



## Forth Crossing Bridge Constructors

HOCHTIEF Solutions  
American Bridge International  
DRAGADOS  
Morrison Construction

Dear Neighbour,

FCBC, the contractor working on the Forth Replacement Crossing main contract on behalf of Transport Scotland, will be carrying out trial blasting works on Whinnyhill rock outcrop, between North Queensferry and Inverkeithing, and also at St Margaret's Hope in the forthcoming weeks.

The trial blast shall precede a programme of earthmoving that shall commence in October 2011 and extend into the autumn of 2012. It shall determine the blasting strategy required to satisfy the demands of the earthworks programme.

### Activity Description for Trial Blasting

The works comprise drilling of holes and blasting of rock. The drilling works shall impart noise whilst the blasting will impart both noise and vibration. We anticipate that the blast will comprise 5 explosions over a 2 hour period.

Noise and vibration monitoring will be carried out at the nearest properties to the blasts.

Sentries shall be posted to ensure the blast areas are clear before firing. Adequate signage shall be in place outwith the danger zone.

A series of audible horn signals warning of imminent blasting shall be deployed.

The code of signals is as follows:-

- 1 long hoot, blasting is about to take place – 5 minutes before the blast
- 2 short hoots at 1 minute to blasting
- 3 short hoots – all clear

Monitoring results shall be uploaded on the project website at the end of each calendar month.

### Timing and Hours of Work

The works will be carried out, in accordance with the Code of Construction Practice, on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2011. Preparatory works, i.e. drilling, shall take place on

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both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> and blasting will happen on 2<sup>nd</sup> September only, we estimate between the hours of 12noon and 2pm.

Hours of work on each day shall be 0730hrs to 1900hrs which includes personnel arriving at, and leaving from, work, with no plant starting up before 0800hrs.

Whilst we will make every effort to adhere to the stated times these may alter due to unforeseen circumstances.

#### Plant to be deployed

The work shall be carried out using hand tools, pick-up truck, dumper, excavator, lorries and drilling rig.

#### Noise Mitigation

Plant will be shut off while not in use. We will use modern, silenced plant. A noise screen will be placed around the drilling rigs at St Margaret's Hope.

#### Nearest occupied residence and anticipated maximum noise level at that location

North Queensferry Hotel (120m) - 65 dB which is our maximum permitted noise level under the Contract.

The trial blasting work is an essential part of the overall Forth Replacement Crossing project, which is necessary due to concerns over the long term viability of the existing road bridge. The new crossing will maintain a vital link in the east of Scotland road network which is key to the wider Scottish economy.

We would like to take this opportunity to apologise, in advance, for any inconvenience our activities may cause and also to thank you for your patience and consideration to date.

**For up to date information on the project please see Transport Scotland's FRC project website [www.forthreplacementcrossing.info](http://www.forthreplacementcrossing.info).**

**Should you have any queries, please contact our Hotline on 0800 078 6910 or email [frcenquiries@transportscotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:frcenquiries@transportscotland.gsi.gov.uk).**

**In addition, our temporary Contact and Education Centre, currently located in the Forth Estuary Transport Authority offices on the south side of the existing Forth Road Bridge is manned 09:00hrs to 17:30hrs, Monday to Friday, and will be open on Saturdays 10:00hrs to 16:00hrs commencing Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2011 to help with queries and to supply information.**

Issued to – All properties within 200m of works, Community Councils and FRC website.

Issue date – Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> August 2011

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