



Latest news from the Northgate project team

April 2021

## Tunnelling starts on new drain

**The new drain will run south along St. Martin's Way, Nicholas Street, Grosvenor Road and Castle Drive.**

It will be almost 1km in length, 1.2m in diameter and require 9 access shafts spaced along the route, each 7m wide and 12m deep.

Welcoming this important work Andrew Lewis, Chief Executive of Cheshire West and Chester Council said: **"The new drain is a major future-proof investment in Chester's recovery from the pandemic, and an essential requirement ahead of our major regeneration schemes, including the Northgate development.**

**"This is the biggest infrastructure project in Chester for decades. We regret that it will result in some traffic disruption and inconvenience to nearby residents and businesses. Please bear with us as we work to complete this vital work as quickly as possible."**

Over 85% of the tunnel will be excavated via a 'pipe jacking' process rather than an open cut to significantly minimise disruption above ground. This industry standard process uses a remotely controlled, laser guided tunnel boring machine with rotating cutting knives and discs that will be driven by a set of hydraulic rams in the base of each drive shaft along the route.

A closed slurry system allows the excavated rock to be brought to the surface separation plant and recycles the water used in the cutting process. As the tunnel boring machine moves forward along the route, sections of the new drain are lowered down the shaft and pushed along the tunnel behind the tunnel boring machine to form a continuous water-tight drain.

Once the tunnel boring machine reaches the receiving shaft it is recovered, and the process starts again to excavate the next drain section and will end at an outfall on the River Dee.



## Construction News

Take a look at our [YouTube Video](#) for the latest aerial view.

We have also posted a short [video](#) on the latest archaeology found in the southern Roman barracks – one of 3 barracks known to have been within the Northgate site. Another recent find was a Hot Chariot or maybe a Hot Wheels!



## New Market News



**Strong early interest from traders 18 months ahead of opening.**

Over 50 applications have been received to trade at the new market - a positive sign of confidence in Chester's future.

Existing Chester traders were actively encouraged and supported to apply for space in the new market, with nearly half making an application. We hope to announce the first successful applications in the summer. [More](#)