



ISSUE
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A9 Dualling

Luncarty to Pass of Birnam
Project newsletter



Balfour Beatty



ATKINS
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Jacobs





Major milestone reached as miles of new carriageway opens to traffic



Looking south from the new Stanley/Tullybelton junction

The A9 Dualling: Luncarty to Pass of Birnam project reached a significant milestone on 17 November 2020, as the A9 traffic was switched onto a new section of the recently constructed carriageway between Bankfoot North Junction and the old Luncarty North Junction.

Road users are now able to drive on the new A9 carriageway for the entire journey through the works area, freeing up the old A9 carriageway and allowing construction works to begin to upgrade it.

As part of the new traffic management layout, the new slip roads to the east side of the new Stanley/Tullybelton Junction also opened to traffic, allowing road users access to the new Luncarty Link Road and removing Luncarty North Junction from operation.



Looking north from the new Stanley/Tullybelton junction

The removal of Luncarty North Junction is a key objective of the project, and the wider A9 Dualling Programme, to improve safe access to and from the A9 by removing at grade junctions.

The team is now focussed on the removal and reinstatement of the old A9, to upgrade this to the same standard as the sections already opened to traffic, eventually giving the A9 at this section dual carriageway status.

To allow the project team to facilitate the upgrade to Bankfoot South Junction, a temporary junction has been constructed to provide access to Bankfoot from the south.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank road users and the local community for their ongoing patience and adherence to the temporary speed restrictions and no-overtaking rules throughout the works. These will remain in place for the duration of the works.



Virtual work experience

Nurturing young talent and engaging with construction professionals of the future is of paramount importance to the project team. We spent a considerable amount of time and effort developing innovative solutions to allow us to continue this engagement despite restrictions that have prevented school, college and university students and non-essential visitors coming to site.

In our Summer newsletter, we highlighted how our project team embraced online or virtual work experience opportunities. The team has continued to learn and adapt this type of engagement, working with education providers and Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) to provide valuable resources to our local schools.

This culminated in the launch of our own, bespoke five-week virtual work experience programme in November 2020. Our programme provides a flexible opportunity for young people from S4 upwards to join live online events which enable direct access to construction experts in a number of disciplines, including Design, Project Management, Commercial and Community Investment. Each week, participants are set a themed task to learn about a particular specialism and then put the theory into practice.

The programme reached more than 200 young people across Scotland, including 15 students from St. John's Academy in Perth on the first course.

Steven McLaughlin, Principal Teacher of Guidance and Developing the Young Workforce lead at St. John's, said: "This virtual work experience is an innovative and engaging response to the challenges we face during this pandemic.



"Although nothing can replace on site experience, this virtual offer really does give students a better idea of the variety of careers available to them and what working in engineering and construction involves. The feedback from our students has been hugely positive."

In addition to delivering the programme, we were thrilled to receive accreditation from the Engineering Development Trust's 'Industrial Cadets' programme, therefore all participants who complete the five week course will receive a Bronze Industrial Cadets certificate.

Hector Macaulay, Managing Director of Balfour Beatty Scotland and Ireland and the first HRH Industrial Cadets Ambassador in Scotland, commented: "I'm delighted that the team has developed and implemented this innovative form of virtual work experience to maintain our commitment to fully engage with the next generation of construction professionals.

"In recognising the current challenges associated with the delivery of traditional on site work experience, it is great to see the high levels of participation achieved by schools and colleges across Scotland, and the quality of this online experience which is accredited by the national Industrial Cadets programme."

If you want to learn more or are interested in taking part in our next session running in 2021, contact us at A9L2B@balfourbeatty.com

Stanley lunch club celebrate at home this Christmas

One of our highlights of 2019, was working with Stanley Development Trust (SDT) to help deliver its annual Christmas Lunch Club. We were very much looking forward to supporting the event again to celebrate Christmas 2020 with a festive turkey meal and a boogie with some of the lunch clubbers.

However, faced with the challenges of 2020, the traditional sit-down meal was not an option as we endeavour to keep one another safe. Always eager to come up with something different, we worked with Laura

Baird, Care and Wellbeing project coordinator at SDT, to support the delivery of Christmas Afternoon Tea boxes for the lunch clubbers – each one containing a hearty soup, festive themed filled rolls and a selection of cakes and sweet treats. The boxes were delivered by the Trust's lunch club volunteers.

Laura said "Once again we are extremely grateful to Balfour Beatty for its continued support. Together we found a way to make sure that the lunch club didn't miss out on a festive treat. It was a real joy to see the pleasure that the Christmas Afternoon Tea boxes brought to people. And the doorstep deliveries gave our volunteers an opportunity to check that everyone was keeping well."



Volunteers from the Trust delivered the festive themed boxes

Celebrating double award success

The A9 Dualling: Luncarty to Pass of Birnam project celebrated a double awards win recently, receiving two prestigious industry awards within a matter of weeks.

