

### Photos of the month

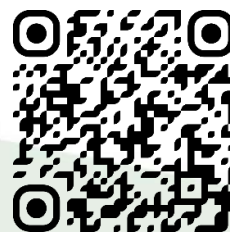


Installation of new track crossing panel at Redhouse Junction

Welcome to the May 2023 edition of the Northumberland Line newsletter. The aim of this newsletter is to give an overview of upcoming site work, as well as letting you know about key project milestones.

This edition includes an update on the progress of the construction of the new stations along the Northumberland Line, an update on work to upgrade the track and signalling in advance of the reintroduction of passenger trains, and news about the project team's work within the local community. Also included is important safety information from Network Rail on how stay safe when using level crossings.

If you wish to receive future editions of this newsletter straight into your email inbox, sign up at [nland.cc/signup](https://nland.cc/signup) or use the QR code below.



Alternatively, if you would prefer to have a paper copy delivered to your doorstep, please let us know by calling **0345 600 6400** or email [rail@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:rail@northumberland.gov.uk).



Representatives from the Institution of Civil Engineers visit the site of the new Newsham Station

# What is the Northumberland Line?



The Northumberland Line will bring passenger trains back into service between Ashington and Newcastle. It will provide new stations between Ashington and Newcastle Central Station, taking 35 minutes with no need to change trains. Alternatively, you can switch from the Northumberland Line at Northumberland Park to Tyne and Wear Metro for onward journeys to the Airport, Tynemouth and South Shields.

The freight trains that currently use the railway will still be able to do so, helping support the economic aspirations of both Lynemouth Power Station and the Port of Blyth.



# Progress update and look ahead

## Women into Construction participant Cheryl Spybey secures apprenticeship to help deliver the Northumberland Line

As part of her participation in the first Women into Construction Employment Programme in the North East, Cheryl Spybey completed a two-week work placement with Morgan Sindall Infrastructure, who are responsible for the construction of the new stations along the Northumberland Line.

Following completion of her placement, she was offered an apprenticeship as a Laboratory Technician after demonstrating hard work and a positive attitude. Her new role will involve testing soil to make sure it's structurally sound enough to support foundations, and testing the aspect ratios of concrete to verify the amount of weight it can hold.



Cheryl on site during the Women into Construction programme.

For more information about Women into Construction, please visit <https://women-into-construction.org/>

*"This has been an ideal opportunity to get women into the construction world. I wish this was available when I was younger. The ability to learn about the environment and have site visits makes it much easier to understand and learn the things I needed. Thank you to my tutors for all your hard work and patience with us all. To all the women out there interested in getting into the construction side of life: I would advise to go with the Women into Construction programme. It's a great opportunity, there's plenty of jobs out there, you've just got to have the courage to step forward and go for it."* **Morgan Sindall Infrastructure Apprentice Cheryl Spybey**

## Ongoing community work in April

Alongside the construction work to deliver the Northumberland Line, our project team are also busy giving back to communities through education and training opportunities. Here are some highlights of what the project teams have delivered in April and May 2023.

- Vacancy created for a Planning Apprentice. Find out more about this post and others on offer at <https://www.northumberlandline.uk/jobs>.
- Northumberland Line presentation delivered to AGE UK in Ashington.
- Site visit to the site of the future Newsham Station from the Institution of Civil Engineers seniors section.
- Sensory Garden Project launched at Burnside College, with 10 pupils involved.

# Progress update and look ahead

## Advance notice of track works on North Seaton viaduct and Ashington scheduled for July 2023

As part of the works to upgrade the existing railway line from carry freight traffic to a passenger trains, Network Rail is undertaking an extensive package of engineering works along the route of the Northumberland Line. This includes replacing the track and upgrading the signalling.

The track along the North Seaton Viaduct will be undertaken from **9pm Friday 7 July to 5am Monday 10 July**. The works will require the closure of the level crossing at Marchey's House (Brock Lane) and North Seaton (A196 Blackclose Bank) to vehicles and pedestrians.

Works will also be undertaken between Green Lane level crossing and Ashington station site from **9pm Thursday 20 July to 5am Monday 24 July**. During the works, Green Lane level crossing will be closed to both vehicles and pedestrians.

We will provide further information about these works as they are confirmed. We will also be hosting a public information session on **Wednesday 28 June 3.30pm to 6.30pm** at **Ashington Cricket Club**, Langwell Crescent, Ashington NE63 8AB, where we can answer any questions you have about these and any other construction works.

