



Further details of scheduled work  
will be available on the website:  
[www.merseygateway.co.uk](http://www.merseygateway.co.uk)

# WE'RE STARTING WORK!



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## The Background

Halton Borough Council has already carried out extensive preliminary work to prepare for the building of the Bridge to Prosperity. The £600m Mersey Gateway Project's centrepiece is a new six-lane toll bridge over the River Mersey, to the east of the existing Silver Jubilee Bridge.

Both the existing bridge and the new one will be tolled as part of the project, which is expected to help create thousands of new jobs in the region, secure inward investment to the area and deliver important regeneration benefits.

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## Mersey Gateway preparation gets under way

Work on the much-needed Mersey Gateway bridge project is getting started – and this is what the first stages of work will mean to local residents.

Over the next few weeks, the Merseylink consortium, in conjunction with Halton Borough Council, will begin carrying out work which is essential to prepare for construction of the new bridge over the Mersey to start in earnest in early 2014.

## What's happening?

Merseylink's contractors will be clearing trees and vegetation from sites along the route of the bridge and approach roads in both Runcorn and Widnes. This will be done without affecting existing fences and barriers, and care will be taken to keep disruption to a minimum.

As well as clearing trees from sites in the Astmoor, Bridgewater and Ditton areas, survey work will be carried out on both sides of the river.

## Why now?

This work is needed to clear access to key sites – and it has to be carried out now so that nesting birds won't be affected in spring 2014.

## Will there be any impact on traffic?

Any traffic disruption will be kept to a minimum. There will be some hard shoulder and lane closures on Halton's road network between the Ditton roundabout and the M56 entry slip road.

However, these will mostly be in operation during off peak periods to keep traffic flowing during the rush hour.

## What about the environment?

There will be a comprehensive programme of reinstatement, with more trees being planted to replace those which have to be removed. A robust landscaping plan will be carried out once construction is completed.

## What next?

In the New Year Merseylink will start work on access roads across the Salt Marsh on each side of the River Mersey. This will entail diverting some local footpaths including a small section of the Trans Pennine Trail in the Riverside area of Widnes between Tan House Lane and West Bank. More details about these diversions will be announced closer to the time.

Once the access road is complete a temporary jetty will be positioned in the river allowing construction of cofferdams to take place. These cofferdams provide temporary watertight enclosures so that the river bed can be exposed and work can start on the first of the pier foundations.

This work is scheduled to start in early 2014 and once contracts have been signed the Council and Merseylink are planning a formal launch of the project. A programme of community information events will start around the same time and later in the year two Visitor Centres are planned – one on each side of the river. The entire project will be completed in 2017.

