

Stirling Alloa Kincardine Railway and Linked Improvements Project – Construction work steams ahead

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

Project on track as rail-laying phase begins

Construction work on the Stirling-Alloa-Kincardine rail project is now full steam ahead after the first section of new track was laid on the line.

Transport Minister Tavish Scott launched the track-laying phase of the project at a ceremony in Cambus.

The project will reopen a 21km stretch of line, extending services to Alloa from Stirling and reopening a key freight line to Longannet Power Station in Fife.

More than 40 kilometres of railway track will be upgraded and re-laid along the entire length of the route, which is on schedule for the first trains to start running in summer 2007.

Track work, which will see over 33,000 sleepers, 70,000 tonnes of ballast and over 2,500 60ft lengths of rail laid between Stirling and Kincardine, began in September.

Richard Hudson, Project Director for project managers tie limited, said: "The laying of

the track signals an important phase of this vital project. It brings the people of Alloa a step closer to being reconnected to the national rail network and means local communities can start looking forward to the many benefits the new railway will bring.

Clackmannanshire Council leader Margaret Paterson added: "This is an important milestone for the project and we are delighted that the Minister

"The project is still on course. We have the skills, the drive and the tools to get the job done safely and on time."

was able to formally launch this key phase of construction.

"The re-opening of the rail line will be a tremendous boost to the communities involved and will contribute significantly to the economic regeneration of the area. We look forward to our ambition of hourly passenger services between Alloa, Stirling and Glasgow being realised."



Forth Viaduct given new lease of life



Ten months of essential maintenance work on the Forth Viaduct near Stirling station has now come to an end.

Wrapping and scaffolding that has protected the viaduct while the vital work has been carried out has been removed.

The viaduct's old steel members have been replaced and structural support work on the piers has been carried out. New deck sections have also been installed.

The remainder of the bridge was shot-blasted and repainted and all the waterproofing has been replaced.

Richard Hudson, Project Director, said: "The work on the Forth Viaduct means it is now as good as new and we look forward to seeing rail services using the crossing when the line is scheduled to open next summer."

Safety measures still in force

The entire area along the route is fenced off and heavy machinery is being used throughout the construction phase.

Nissar Mohammed at First Nuttall said: "The construction works pose a serious potential safety risk to anyone straying onto the site so it is vital that people respect the fences.

"They are for your own and the workforces' safety. Workmen on the site will wear high visibility jackets and other safety equipment to protect them from harm.



"Before the line re-opens, the project team will work closely with Network Rail, the British Transport Police and local schools to try to educate children about the dangers of playing on or near a railway line."

Further information can be found at www.sakrailway.co.uk, or please leave a message on the project phonenumber – 0845 270 0023.

