

## Civil Engineering - Integral to the Project

Drivers on the roads around the project will have seen the 'This is Civil Engineering' banners on display. Supported by the Institutions of Civil Engineers (ICE) they remind us of the vital role that civil engineering has in shaping the world around us.

Scottish engineers such as Thomas Telford, John Macadam and William Arrol have, in the past, given us some wonderful examples of civil engineering which still serve us today.

Perhaps some of the engineers working on the M8 M73 M74 Motorway Improvements Project, or indeed the next generation of engineers, will be inspired by this major investment in infra-structure and will join this list.

Graham Edmond, Head of Construction at Transport Scotland, and the Senior Vice Chairman of the ICE Glasgow and West of Scotland Branch, said: "This Civil Engineering is a campaign launched by ICE to raise awareness of the industry."

"The campaign has been designed to showcase the scope of civil engineering as a profession to the public and how it shapes our everyday environment. The campaign also encourages everyone to find out more about the ICE and civil engineering as a profession at [www.ice.org.uk/thisis](http://www.ice.org.uk/thisis)"

Rafael Riesco, a structures site engineer working on the M8 M73 M74 Motorway Improvements Project, has been particularly impressed by the construction and installation of the new rail bridge over the new M8 near Bargeddie.

He said: "The construction of this major structure involved numerous teams carrying out various activities including earthworks, traffic management, piling, steel works, concrete works, heavy lifts and of course, construction of the bridge itself."

"All this took place next to a live railway line, with the bridge slide the culmination of many months of meticulous preparation in consultation with Network Rail."

"This complex engineering solution is just one example that demonstrates how civil engineers are at the heart of any construction project - from the initial design of the structure to co-ordinating the logistics of all the subcontractors involved to allow the bridge slide to happen as planned and on schedule."



I.C.E banners can be seen throughout the project



The project scarecrow at the festival



Project team giving donation to organiser Mr Marsh

## Project team enters Bothwell Scarecrow Festival

Keen to play a part in the local community, the project team decided to send an entry to the 2015 Bothwell Scarecrow Festival.

And it's fair to say, the giant Scarecrow, situated on Bothwell Main Street, made a pretty big impression on the organisers and the community.

It was the work of storeman William Gilfillan, who looked upon the project as something of a labour of love. Being the storeman to a multi-million pound roads project meant he had no shortage of materials.

The industrial sized scarecrow was a giant Spanish

bull, with its steel drum body representing the flags of the native countries of Ferrovial Agroman and Lagan Construction Group, Spain and Ireland, respectively.

The project received a letter of thanks from the organisers, pointing out that the M8 M73 M74 Project example was "spectacular".

£460 was raised by the project team, which Amey, who are responsible for the operation and maintenance of the M8, M73 M74 project roads as well as the engineering design of the new roads, matched, meaning a total of £920 will be donated to Yorkhill Childrens Hospital through Bothwell Scarecrow Festival.

### Contact the SRP team:

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### Stay informed

Websites  
[www.transportscotland.gov.uk](http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk)  
**M8M73M74**

[www.trafficscotland.org](http://www.trafficscotland.org)

Twitter  
[@transportscotland](https://twitter.com/transportscotland)

## Braehead Rail Bridge Completed



The 2,000 tonne Braehead rail bridge has been moved into its final position, read the full story on page 2

## TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Bellshill Road (B7071) Southbound will be closed between Whistleberry Toll and Bothwell Bridge roundabout from 2 November for approximately 4 weeks, with a full closure, north and southbound, planned the weekend between 27- 30 of November. This traffic management is to allow construction of the approach roads for the new Raith Junction. Signed diversions will be in place on all approaches, delays are anticipated and we strongly advise that you plan your journey in advance.

Please visit the Transport Scotland website for updates.

Scottish Roads Partnership



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Scottish Roads Partnership

## Braehead Rail Bridge Completed

The construction of an entirely new rail bridge is one of the more impressive feats of the whole £500m roads project. A 2,000 tonne pre-fabricated structure was successfully slid into position at Bargeddie, next to the adjacent "Cutty Sark" railway bridge which straddles the old A8 and was named after the advert it carried for many years advertising Cutty Sark Whisky. The new bridge will be used for rail services on the Rutherglen to Whifflet line, over the new section of M8.

We promised an update on progress in our last newsletter and we're delighted to report that everything went as planned, allowing rail services to resume as scheduled after a short break in July. Keith Brown, Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities visited the site. He said: "This impressive structure is the first to be completed as part of the Scottish Government's £500m investment in Scotland's Motorway network.

"The M8 is a main artery of the Scottish economy and the Scottish Government is committed to improving connectivity between our two biggest cities, cutting congestion, attracting inward investment and stimulating continued growth of our business communities.

"Now the bridge is in place, I look forward to seeing the new M8 take shape in the months ahead."

The work was required because a new section of the M8 being constructed just south of the existing A8,

with the rail line crossing over it. Just as they prepared for the lift, the Scottish Roads Partnership team were given a grim weather warning from the Met Office. The weathermen issued a yellow 'be aware' warning of very heavy rain and 50mph winds, it was the Scottish summer, after all!

However, the team led by section manager Dario Saavedra was achieving a great result, with the entire operation meticulously planned in conjunction with Network Rail. Mr Saavedra's team took over the line again on July 11 for exactly two weeks, he said: "The installation was complex due to the strict limit on time as a result of the railway closure."



