

NEWS RELEASE

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Newcastle schoolchildren visit historic High Level Bridge

Children from Archibald First School in Newcastle visited the High Level Bridge on Friday (6 July) to learn more about the historic structure and get an insight into civil engineering.

The class of 26 eight-year-olds was invited to visit the bridge by Network Rail and its contractors May Gurney, who have been carrying out the first major upgrade works on the structure since it was first opened in 1849.

The children from Class Six were taken on a tour of the Grade I listed bridge and given presentations on its history and the work currently being undertaken to maintain it. They also took part in a workshop designed to provide them with a better understanding of careers in the construction industry.

Lillian Harris, Deputy Headteacher said: "Visits to sites like the High Level Bridge really bring the history of the city alive for the children. Learning about its past, the work that goes into keeping it as an operational structure and the wider construction industry while actually on and next to the bridge makes for a really inspirational classroom."

Designed and built by renowned engineers Robert Stephenson and Thomas Harrison, the High Level Bridge spans the Tyne and is known for being the best example of a cast iron tied arch bridge in the UK. The upper level carries two train lines, with a roadway on the lower level.

May Gurney and Network Rail are due to finish the upgrade work on the bridge by Summer 2008.

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Notes to editors

Photo caption: John Wilkinson, May Gurney Project Manager, helps Antonia Willis from Archibald First School get to grips with the construction industry.

May Gurney is a dynamic integrated support and construction services company providing maintenance and enhancement services to the highways, rail, utilities and general infrastructure markets, primarily with public sector and regulated sector customers, across the UK. The company focuses on long term relationships, has 3,450 employees and delivers solutions through two primary business segments - Maintenance Services and Engineering & Project Services.

The **Maintenance Services** segment is focused on the core markets of highways and utilities. Activities include highways maintenance under long term partnerships with Local Authorities and network improvement and maintenance services provided to major UK utilities networks under long-term framework contracts.

The **Engineering & Project Services** segment serves public and regulated sector clients across a broad range of industries. Core services include the enhancement of road and rail infrastructure, waste management, flood protection, ground remediation, foundations, geotechnical engineering and building.

For further information on May Gurney please go to www.maygurney.co.uk.

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