The project was named 'Infrastructure Project of the Year' at the recent Go Awards Scotland 2020, and secured a prestigious industry accolade of a Silver Considerate Constructors Scheme (CCS) 2020 National Site Award.

The Go Excellence in Public Procurement Awards, which were held virtually on Friday, 6 November 2020, recognise the achievement and success of the project from its procurement through to the delivery of social value and community benefits during the construction phase.

Receiving the award, Gemma Patterson (nee Montrose), Project Sponsor for Transport Scotland, said: "The innovative approach taken during the procurement of this project has resulted in greater emphasis on delivering real benefits to the communities which surround our construction site.

"We are extremely proud of our school's engagement programme, the 59 new jobs created and the 38 work placements we have achieved to date, to name just a few. The award is great testament to the dedication and support of our contractor Balfour Beatty, our third sector employability partners and the communities of Perthshire, who have been so supportive of our onsite team."

Similarly, the CCS national site awards recognise the highest level of consideration towards the public, its workforce and the environment, which is achieved by adhering to the Scheme's Code of Considerate Practice. The code covers five key areas including: Appearance; Respect the community; Protect the environment; Secure everyone's safety and Value the workforce.



Project delivers festive cheer to local school by the wheelbarrow load

Schools engagement has been at the forefront of this project from the outset and now more than ever, our support is making a difference to pupils in the local area.

Schools have quickly had to adapt the way they operate to keep pupils and staff safe, with many children spending more time outdoors. Auchtergaven Primary School in Bankfoot contacted the project team for assistance to improve their outdoor space, allowing them to use it more freely during the winter months.



Hard at work moving 10T of gravel by hand

wheelbarrow to the outdoor classroom while others spent time sprucing up the nurse's garden.

Reconomy, the project's waste management supplier donated the use of a skip to allow the school to dispose of old planters and equipment being stored in the playground to make more space for the pupils to play.



The path surrounding the outdoor classroom was waterlogged and muddy

The outdoor classroom is a great resource for the school, but the paths surrounding it were badly in need of improvement. One of the project's subcontractors, Breedon, generously donated more than £1,000 worth of gravel and delivered it to the school to improve access around the structure. A small team of project volunteers spent the morning in the school grounds, transporting the gravel by



James levelling off the gravel around the outdoor classroom



Our team of volunteers - Rachael, Greig, Louise and James





Seasons Greetings!

As 2020 draws to a close and we look towards a new year, we would like to thank road users and members of the local communities for their continued support and patience as we progress this vital infrastructure project.

Minimising disruption to road users and those affected by our works remains at the forefront of our planning process and we will endeavour to keep you up to date with our progress and construction plans.

The site will close from **23 December 2020, to 4 January 2021**. During the holiday period, our traffic management team will be on site to monitor and maintain our traffic management measures and to respond to any emergencies. The project enquiries line will remain open 24 hours a day throughout the holiday period.

We look forward to returning next year to complete this important project. We do hope that you all are able to have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, however you are able to celebrate.

In Profile: Santa Claus

This quarter, in a very festive special edition of InProfile, we speak to Santa himself, sporting his red PPE as always, about preparations for the most important night of the year, skills programmes for his elves and his concerns about climate change.

How are preparations going for the big day?

We have had to adapt this year to ensure the safety of my team during the pandemic. Toy production started early this year at the north pole to ensure that all our annual deadlines will be met. However, I am delighted to say that we are on track to deliver a successful Christmas, and I offer my sincere thanks to my elves and the rest of the team.

With games consoles and smart phones on the rise as preferred gifts, how are the elves keeping up with rapid technological advancements?

After Christmas is over each year, following a well-deserved break, my elves start an intense research and development phase; studying the top trending toys and learning about innovative production techniques. Each year we take on a new crop of elf-pretences who learn their skills on the job. No longer is master woodworking the only skill that our expert elves require. We are branching out with our skillset, with electrical engineering and high-level programming competency now a key consideration.

What do you see as the main challenges facing you in the coming years?

As the world looks to tackle the challenges of climate change, nowhere is this more of a concern than here at the north pole. Having always been a fan of sustainable transportation solutions, it's wonderful to see so many people moving away from petrol and diesel vehicles to embrace a more sustainable future. I'm looking forward to being able to share some of the secrets of reindeer propulsion in advance of the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) which is being held in Glasgow later next year!

And finally - who's on the naughty list this year?


I am delighted to say that it's a very short list. Boys and girls across the world have been very good this year – helping each other, showing kindness through challenging times and working together in their communities to support their friends, family and neighbours. I know it's going to be a different Christmas than many are used to, but I am wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas. Ho, ho ho!




Santa Claus is coming to town!

Contact Us

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