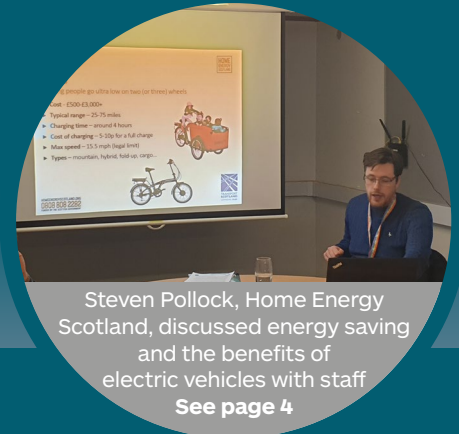


A92/A96 Haudagain Improvement Project newsletter



Steven Pollock, Home Energy Scotland, discussed energy saving and the benefits of electric vehicles with staff
See page 4

Welcome



Welcome to the third issue of our regular newsletter providing an update on progress and look ahead to future work.

The weather in this period has generally remained mild and settled with the exception of storms Ciara and Dennis. This has allowed us to progress work as we planned and you

can read more about the work we have delivered recently on page two.

Following the measures announced by the Scottish Government and discussions with Transport Scotland, construction work on the project will temporarily cease until further notice due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Operations have shut down safely and the site will be suitably secured for the duration of the closure. The closure of the site will be subject to continuous review.

We would once again like to take the opportunity to thank both the local community and road users for their patience and co-operation to date. Whilst some of the work may cause temporary disruption, it is essential to deliver the project. We hope to be able to resume construction activities as soon as possible, meantime I hope that you and your families stay safe.

**Tristram Browne, Project Manager,
Farrans Construction**



The construction of a new turning head at Logie Terrace and works at Manor Terrace, now both closed at the junctions with Manor Avenue



Progress update

Since the New Year, the construction team have continued to make good progress. The focus has been on progressing the diversion of utilities as well as the permanent closure of Manor and Logie Terrace.

These closures have allowed us to start the construction of the realigned Manor Avenue which will connect to the new link road. Preparatory works to connect the link road to the A96 are already underway and we are continuing to progress with earthworks and drainage throughout the site.

The construction of a new turning head at Logie Terrace is underway with works at Manor Terrace, closed at the junction with Manor Avenue.

UTILITY DIVERSIONS

Utility diversions have progressed well and are now more than 75% complete.

A continuation of traffic management and local parking restrictions in the area has allowed this work to progress safely and, whilst we appreciate that these can cause some disruption and inconvenience, we would remind you that the parking restrictions should be adhered to at all times. These areas are marked out by the use of no parking cones and are to ensure the safety of members of the public and the workforce.

EARTHWORKS AND DRAINAGE

Earthworks are well underway and we have made good progress so far with a large amount of material excavated. We plan to reuse excavated material where possible in the construction of the new road.

The majority of the road drainage pipework has now been installed and will drain to a detention basin which treats the road surface water and provides extra storage capacity during periods of heavy rainfall to help prevent flooding of the local area.

The next stage will be to carry out a deep excavation to connect the detention basin to the adjacent Scatterburn, which is an underground watercourse that flows to the River Don.



Progress showing utilities crossing Manor Avenue near to the junction with North Anderson Drive



Foreground showing the progress on the Sustainable Urban Drainage System detention basin with the utility trench works on the right-hand side, also shows the new road alignment taking shape behind the Farrans site accommodation

Looking ahead

We are making good progress and once construction work resumes we will be focusing on:

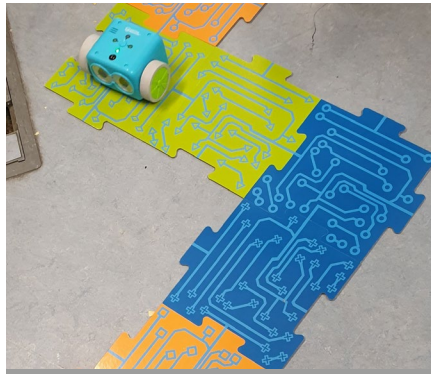
- Works to realign Manor Avenue at the junction of Manor Terrace
- Closure of Manor Drive to install the sheet piled cofferdam required to construct the Scatterburn outfall. The cofferdam will provide support to the deep excavation allowing a safe and dry area for our operatives to work in
- Construction of a retaining wall on the junction of Manor Drive and the A96
- Phased traffic management on the A96 at Auchmill Road – Haudagain roundabout to construct the A96 connection to the new dual carriageway link road
- Phased traffic management on the A92 at North Anderson Drive – Haudagain roundabout to construct the A92 connection to the new dual carriageway link road.

ENGAGING WITH EDUCATION

Maths week

As part of Maths Week, Community Liaison Officer, Angela Newlands, visited Manor Park Primary School and talked to the pupils about Civil Engineering and the practical application of maths within the industry.

The students then had to complete tasks including programming robots which encouraged skills in estimating, counting, listening, teamwork, programming and logic. The Head Teacher from the school said “The Maths Week activity was really well received, and the pupils were very engaged and keen to learn more. Primary 3 had been looking at the construction work and asking lots



Pupils programmed the robot to move in different directions to reach the end point

of questions. The activities and conversation answered all their questions and they were able to make connections to their learning. Staff are keen to have additional input from Farrans in the future.”

