

A92/A96 Haudagain Improvement Project newsletter



Overview of the new link road

Welcome



Welcome to the fifth issue of our regular newsletter providing updates on progress and looking ahead to the works planned over spring. I have

recently taken over as Project Manager and look forward to continuing to make progress constructing the project in the coming months.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we continue to undertake our

operations with strict adherence to both the Scottish Government guidelines and our own safe operating procedures. The health and safety of our workforce and the local community remains our main priority.

The first layer of asphalt on the new carriageway was a particular highlight for the team recently. This is the first of what will be several layers of asphalt but provides a visible idea for the community of how the road will look.

On behalf of Farrans Construction and Transport Scotland we would like to take this opportunity to thank the local community and road users for their patience and cooperation during the construction of this project. Some work may cause temporary disruption for road users, but it is essential to completing the project as quickly and safely as possible.

Alan McKillop,
Project Manager,
Farrans Construction



Laying asphalt underway



Progress update

Despite the challenging winter weather, construction has progressed steadily. The first sections of the new road have now had their permanent asphalt pavement laid and have been prepared for the final layer of road surfacing to be placed towards the end of the project.

Work to divert the equipment for a number of utilities including water, gas and electricity is now 90% complete.



Laying asphalt underway on the link road and the new bus turning area which can be seen in the background

CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW JUNCTIONS

Work has continued on the construction of the junctions which will connect the existing roads to the new carriageway.

A contraflow system is in place on both trunk roads; the A92 North Anderson Drive and A96 Auchmill Road to allow work on the new link road junction, the retaining wall and the drainage basin to progress in the vicinity of the existing road. Having the contraflow in place will also improve safety for the site operatives and road users. We appreciate that this may cause some inconvenience at times and would like to apologise for this and reassure the community that the work has been planned to minimise disruption as much as possible.



Contraflow traffic management on the A96, allowing works to progress to connect the new link road junction, retaining wall and works on drainage basin to continue

A92 NORTH ANDERSON DRIVE/ MANOR AVENUE

Work is progressing on the construction of the carriageway filter lane which will take road users from the A92 North Anderson Drive to the new link road.

Following the permanent closure of Manor Avenue at the junction with North Anderson Drive work continues to reconstruct Manor Avenue to align it to the new link road.

A96 GREAT NORTHERN ROAD/MANOR DRIVE/AUCHMILL ROAD

Work is underway on the construction of a retaining wall to support the slope of the road on the junction of Manor Drive and the A96.

As works are ongoing, we would like to remind the public to be mindful of the importance of adhering to the traffic management measures we have put in place such as local parking restrictions and pedestrian diversions. These ensure the safety of members of the public and our workforce.

Artist's impression of new road:

- 1 A96 junction to connect to the new dual carriageway link road
- 2 Haudagain Roundabout
- 3 A92 junction to connect to the new dual carriageway link road
- 4 The new dual carriageway link road.



EARTHWORKS AND DRAINAGE

On Manor Drive, the excavation of the underground Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SuDS) where the new road will discharge is now complete. This will allow the remaining drainage works to be finished here.

Ongoing work includes kerbing, street lighting and service duct installations at the site, along with the progression of the main landscaping works from the realigned Manor Avenue down towards Manor Drive.



ASPHALT WORKS

Approximately a third of the asphalt on the new link road and bus turning area has been completed within the site boundaries.

The traffic management measures on the A92/A96 will allow these areas to be reconstructed and prepared for the final layer of asphalt in the coming months.

Looking ahead

We are making good progress to deliver the project and in the coming months will be focusing on:

- Works to realign Manor Avenue at the junction of Manor Terrace
- Continuing phased traffic management on the A96 Auchmill Road to Haudagain roundabout to construct the junction to the new dual carriageway link road
- Phased traffic management on the A92 North Anderson Drive to Haudagain roundabout to construct the junction to the new dual carriageway link road
- Continuing to install street lighting columns
- Laying the permanent asphalt pavement for carriageways and footways
- Installing traffic signals and guardrail systems on the central junctions of the new link road
- Ongoing construction of the detention basin as part of the drainage works
- Landscaping works including topsoiling, seeding and tree planting.

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

New recruit

We continue to liaise with the local Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Developing the Young Workforce, and employment agencies to provide training and employment opportunities on the project. We recently employed one of our site operatives, Austin, who after completing a two-week work experience placement on the project, now works with us full-time.

Living a short distance from the site, he showed a keen interest in working in the construction industry. During his employment he will learn a wide range of construction skills that will stand him in good stead and assist him in achieving his career goals.

Austin said "I'm really grateful to have been given the opportunity to work on an interesting project for Farrans, and have learned a lot about the industry during my time here."



Austin who successfully completed a work experience placement and is now employed full-time on the project.

Employee Spotlight



Jack, trainee civil engineer, using a Total Station for surveying work on site

Meet Jack Patton, trainee civil engineer...

Jack, 22 started work on the Haudagain site at the start of 2020. Working as one of our site operatives, he wanted to expand on his existing skills and knowledge and is currently studying civil engineering on a day release course which combines further site experience and 'classroom' learning. We asked Jack a few questions about his journey into the industry:

What made you want to work in construction and civil engineering?

