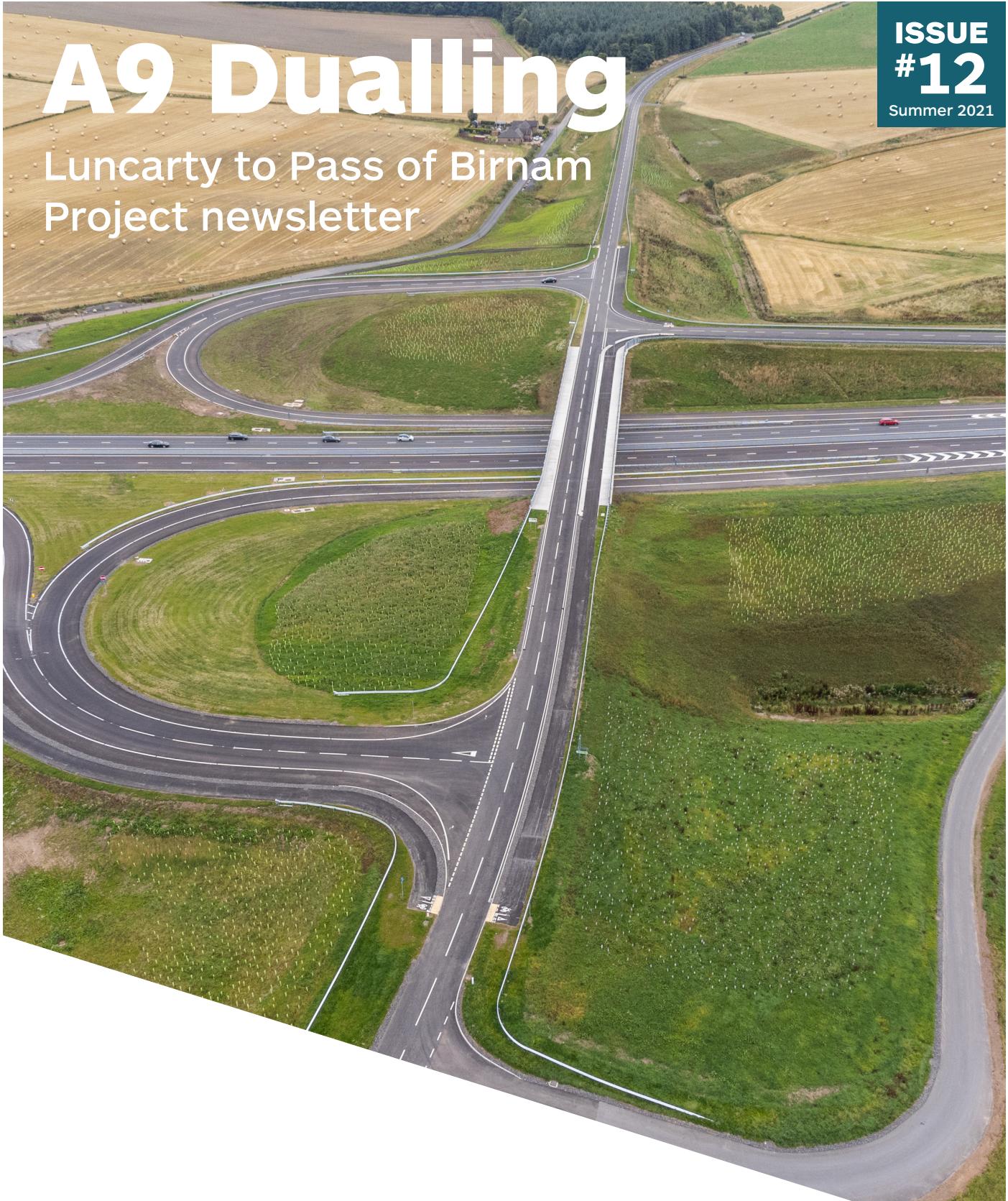


**ISSUE
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Summer 2021

A9 Dualling

Luncarty to Pass of Birnam
Project newsletter



Balfour Beatty



ATKINS
Member of the SNC-Lavalin Group

Jacobs



A9 Dualling: Luncarty to Pass of Birnam project opens to traffic

The project team was delighted to remove all traffic management measures ahead of schedule in August 2021, including lane restrictions and the 40 mph speed restrictions, allowing road users access to the newly dualled A9 carriageways for the first time.

The opening of this section to four lanes of traffic, the most southerly section of the A9 dualling programme, now provides 15 km of continuous dual carriageway from Inveralmond Roundabout to Birnam.



The project's 9.5km of new dual carriageway is now fully open to traffic

The project involved the construction of four new bridges over the A9 and the removal of all local direct accesses to the A9 carriageway. These measures have improved the safety of the route and will reduce driver frustration and stress by providing more opportunity to overtake safely.



