

A77 Maybole Bypass

Project newsletter



Culvert at Low Grange

Welcome

Welcome to the third issue of our newsletter providing a progress update and look ahead to the work we will be focusing on in the coming months on the A77 Maybole Bypass project.

Following the temporary site closure due to the Covid-19 pandemic we are pleased to report that work has restarted on site. In June we commenced a period of planning and pre-start site preparations which included making a number of physical alterations to the site office and welfare facilities to allow strict adherence to both the Scottish Government's guidelines and our own safe operating procedures. This then

enabled appropriate construction activities to resume under the necessary safety guidelines.

The health and safety of the workforce and the local community continues to be our main priority and we ask for your co-operation in continuing to respect physical distancing measures to safeguard the health of yourselves as well as all our project staff.

Wills Bros as the contractor on A77 Maybole Bypass project would like to take this opportunity to thank road users for their continued patience, support, and co-operation during construction.



John Stephens, A77 Maybole Bypass Project Manager, Wills Bros Civil Engineering Ltd

Works at Broomknowes underpass continue

Progress update on A77 Maybole Bypass

SITE ACTIVITIES

The team are working hard stripping the topsoil, rock cutting, excavating, moving earth, carrying out remedial and drainage works, installing culverts and implementing traffic management operations.

The earthworks team are working in partnership with public utility providers such as Scottish Water and BT on service diversions. Good progress has been made along the whole route with work including the installation of new ducting and cabling, as well as new water mains.



Earthworks between Alloway Road and Kirklandhill Path

STRUCTURES

At Gardenrose Path, the road closure is in place and works are progressing to construct the overbridge.

The 'three' beams for the bridge structure were lifted into place during the day in early September with each beam measuring 36 metres in length and weighing 86 tonnes. The installation of the bridge beams was a complex operation which required a 1100 tonne 'crane' to lift and place with skill and precision.



Beams being installed

- At Kirklandhill Path, public utilities have been realigned and traffic management for plant crossings is in place. This road will be closed once the works are completed at Gardenrose Path.

- Alloway Road Underbridge - both lanes on Alloway Road are now fully opened with the new road surfaced, enabling the public to continue to use Alloway Road during construction. Preparation work for the beam installation has been completed, with beams scheduled to be installed this month.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we employ a Senior Traffic Management Engineer whose role is to oversee the traffic management operations required to deliver the project. A large part of the role focuses on liaising with key stakeholders to ensure that all traffic management proposals are planned and co-ordinated through regular traffic management meetings which is chaired by the Contractor and attended by the local authority, Police Scotland and Transport Scotland.

The Senior Traffic Management Engineer will ensure all traffic management is properly planned and will liaise with a specialist sub-contractor who is responsible with the day-to-day maintenance of any traffic management.

HEALTH & SAFETY

The team are committed to ensuring the site is a safe working environment. Our health and safety team arrange site inductions, including Covid 19 precautionary measures for both project staff and essential visitors. They carry out daily and weekly site inspections and keep project staff updated with regular toolbox talks.

Looking ahead

In the coming months we will be focusing on:

- Gardenrose Path** - the building of the bridge continues with work focussing on the installation of the steel reinforcement for the concrete deck and parapet.
- Kirklandhill Path** - bridge abutment works will commence which will require this road to be closed. The road will be closed once Gardenrose Path has reopened.
- Broomknowes Underpass** - earthworks on approach to the underpass to be formed with drainage and kerbing works through the structure to be completed.
- Alloway Road** - concrete beams to be installed which will allow decking works to commence.
- Roundabout at Broomknowes** - carrying out earthworks, culvert installations and drainage work.
- Roundabout at Culzean Road** - various phases of traffic management will be implemented to allow for the successful tie-in of the new roundabout including kerbing and surfacing works.
- Roundabout at Smithson** - earthworks, remedial works, culvert installation and drainage work are all underway.
- Construction and maintenance** of haul routes for earthwork and construction works use.
- Continued diversion of public utilities** to facilitate construction works.

Community engagement

We continue our partnership working with South Ayrshire Council, Ayrshire DWP and the various training agencies we liaise with to provide job opportunities on site under the community benefits scheme and to create and maintain employment for those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic we have had to reduce the level of work and opportunities on this programme but hope to be able to resume fully in the near future.

