

A9 Dualling

Kincraig to Dalraddy project – October 2016



PROJECT OVERVIEW

WELCOME

Welcome to the fourth issue of our regular newsletter providing an update on progress on the A9 Dualling: Kincaig to Dalraddy project, as well as a look ahead to the work we will be focusing on in the coming months.

As contractor on the scheme, Wills Bros Civil Engineering Ltd and John Paul Construction Joint Venture (WBJPJV) would like to take the opportunity to thank the community and road users for their continued support and patience.

**Paul Gilligan, Project Manager,
Wills Bros Civil Engineering Ltd
and John Paul Construction Joint
Venture**



Work is progressing well with completion of earthworks, drainage and the rock cut for the first phase of the project. The majority of the new surfacing to the offline carriageway is also complete and both lanes of traffic have now moved onto the new carriageway – the first stretch of new road to be constructed under the A9

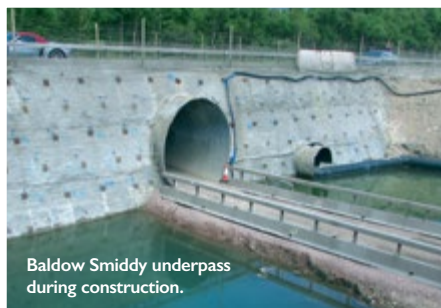
Dualling Programme.

Moving the traffic onto the new southbound carriageway has allowed construction of the second phase of the project to commence. Landscaping continues to progress well with the completion of the new southbound embankments and preparation of the ground ready for grass seeding.

STRUCTURES



The original underpass at Baldow Smiddy before construction.



Baldow Smiddy underpass during construction.



The completed first phase of Baldow Smiddy underpass.

The first phase of construction is now complete on all four underpasses at – Dunachton, Baldow Smiddy, Lower Milehead and Allt An Fhearna – as well as Leault Burn culvert.

Work on the second phase of construction on the underpasses and mammal crossings has commenced and is ongoing. Upon completion, the underpasses will be able to accommodate larger vehicles and will improve safety for road users.



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ACCOMMODATION TRACKS



Meadowside to Dunachtonmore Farm track before construction.



Meadowside to Dunachtonmore Farm track after construction.



Construction of track on Alvie Estate.

As access tracks to and from the A9 are closed it is necessary to upgrade some of the existing tracks as well as construct new ones to improve access and movement within the estates. Work on this is well underway with approximately half of Dunachton Estate tracks and a quarter of Alvie Estate tracks now complete.

As a result of moving the traffic on to the new

carriageway many of the existing at-grade crossings throughout the site have been closed.

We have carefully sequenced the completion of the accommodation tracks to ensure continuity of access for landowners, residents and visitors to minimise disruption as much as possible. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the community for their co-operation during this time.

CARRIAGEWAY

Surfacing of the first phase of the newly constructed carriageway is nearing completion with the final layer of road surface and line marking already complete

on a section of the new southbound carriageway. Traffic has been switched on to the new road allowing construction work to begin on the existing road.



The new southbound carriageway ready for traffic.

EARTHWORKS AND DRAINAGE

The first phase of earthworks and drainage for the new carriageway is now complete. We have begun work on the

earthworks for the new cycle path which will run parallel to the dual carriageway.

FENCING

There have been approximately 6.5 kilometres of deer fencing and 4.3 kilometres of stock

fencing erected to date; with work continuing throughout the site.

UTILITIES

Over the past few months the majority of the overhead cables throughout the site have been removed.

Currently three overhead cable crossings remain and these will also be removed as work progresses.

LOOK AHEAD

Work is moving ahead and we remain on track to complete construction in summer 2017. We have completed the majority of the first phase of construction and are now entering into the second phase.

The focus for the team over the next few months will be:

- work on the existing carriageway
- site clearance for phase two of construction
- permanent and ecological fencing

- completion of the installation of Leault Burn mammal pass and Baldow Smiddy and Lower Milehead Underpasses
- commencement of the second phase of construction of Dunachton Underpass and Allt An Fhearna Underpass
- the start of the earthworks and drainage for the second phase
- complete utility diversions
- continuing construction of the accommodation tracks throughout the Estates of Dunachton, Alvie and Dalraddy.

