

# A9 Dualling

ISSUE  
#11  
Spring 2021

Luncarty to Pass of Birnam  
Project newsletter



**Balfour Beatty**



**ATKINS**  
Member of the SNC-Lavalin Group

**Jacobs**





# Then and now...

As the project moves towards its final phases, we wanted to take the opportunity to reflect on how much has been achieved over the past two and a half years.

Many of the changes have been incremental in nature which, over time, can reduce the visual effect of just how different the landscape now is. In this quarter's newsletter, images captured in November 2018 are compared against aerial photos taken in April 2021 to show a side by side comparison of the work delivered to date.

Pitlandie Overbridge looking north, November 2018



Pitlandie Overbridge looking north, April 2021



Luncarty North Junction looking north, November 2018



Luncarty North Junction looking north, April 2021





Stanley/Tullybelton Junction looking north, November 2018



Stanley/Tullybelton Junction looking north, April 2021



U32 Tullybelton Road looking west, November 2018



U32 Tullybelton Road looking east, April 2021



South of Bankfoot looking north, November 2018



South of Bankfoot looking north, April 2021





# Sustainable landscaping solutions

Local residents and road users will have noticed a vast quantity of trees, shrubs, plants and hedge-row being planted throughout the site. More than 57,000 new trees and thousands more plants and shrubs are being planted to replace vegetation that required to be removed as part of the works. This will create and enhance habitats and help integrate the new A9 with its surroundings.

In order to protect young saplings from wildlife and weather as they lay roots, it is necessary to use tree protection sleeves. Traditionally, these sleeves are made from plastic and once the trees reach a suitable height, the sleeves are collected by the project team and re-used or recycled where possible.



The biodegradable tree shelters being utilised in an area of planting adjacent to a SuDS pond

In keeping with current best practice and to reduce adverse environmental impacts from the use of plastic products, the project embarked on a trial to use an innovative biodegradable product instead of plastic tree shelters.

5000 non-plastic shelters are being installed at four locations with diverse micro-climates which will allow our environmental specialists to monitor and understand the performance of the shelters in different conditions. The outcome of the trial is intended to provide an informed basis for the potential use of non-plastic tree shelters on other Transport Scotland projects. Monitoring of the installation, performance and lifespan of the biodegradable tree shelters commenced in October 2020 and will continue until the young trees are well established.



## Five star performance

The project completed its most recent Considerate Constructors Scheme audit in April 2021. The Considerate Constructors Scheme is a not-for-profit, independent organisation founded to raise standards in the construction industry. Construction sites, companies and suppliers voluntarily register and agree to abide by the Code of Considerate Practice, designed to encourage best practice beyond statutory requirements.

The site received full marks across all categories leading to an 'exceptional' rating for its approach to community, environment, health and safety, appearance and respecting our workforce. The auditor noted 'this is still one of the best sites that I have visited ... The site still gives the impression of being a outstandingly well managed project that enhances the image of the organisation and the industry.'



This site has been rated by the Considerate Constructors Scheme



This site was visited by the Scheme's independent agents against a Code of Considerate Practice which requires all registered parties to:  
Care about Appearance, Respect the Community, Protect the Environment, Secure everyone's Safety, Close the Gaps.  
This Code is designed to raise industry standards and requires construction sites to demonstrate the highest levels of consideration.  
For more information about the Code of Considerate Practice and the Scheme, please call 0800 782 1423 or visit [www.ccscheme.org.uk](http://www.ccscheme.org.uk)

Improving the image of construction

## Engineering students welcomed back to site



William completing a particle size distribution test in our onsite laboratory

Practical industry experience for engineering students is a crucial part of their education and can often shape their future careers. Like many activities, the pandemic has limited onsite engagement since March 2020. However, the project maintained regular contact with our further education partners including Abertay University, and following engagement with the appropriate bodies, the university was permitted to resume essential work placements for its students.

In previous years we have worked with Abertay University in Dundee to provide opportunities for third year students studying Civil Engineering to undertake a 12-week industrial placements on site. Unlike other short duration work placements, these placements are a module choice for students and are an extremely important and valuable opportunity to gain industry experience and put academic learning into practice on a live construction site. It's also a great opportunity to start building networks within the sector.

Following close collaboration with Abertay University, the project welcomed William Mallcott to site in February 2021.

