

A9 Dualling

Kincraig to Dalraddy project – March 2017



PROJECT OVERVIEW



Dunachton underpass abutment wall

WELCOME

Welcome to the fifth issue of our newsletter providing an update on progress on the A9 Dualling: Kincaig to Dalraddy project, as well as a look ahead to the work we will be focusing on in the coming months.

We look forward to completing construction of the Kincaig to Dalraddy project for road users and the local community later this year.

As contractor on the project, Wills Bros Civil Engineering Ltd and John Paul Construction Joint Venture (WBJPJV) would like to take the opportunity to thank the local and surrounding community as well as road users for their continued support and patience during the construction.

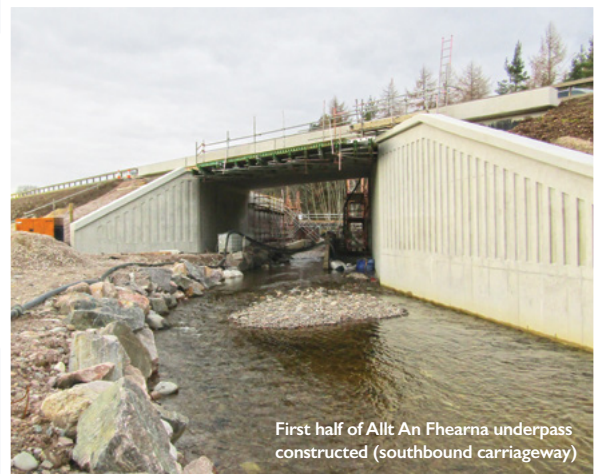
Paul Gilligan, Project Manager, Wills Bros Civil Engineering Ltd and John Paul Construction Joint Venture (WBJPJV)

STRUCTURES

The first half of all four underpasses and the mammal passes were completed at the end of last year.

We have now started work on the second half of the construction of the underpasses, and they are progressing well. We expect to complete them in late spring 2017.

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First half of Allt An Fhearna underpass constructed (southbound carriageway)



Allt An Fhearna underpass, January 2017



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STRUCTURES (CONTINUED)



Lower Milehead underpass was reopened to traffic in November 2016, and Baldow Smiddy underpass reopened earlier this month.

These underpasses will provide a link suitable for larger vehicles between the B9152 and the Alvie and Dunachton Estates once complete.

CARRIAGEWAY

Road users were moved on to approximately seven kilometres of new carriageway in October 2016. This has allowed work to start on the second half of the structures, as well as the reconstruction of the existing A9, which is now well underway.

The team is busy breaking up the existing pavement, installing drainage and utility services, and shaping the earthworks for the new road layout, as well as starting to lay the new road surface on what will be the new northbound A9 carriageway.



ACCOMMODATION TRACKS

The team has taken advantage of the recent milder weather to complete as much work as possible on the accommodation tracks on both Alvie and Dunachton Estates. This will minimise the impact on the summer tourist season.

The tracks on Dunachton Estate are estimated to be 90% complete. With the remaining works advancing quickly from the back of the estate towards the main A9 entrance to Leault Farm.

The construction of new drystone dykes in Dunachton Estate is also underway. We are pleased to have reached this stage in the project and excited to now be able to visualise how this feature will look once work is completed. We believe that the traditional craftsmanship will enhance the local landscape and attract interest for many years to come.

On Alvie Estate, we have already prepared over two kilometres of the main track for surfacing, with just under a kilometre of track to be completed. All other tracks on the estate are also nearing completion.



Drystone dyke construction



The newly paved access track through Alvie Estate



Access track through Alvie Estate during construction

LOOK AHEAD

Work is progressing well and we remain on track to complete construction of the Kincaig to Dalraddy project in the summer. Here is a brief look ahead for the next three months:

- completion of the main work at both Dunachton and Allt An Fhearna underpasses (excluding construction of the link tracks underneath each structure)
- completion of utility diversions
- surfacing of the northbound A9 carriageway
- completion of the accommodation tracks on both Dunachton and Alvie Estates
- starting grass seeding
- completion of boundary fencing.

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CONSERVATION OF ECOLOGY

The route of the A9 dualling between Kincaig and Dalraddy runs through an area of coniferous woodland that supports a large number of hairy wood ant colonies. The conservation of hairy wood ants is an important consideration in the Cairngorm National Park.

Our Environmental Clerk of Works (ECOW) developed a method for moving the nests as whole structures. This allowed the nest structure to be kept as intact as possible. The nest was then transported to the pre-dug receptor site.

Once the nest had been relocated, the ECOW checked that the entire nest had been successfully removed, with a particular focus on ensuring that as many queen ants as possible were safely moved. In line with guidance on ant nest translocations, the work was carried out between 7am – 9am when ant activity is low and the majority of ants are gathered in the nest.

Monitoring of the relocated nests continues and we are pleased with the successful survival of the nests.



Hairy wood ant nest in new location



Paul Gilligan, Project Manager for WBJPJ, presenting the cheque to Andrew Holmes, Treasurer of Kincaig Community Hall Association with Anna Kelly, WBJPJ and Gary Kinniburgh, Engineers Representative Atkins

KINCRAIG COMMUNITY HALL ASSOCIATION

Together with Atkins, the site representatives for Transport Scotland, we were extremely pleased to be able to contribute funding to the local Kincaig Community Hall Association. We donated £400, with Atkins matching this sum enabling us to donate a total of £800 in the autumn of last year.

This contribution was put towards organising the Kincaig Village Fair held on 3 September and the annual Bonfire Night on the 5 November 2016. We were all greatly impressed with the efforts of the organisers and the high level of community participation at both events.

FURTHER PROJECT INFORMATION

If you have any matters you wish to raise concerning the A9 Dualling: Kincaig to Dalraddy project, then please contact Anna Kelly, Public Liaison Officer at Akelly@willsbros-johnpaul.com (mobile 07496 739401) or Mike Browne, Site Agent at mbrowne@willsbros-johnpaul.com (mobile 07494 534658).

For more information on the wider A9 Dualling Programme, please visit: www.transport.gov.scot/a9dualling

