

Work completed on Chester's new surface water drain

The complex and challenging task of tunnelling under the city centre has now been completed; the new drain is a major future-proof environmental investment by the Council in the city's recovery from the pandemic, and an essential requirement ahead of major regeneration schemes, including Northgate.

The new drain will replace a combined sewer system that was at capacity and runs south along St. Martin's Way, Nicholas St., Grosvenor Rd. and via Castle Drive to a new outfall on banks of the River Dee, see below. In total, more than 5,200 tonnes of soil and rock were excavated to form the tunnel.

The tunnel engineers had to overcome many constraints including navigating around existing underground utility services, man-made obstructions, archaeology, adjacent buildings and structures. A further challenge was posed when the route was amended to avoid an existing water main and pass under the city walls which required Scheduled Ancient Monument consent. Extensive monitoring and surveying ensured there was no disturbance to the walls.

Councillor Richard Beacham, Cabinet Member for Inclusive Growth, Economy and Regeneration, said: "I would like to thank everyone who has been impacted by these works for their patience and understanding; I recognise that at times the works have caused frustration, but I hope residents have come to understand the significant economic, social and environmental benefits of constructing the new drain, which has been the biggest infrastructure project in our city for over fifty years.



Swift and bat boxes installed

20 swift 'hotels' are being installed in the car park brickwork, they will help reverse the decline of swifts in Chester, along with 2 bat boxes also. Cllr. Samantha Dixon, Chair of the Northgate Joint Member Working Group with John Dearnley and Roger Nutter, from Chester RSPB, came to meet the Vinci site team.

<https://group.rspb.org.uk/chester>

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