William was initially shadowing the construction team in the south section of the project before moving on to work with the materials testing team. William has now been taken on in a paid, part-time role as a material testing technician, supporting the vital work of our onsite laboratory; testing the concrete, aggregates and asphalt, used to construct the new A9 carriageway.

William said: "I really enjoyed learning how to set out the invert level boards for the pipes and catchpits of the drainage systems and also learning how to use the GPS on site. In the laboratory, I developed my understanding of different types of materials used on the project, how they behave and when they are used. I have enjoyed my experience on site at the A9 Dualling: Luncarty to Pass of Birnam project. It has enhanced my skills and reinforced my confidence for when I join the industry in future as a professional Civil Engineer."

## A9 Dualling apprentice inspires Perthshire pupils

Following the success of the Virtual Work Experience Programme delivered in 2020, members of the project team took part in a second programme delivered in spring 2021. The virtual event coincided with Scottish Apprenticeship Week in March 2021 and one of our most experienced young apprentices on site, Elliot Moir, participated in an apprentice panel to share his experience.

Elliot shared his journey starting out as a Foundation Apprentice at Perth College, before securing a summer job on the project and then taking on a Modern Apprenticeship in Civil Engineering.

This second programme has incorporated feedback from students and aimed to build on the success of the previous event by providing weekly questions and answer sessions with an apprentice or graduate with experience of a wide range of specialisms.

Alongside more traditional construction sector roles such as civil engineering and quantity surveying, students were given an insight into various other careers in construction they may not have known existed. Konstantina Fragkou from Balfour Beatty's community investment team shared her experiences in supporting the delivery of community benefits across Scotland and her responsibility for the contractor's social media channels. While Liam Cosgrove, an IT apprentice who has been involved in the roll out of several new web-based systems across the business UK wide, talked about his experience to date.

More than 200 pupils from across Scotland took part in the Virtual Work Experience Programme, including students from St. Johns Academy and Perth Academy. All students who completed the five course received a Silver Industrial Cadets certificate.

### Learn more about Balfour Beatty

We hope you all enjoyed the session!

Wednesday 3rd March – Apprenticeship week Q&A with some of our Balfour Beatty apprentices from across the business.

- Recording now available to listen to again within week 2 module on your thinkific account

#### Meet the Panel



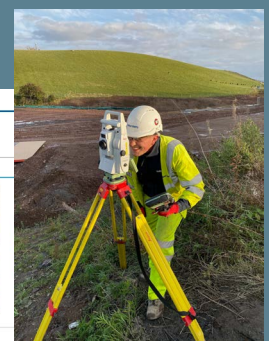
Panel member



Panel member



Panel member



Elliot, pictured on the right, shared his inspiring story with students across Scotland



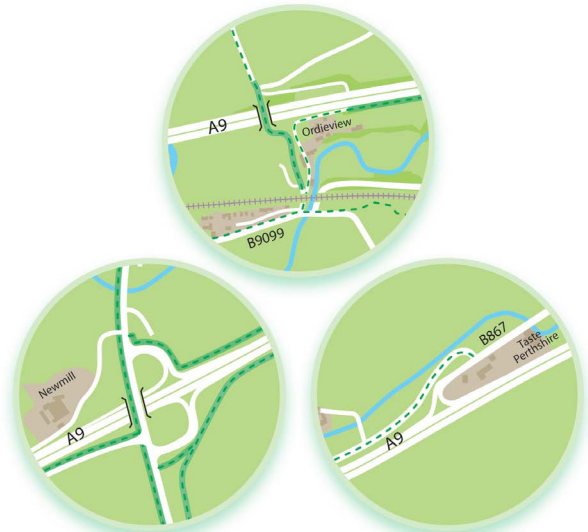
# Encouraging active travel

One of the more positive effects of the pandemic and the associated restrictions has been a greater appreciation of the outdoor environment around us, and as a result, the uptake in walking and cycling by people across Scotland has increased.

