

# project update

Issue 11

**Aberdeen**  
roads limited

## Welcome to our final Project Update



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**A significant milestone was achieved in the early hours of 19 February 2019 when the final section of road, linking Craibstone Junction to Parkhill Junction, was opened to traffic.**

We are really pleased to hear the road has been well received by road users, with people giving examples of the road cutting down journey times by tens of minutes and reducing congestion on the existing road network.

Every section of the network is being closely monitored by Aberdeen Roads Limited, Transport Scotland and the relevant local authority. In addition, the new road will be subject to further independent road safety audits to ensure it is operating as anticipated, and any required recommendations arising from these reviews will be implemented.

It should be noted, however, that it can take some time for traffic patterns to become established, as road users try out various new routes before identifying the best one for them.

As with any change, we would strongly urge road users to proceed with caution when driving on and around the new road network until people become accustomed to the new road layout. In addition, road users should drive to the road conditions, taking into consideration the road and weather conditions, such as low sun or rain.

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Road users on the new trunk road

## AWPR/B-T PROJECT FULLY OPEN TO TRAFFIC

**The final section of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route/Balmedie to Tipperty (AWPR/B-T) project between the Craibstone and Parkhill Junctions opened to traffic on Tuesday 19 February 2019, providing road users across the North East with access to the entire 36 mile (58km) route.**

This new section of road linked the southern Craibstone to Stonehaven and Charleston section (opened in December 2018), with the Parkhill to Blackdog and the Balmedie to Tipperty sections in the north (opened in June and August 2018 respectively).

The road is expected to enhance safety, reduce congestion, improve journey time reliability and reduce air pollution in Aberdeen City Centre.

The construction of the AWPR/B-T trunk road has been a significant undertaking, which also involved building 40km of new side roads, 30km of new footway/cycleways, two major bridges at the River Dee and River Don, a railway bridge and over 100 new bridges and culverts.

We would like to thank local communities, road users and businesses from across the North East and beyond who have been extremely patient while these construction works were underway.

### this issue features...

**New Sections Open  
Operation and  
Maintenance Services  
Project Route Guide  
Road Festival Success**



**TRANSPORT  
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# Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route/Balmedie to Tipperty



Tipperty Junction



Newburgh Junction



Balmedie Junction



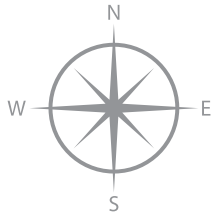
Blackdog Junction



Parkhill Junction



Craibstone Junction







North Kingswells Junction



Kingswells South Junction



Deeside Junction



Cleanhill Junction



Charleston Junction



Stonehaven Junction



# Operation and Maintenance Services



Traffic management being removed following grass cutting operations

**Now that the AWPR/B-T project is fully open to traffic, Aberdeen Roads Limited (ARL) is delivering operation and maintenance services across the whole of the new trunk road between Stonehaven, Cleanhill, Charleston, Craibstone, Blackdog and Tipperty, together with sections of the existing trunk road between Charleston and Findon Junctions and between Tipperty and Ellon Roundabout.**

ARL will be responsible for delivering these services for almost 30 years until November 2047. They will provide readily visible activities such as winter maintenance, grass cutting, assisting broken down vehicles, incident support to Police Scotland in the event of a road traffic accident and repair any damage or defects that occur. Less visible undertakings include liaison with others on plans for the movement of abnormal loads, providing advice on planning applications or signage proposals that affect the road network.

To deliver these services, ARL has contracted with Balfour Beatty Civil Engineering, which has put in place a team of 12 people, all of which are either from or based in the North East. The team is familiar with the area having been responsible for operating and managing the A90 between Murcar Roundabout and Ellon Roundabout since early 2015, as well as undertaking this role on the different sections of the AWPR/B-T project as they became operational. A maintenance depot is currently under construction in the Craibstone Junction area, which will provide ready access to the full extent of the project in both directions.