New NMU provision north of Luncarty



Gelly overbridge open to traffic and non motorised users (NMUs)

The project has also created approximately 4 km of new and upgraded pedestrian, equestrian and cycle routes, linking the communities of Luncarty and Bankfoot for the first time, which will help to promote sustainable and active transport in the area.

Sections of the existing core paths within the project area have also been upgraded with new asphalt surfacing and mounting blocks have been installed at key locations to improve access for equestrians.

Over the next few months, we will continue to undertake finishing and landscaping works, which may on occasion require some traffic management to allow works to be undertaken safely. These works are expected to be completed in Winter 2021. We will maintain a presence at our site compound into Spring of 2022, and will continue to maintain landscape planting for a period of five years following completion of the project.

Our sincere thanks go to road users and the residents and businesses of the surrounding communities for their patience and understanding during the construction of this important infrastructure improvement project and we hope that, now that the road is open to traffic and the works are substantially complete, you are enjoying the benefits of the new dual carriageway.

Celebrating collaboration for the benefit of local communities

To celebrate the significant number of positive outcomes that have benefitted local communities, following the opening of the road, the project hosted an event to thank the partner organisations who have worked to make an innovative programme of community benefits a reality.



Transport Minister, Graeme Dey MSP, visited site to celebrate the opening of the road and meet the project team and some of the partner agencies that helped the project deliver on its community benefit targets.

We were joined on site by colleagues from Developing the Young Workforce, the Scottish Prison Service, Stanley Development Trust, Cycling Without Age, Academy9 and Stanley Men's Shed to reflect on the hugely positive outcomes that have made a real difference to the people of the communities which surround this project.

Transport Minister, Graeme Dey MSP attended the event to meet the project team and our partners and share his thoughts on the project's successes.

Mr Dey, said: "Transport infrastructure is key to improving connectivity in rural areas like Highland Perthshire and all across Scotland. It is also key to boosting economic prosperity and growth nationally and locally.

"However, it's clear this project has delivered so much more than the physical infrastructure. With the support of third sector organisations and local community partners, this project has helped improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the surrounding communities, by providing training and employment opportunities, fair working practices, promotion of equality, supporting small to medium enterprises and charities – the list goes on.

"The community benefits delivered as part of this project will leave a legacy beyond the construction phase and have changed lives for the better, and I would like to congratulate all involved for the collaborative approach taken to enable these benefits to be realised."

Local social enterprise, Giraffe Café in Perth, provided welcome refreshments and breakfast rolls following trishaw rides by our friends at Cycling Without Age who facilitated trips for representatives from Stanley Men's Shed, allowing them to experience the new NMU route between Bankfoot and Luncarty.



Mr Dey with John Robertson from Developing the Young Workforce and Matthew Mackie from Cycling Without Age

Cycling Without Age – Helping older generations get back on their bikes

As part of our community celebration event, we partnered with the Perth chapter of Cycling without Age (CWA) Scotland – a registered charity whose core aim is to enhance and enrich lives by giving elderly and disabled people access to the beautiful outdoors through its pioneering trishaw rides.

CWA provided trishaw tours along the 4 km of new and upgraded pedestrian, equestrian and cycle routes, which has connected the communities of Luncarty and Bankfoot for the first time and is helping promote sustainable and active transport options.

We welcomed some senior residents from Stanley to take part in the tours along with Norman Ridley, Senior Ambassador for Cycling Without Age.

Cycling Without Age is a movement which started in Denmark in 2012 with the goal of getting more people out on bikes, improving quality of life, reducing social isolation and overcoming mobility issues to get people of all ages and abilities outdoors.

Trishaw pilots, Matthew Mackie, Dave Mills and Lisa Sorbie, took guests on a ride from the site offices to the new Stanley/Tullybelton overbridge along the newly constructed non-motorised user route.



Cycling Without Age's trishaws

Opening our doors for the final time

Throughout the duration of the project, we have aimed to be as open and accessible as possible to local communities, encouraging their involvement in various stages of the construction process and providing regular up-dates of progress on site. One initiative which encouraged this engagement was our participation in Doors Open Day, coordinated by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust and funded by The Gannochy Trust.

This year, we were delighted to be able to extend an invitation to members of the public for an in-person event and on the 18th of September 2021, we opened our doors for the final time, providing the opportunity to learn about the project in person once more at our third Doors Open Day event.

This event was hosted outdoors in line with Covid guidance and took the form of a walking tour of the site. We welcomed 27 members of the public over two sessions with Construction Manager, Mark Elliot, providing a project overview and briefing before heading off in the Autumn sunshine for a walk to key locations on the project with the new dual carriage-way now operational.