Please keep an eye on the Northumberland Line website for more information about the works and the public drop in events

<https://www.northumberlandline.uk/>.

*Safety is our top priority here on the Northumberland Line. Before we run passenger trains on the line next year, we want to make sure everyone knows how to live alongside a busy railway line, and use it safely.*

*With this in mind, in partnership with our delivery partners we will be running a series of safety campaigns between now and the line opening. This will include working with local schools, delivering classroom sessions, as well as communications campaigns.*

*This newsletter includes details of one the first of these – a national campaign by Network Rail on safety using level crossings. Given the number of level crossings along the route, this will be of paramount importance to our scheme.*

**Neil Blagburn – Programme Director**

## Virtual tours

Every month our stations contractor Morgan Sindall will be providing a 'behind the fence' look at each of their active sites. By using the QR codes below, you will be able to walk through the sites and see the progress being made, as well as learning how some of the work has been delivered and details of the machinery involved.

### Palmersville Dairy

[Palmersville Dairy Underpass 2023.05.18](#)



### Ashington

[Ashington 2023.05.18](#)



## “Beware The Bubble”

Network Rail is committed to keeping everyone who uses the railway or lives near it as safe as possible. One risk factor that can make rail users unsafe is when people are distracted and not fully aware of their environment.

It is easy to drift off into your own world when out-and-about – taking a stroll, popping to the shops, or walking the dog.

When you're off in your bubble, the last thing on your mind might be the danger of a train at a level crossing, especially when some level crossings don't have warning signs to tell you when a train is approaching. It is extra important, therefore, to always stay switched on.

When you're walking near or across a level crossing, you need to:

- **Concentrate.** It's easy to drift off and take more notice of your phone, music or conversation than what's going on around you.
- **Stop, look and listen – always.** There might be signs with extra instructions, so make sure you read and follow them if there are.
- **Check both ways before crossing – if there is a train coming, don't cross.** Remember there may be more than one train, they may be coming from different directions and one train could hide your view of another.
- **If there are any warning signs (lights, barriers, alarms) make sure you understand what they mean.** And always follow their instructions completely.
- **Cross quickly, keeping children close and dogs on a short lead.** Always make sure the exit is clear before crossing.



More information about the safe use of level crossings can be found at <https://www.networkrail.co.uk/communities/safety-in-the-community/level-crossing-safety/using-level-crossings-safely/>.

A video to support the “Beware the Bubble” campaign can be seen here <https://youtu.be/R6VrWJNOzww>.

# Works by station location

## Palmersville Dairy Level Crossing

Works to construct a new underpass to replace the existing Palmersville Dairy Level Crossing started in January 2023 and are currently ongoing. They are expected to be concluded in February 2024.

## Northumberland Park

Northumberland Park will be the first stop for trains travelling from Newcastle. Preparation for mining remediation works, which will ensure the voids left by historic mining are completely filled in, are due to start at the end of May 2023. This work is expected to take between three and six months to complete. Construction of the new station and will start once the mining remediation has been completed.

## Seaton Delaval

Seaton Delaval will be the second stop for trains travelling from Newcastle. Station construction is due to restart soon. In preparation for this, precast concrete units which will form part of the station building have been delivered to site.

To the north of Seaton Delaval, works to upgrade the level crossing in New Hartley are continuing.

## Newsham

Newsham will be the third stop for trains travelling from Newcastle and construction of the station and platform are underway.

Works have started on the construction of the footbridge, which will allow passengers to transfer between the platforms at the new station.

At Newsham South Level Crossing, works to upgrade the signaling along the route of the Northumberland Line have been undertaken.

To the south of Newsham, works to re-shape the embankments along the section known as Newsham Loop are progressing well.



Works to regrade the embankments to the south of Newsham Station site. Note the green matting is used to temporarily protect the embankment

## Blyth Bebside

Blyth Bebside will be the fourth stop for trains travelling from Newcastle and construction of the station is due to start later in 2023. Ground investigations to confirm if any works are needed to fill in former mine workings and to make the ground stable before station construction starts are ongoing.

The works will require the overnight closure of the southbound slip road to the A189 at Blyth Bebside from **Monday 26 June to Friday 14 July** between 8pm and 6am. A diversion will be in place.

## Bedlington

Bedlington will be the fifth stop for trains travelling from Newcastle. Works to upgrade the level crossings to the north and south of the station site are underway. Works to establish a new maintenance yard are continuing at the Furnace Way sidings.

