

# A9 Berriedale Braes

## Project newsletter



Existing road at Berriedale Braes



RJ McLeod Site Agent  
Ryan MacLean

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

**The A9 Berriedale Braes project involves the construction of 530 metres of new single trunk road.**

Currently, the challenging road alignment means that two vehicles, Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) in particular, driving in opposite directions cannot pass on the hairpin bend as one vehicle takes up most of the road.

Completion of the project will improve journey times and road safety by removing the need for vehicles to slow down or stop to negotiate the bend.

## Welcome

**Welcome to the first A9 Berriedale Braes project newsletter.**

RJ McLeod (Contractors) Ltd has been appointed by Transport Scotland to construct the A9 Berriedale Braes Improvement Scheme. RJ McLeod was formed in 1951 and is one of Scotland's leading civil engineering contractors, with a wealth of experience in successfully delivering a variety of projects throughout Scotland.

Work is now underway to deliver the improvements and the project is scheduled to be completed in Spring 2020, subject to adverse weather not impacting on work. For now,

the project team has been hard at work planning the main construction operations – set to commence soon – to ensure that the project goes as smoothly as possible and that the impact on residents and road users is minimised wherever possible.

As a Dingwall-based contractor, with many of the site team from the local area, we are delighted to be contributing to this key improvement project and look forward to delivering it for the benefit of all A9 users.

**Ryan MacLean, Site Agent,  
RJ McLeod (Contractors) Ltd**

Impression of how the road will look on completion



Agent Craig Donn helping pupils with their challenge

## EARTHWORKS

Work began in February with four small-scale trial rock blasts. These enabled us to determine the geotechnical properties of the rock, and the results of these blasts will inform our plan on how best to excavate the rock later in the year. Whilst we wait for the necessary statutory licences to be granted, we have been finalising the detailed design work, planning and programming.

## LOOK AHEAD

The focus for the team over the coming months will include:

- Ensuring that the necessary statutory licences are in place for the work
- Completion of site mobilisation
- Site clearance and topsoil strip
- Commencement of the earthworks operations
- Diversion of public and private utility apparatus.

## JOHN O'GROATS WALKING TRAIL

The popular John o' Groats walking trail passes through the planned works. However, we are pleased to confirm that the walk will remain open for all users during the construction phase as a temporary diversion will be installed, which will be clearly signposted with marker posts.

## FURTHER PROJECT INFORMATION

For more information on the project please visit:

[transport.gov.scot/projects/a9-berriedale-braes-improvement-scheme](https://transport.gov.scot/projects/a9-berriedale-braes-improvement-scheme)

# Stepping into STEM

Project team members recently visited North Highland College in Thurso to facilitate a 'Step into STEM' (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) event on behalf of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE).

The team provided a hands-on learning experience to S2 pupils, with insight into a career as a civil engineer. They shared an overview on the different types of projects possible under civil engineering and showed the proposed new layout for the A9 Berriedale Braes project. The children were highly engaged throughout the

session, sharing their own knowledge and experience of the bend and participating in fun exercises. These challenges included working together and using different materials to build arch bridges, which taught them about structure strength and balance.

Craig Donn, who attended the event said: "We were impressed by the efforts of all of the children who participated, with several showing such promising analytical and problem-solving skills that we are hopeful we'll see some of these young people join our ranks in the future!"

# Keeping you informed

A key part of my role will be to provide a community liaison function, to keep the local community informed as the project progresses.

We want to minimise any disruption caused by our work, so it is important that we liaise with the community and, in particular, anyone directly affected by the project. Please don't hesitate to contact me using the contact details below:

Email: [a9berriedale@rjmcleod.co.uk](mailto:a9berriedale@rjmcleod.co.uk)  
24-hour helpline: 0203 297 7161



Community Liaison Officer  
Ryan MacLean

## Considerate constructors code of practice



The project is pleased to be registered with the considerate constructors scheme. The scheme aims to improve the image of construction by its members abiding by the code of Considerate Practice.