Keith Brown - Cabinet Secretary for Investment, Infra-structure and Cities visits the new bridge



Steel Works at the new bridge



Braehead rail bridge during construction

## 'Time Detectives' Find Historic Coins

Historic coins were unearthed after a medieval structure was found adjacent to the M74 motorway, opposite the Hamilton Services. The lead archaeologist, Warren Baillie, examining the find said he was "really surprised" that the ruins had survived the extensive groundwork that must have been carried out in the 1960's when the M74 was first built. Warren Baillie said it could be the former village of Cadzow, which was the original community now known as Hamilton.

The project team were on hand when the first coin discovery was made by one of a group of four archaeologists, nicknamed 'The Time Detectives'. Kenny Green, 28, was scraping away at a gap between two stones when the fragile coin emerged.

Early analysis suggests it could be a Scottish Long Cross Penny, dating from the mid-1600's during the reign of Charles I. Warren Baillie, project manager for Guard Archaeology, said of the overall discovery: "This is a very interesting find. We have been on site for 18 months now and this is the most significant discovery to date.

"No-one thought anything like this could have survived. We are delighted to have been there to recover a piece of Scottish history."

The expert services of the archaeologists were brought in at the start of the major motorway improvement project for this very reason, to protect anything of historical interest uncovered by the work.

The area of discovery was already known to be rich in antiquity. The surrounding lands were owned by successive Dukes of Hamilton. King James II gave his permission for Cadzow to be renamed Hamilton in 1445. Across the motorway from the discovery lies the Hamilton Mausoleum, once linked to the Hamilton Palace, which was destroyed. Warren said that a memorial stone lying in the bushes next to the discovery site may provide a clue as to why the immediate area has survived practically undisturbed.

"Although this area would have been heavily mined during the 19th century, it's possible the area around the cross was not disturbed for religious reasons. The Cross was moved to Hamilton Old Parish Church in 1925 but this stone was left to mark the spot where it once stood." He said it is possible road workers building the M74 motorway in the 1960's were similarly unwilling to disturb the land near the stone, allowing it to be preserved. The find is of sufficient importance that it has now been reported to Historic Scotland. The 'Time Detectives' working on the project are Kevin Mooney, 30, John-James Atkinson, 27, Kenny Green, 28 and Iraia Arabaolaza, who hails from the Basque Country.

They have so far found three coins and glazed pottery that could be as old as the 1400's. Added Warren: "We are not sure of the age of this structure yet. As the Netherton Cross was 10th or 11th Century, the surrounding houses could date from the same period. So we could be looking at something that's 1,000 years old."



Time Detectives turning back the clock

One of the unearthed coins

## Summer Placement Success

It's a tough choice facing any youngster – should I spend summer in Ibiza, or on a muddy construction site in Lanarkshire? Those who opt for the holiday may get a tan, but tans quickly fade. However, Gillian Smith opted for the latter and now she's glowing all over.

The structural and architectural engineering student opted for a summer placement with Scottish Roads Partnership.

She said; "I was facing the last year of my Masters degree. I had never been on a construction site before and it was a lot to take in, but I was really glad I did it. The placement lasted right through June, July and August and at the end of the 3 months, my manager took me to one side and offered me a job once I'd finished my course.

"It took all the pressure off me on my final year, allowing me to concentrate on getting good grades, rather than worry about finding a job."

In summer 2015, Gillian began working full time with Scottish Roads Partnership on the improvement to Raith Junction.

She added; "I'd recommend summer placements to anyone. And you can still go to Ibiza for a week at the end of it!"

Allocating summer placements is something the company does to provide valuable on-the-job training to ambitious students. As Gillian's case proves, the company benefits from being able to recruit some of the brightest minds around.

Colin Hoggan followed in Gillian's footsteps during summer 2015, working on a summer placement in the communications team.

Colin said; "I have just graduated from the University of the West of Scotland with a degree in marketing. When the opportunity presented itself to work on such a big project, I had to grab it with both hands. You can go on holiday any time but it's not often you get such a fantastic opportunity like this.

"I've been working on a number of things, ranging from helping to design and create content for the newsletter, to liaising with our photographer to get drone footage of a major new bridge being slid into place."

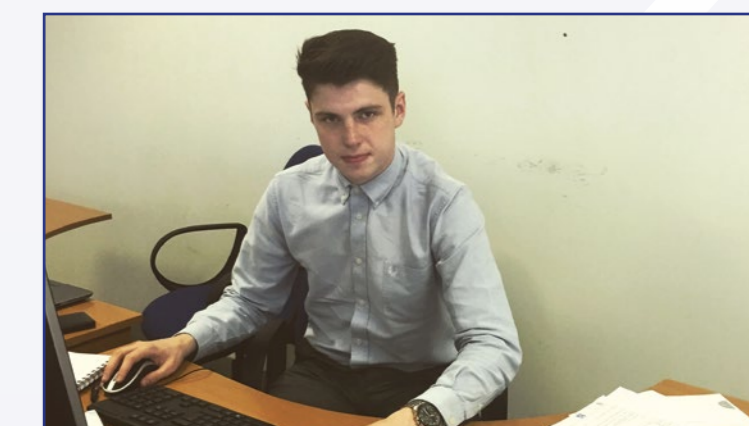
Colin will also be staying on longer than expected. He added; "I'm delighted to have been offered this full-time post. It proves that not only does a placement give students invaluable experience, but it can also open doors for the next step in your career".

Gillian and Colin are two great examples of how summer placements here can further a graduates career prospects.

If you are interested in a placement on the M8 M73 M74 Motorway Improvements Project, please contact: [info@scotsroadspartnership.co.uk](mailto:info@scotsroadspartnership.co.uk).



Gillian Smith, Engineer, working on site



Colin Hoggan, Communications Assistant, enjoying his new role