

## STIRLING ALLOA KINCARDINE RAILWAY AND LINKED IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT - GROUND INVESTIGATION WORK

**The Stirling - Alloa - Kincardine route re-opening project is one of the most important railway infrastructure projects Scotland has seen for decades.**

As you may be aware, plans are currently being progressed to re-open 21km of out of use, disused and abandoned railway line between Stirling Station and Longannet Power station in Kincardine.

The Bill seeking to re-open the route has been discussed and debated in the Scottish Parliament and is expected to receive Royal Assent and become an Act of the Scottish Parliament later this summer.

It is important to stress that no infrastructure work will be undertaken until Royal Assent has been given to the Bill. However before this happens you will probably notice workmen clearing vegetation. There will also be machines working on the railway, the adjacent roads and on some bridges.

This is to allow a programme of detailed site investigation and assessment works to be carried out. This work is required to find out about the ground conditions and the extent and location of mine workings along the route of the railway and planned Alloa Eastern Link Road. The results will ensure that appropriate actions can be taken to overcome any challenges that arise.

The site work will take the form of excavating trial pits, drilling boreholes and collecting and then testing soil and water samples at various points along the length of the route.

This will provide the designers with detailed information about the soil and rock profiles present along the route, and will enable them to tailor their designs to suit the actual ground conditions.

**Work is due to commence in late July 2004 and continue for around three months**



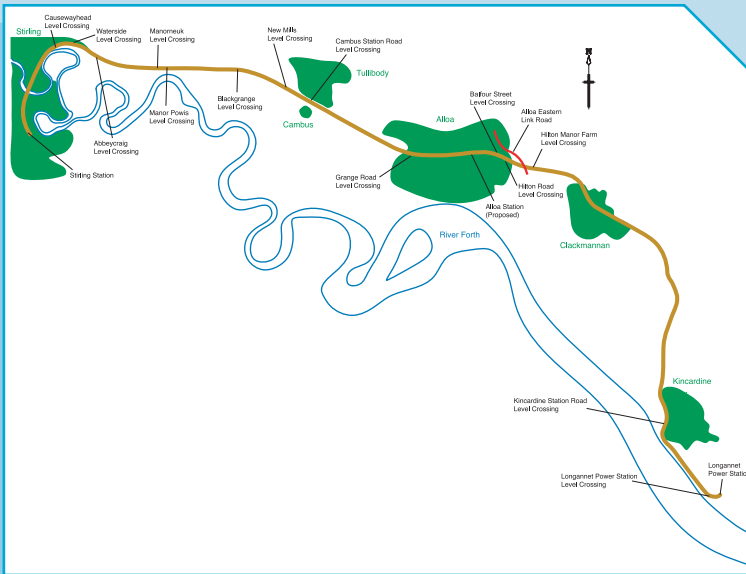
“DUE TO PROBLEMS WITH RESTRICTED ACCESS AT CERTAIN SECTIONS ALONG THE ROUTE, SITE CLEARANCE WORK WILL NEED TO BE UNDERTAKEN TO ALLOW ACCESS FOR DRILLING RIGS AND EXCAVATING EQUIPMENT.”

**Tara Whitworth**

Project manager



ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION OF AREAS AFFECTED BY SHALLOW MINEWORKINGS, AREAS OF SLOPE INSTABILITY AND INVESTIGATION OF SOME BRIDGES AND RETAINING WALLS WILL ALSO BE CARRIED OUT.



**Map of Proposed Stirling-Alloa-Kincardine rail route**

Project Manager Tara Whitworth explains: "In 2002 we carried out initial site investigation works which allowed us to develop a preliminary design for the project.

"Now, in order to develop the detailed design, further ground investigation work is required to provide more details about the condition of the site.

"Due to problems with restricted access at certain sections along the route, site clearance work will need to be undertaken to allow access for drilling rigs and excavating equipment.

"In particular further ground investigation is required at the location of the new footbridges, the Alloa Eastern Link Road, and the new Alloa Station.

"Although work will be carried out all along the route from Stirling to Longannet this summer, this does not herald the start of the route reconstruction, which cannot commence until the Bill receives Royal Assent and 100% of the funding is in place."

As part of the ground investigation work, site clearance will be undertaken on some of the more heavily overgrown sections of the route to allow access for excavating and drilling equipment.

As the majority of the proposed ground investigation works are located on Network Rail owned land any impacts of the works on the general public will be kept to a minimum.

All works will be carried out in accordance with an approved health and safety plan and adhering to the requirements of environmental bodies such as Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Scotland.

The Stirling-Alloa-Kincardine route re-opening scheme is being promoted by Clackmannanshire Council. A project delivery team is currently being set up with representatives from a wide range of interested bodies to ensure that the route is re-opened safely on time and on budget.

For further information, please check the **StirlingAlloaKincardine** website [www.sakrailway.co.uk](http://www.sakrailway.co.uk) or contact Tara Whitworth on **0141 271 9831**.



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