Commercial floorspace created at Aviation Business Park	37,577
Land Unlocked (Ha) at Wessex Fields	6

Outcomes continue to be monitored on a quarterly basis and reported to Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. Further analysis of these outcomes and benefits will feed into future reporting and case studies.

Benefits Realised to date

- On slip and off slip lane widening to improve traffic merging and exiting the A338
- Sustainable drainage system offering less ongoing maintenance
- Crash barriers and signage installed to modern standards and contributing to a reduction in un-necessary features. In the long term this is expected to help reduce accidents
- Resurfacing and strengthening of the existing A338 to reduce future maintenance, improve drive quality, noise reduction and reduce spray.
- Reduction in noise to properties at Blackwater Junction following installation of noise fences.
- Reduction in costs for maintenance of verges and landscape areas.
- Installation of Otter fencing so avoiding them coming into conflict with traffic.
- Works carried out in conjunction with the Cooper Dean Widening project producing savings on economy of scale.
- Traffic flowing more freely and without conflict at the East Junction
- Less queueing and congestion at Blackwater West Junction and
- Improved maintenance capability without disrupting traffic considerably.

Finances

- Growth Deal Funding : £10,802,500
- Total Scheme Costs including DC/BCP contributions : £11,295,000
- Match funding contributed by Dorset Council and BCP Council: £492,500.

Lessons Learnt

- Carry out more detailed site investigation for design of embankment widening. Complicated by timings of existing phase of works, site clearance and traffic management commitments.
- Design /Target, Costing and Construction time was at its absolute minimum due to tight programming of BIG programme of Works. Therefore, reviewing overall scheme delivery more regularly would need to be undertaken.
- Having the next phase of works in mind at Wessex Fields 1.1 enabled some construction of its slip roads. This avoided extensive and disruptive traffic

management on the busy A338 southbound into Bournemouth at a later stage.

- More awareness of pain or gain financial clause within Hanson Partnership Contract (DHWTSC)
- Excessively long lead in time for gas main diversion despite early consultation with GTC
- With good planning, adjustments to ways of working in the office and on site and a can-do attitude we were able to carry on working through Covid 19.

Success Story



Before A338 Improvements



A338 following completion 2019

Press release - 21 May 2020

Major infrastructure investment at Blackwater West Junction finishes on time

Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership, BCP Council and Dorset Council are pleased to announce that the major improvement works at the B3073 Blackwater West Junction have been completed on time and on budget.

The nine-month long scheme was funded through Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership's Local Growth Deal* and forms part of the Bournemouth International Growth Programme aimed at facilitating better access into and around Bournemouth Airport and stimulating economic growth across the county.

The works, delivered by BCP Council and Dorset Council, started in July 2019 and have focused on easing congestion, improving traffic flow and connectivity and increasing journey time reliability at the busy Blackwater West junction on the A338/B3073. The works included:

- Improvements to the A338 off slip
- The construction of a new and more efficient A338 on slip
- Increased junction capacity by widening the road on both sides to create an additional lane

- Installation of new islands and traffic lights
- Improved pedestrian and cycle crossing facilities
- Three-metre-wide cycle and footpath facility improvements on the B3073
- Resurfacing the whole junction
- Installation of a noise fence and landscaping

This was the final scheme in a series of £11.2 million** works at Blackwater Junction on the A338 and B3073.

Jim Stewart, Chair of Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership said:

"We're delighted that the improvements at Blackwater Junction West have completed on time, especially given the challenging COVID-19 environment the construction sector is working under. The BIG Programme is in its penultimate year and this phase of work is an important milestone achievement in the programme that is improving transport links, easing congestion and supporting employment around Bournemouth Airport. Continuing to deliver important infrastructure improvements in Bournemouth that benefit Dorset's wider economy and business community are critical, now more so than ever before."

Councillor Andy Hadley, Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure said:

"Marking the end of a series of major infrastructure investment schemes in the local area, I am pleased to see these improvements completed on time and on budget. I am also impressed by the ability of Hanson Contracting to meet the challenges presented by COVID19 and adapt their construction methods without impacting or delaying the project completion date."

Councillor Ray Bryan, Dorset Council Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment, said:

"My thanks goes to everyone on the project team for keeping the improvements on track during these exceptional times, and adapting working methods to ensure the safety of the construction workforce. I'm incredibly proud of the successful partnership working we have achieved throughout the BIG Programme."

The Blackwater Junction West improvements were completed on time and on budget according to COVID-19 social distancing measures. They are testament to successful partnership working between Dorset LEP, BCP Council, Dorset Council and Hanson Contracting.

Dorset LEP

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Annex 1:

Scheme: A338 Blackwater Junction and A338 Southbound Widening	Description	FY 19/20		FY 20/21	FY 21/22	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25	Total
		Projection	Current Year	Projection	Projection	Projection	Projection	Projection	
WORKS COMPLETED 15 May 2020	Length of Road Resurfaced This Period		1.94	0.48					
	Length of Newly Built Road this period		1.13	0					
	New Cycle Ways		0.82	0					

