

A77 Maybole Bypass

Project newsletter



Roundabout at
Culzean Road

Welcome

Welcome to the fourth issue of our project newsletter which provides a progress update and a look ahead to the work we will be focusing on in the coming months for the A77 Maybole Bypass Project.

I am pleased to be able to report that work on the A77 Maybole Bypass is progressing well.

As always, our priority is the health and safety of the workforce and local community. We continue to keep health and safety plans and safe operating procedures under daily review. We aim to ensure strict

adherence to hygiene and physical distancing rules at all times and that all our activities are undertaken in full compliance with Scottish Government guidelines.

We would like to ask for your continued co-operation in respecting physical distancing measures to safeguard the health of our staff.

I am keen to keep our stakeholders and members of the local community informed of our progress. I hope this newsletter provides a useful update regarding what we have achieved over the last few months.



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



View looking south towards Broomknowes Roundabout

Progress update on A77 Maybole Bypass

SITE ACTIVITIES

Since our winter newsletter and despite inclement weather conditions, we are pleased to advise that construction work continues to progress well.

As well as our main site compound at Alloway Road, you may have noticed that we have now established satellite site facilities at various locations across the route to facilitate ongoing construction work in recent months. Please read on to find out more about the progress we have made on our construction programme.

STRUCTURES

● Alloway Road

The B7024 Alloway Road was closed overnight in February for works on the new overbridge. Once complete, the new overbridge will take traffic using the new bypass over Alloway Road. Two concrete pumps were used to equally load the bridge deck and beams simultaneously. Once the concrete was poured and the deck cast, a temporary ramp was installed to allow construction traffic to cross Alloway Road. This will reduce the number of occasions in the future when Alloway Road has to be closed to road users to allow plant machinery to cross safely in the coming months.



Structure at B7024 Alloway Road

● Gardenrose Path Overbridge

Construction work is making good progress at Gardenrose Path Overbridge. The project team has been busy constructing the finishing works. The bridge deck has been waterproofed and kerbs, drainage systems and the parapet barrier are now installed.



Footpath and parapet construction at Gardenrose Path

● Kirklandhill Path

The bulk excavation at Kirklandhill Path is complete. Work to construct the road including the structure will start once Gardenrose Path reopens to ensure that disruption to road users is minimised.

ROUNABOUTS

Work continues at each of the three roundabout locations; Broomknowes, Culzean Road and Smithston.

To minimise disruption to road users, the team has carried out as much of the work as possible offline of the existing A77. This has included the installation of kerbs, drainage, street light ducting and public utilities in the verge of the road. The roundabouts at both Culzean Road and Broomknowes which include the construction of a combined kerb drainage system and a lay-by, are nearing completion. Thereafter, the team will focus on roadworks including surfacing, footpath creation and a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) pond.

Meanwhile, at the roundabout at Smithston, the team is continuing full steam ahead with the earthworks operations and installing the drainage pipes.



Smithston Roundabout at the northern tie-in

● Low Grange Bungalow

Work has been progressing over many months at Low Grange Bungalow to move utilities and undertake culvert work in preparation for further construction of the roundabout at Smithston. To ensure the safety of the site staff and the general public it was necessary to close Low Grange Bungalow. The road re-opened in January following completion of the majority of work. However, a further closure will be necessary to complete the work in full.

EARTHWORKS

The earthworks team is making good progress across a number of areas of the site. Activities such as stripping topsoil, rock cutting, excavation and the bulk movement of earth continue.

We are keen to identify and reuse as much suitable earthwork material as possible. For example, the team used rock from one area of the site, crushed and processed it and transported the material to other parts of the site to be used within ground improvement layers and to build up embankments. The structure at Alloway Road bridge recently benefitted from using suitable material which has been repurposed to backfill both sides of structure. The team is also in the final stages of trimming and clearing rock slopes that can be found along the route.

Looking ahead

In the coming months we will be focusing on:

- **Earthworks and drainage** – the project team will continue trimming and clearing rock slopes along the route and installing kerbs and drainage pipes.
- **Cabling works** – installation of cabling for Information Technology Systems and street lighting.
- **Landscaping** – hedgerow planting is underway at sections across the route of the bypass.
- **Various traffic management road closures and diversions** are planned. There will be plant crossings at Culzean Road and Gardenrose Path.
- **Ongoing daily environmental monitoring works and consultation** with SEPA and other key stakeholders will continue.

Careers

GRADUATE EXPERIENCE

Beth Docherty works as a Graduate Environmental Advisor on the project.

Beth graduated from Glasgow Caledonian University in the summer of 2020, with a First-Class Honours Degree in Environmental Management. Her university studies provided a wealth of knowledge which has prepared her for working in the construction industry. Beth considers the daily experience she is gaining through working in a graduate role for Wills Bros invaluable for her future career.

