Welcome to the second issue of our newsletter. Things are starting to progress now on this exciting project, read on to get the latest news on what we have been up to.

**Welcome**

**Geoff Holden**  
Project Manager, Cumbria County Council

"Work on the CNDR has got off to a really good start despite the very wet weather towards the end of 2009. I am pleased to say this hasn’t affected the enthusiasm of the construction team. To date there has been some notable successes including the difficult demolition of the Kingmoor Rail Bridge over the Christmas holiday possession.

The project is now well underway and Cumbria County Council, Connect Roads and Birse Civils are all committed to working together to ensure it is a great success for all road users."

**Dave Curry**  
Project Director, Birse Civils

"Despite the heavy rains before Christmas and the snow in the New Year works have progressed well on site. Earthworks and drainage operations from J44 on M6 through Kingmoor Park and from Cargo Road to the River Eden have been progressing. To improve the earthworks material we have employed a lime stabilization technique which introduces lime into the soil. The lime acts as a drying agent allowing the material to be handled and compacted to form embankments for the new road. Without this technique the progress we have made over the winter months would not have been possible."

**What’s coming up?**

**Southern Section**

We will be starting earthworks and drainage operations south of the River Eden, commencing at the junction of Moorhouse Road and running north towards the River Eden and south towards Wigton Road.

**Northern Section**

The main bridge beams will be lifted into place on Kingmoor Rail Bridge in early June, another significant milestone for the project.

The Parkhouse Road roundabout will start to take shape, and works will continue with the retaining wall at Asda, Kingmoor underpass and associated roadworks in that area.

We look forward to better weather over the coming months and envisage significant progress will be achieved towards the completion of the scheme planned for April 2012.

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**Winter Maintenance**

One of the oldest winterers on record for thirty years started on 19 December 2009 and continued through into January 2010. The lowest road surface temperature recorded was -12.5°C. Salt usage this Winter Season has been in excess of 1267 tonnes. Winter Maintenance operations switched to 24 hour cover with operatives going on shifts to keep roads open.

The thaw which followed has caused damage to the carriageway surfaces with operatives patrolling the network to keep ahead of the potholes, undertaking repairs on a find and fix basis.

**Contact us**

If you have any questions, comments or complaints, please contact our team:

**By post:**  
Connect Roads Limited  
c/o Birse Civils Limited  
NT Services, Parkhouse Road  
Carlisle CA3 0JR

**By email:**  
contact@cumbriahighways.co.uk

**By phone:**  
0845 6096609

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**CNDR Operation and Maintenance Contract**

The Operation and Maintenance of the CNDR Network started on 1 October 2009 and includes the Operation and Maintenance of 150km of existing A class highways in north Cumbria.

Routes included are:

- A69, the main route south west linking Carlisle to Cockermouth
- A696, the coastal route from Thursday to Workington
- A694 which links the A696 and A695 between Maryport and Cockermouth
- A5, Carlisle to Scotsburn Border
- A6071 which links Gretna, Longtown and Brampton
- A508 which links directly from Carlisle to Brampton

The services are provided by six full time staff and eight operatives, based at the Operations Centre at the County Council’s Depot in Dalston.

Within six weeks of commencement Cumbria suffered some of the heaviest rainfall on record. In one 24 hour period 314.4mm (12.4in) of rain was recorded.

**Flooding**

Rain in Cumbria during November 2009 caused extensive flooding throughout the network, in particular on the A7 at Workington, A6071 at Inbring Bridge and at various locations along the A696 and the A59 at Workington. The A6071 made the headlines with the collapse of Northside Bridge which carried the A597 over a network road, and the closure of Workington Bridge when the southern arch started to show signs of movement.

The thaw which followed has caused damage to the carriageway surfaces with operatives patrolling the network to keep ahead of the potholes, undertaking repairs on a find and fix basis.
Carlisle

Northern Development Route

Archaeology

Sited as it is, on the River Eden, Carlisle has, historically, always been an important place: a regional centre, somewhere to meet-up and a stopping off point for onward journeys elsewhere. With such a long and rich history, it is little wonder that a wealth of archaeological remains should survive just below the soil of the fields that surround the city — most famously, it is still possible to stroll along the line of Hadrian’s Wall. In Roman times, the wall marked the northernmost boundary of the known world; nowadays, nightly designated a World Heritage site, it draws visitors from all over the world. Yet, this is just the tip of the iceberg and many more secrets of even greater antiquity are there to be found, if one knows where to look.

A team of archaeologists from Oxford Archaeology North (based in Lancaster) monitored by English Heritage and Cumbria County Council’s Heritage Environment Services, has been excavating sites along the route of the new road on behalf of Birse Civils. It is nearly always a requirement that civil engineering projects of this scale have an archaeological programme and, as such, the engineers and archaeologists are well used to working alongside each other to ensure that the archaeology is recorded according to best practice, without causing any delays to construction. Some of the amazing finds that have been made over the last few months bear testament to this spirit of cooperation, and will further bolster Carlisle’s reputation as a city with a rich history, it is little wonder that a wealth of archaeological remains should survive just below the soil of the fields that surround the city — most famously, it is still possible to stroll along the line of Hadrian’s Wall. In Roman times, the wall marked the northernmost boundary of the known world; nowadays, nightly designated a World Heritage site, it draws visitors from all over the world. Yet, this is just the tip of the iceberg and many more secrets of even greater antiquity are there to be found, if one knows where to look.

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