‘Safety Sam is on his travels’

Safety Sam has been visiting local schools to make sure that children are aware of the dangers of playing in and around construction sites.

This time we visited Bramblebrae Primary School where Safety Sam spoke to 174 pupils, teaching them the ‘play safe, stay safe message’ and pupils were given hi-vis vests and promotional items to help remind them of this important message.



University of Aberdeen visit

Members of the site team visited students at Aberdeen University to talk about career opportunities with Farrans.

Roger Webster, Site Engineer working with Farrans since graduating from Edinburgh University in 2014, gave the students an insight into the various different projects that he has been involved in. Ed Davidson, who is currently on a year-long placement with Farrans in the Commercial Team as a Quantity Surveyor, spoke about his positive experience so far. Angela Newlands, Community Liaison Officer, also gave a short presentation and a Q&A session for the students. Angela Newlands said “It was a great opportunity to engage with the students. Studying Civil Engineering myself, I know how important it is to engage with people currently working on site to get an idea of what it is like outside the classroom environment.”



Farrans staff talking at Aberdeen University campus, sharing their experience of Farrans with the students

Jill Rettie, University Employer Liaison Officer, said “It was fantastic to welcome Farrans Construction to discuss career opportunities with our students. Employer insights regarding opportunities within their organisation and sector provides students with the chance to engage with their future career paths and learn from real life experience.”

IN THE COMMUNITY



Roger Webster, Site Engineer, delivering the food parcels to the Northfield Foodbank in time for the Christmas break

NORTHFIELD FOODBANK

Staff working on the project kindly gave a donation to the foodbank in Northfield. Roger Webster, Site Engineer and Carol Fleming, Graduate Engineer delivered the food parcels in time for the Christmas break. Jacqui, a representative from the Northfield Community Centre, expressed her thanks for the donation.

PUBLIC DROP-IN EVENT

In December 2019, the project team were on hand at the Hub on Manor Avenue to give out information on the upcoming works and to respond to any queries from members of the public. This has been the second event since the project mobilised on site in spring 2019. The event gave a progress update and details on the upcoming work in the surrounding areas.

The project team at the Hub on Manor Avenue



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SPOTLIGHT ON

Traffic management

Working adjacent to two major trunk roads (A96 and A92) as well as within the local road network, means that keeping road users moving as quickly as possible through the road network, can sometimes be a challenge.

Jim Bailey of Hatton Traffic Management has the job of making this go as smoothly as possible. He brings a wealth of experience of the road network in and around Aberdeen which is invaluable for us whilst we are working in the area.

What is the best part of your job?

The best part of my job is completing the build of new permanent infrastructure projects safely and seeing the ongoing results for the communities.

What is the most challenging?

One of the most exciting challenges is to find a solution that fits for everyone in a tight urban space such as the Haudagain Roundabout. These areas have decades of traffic control measures which operate in a fine balance. Once any element is changed or removed this creates new challenges, giving us the opportunity to be innovative with the tools available to maintain a safe site.



Jim Bailey, Hatton Traffic Management

What does your typical day involve?

When designing any project we begin by evaluating the risk present on the site. We use a site and work assessment process which involves assessing the road area, the volume of traffic, what mode of transport people are using, the surrounding area and the type and duration of the work to be undertaken. Working closely with the engineers, we build a picture of the work area needed and specify the risks the work activity will create. We then develop the most effective method of control using the current industry guidance, methodology and technology available. This ensures the safest and most efficient traffic plan is put into place.

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

As we continue to deliver the Haudagain Improvement project, we will require various traffic management measures, including lane closures, temporary traffic lights and road closures. There will also be measures in place to safely divert pedestrians. We aim to keep you informed throughout the construction works with letter drops, door to door visits, press releases, social media, advance warning signs, website and information boards in the following locations: The Hub, Manor Avenue, AB16 7UR; Outside Manor Park School, 2 Danestone Circle, AB16 7YB and Mastrick Access Point, Spey Road, AB16 6SH. We have held two public drop-in sessions. The most recent aimed to inform the community on the changes to the local road network within the Middlefield Estate in the coming months.



The project's dedicated Community Liaison Officer, Angela Newlands' role is to keep members of the public informed as work progresses. If you have any queries concerning the project, please contact Angela at: haudagain@farrans.com or telephone 0800 783 0024

FURTHER PROJECT INFORMATION

For further information on the project, please visit: transport.gov.scot/projects/a92a96-haudagain-improvement

E-bike trial

Staff were pleased to have been visited by Steven Pollock from Home Energy Scotland who delivered a presentation on energy saving and discussed the benefits of using electric vehicles.

The site currently has two fully electric vehicles (one shown pictured in the background), and a hybrid vehicle. To compliment these, staff were given the opportunity to try out electric bicycles; 14 staff took the opportunity to participate in something that will both help with energy saving and promote positive health benefits. This initiative compliments the project's recent decision to sign up for this Healthy Working Lives programme to promote positive health awareness.



Staff trying out the e-bike provided by Transport Scotland

Considerate constructors

The Haudagain site is registered with the Considerate Constructors Scheme (ccscheme.org.uk). Farrans are a committed scheme partner and were delighted to receive a Certificate of Excellence at the end of last year for the project.



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