

A9 Dualling

Luncarty to Pass of Birnam
Project newsletter

ISSUE
#02
Winter 2019



The project team sets up at Bankfoot

Over the last three months, preparations have been underway to construct the site compound which will be the hub or 'home' for the hundreds of staff employed to support this £96million major infrastructure project.

If you are interested in learning more about the project or would be interested in a presentation in our exhibition centre, please contact us on **0800 193 7313** or by email: **A9L2B@balfourbeatty.com**

The compound consists of a main building made up of several cabins arranged over a single level to house the project team, which will include our engineering team, designers and support staff.

The compound will also house a UKAS (United Kingdom Accreditation Service) certified laboratory to test various materials, including the aggregates, concrete and asphalt, which will be used in the construction process, on-site training facilities and a dedicated exhibition space.

Our exhibition space will be used to deliver presentations to local groups and visiting schools and colleges as well as serving as a drop-in centre for local residents or road users who wish to find out more about the project. We will be displaying scheme information boards, aerial and ground photography from the site and 3D models of the route in this space. This exhibition centre will operate in tandem with a series of viewing platforms that will be installed around the project to give everyone a chance to view the works on site as construction progresses.

While the compound is a temporary structure, we're keen to fit in to the surrounding environment and have created a series of topsoil bunds around its perimeter to minimise noise and visual impact on the area. Upon completion of the project in Spring 2021, the compound will be removed and the area will be returned to its former condition, prior to us departing from the site.

The work to establish the compound, which is nearing completion, has involved:

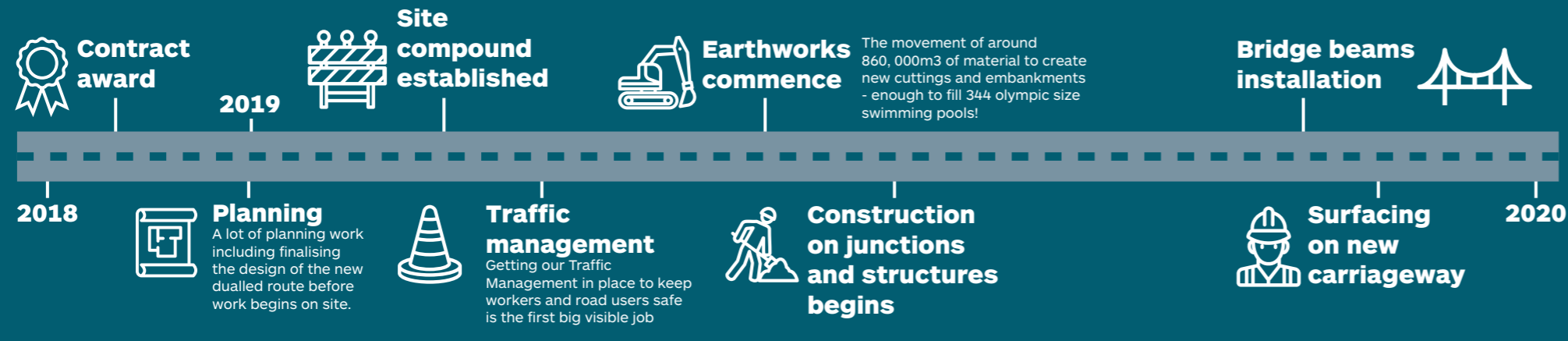
- Fencing of the compound boundary
- Stripping back the existing topsoil from the area
- Laying aggregate to provide a strong base for construction
- Installation of a septic tank
- Surface water drainage
- Installation of the cabins to form offices
- Surfacing of the car park and access points
- Interior fit out of the office buildings



Aerial view of the site compound, near Bankfoot.

Construction timeline - Year one

What you can expect



Meet the team



Alan Brisbane
Contract Manager

Alan graduated with a BEng from Paisley College in 1992, before joining Balfour Beatty's graduate scheme, and has worked with the company ever since.

Working across Scotland, Alan has worked on a diverse range of projects including; Clyde Windfarm extension; the Forth and Clyde Canal Millennium reopening; A8 Ballieston Major Maintenance works; M77/Glasgow Southern Orbital; and The Helix/Kelpies at Falkirk.

Locally, Alan delivered both the junction improvement works at the A9 Ballinluig and more recently, the first phase of the Perth Transport Futures project at Crieff Road.



Ken Brown
Corporate Social Responsibility Manager

Ken has worked for Balfour Beatty for 34 years and has delivered several road and rail projects throughout Scotland as Project Manager. He is committed to working with the team on the A9 Dualling: Luncarty to Pass of Birnam project to deliver meaningful and measurable benefits for local communities. Over the past two years, Ken has been involved in Phase One of the Perth Transport Futures Project where he developed many valuable connections with a wide range of local organisations, all of which will be instrumental in delivering social, economic and environmental benefits for local people.