## Litter

One of ARL's duties is to carry out litter picking when required. This means workers have to collect litter by hand that has usually been dropped from passing vehicles. Not only does this have a detrimental effect on the environment and makes the local area messy and unsightly, the process of collecting this litter means road workers are exposed to the hazards that nearby high speed traffic brings.

We kindly request that you please make a real difference to the safety and well-being of others by keeping your litter in your vehicle until it can be disposed of in a responsible manner.

## Wildlife bridges showing signs of life



**Motion detector cameras have captured a range of the North East's varied wildlife already making use of the AWPR's new wildlife bridges at Kingcausie and Kirkhill.**

There are two dedicated wildlife bridges on the project, one in the Kingcausie area and one in the Kirkhill area. In both locations, the bridges enable animals to safely access areas on either side of the road.

In addition, there is also a shared-use wildlife bridge in the Kirkhill area, which has half of its width landscaped for wildlife and equestrian use while the other half is dedicated to vehicles that require access to local forests and properties.

Since October 2018, motion detection cameras at Kingcausie have captured images of deer, foxes and a rabbit on camera. Evidence of pine martens has also been established.

Since November 2018, the camera at Kirkhill has detected deer, rabbits and hares, as well as a pheasant.

Mammal-proof fencing guides animals towards the bridges and provides them with safe crossing points which join up habitats and maintains territorial coverage. The decking is covered with topsoil in varying depths and planting is designed to replicate the natural habitats of local wildlife and provide cover.

These 'green' bridges were first pioneered in the Netherlands in 1988 and there are also now a small number of these on some major routes in England.

# Thousands attend unique AWPR GoNorthEast road festival



Cyclists take part in the 18km loop event

**Thousands of people attended a weekend festival to celebrate the AWPR/B-T project and were given a unique close-up look at the new road.**

People from the local community were given the opportunity to cycle and walk along some of the new road, before it was opened, as well as viewing dozens of attractions as part of the GoNorthEast community event.

A 2.5km section of the road at Milltimber, including the new crossing over the River Dee, was the location for the festival, which celebrated the past, present and future of travel in the region.

On the second day of the event, 1,500 cyclists used their own bikes to cycle an 18km closed loop run from Craibstone to Milltimber and back.

Among the other attractions were 120 vintage and modern vehicles on display through the Grampian Transport Museum along with driving simulators and interactive displays by the Shell Eco marathon team and the Greenpower Education Trust.

Over the two days, there was a Borrow a Bike scheme, allowing visitors to choose from a stock of 200 bicycles, including electric bikes, and travel their choice of distance over a 4km course.

A country walk along part of the route was also available and a big screen premiered a short film about the project, which was created by a team from Bucksburn Academy in Aberdeen.

This celebration was also an opportunity to say thank you to local communities for their patience and understanding during the construction of the new road.

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Although the mainline carriageway is complete and now fully open to traffic, there will still be occasions when workers will be in close proximity to the road. There are still some finishing and snagging works to be carried out across the project, following which, a series of surveys will be undertaken to capture final asset information on the completed network. In addition, landscaping works will also continue during the relevant planting seasons and the O&M team will be carrying out litter picking and grass cutting activities during the warmer months.

I would like to thank and congratulate everyone who has been involved with the AWPR/B-T project; you have created an incredible piece of infrastructure of which you should be very proud.

Most importantly, I would also like to thank the local community, road users and businesses for their continued patience throughout construction of the new road which will transform travel in and around Aberdeen City and the North East. We look forward to maintaining this positive relationship with you as we enter into the operational phase of the project.

## Contact Us

Should you wish to know more about the project please visit our project website at [www.transport.gov.scot/awpr-bt](http://www.transport.gov.scot/awpr-bt). Alternatively, call us on 0800 058 8350 or email [enquiries@aberdeenroads.com](mailto:enquiries@aberdeenroads.com).