NEW APPRENTICES ON MAYBOLE

We are very pleased to have welcomed two apprentices, Fiona Thomson and Connor Gibson as part of the Graduate Apprenticeship Civil Engineering Scheme which we operate in partnership with Strathclyde University.

The BEng (Hons) Civil Engineering Graduate Apprenticeship Programme with Strathclyde University, is a bespoke Graduate Apprenticeship Programme, designed in partnership with engineering employers which will develop apprentices' knowledge, skills, competencies, and professional behaviours.

Fiona and Connor are local to Maybole and will be working towards their university degree whilst also working on the project. They will rotate through each of our on-site departments such as project management, health and safety and environmental management, where they will be able to gain insight and experience of all aspects of civil engineering. They will gain knowledge through a mix of work-based on-the-job-learning and also through their Strathclyde University, Civil Engineering department taught modules.

INTERNS

We were also very pleased to welcome two interns who are studying in their fourth year of university.

Harris Ritchie, who is a Geography student, has been taken on as an environmental intern to explore water, geophysical and geotechnical aspects of the project and James Ross who is working with our quantity surveying team. We continue to support staff, along with Skills Development Scotland, who want to improve their qualifications by providing opportunities to obtain an SVQ, with 22 individuals enrolling in the scheme so far.



Connor and Fiona, two new apprentices who are keen to improve their knowledge and experience

Connor, university apprentice:

"I am very honoured to have been given this opportunity by Wills Bros. I am enjoying working with the project staff on site and learning new skills and gaining first-hand an insight and understanding of the construction industry."

Fiona, university apprentice:

"I really welcome this opportunity to work for Wills Bros, learning new skills on site and to be able to combine work with studying/learning at Strathclyde University."

Certificate of excellence for the site

The A77 Maybole Bypass project is pleased to be registered with the Considerate Constructors Scheme which seeks to improve the image of the construction industry by striving to promote and achieve best practice on the site under construction and in the local environment.

In November, we had our first Considerate Constructors Scheme audit and are extremely pleased to report that we achieved a certificate of excellence, putting the project amongst the highest performing construction sites in the country.

Since then a further audit has been done and we expect the outcome shortly.

Tea break thanks

Site staff would like to say a thank you to the kind member of the local community who showed their appreciation for the site team's hard work to construct the new bypass and handed over a box of biscuits to John McDonald for the team to enjoy during their break.



John McDonald happily accepts the generous gift.

Environmental

The Wills Bros Environmental Team who are based at the Maybole Project site, are Beth Docherty Environmental Advisor and Harris Ritchie Environmental Intern, who are managed by Chris Landsburgh, Environmental and Sustainability Manager.

As part of their work responsibilities, Beth and Harris liaise with Ayrshire Rivers Trust (ART), Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) to assist in the monitoring and management of our environmental and ecological works. These include exclusion zones for trees, badgers and otters; as well as the carrying out of fish rescue plans to facilitate river works. Beth is also monitoring the carbon footprint of the project with the overall aim of reducing carbon emissions from material use, fuel use

and waste – as well as investing in sustainable and renewable solutions for the project.

As part of the Wills Bros commitment to ensure environmental excellence, all commercial waste is diverted from landfill. All non-recoverable waste types are shredded, baled, and air-dried and then exported to the continent to be used in energy production through a fully audited SEPA accredited route. By doing this we ensure a 100% zero waste to landfill.

Our environmental team are also developing our skills and education plans, and a CEEQUAL Assessment which evidences the sustainability initiatives on the site is being carried out as works progress.



Considerate constructors

The site is pleased to be registered with the Considerate Constructors Scheme (www.ccscheme.org.uk). The scheme aims to provide contractors with a Code of Considerate Practice which has been developed to encourage best practice beyond statutory construction industry requirements.



FURTHER PROJECT INFORMATION

If you have any matters you wish to raise concerning the A77 Maybole Bypass project, please contact: Bridget Casey, Community Liaison Officer, at: bridgetcasey@willsbros.com or on our freephone number: **0800 118 1661**

For more information on the project please visit:

transport.gov.scot/projects/a77-maybole-bypass



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