

Mark Readman, Highway Services Manager, Durham County Council

[Mark is standing at the side of a road. There is roadworks being carried out behind him.]

[Mark Readman] We are at Horden Railway Station car park undertaking resurfacing works. What is important about this project is the use of recycled materials and plastics in the road surfacing course.

[Video Clips: Council lorry being driven under static loading tower and being filled with road resurfacing materials. Resurfacing materials being emptied off back off truck into machinery to lay it on the road. Material being laid on road using machinery and being pressed into place using a steam roller.]

[Mark Readman] Since August last year we have been introducing plastics into our resurfacing surfacing materials. In that time, we have laid approximately twenty-one kilometres of carriage way, renewed county wide, that is one hundred and fifty thousand square metres of new road, or fifty thousand tonnes of material laid. That could be over fifty million plastic carrier bags. Taking that initiative one step further we are now looking at introducing rubber into the asphalt mix that is in addition to the plastic we are currently incorporating.

[Video Clips: A JCB excavator being used to drop tyres into recycling equipment. Shots of the rubber being ground and recycled in the equipment. Small grains of rubber shook out of a container onto a person's hand. The resurfacing material being laid on the road by machinery.]

[Mark Readman] What's great about this initiative is the positive environmental impact, but also we are using rubber crumb from a local tyre recycling plant. The rubber crumb that we use is difficult to facilitate elsewhere and would normally end off in landfill, but through this initiative we have been able to incorporate it into the wearing course and base course.

There are some great environmental benefits from using the rubber crumb as I mentioned. Ordinarily gone to landfill but diverting it into the surfacing it's great use of that product but also reduced our carbon footprint as we work towards being carbon neutral.

The rubber crumb also offers many operational benefits, it does help in the material to reduce rutting in the wheel tracks, it also gives it more elasticity, reduces cracking. These recycling initiatives have been developed by Rainton and ourselves working very closely together. Rainton are currently our surfacing framework partner, and we have worked very closely with Rainton to develop this new initiative.

We are very keen to look at many initiatives but this one, with the environmental impact has been really good for Durham.

[Dave Elliot, Managing Director, Rainton Construction]

[Dave is standing at the side of a road. There is roadworks being carried out behind him.]

[Dave Elliot] Durham have been great to work with, we have worked alongside each other on the development of the materials, of the plastic pave materials that we have been using for the last twelve months.

[Video Clips: Resurfacing materials being emptied off back off truck into machinery to lay it on the road. Material being laid on road using machinery and being pressed into place using a steam roller.]

[Dave Elliot] We have been looking at introducing other materials into the actual asphalt mixes over the last, sort of like, sort of six to eight months really and Tychrome was something that really has come to the, the, the, come to sort of the forefront of, of being able to be used. I think in real terms there is actually benefits to the asphalt mix with the Tychrome in there.

[Video Clip: Material being laid on road using machinery and being pressed into place using a steam roller.]

[Dave Elliot] This is the first actual physical job that we have done with this new material as far as we are concerned really its, this is something we should use on all schemes really, because the benefits there, are you know the sort of environmental benefits are massive so, and it is great from my point of view to see that we are sourcing local end of use materials to put them back into asphalt which is going into schemes like this.

[Text: durham.gov.uk/roadmaintenance – Find out more]