Beth's aim was to work in the environmental industry in a role where she could help ensure that environmental issues are not only considered, but are at the forefront.

In her role as a Graduate Environmental Advisor, Beth feels she is achieving that aim and said, "The world is constantly evolving, and infrastructure is constantly being built and changed, and by working in this industry I feel that I am playing a central role in ensuring this is done in the most sustainable way possible."

The A77 Maybole Bypass project has various environmental and ecological constraints. Beth's role includes water management, waste management, dust control and air quality monitoring, ecology (protected and invasive plant and animal species), noise monitoring, applying for licences and liaising with statutory bodies, completing environmental audits and the managing and monitoring of environmental incidents.

Beth is enjoying her role and finds each day is different.



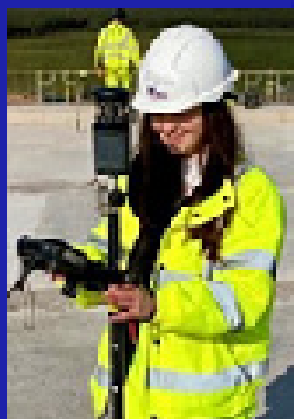
Graduate Environmental Advisor, Beth Docherty



Being a Graduate Apprentice is giving me the opportunity to put what I am learning as part of my civil engineering degree into practice.

Fiona Thomson
Civil Engineering
Graduate Apprentice

 transport.gov.scot



WILLS BROS CELEBRATED SCOTTISH APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

During Scottish Apprenticeship Week in March, Wills Bros and Transport Scotland celebrated the benefits that apprenticeships can bring to an organisation, to the economy as well as the opportunities provided for the young people themselves.

Since starting work in April 2019, Wills Bros has supported six Modern Apprentice and five Graduate Apprentice opportunities on the A77 Maybole Bypass project.

Chief Executive of Transport Scotland, Roy Brannen said:

"We know how important it is to support our young people through these routes, helping them to learn on the job and gain the valuable experience they need, whilst working towards their qualification.

That is why we are committed to providing apprenticeship opportunities through our procurements to help engage and inspire the next generation of engineers. We also provide opportunities within the organisation, giving our young people a chance to work within a business environment. I'd like to thank all our partners and those who work with us for their commitment to providing these opportunities and supporting our young people."

Community engagement

HELPING OUR NEIGHBOURS

OUR LADY AND ST CUTHBERT'S PARISH IN MAYBOLE

We were delighted to help the parish committee, who requested a donation of soil so they could turn an area of unused land across from the church grounds into a community garden.

The project has been established by Carrick Community Food Garden (CCFG) to support and benefit food bank users and others affected by social, economic and health issues. The project will offer them the opportunity to create and maintain the plot of land.

In March, the CCFG realised that the soil on the plot of land was too scarce and inadequate for what they had planned and turned to Wills Bros for help. Simon Bloomfield, spokesperson for the CCFG, said: "Wills Bros, the contractor for the A77 Maybole Bypass, came to our rescue.

"Under the direction of Foreman, John McDonald, 50 tonnes of soil were delivered by Luke, a 9-tonne dumper truck driver, who made numerous trips between the bypass and the garden in Dailly Road, and then everything was levelled by Mihai a digger operator."

"We could not have asked for a better result. Without the efforts of Wills Bros and their site staff we would not now be in a position to get going as planned."

On behalf of the Wills Bros team, we wish Our Lady & St Cuthbert's Church all the best with this worthwhile initiative.

Maybole Community Council

Wills Bros, along with representatives from Transport Scotland, were pleased to be able to participate in a virtual meeting with Maybole Community Council in January to provide an update on the A77 Maybole Bypass project.



Unused land opposite Our Lady & St Cuthbert's Church before it is turned into a community garden



Material delivered to the community food garden.

GIRVAN MAINS FISHING CLUB

Our Senior Earthworks Manager, Chris Dale, met with representatives from Girvan Mains Fishing Club and was delighted to be able to help them with their request for some top soil to be used to improve the riverbank for anglers with disabilities.

The club plans to use the material to create and improve some of the footpaths so that anglers are able to manoeuvre in their wheelchairs with greater ease.

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

Since our face-to-face programme of engagement with schools and colleges was paused due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we have been exploring alternative channels to engage with students. We were delighted to reconnect virtually with students from the West of Scotland Rural College who had visited the site last year.

The fifteen third and fourth-year degree students enjoyed the opportunity to speak with several site staff. They discussed a range of topics including environmental impact studies in construction, the role of health and safety and environmental officers and their responsibilities on site carrying out daily tasks.



Students from the West of Scotland Rural College on their earlier visit to site



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: Bridget 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



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