

“Working closely with Future Valleys, FCC, MJ Church and Atkins, we’ve been able to respond rapidly to the inevitable challenges that come with a project of this scale.”

Ben Chase, Commercial Director for the South West and Wales - Tarmac

SOLUTIONS

SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION

Transforming a Critical Route Through Partnership

The A465 Heads of the Valleys upgrade is one of the most ambitious infrastructure schemes undertaken in Wales, converting a challenging three lane single carriageway into a modern dual carriageway that improves safety, eases congestion and strengthens connectivity between Swansea and Abergavenny. The improved route promises to unlock economic growth, enhance access to jobs and services and attract long term investment across South Wales.

Tarmac played a central role in this transformation, delivering both high quality, sustainably sourced materials and expert contracting services throughout the construction of Sections 5 and 6. The collaborative nature of the programme was fundamental to maintaining progress on a route well known for its demanding topography and complex engineering conditions.

Uniting Expertise to Deliver a Major Engineering Effort

Across the programme, Tarmac supplied and laid more than 400,000 tonnes of asphalt, drawn predominantly from Cornelly Quarry with support from other regional sites. These materials supported the creation of 16.3 kilometres of new dual carriageway, 6 kilometres of side roads and an extensive network of temporary works designed to keep traffic flowing throughout construction.



“Projects like this demonstrate Tarmac’s network capability and the power of collaboration and expertise we can bring to delivering essential infrastructure. From the outset, this has been a truly cooperative effort, with strong partnerships built across the supply chain.

Working closely with Future Valleys, FCC, MJ Church and Atkins, we’ve been able to respond rapidly to the inevitable challenges that come with a project of this scale. Whether

adapting to fast moving conditions on site or identifying ways to improve efficiency, it's been a privilege to contribute to a scheme that will deliver lasting benefits for the region."

Ben Chase, Commercial Director for the South West and Wales - Tarmac

This alignment across contractors, designers and suppliers ensured challenges were addressed swiftly, schedules remained coordinated and engineering solutions were shared at pace. Tarmac's teams integrated tightly with MJ Church on surfacing sequences following earthworks, while close liaison with Atkins supported delivery efficiencies through responsive design decisions.

Supporting Sustainability Through Material Choices and Delivery Methods

Sustainable construction remained a priority throughout the upgrade. Warm mix asphalt was used where possible to reduce emissions during production and application, helping the scheme meet its environmental objectives. More than a million cubic metres of earthworks and dozens of structural elements were also delivered as part of this major engineering effort, supported by efficient material planning and coordinated site activity.

These combined actions reinforced the collective commitment to delivering lower carbon outcomes through practical decision making and close collaboration between all project partners.

Looking Ahead

The upgraded Heads of the Valleys route stands as a flagship example of regional infrastructure renewal and a reminder of what can be achieved when design, delivery and materials expertise come together with shared purpose. By improving journey times, easing pressure on key arteries such as the M4 and opening up better access for local communities, the scheme will continue to deliver benefits long after construction is complete.

The project demonstrates how more sustainable construction solutions, delivered through strong collaboration across the value chain, can enable major upgrades that support long term growth, connectivity and resilience for the communities they serve.