A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

We remain continuously aware that we work within a rich and ecologically diverse environment in the Cairngorms National Park. During the pre-construction surveys our Environmental Clerk of Works (ECoW) noted a large buzzard nest within close proximity to work.

Following the advice and supervision of our ECoW, the nest was removed by a specialist team at the beginning of March and relocated to a specially selected donor tree out with the construction area.

Monitoring has continued over the months and we are pleased to report that the pair of buzzards have favoured the new nest location and potential breeding may occur this year.



Careful relocation of Buzzards Nest.



THE 'BEAR-NECESSITIES'

In May we donated 50 damaged, and therefore unusable, traffic cones and six short sections of drainage pipe to the Highland Wildlife Park for use within the animal enclosures.

Walker, Arktos and Victoria – all polar bears at the park – had great fun frolicking about with the traffic cones, enjoying throwing them up in the air and hiding things inside. The Musk Ox also enjoyed being able to head-butt and roll the drainage pipes.

A FISHY TALE

We consulted earlier this year with Spey Fisheries Trust regarding work to be carried out in the stream at Allt an Fhearna. Prior to work starting, Spey Fisheries Trust undertook surveys over a 100 metre section of the river.

Salmon parr, brown trout, European eel and brook lamprey were all caught and relocated downstream

at a safe distance from the works. Thereafter, our ECoW checked that all measures were in place to allow the work in the watercourse to take place and continued to monitor the work for the duration of the operation.

We would like to thank Spey Fisheries for their ongoing guidance and involvement with the scheme to date.



Work underway to protect river wildlife.

NEED TO SPEND A PENNY?

Over the summer months we have been pleased to fund the provision of a portaloos for the benefit of residents and visitors to Kincaig.

Representatives from Kincaig Community

Council made contact with us looking for assistance in providing the facility and we were delighted to be able to assist. The portaloos is located at the old telephone exchange opposite Kincaig Convenience Store.

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KICK OFF AT ALVIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

During the summer holidays we set to work on a major revamp of the school playground so that work would be completed in time for the new school year to begin.

We provided the pupils with an all-weather Multi-Use Games Area to enable them to play a number of sports including football, hockey, tennis and netball.

We have also installed a 3 metre high, 15 metre long climbing wall suitable for use by the primary school pupils. As well as providing the children with a fun activity, the climbing wall is expected to improve the children's balance, strength and flexibility.

Drainage has also been installed to weather-proof the ground as much as possible against the extremes of Scotland's weather.

On the first day of the new term, Paul Gilligan, Project Manager and Anna Kelly Public Liaison Officer couldn't resist visiting the school and were delighted to see so many excited, happy faces when the pupils saw their new facilities for the first time.

Headteacher Kip Clark said 'The children absolutely love the new playing pitch and climbing wall, it really breathes new life into the school. I've had very positive feedback and the parents have been really impressed with the new facility too. Everyone at the school is very grateful for the new facility and we very much look forward to making good use of it.

The refurbishment of the playground was agreed with The Highland Council in return for a small area of school land which was required to facilitate the dualling project.



KINCRAIG VILLAGE FAIR

The Kincaig Community Hall Association asked us for assistance with plans for the Kincaig Village Fair.

Anna Kelly Public Liaison Officer attended two Community Hall Association meetings and was delighted to be able to offer a selection of materials for use in the assault course.

The day was a huge success with over 100 community members registering for their 5k timed trial run. Anna Kelly commented: "My

colleagues and I were more than happy to get involved in the preparation for this event. The day itself was well-planned, lots of fun and did a fantastic job of bringing the community together. The children had a great time, with the highlight of the day being the slide at the finish line of the 5k run."

The site team would like to congratulate Mike Browne, Site Agent for completing the 5k run in 25 minutes. No mean feat! Well done Mike!



FURTHER PROJECT INFORMATION

If you have any matters you wish to raise concerning the A9 Dualling: Kincaig to Dalraddy project, then please contact Mike Browne, Site Agent at mbrowne@willsbros-johnpaul.com (mobile 07494 534658) or Anna Kelly, Public Liaison

Officer at akelly@willsbros-johnpaul.com (mobile 07496 739401).

For more information on the wider A9 Dualling Programme, please visit: www.transport.gov.scot/a9dualling