My dad has worked in construction my whole life so I have always been interested in the industry. The construction industry allows me to work outdoors and work with my hands - both of which I enjoy!

What was your first job in construction?

My first job in construction was as a labourer on a large civil engineering project in Aberdeen. I then worked alongside Farrans on various other projects before beginning my current role with Farrans on the Haudagain site in February 2020.

What are your career aspirations?

My experience in construction has given me a basic understanding of the industry. Working for Farrans, I aspire to gain a better knowledge of construction projects as a whole. For example, I would like to learn not just about the processes involved, but also gain an understanding of design concepts. I would also like to continue to develop further skills and progress within the company.

What do you enjoy about working for Farrans on the Haudagain project?

I enjoy working for Farrans on the Haudagain project as the site team are a good team of people that I can learn from and it has shown me all aspects of the industry such as design, construction and commercial.

What would you say to anyone who is thinking of a career within construction?

There is a wide variety of careers within the industry, each with their own rewarding aspects and opportunities to learn. There is also a chance to work on a variety of different projects.

Insights into construction

Up until the COVID-19 pandemic we had been engaging with local primary and secondary schools as well as with further education centres.

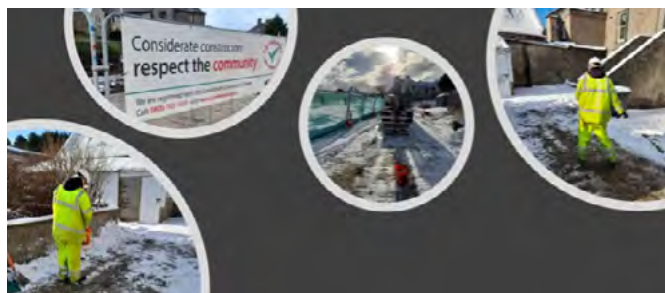
This included delivering 'Safety Sam' presentations to raise awareness of safety to younger children. Older children and young adults had opportunities to speak to members of staff and gain an insight into the construction industry as a potential career. We regularly welcomed further education students who would visit the site to learn more about their studies in a real-life context.

We are working on plans to continue to engage with children and young adults virtually. If you would like to arrange a remote educational event for your school or organisation, please contact Angela Newlands by email: haudagain@farrans.com

Farrans to the rescue!

During the heavy snowfall, some residents at the bottom of Manor Drive/Auchmill Road were unable to get out and about.

Our staff rushed to the rescue, providing a passageway through the snow by clearing and gritting the road, pavement and stairwell. Thankfully the bad weather has gone for the moment allowing normal service to resume!



Clearing a pathway through the snow

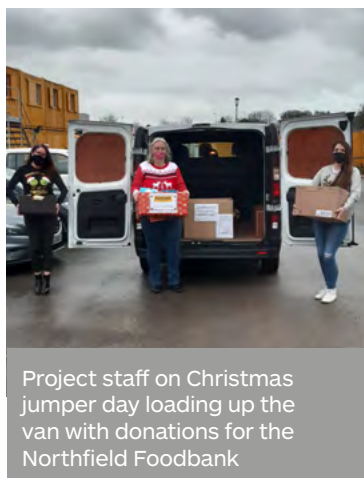
IN THE COMMUNITY

Farrans' fundraisers

- In December, we were delighted to present a cheque donation to support the fantastic work that is undertaken by Charlie House in Aberdeen. Charlie House is a children's charity which supports babies, children and young people with complex disabilities and life-limiting conditions, as well as providing support to their families, in the North-east of Scotland. You can find out more about the work they do at charliehouse.org.uk



- We joined forces with our colleagues on other Farrans' projects in Scotland to host a Christmas jumper day where staff raised funds for Save the Children. Over £500 was raised.
- Staff and subcontractors also dug deep and donated a wealth of food boxes to the Northfield Community Centre Foodbank. The foodbank currently distributes much needed food supplies to the local area and operates each Thursday morning from 10am-12 noon at the Northfield community centre.



Project staff on Christmas jumper day loading up the van with donations for the Northfield Foodbank

Considerate constructors



We are pleased to be registered with the Considerate Constructors Scheme (www.CCScheme.org.uk). Farrans is a committed scheme partner and we are proud of our achievements so far for both this project, and for our other work throughout the Scottish region and beyond.

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

With the next phases of construction underway, we will continue to keep local residents and the travelling public up to date with information on work which may directly affect them, including traffic management and construction work.

Traffic management measures will include the continued lane closures, road closures and temporary traffic lights as well as changes to parking restrictions and signed pedestrian diversions within Middlefield housing area.

There are a variety of ways that we will keep you informed throughout the works including Traffic Scotland website updates, letter drops, press releases, alerts on social media, advance warning signs, the project website, and on our three information boards which are situated in the following locations:

- The Hub, Manor Avenue, Aberdeen AB16 7UR
- Outside Manor Park School, 2 Danestone Circle, Aberdeen AB16 7YB
- Mastrick Access Point, Spey Road, Aberdeen AB16 6SH.

The project benefits from a dedicated Community Liaison Officer. If you have any matters you wish to raise concerning the project, please contact Angela at:

haudagain@farrans.com
or telephone
0800 783 0024



FURTHER PROJECT INFORMATION

For further information on the project, please visit the project website: transport.gov.scot/projects/a92a96-haudagain-improvement/