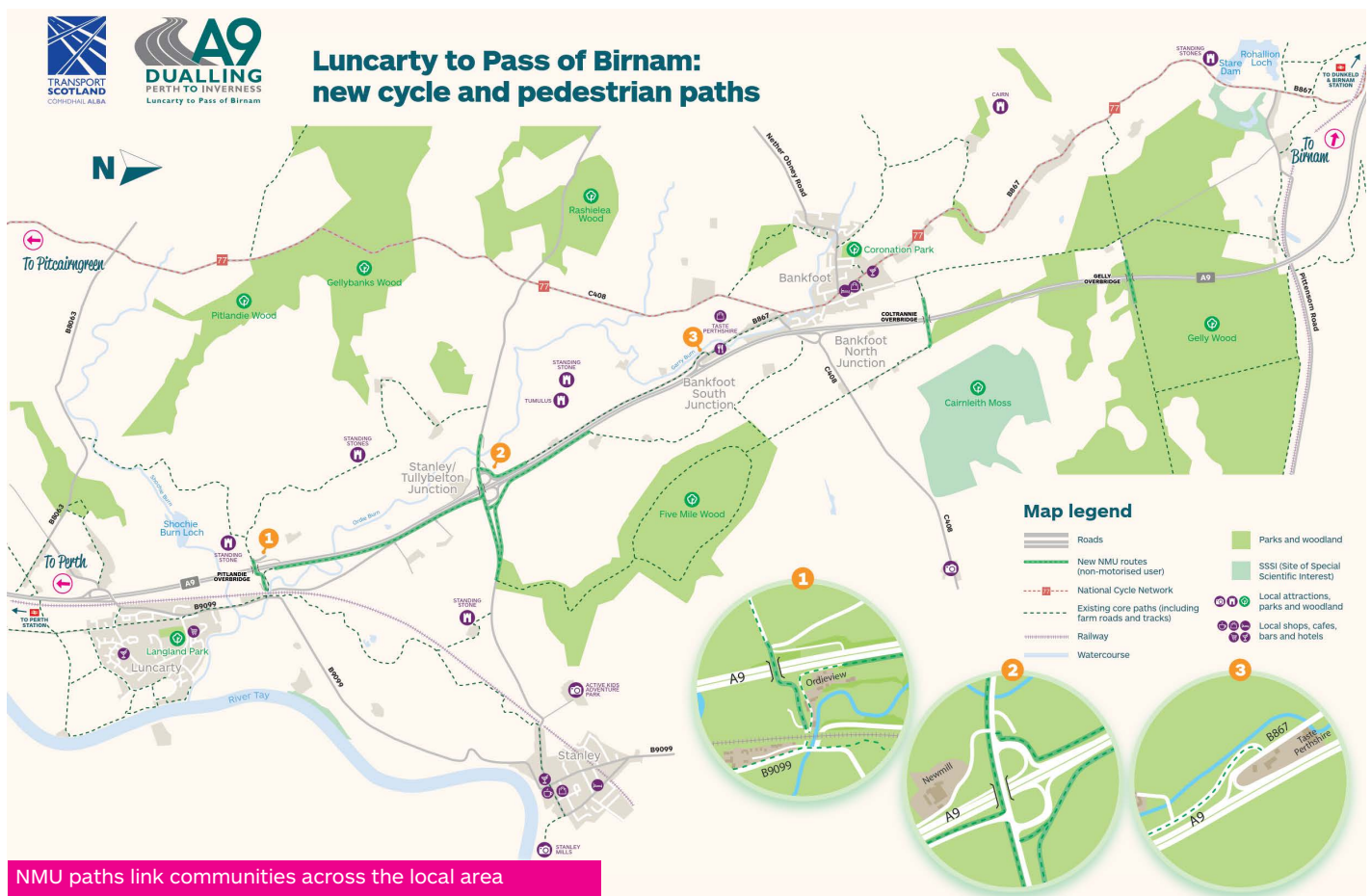
The temporary infrastructure measures currently in place around the country under the Scottish Government's 'Spaces for People' initiative have provided an opportunity to reimagine our communities as places not dominated by cars, but by people. It is hoped that this growing trend in active travel will be maintained in the longer term, improving the health and wellbeing of the population and having a positive impact on our environment and the quality of life in our communities.

The A9 Dualling: Luncarty to Pass of Birnam project aims to promote active travel and includes the provision of around 4km of new and upgraded pedestrian and cycle routes which, once complete, will include a new link between Bankfoot and Luncarty.

You can read more about the new and upgraded links that the project will deliver on the [Transport Scotland project website](#).



The paths provide safer ways for non-motorised users to move around near the A9, including at key junctions



NMU paths link communities across the local area

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