Alan Thompson
Construction Manager

Alan started with Balfour Beatty 28 years ago as a student engineer and studied an HND in Engineering Surveying at

Trent University and has always had a strong interest in the technical side of construction. Alan worked on the M74 Extension, Glasgow Airport Terminal 2, Glendoick/Kinfauns junctions, M77 Glasgow Southern Orbital, Inchture Interchange and, most recently, the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route.



Duncan Gardner
Community Liaison Officer

As Community Liaison Officer (CLO) Duncan is the main point of contact for the project and it is his role to manage all correspondence with the public throughout the construction phase. He started working in construction as an engineer's assistant on the M77/Glasgow Southern Orbital more than 15 years ago. Since becoming a CLO five years ago, Duncan has helped deliver community benefits for a number of major infrastructure projects.

Meet the contractor events 2018

Balfour Beatty understands that this significant project will impact local people and communities in a variety of ways. In order to better understand the needs of the local community, we held a series of 'Meet the Contractor' events in December 2018.

The events were designed to give people the opportunity to meet members of the project team and learn more about the project, our proposals and to raise any questions or concerns directly with the team.

Events were held in Bankfoot, Stanley and Luncarty on the 3rd, 10th and 11th of December attracting more than 200 people from the local area.

As well as general interest in the project, the community was keen to discuss traffic management, access, environmental considerations and the new non-motorised user links that the project will create. The exhibition panels from these events can be viewed at the Transport Scotland website: www.transport.gov.scot/a9luncarty-passofbirnam

These events are the first in a wide ranging programme of community engagement that will take place during the construction of the project and will include: the continuation of Transport Scotland's Academy9 programme; school, college and university site visits; presentations and updates to Community Councils and community groups; and our mobile exhibitions, which allows us to bring project information to the surrounding communities.

If you are involved in a community organisation and would be interested in hearing more about the project, please contact the Community Liaison Team to discuss arranging an event.



Transport Scotland's Gary Tait speaks to a member of the community

A helping hand from nature

Environmental teams have been surveying the ecology of the area prior to construction to ensure that mitigation measures are put in place to protect the local wildlife and their habitats. Now, as we move into the construction phase, our teams will monitor and track local wildlife using infrared motion activated cameras. Stewart Parsons, our Environmental Advisor, captured video of a beaver making short work of a tree near to the Ordie Burn.

Beavers will soon be designated as a European Protected Species (EPS). In the meantime, we have worked with Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) to develop a pre-emptive species protection plan (SPP), which includes installing buffer zones around their habitat to limit disturbance from our works.

Infrared cameras are one of a multitude of measures to protect species during the project. Others include bat surveys and electro fishing.



To view the full video, visit the project website

Message from Alan Brisbane

As Balfour Beatty's Contract Manager for the A9 Dualling: Luncarty to Pass of Birnam project, I can speak on behalf of my entire team in saying that we are delighted to be a part of this important infrastructure improvement project.

The team tasked with delivering this section of the wider A9 dualling programme are highly skilled with significant experience of delivering major roads projects. We intend to deliver this project in a professional manner, working closely with the public and the surrounding communities to limit disruption wherever possible.

Our traffic management measures are now fully implemented which has opened up our construction site and will allow us to begin shaping the landscape through our earthworks programme. Over the coming weeks and months, you will see construction work begin on structures at key locations including where bridges will eventually cross the A9, providing future safe access for traffic and road users.



Taking place on Tuesday 19 and Wednesday 20 March 2019 at the Macdonald Aviemore Resort, the Academy9 conference is an opportunity for industry and educators to come together and explore how to further develop Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education opportunities for young people along the A9 corridor and beyond. The interactive event will showcase the award-winning Academy9 Programme, which has seen industry educate and inspire thousands of young people from Perth to Inverness in STEM.

Workshops will include:

- Developing the Young Workforce: Connecting Education with the World of Work
- The Power of Industry and Education in Partnership
- The Power of Mindset to Build Resilience and Embrace Challenge/Change
- Approaches to Delivering Skills and Employment Programmes in Infrastructure
- Visualisation in Construction
- New Industry in Scotland 2020: Attracting and Developing a Skilled Workforce

The conference will include guest keynote addresses from Kate Meyers, Head of Skills & Employment at HS2, Ollie Bray, Global Director for Connecting Play and Education at the LEGO Foundation and Rebekah Watson, Ambassador for Women in Aviation and Engineering. Contractors will learn about Transport Scotland's approach and expectations and have the opportunity to hear from young people and teachers about the difference Academy9 has made to them.

