

A77 Maybole Bypass

Project newsletter



The culvert under construction at Smithston

Welcome



Welcome to the second issue of our regular newsletter which provides you with a progress update and a look ahead to the work we will

be focusing on in the coming months on the A77 Maybole Bypass project.

Following the measures announced by the Scottish Government and discussions with Transport Scotland, construction work on the project has temporarily ceased until further notice due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Operations have shut down safely and

the site suitably secured, and the site will continually be monitored for the duration of the closure. The closure of the site will be subject to continuous review.

Prior to the shutdown of the site, we had made steady progress with the results becoming increasingly visible at key points along the length of the route. At Alloway Road and Gardenrose Path, construction work is well underway on the abutments which will form part of the bridges in these areas.

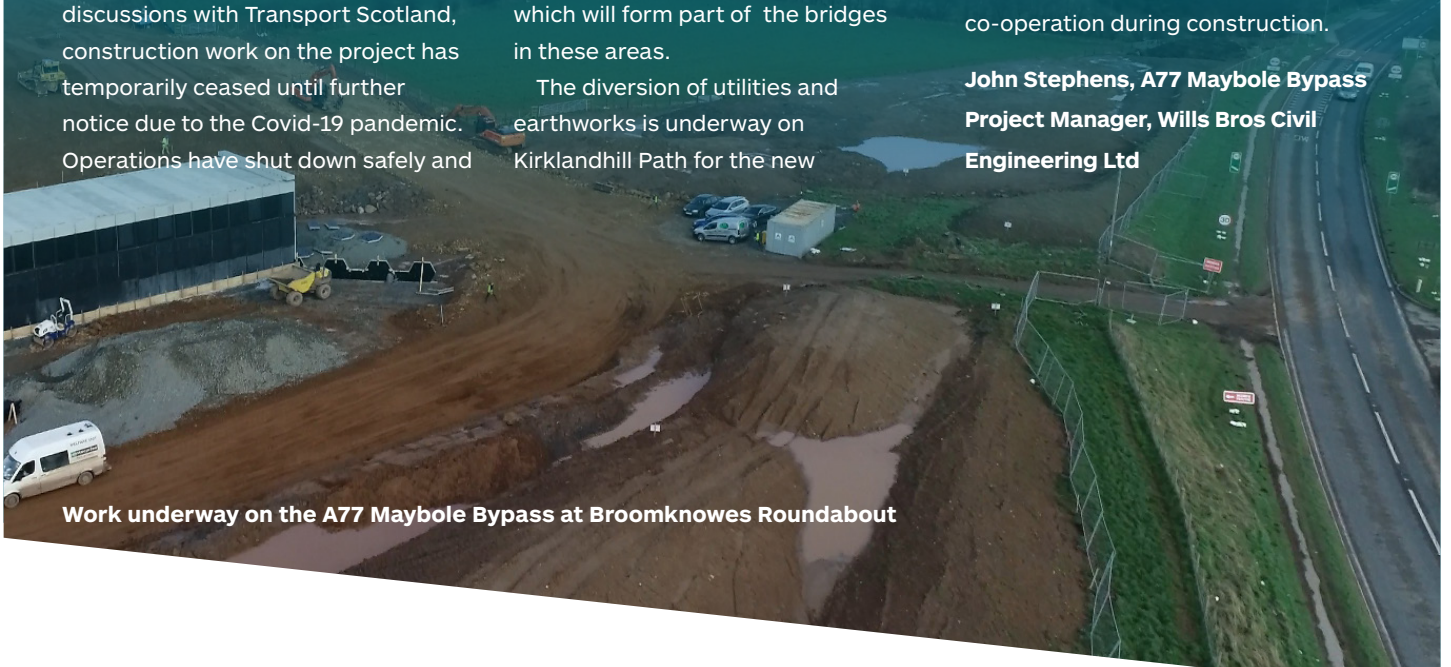
The diversion of utilities and earthworks is underway on Kirklandhill Path for the new

overbridge and on Culzean Road in preparation for the construction of the roundabout.

I plan to continue to keep you updated on the progress of work to deliver the bypass.

On behalf of myself and the whole project team, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the local community and road users for your continued patience, support and co-operation during construction.

John Stephens, A77 Maybole Bypass Project Manager, Wills Bros Civil Engineering Ltd



Work underway on the A77 Maybole Bypass at Broomknowes Roundabout



Alloway Road Underpass under construction

Progress update on A77 Maybole Bypass

Since the last newsletter, we have made good progress in constructing the A77 Maybole Bypass.

We continue to work in partnership with statutory and utility organisations to divert utilities, which is a key phase to allow construction of the bypass.

On 19 November 2019, we held a public information event in the local Carrick Centre, which was well attended by local residents and businesses. The aim of the event was to provide an update on the progress of work and we were pleased to receive positive feedback from the community.

EARTHWORKS

Our earthworks team has carried out topsoil stripping, rock cutting, excavation and bulk movement of earth, remedial works, culvert installations and drainage work along the route.

We have already moved more than a quarter of a million tonnes of earthwork.



STRUCTURES

- Gardenrose Path Overbridge - road closure in place and progress made on the foundations of the overbridge
- Kirklandhill Path Overbridge - utility diversions completed and traffic management installed for plant crossings.
- Broomknowes Underpass - construction of reinforced walls and roof complete and work now started on the wing walls.
- Alloway Road Underbridge - construction of northern abutment underway
- Smithston, Broomknowes and Culzean roundabouts - site preparation works have begun and a major culvert installed at Smithston.