Leaving from the site offices, the first stop was the on-site quarry where the benefits of having the capacity to source materials locally and batch concrete and asphalt on site was explained. The group then continued south along the non-motorised user (NMU) route to visit the concrete arch bridge which spans the Ordie Burn, where Mark explained the construction process and benefits of using this precast concrete structure.

The tour continued to the location of the borrow pit, which had been in place adjacent to Newmill Farm, to talk about the recently departed colony of sand martins that had taken up residence in the embankment, before finishing our tour at the new Stanley/Tullybelton Junction.



Construction Manager, Mark Elliot, explaining the arch construction process

Perth College students gain first experience of a live construction project

Over the summer months, we have been thrilled to welcome four students from Perth College to complete placement opportunities on site as they take their first steps to a career in construction.

The project team welcomed Calum, Jamie, Monica and Fraser from Perth College during July and August to each complete a week-long placement on site. Two of the students were completing their Construction Management HNC and the other two were studying a Foundation Apprenticeship in Civil Engineering.

Over the course of the placements, the students were able to shadow the on-site engineering teams before spending a day with the project's designers, Atkins, and Transport Scotland's site representatives, Jacobs. This format gave the students the opportunity to see the full spectrum of roles involved in the project from the perspective of contractor, designer, and client. The students ended the week by delivering a short presentation on their experience to members of the senior project team which earned them each an industry recognised Bronze level 'Industrial Cadets' accreditation.

Daniel Kiraly, Civil Engineering Lecturer at Perth College, said: "I'm really happy the students have had a chance to spend a week on site with Balfour Beatty. All of the students have provided feedback and unanimously agreed it was an extremely informative and enjoyable experience."



Monica and Fraser receiving their Industrial Cadets certificates from Project Manager, Alan Brisbane



Calum and Jamie receiving their Industrial Cadets certificates from Construction Manager, Alan Thompson

And we're not done yet!

Although the construction of the new dual carriageway is largely complete and the road has opened to traffic, we are continuing to work with the local community to create opportunities that will leave a meaningful legacy for local people:

Biodiversity Workshops: We plan to deliver a classroom resource for local primary schools to learn about biodiversity, which explains how the project team has worked to protect, create and link habitats around the project site. This resource will include hands-on activities giving pupils the opportunity to enhance biodiversity around their own primary schools.

Circular Economy Webinar: We are putting the finishing touches to a circular economy webinar which will be streamed to secondary school pupils throughout Perth and Kinross to introduce students to this vital concept. A circular economy is an economic system of closed loops in which raw materials, components and products lose their value as little as possible, renewable energy sources are used and systems thinking is at the core. Resource efficiency is a huge focus for our society and particularly for the construction industry and this workshop explains how circular principles are implemented on our construction sites.

Lunch Club returns to Stanley

A highlight of our programme of community benefits was sponsoring the Stanley Lunch Club. Following a wonderful experience supporting the Christmas Lunch in 2019, the lunch club was sadly halted due to the risks posed to older, more vulnerable people by the pandemic.

Over the 18 months which followed, we worked closely with the lunch club volunteers and Stanley Development Trust to support the provision of afternoon tea boxes which were delivered to the homes of lunch clubbers to try and maintain contact and reduce social isolation during an extremely difficult time.

It was with great joy that, in August 2021, we were able to sponsor the triumphant return of the lunch club to the Tayside Hotel in Stanley.

More than 45 lunch club members attended the event to reconnect with old friends, enjoy live music and catch up over a delicious meal.

The lunch club is an essential service which provides the opportunity for older people to meet up regularly and combat loneliness and isolation.



Some of the lunch clubbers enjoying some homemade berry pavlova at the Tayview Hotel in Stanley



We marked the event with a cake to celebrate the strong partnership between the project and the Trust

One Million Lives Campaign

Mental health issues pose a huge problem for society and the construction industry in particular has some of the most concerning figures on poor mental health of any profession. A lot has been done over the past few years to try and combat the issues that plague the industry in an attempt to create a more open environment to talk about mental health, to reduce stress and fatigue and to equip people with access to the tools and support they need to improve their mental wellbeing.

Jacobs, Transport Scotland's representative on site at the project, has created a platform called 'One Million Lives' which aims to provide a resource, accessible to all, to assess your current mental wellbeing and provide resources that can help improve it. The platform was developed in partnership with Peta Slocombe. Peta is a psychologist with more than 23 years experience working clinically with patients, coaching leaders, and consulting with individuals and organizations to help them be at their best.

You can read more about One Million Lives by going to the website and, if you want, you can complete the 'check-in' quiz to assess your own wellbeing. <https://www.oml.world/>



One Million Lives

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