## Ashington

Ashington will be the final stop for trains travelling from Newcastle. Station construction started last year and recently the focus has been on the creation of a new car park area. Works to upgrade the track and signalling into the station are also progressing well.

## Upcoming road closures

We understand how disruptive any road closures (either partial or full) can be for journeys. Unfortunately, they are needed on this project, to allow the team to complete all the necessary works safely.

Where possible, we share information about road closures in advance to allow people to plan their journey. These will be shared via Northumberland County Council's social media channels, primarily on Twitter **@N\_landCouncil**.

The following is a list of the road closures currently planned. Please note, these may be subject to change.

### Seghill Level Crossing closure

Pedestrian and vehicular access across the level crossing will be restricted on the dates and times listed below.

- From **9pm on Thursday 1 June to 5am on Friday 2 June**.
- From **12am to 3am on Sunday 18 June**.

A replacement bus shuttle service will be available for pedestrians during closures.

### Bebside Level Crossing

Pedestrian and vehicular access across the level crossing will be restricted from **8pm Saturday 27 May to 5am Wednesday 31 May**.

Please note that all vehicles access will be prohibited for duration of these works. A replacement bus shuttle service will be available for pedestrians during closures.

## Green Lane Level Crossing closure

Pedestrian and vehicular access across the level crossing will be restricted on the dates and times listed below.

- From **10pm on Saturday 3 June to 6am on Monday 19 June**. Please note that all vehicles access will be prohibited for duration of these works. Pedestrian will be provided access via a walkway.

## Marcheys House Level Crossing closure

Pedestrian and vehicular access across the level crossing will be restricted from **9pm on Saturday 17 June to 5am Monday 19 June**.

## Plessey Road Level Crossing closure

Pedestrian and vehicular access across the level crossing will be restricted from **12am to 6am on Sunday 18 June**.

## Hartley Curve Level Crossing closure

Pedestrian and vehicular access across the level crossing will be restricted from **3am to 6am Sunday 18 June**.

## Hospital Level Crossing closure

Pedestrian access across the level crossing will be restricted on the dates and times listed below.

- 
- From **9pm on Tuesday 13 June to 5.30am on Saturday 17 June**.
- From **9pm on Thursday 22 June to 5.30am on Friday 23 June**.

# Upcoming road closures

## A189 Spine Road Moor Farm to Kitty Brewster Bridge - southbound slip road

The A189 southbound slip road at Blyth Bebside will be closed on the dates and times listed below.

- From **8pm on Monday 26 June to 6am Tuesday 27 June.**
- From **8pm on Tuesday 27 June to 6am Wednesday 28 June.**
- From **8pm on Wednesday 28 June to 6am Thursday 29 June.**
- From **8pm on Thursday 29 June to 6am Friday 30 June.**
- From **8pm on Monday 3 July to 6am Tuesday 4 July.**
- From **8pm on Tuesday 4 July to 6am Wednesday 5 July.**
- From **8pm on Wednesday 5 July to 6am Thursday 6 July.**
- From **8pm on Thursday 6 July to 6am Friday 7 July.**
- From **8pm on Monday 10 July to 6am Tuesday 11 July.**
- From **8pm on Tuesday 11 July to 6am Wednesday 12 July.**
- From **8pm on Wednesday 12 July to 6am Thursday 13 July.**
- From **8pm on Thursday 13 July to 6am Friday 14 July.**

The closures are required to allow ground investigations works to be undertaken in order to better understand the ground conditions at the site of a new footbridge, that will provide pedestrian access to the new Blyth Bebside Station.

A diversion route has been agreed rerouting drivers north to Bedlington junction (A189 Spine Road Kitty Brewster Bridge to Woodhorn round Blyth) and back southbound.

The slip road will be open at weekends as normal.



Map showing the agreed diversion route for southbound A189 traffic during overnight closures.



# Connect with us



Connect with us and keep updated online by signing up at [nland.cc/signup](https://nland.cc/signup). Alternatively, scan the QR code below to sign-up to receive the digital newsletter **monthly**.

Up to date information about the project will be included on the scheme website <https://www.northumberlandline.uk/>.

If you would like to get in touch with us to ask any questions, please use the details below and we will try to ensure the appropriate person responds to you as soon as possible.



# Keeping You Connected

Northumberland Line... Connecting Communities, Businesses and People



Funded by  
UK Government

Supported by:



NORTHERN

NORTH  
OF TYNE  
COMBINED  
AUTHORITY