ENVIRONMENTAL

We take our environmental responsibilities seriously. We are liaising regularly with the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) and the Ayrshire River Trust, monitoring works at Broch Loch Burn, managing exclusion zones for badgers and otters and developing fish rescue plans to help facilitate river diversions.

We are currently being assessed for our sustainability under the CEEQUAL (Civil Engineering Environmental Quality

Assessment and Awards Scheme).

We have been monitoring the carbon footprint on-site, managing waste disposal and recycling and protecting the local environment including wildlife.

Our aim is to reduce the project's carbon emissions and waste and to work towards developing a sound environmental legacy.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Mike Nash, Senior Traffic Management Engineer works with our traffic management firm Class One to liaise with Ayrshire Roads Alliance, South Ayrshire Council and Transport Scotland ensuring that all required traffic management operations are properly installed and functions as intended. He organises and plans traffic diversion routes and the diversion of public utilities which are needed to progress construction works.

Traffic management operations such as temporary traffic signals and reduced lane width have been installed on Alloway Road, Culzean Road, Gardenrose Path and at Low Grange Bungalow Road. Improvements are also underway at Kirklandhill Path.



Rural College of Agriculture students visit the site

Schools and educational programme

So far, we have given health and safety and environmental presentations to the three local primary schools in Maybole.

We worked with local secondary schools through a South Ayrshire initiative where fifth and sixth-year students could apply for a flexible work placement to gain experience for university applications or future job prospects.

We provided placements for two

students from Carrick Academy and Belmont Academy, who demonstrated an interest in environmental engineering. The placements lasted for seven weeks and let the students gain experience of a workplace, including time spent on a construction site.

The students carried out several different tasks such as environmental monitoring, testing, inspections and audits, as well as reporting on their findings.

Both students provided positive feedback and were grateful for the insight and experience the placements gave them.

We recently hosted a visit for fifteen third and fourth-year degree students from Ayr's Rural College of Agriculture which included a tour of the site and a presentation from Scott Duncan, Environmental Officer and Roy Pearson, Health & Safety Officer.

Community benefits and skills plan



Our Community Liaison Officer (CLO), Bridie Casey, has been working with South Ayrshire Council, the Department of Work & Pensions and various training agencies in a bid to provide training and employment

opportunities on the project for Ayrshire residents.

We are keen to ensure that a positive legacy is left as a result of the A77 Maybole Bypass project.

So far, the community benefits scheme has provided eight jobs for local people in administration, trainee community liaison, document control positions, plant operatives and site engineering staff.

Thanks to a partnership with South Ayrshire Council, two people from disadvantaged backgrounds and with some health and educational support needs will start working on-site when it is possible, letting them attain basic construction skills and their Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) cards.

We continue to provide several short term supported placements on-site for those people requiring

additional support for health, mobility or educational reasons, to help increase their confidence and skills and improve their future employment perspectives.

We participated in two jobs fairs held at the Ayr Jobcentre Plus office, where we discussed opportunities and skills required to work in construction with job seekers.

In addition to this, we have also filled four permanent graduate placements in civil engineering, commercial and environmental fields of work.

In partnership with Skills Development Scotland, we continue to support our staff who want to improve their qualifications by providing the opportunity for them to obtain an SVQ. So far, 22 people who work for us or for our sub-contractors and suppliers have enrolled in the scheme.

Rock donation for conservation works

We are keen to establish strong working partnerships with local businesses and organisations in Ayrshire.

Recently, we provided the National Trust for Scotland's Culzean Castle & Country Park estate with local excess materials obtained from the Maybole Bypass project. We were only too happy to supply the estate's traditional stonemasonry centre with local rock to help with the conservation works which are underway.

Local topsoil was donated to Culzean Castle's park rangers to support the construction of a tree nursery they are building for educational purposes. We hope to be able to assist the estate further as the project progresses.



Scott Duncan, Environmental Officer for Wills Bros arranged for the materials to be handed over.

Looking ahead

Once construction recommences, our focus will be to progress the following work:

- **Gardenrose Path:** the road closure will continue to be in place with the commencement of the abutment wall of the overbridge.
- **Kirklandhill Path:** utilities and traffic management for plant crossings
- **Broomknowes Underpass:** work will continue on the structures wing walls and associated drainage
- **Alloway Road:** construction of a reinforced wall with material placed behind the wall and drainage to be installed.
- **Smithston, Broomknowes and Culzean Roundabouts:** earthworks, culvert installation and drainage work. This will require traffic management measures to be installed.
- **Site clearance:** topsoil stripping and progressing the earthworks programme with rock excavations and cut and fill earthworks at various locations along the route
- Diversion of public utilities to facilitate construction works
- Construction/maintenance of haul routes for earthworks programme
- Drainage, ducting and culvert work
- Planning diversion routes and installing traffic management plans to facilitate project works
- Further interaction with local schools on a range of environmental projects, flexible work learning placements, mentoring, and careers events.

Considerate constructors



The site is pleased to be registered with the Considerate Constructors Scheme (www.ccscheme.org.uk). The scheme aims to provide contractors with a Code of Considerate Practice which has been developed to encourage best practice beyond statutory construction industry requirements.

FURTHER PROJECT INFORMATION

If you have any matters you wish to raise concerning the A77 Maybole Bypass project, please contact: Bridie Casey, Community Liaison Officer, at:

bridgetcasey@willsbros.com or on our freephone number: **0800 118 1661**

For more information on the project please visit:

transport.gov.scot/projects/a77-maybole-bypass