Find out more and reserve your place by going to: academy9conference.co.uk

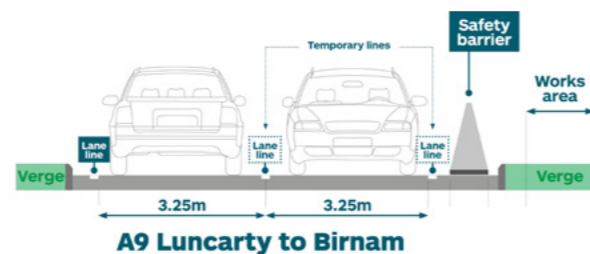
Traffic management signals start of major works

Construction of the new dual carriageway will involve our skilled team working in close proximity to the live traffic using the A9. The safety of our workforce and the thousands of road users who regularly use this route is of paramount importance to us. To ensure the safety of both our staff and of road users, we use traffic management to allow us to proceed with works while minimising disruption to road users as far as possible.

Since November 2018, we have undertaken a series of preparatory works during the night to enable the first major phase of Traffic Management to come into effect.

These works included creation of site access points on both the north and southbound carriageways to provide safe access to the site for our team, visitors and deliveries. We have also been installing new road markings and signage as well as widening the existing carriageway to provide extra space to move traffic into a narrowed lanes system, enabling works to proceed adjacent to the existing A9 without impacting traffic flows.

The laybys to the north and south of the construction area have also been extended to create more space for wide loads to be held before being escorted safely through the construction site. The final stage involved the installation of temporary safety barriers to separate the live traffic from the working area. The barriers were successfully installed during an overnight closure of the A9, in both directions, over a succession of four nights.



Now the traffic management is in place, construction works to dual the A9 from Luncarty to Pass of Birnam can progress. In the coming weeks, major earthworks and construction of the various structures will get underway.

We would ask all road users to drive with care when approaching the area, obey all signage and adhere to the speed restrictions to ensure the safety of our workforce and of other road users.

The latest project information can be found on noticeboards at the following locations:

- **Bankfoot**
Outside Nisa, Main Street, Bankfoot
- **Stanley**
Outside the Stanley Store, Percy Street, Stanley & outside Stanley Primary School
- **Luncarty**
Outside the Spar, Marshall Way, Luncarty
- **Project Offices**
Exhibition Centre, Loak, Bankfoot

To receive project updates by email or post, please contact the Community Liaison Team on **0800 193 7313** or by email: **A9L2B@balfourbeatty.com**

In Profile

James Lockwood
Abertay University



James is completing a Light Weight Deflectometer (LWD) test to determine ground stiffness/check compaction

Each quarter, we will focus on people working on the project and let them share their story about their pathway. The construction industry is facing a skills shortage and we are keen to help promote engineering to the next generation.

This issue, we speak to James Lockwood, a third year student from Abertay University who is completing a 12 week industrial placement at our on site laboratory.

Tell us about yourself...

My name is James Lockwood. I work as a Materials Technician in Balfour Beatty's on site material lab. I'm a third year Civil and Environmental Engineering student at Abertay University. I previously completed an HND in Civil Engineering at Dundee and Angus College.

What does your placement involve?

My role on the project involves taking samples of concrete, aggregates and asphalt and testing them to ensure they are compliant with the relevant specifications. With materials testing being so lightly touched on by academic courses, I have a lot of things to learn. Balfour Beatty's goal for me is to be a fully functioning efficient technician before I finish my placement. That includes knowledge in lab tests, in-situ tests and analysis. As part of my coursework, I will present what I learn in a technical report and a presentation for my peers.

What have you enjoyed so far?

The thing I enjoy most about my post here are my co-workers. People are understanding and there is a great atmosphere.

Have you found your experience valuable?

After completing just a few tests it becomes apparent that, unless you have experience in the labs, materials testing can be an unknown for many in the industry. I think that having the chance to start my career in a materials lab can give me a learning foundation when understanding materials, ground conditions and, ultimately, whether or not I can build with certain materials.

Where do you see yourself in the next 5 years?

In all honesty, I see myself working with Balfour Beatty. The opportunity for students within the company is outstanding. I work with another Materials Technician who followed a similar path and in a few weeks, he will be interviewing for a site engineer position. I hope that I'll be able to get a similar opportunity to advance my career with Balfour Beatty.

Construct a career in the media

As part of our commitment to provide opportunities for young people through the delivery of the Luncarty to Pass of Birnam project, we are looking to unearth some raw talent.

We want to hear from secondary school pupils between the ages of 15 and 18 with an interest in journalism to take on the role of a Roving Reporter. We will be approaching local schools in the coming weeks to appoint our Roving Reporters who will be given exclusive access behind the scenes of this major infrastructure improvement project.

The Roving Reporters will be tasked with preparing articles, videos, podcasts and other content designed to keep the public up to date with the latest progress on site.

The aim of the Roving Reporter role is to provide young people with valuable journalism experience, giving them an insight into a career in both the engineering and communications

professions. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in this role, you can speak to the Developing the Young Workforce lead in your secondary school or contact us directly using the contact details on page 2.



BBC interviews graduates

Look out for our Roving Reporters first contribution in next quarter's project newsletter!



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