

A96 Inverness to Nairn (incl. Nairn Bypass)

Introducing the environmental team and current survey work

Artist's impression: River Nairn Crossing.



The River Nairn.



One of the critical elements in the development of a new road scheme is the environmental impact assessment (EIA) and landscape design. As Environmental and Landscaping Manager Shirley Henderson is responsible for ensuring that the environmental impacts of the scheme are identified and properly assessed.

Wherever possible, the design of the scheme will be amended to remove and minimise impacts. Taking account of the outcome of the impact assessment, Shirley and her team will develop a landscape design and environmental mitigation proposals to ensure that the scheme blends as far as possible into the landscape and causes the minimum possible disruption to local communities and the local environment.

Assisting Shirley in managing this work will be EIA Coordinator, Denise Meade and Senior Environmental Specialist Pete Simpson. Shirley, Denise and Pete will be overseeing teams of specialists in disciplines including:

- Ecology
- Landscape
- Cultural heritage
- Air quality
- Noise and vibration
- Land use
- Geology/soils/contaminated land
- Planning
- Hydrology/hydraulics
- Geomorphology.

A key part of the environmental assessment process is to carry out ecological and environmental surveys in order to gather baseline information on existing habitats, species and environmental conditions.

Some of these surveys are already under way and you may see Jacobs' specialists in the area undertaking these. Surveys currently under way include aquatic, breeding birds, reptile, bat and other ecological surveys.



Jacobs Environmental and Landscaping Manager Shirley Henderson.

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Design development

Over the coming months, the Jacobs team will be refining the design of the preferred option so that it best meets the needs of road users, local communities, residents and businesses. This work will include:

- Considering local changes to the alignment of the preferred option, including side roads, to minimise environmental and land-use impacts
- Refining the layout and positioning of junctions to minimise land-take and ensure all local access requirements are accommodated
- Development of the preferred option to facilitate pedestrians, cyclists and other non-motorised users, including consideration of additional routes and facilities where appropriate
- Reviewing the design of bridges to reduce land-take and ensure cost effectiveness
- Design optimisation in the vicinity of public utility apparatus
- Development of the road drainage design, including pollution control measures
- Review of potential flood risk areas, and associated design work
- Further development of the side roads and private access designs to ensure suitable access is provided.

In addition, ground investigation works are expected to commence during winter 2015/16. This will involve drilling boreholes and digging trial pits to take soil and rock samples at key locations along the route.

Aerial view of A96 (looking east).



Engaging with the community

Future drop-in sessions will be organised to give the public further opportunity to come along and discuss any issues or queries on an informal, one-to-one basis. The stakeholder management team will be in attendance at the drop-in sessions with technical specialists to answer questions and discuss the scheme. Details will be publicised locally.

Contact details

Should you wish to contact Jacobs, details for their two dedicated stakeholder liaison managers are:

Stakeholder Coordinator: Simon Young, Tel. 01463 228300, Email: simon.young@jacobs.com

Landowner Consultation Manager: Sharon Kelly, Tel. 01463 228300, Email: sharon.kelly@jacobs.com

By post: **Jacobs UK Ltd, Kintail House, Beechwood Park, Inverness, IV2 3BW**

Further information:

For further information on the A96 Dualling Inverness to Nairn (including Nairn Bypass) scheme, please visit the Transport Scotland website: www.transportscotland.gov.uk/project/a96-inverness-nairn-including-nairn-bypass

Information on the wider A96 Dualling Inverness to Aberdeen programme can be found at: www.transportscotland.gov.uk/a96dualling

A96 Dualling Inverness to Nairn (including Nairn Bypass)



Meet the team

August 2015



A96 Inverness to Nairn (incl. Nairn Bypass)



Welcome

As Transport Scotland's Programme Manager for the A96 Inverness to Aberdeen Dualling Programme, I am delighted to introduce our design team for the A96 Dualling Inverness to Nairn (including Nairn Bypass) scheme.

This scheme involves construction of a new 30km dual carriageway between the roundabout for Inverness Retail Park and Hardmuir (approximately 3km east of Auldearn) and is part of an ambitious programme which will see the full length of the A96 between Inverness and Aberdeen upgraded to dual carriageway by 2030.

The preferred option for the scheme was announced in October 2014, at which time we held a series of public exhibitions. We are now using the vital feedback from these exhibitions to help inform and develop the scheme design.

In May this year, we appointed a design consultant, Jacobs UK Ltd, to take forward the design and assessment of the preferred option. In this leaflet, we introduce you to the Jacobs team and highlight some of the current work and what you may see happening on the ground over the coming months. This includes design development, environmental surveys, ground investigation and landowner meetings.

Keeping the public informed and giving you the opportunity to comment on our plans is an essential and integral part of the design process. Throughout the scheme development process, we will be providing regular updates to the local community and holding public events to allow you to have your say.

These 'Meet the Team' events provide an opportunity for you to meet the Transport Scotland and Jacobs teams working on the Inverness to Nairn (including Nairn Bypass) scheme and find out more about their plans as they work towards publishing draft orders for the scheme in 2016.

Alasdair Graham
Programme Manager

Introducing the community engagement team

Transport Scotland is committed to placing public engagement and meaningful dialogue with directly affected communities and other stakeholders at the heart of the development and delivery of its projects.

Managing and coordinating this public engagement and dialogue on the A96 Dualling Inverness to Nairn (including Nairn Bypass) scheme will be the responsibility of Jacobs' Stakeholder Coordinator Simon Young. Simon is a senior member of the Jacobs management team and is dedicated to ensuring that Transport Scotland's principles for community engagement are followed throughout the lifetime of the scheme.

Simon is based in Jacobs' Inverness office and has lived and worked in the Highlands for many years. He has also worked with Transport Scotland and Highland Council on many major and local road projects and is very familiar with the processes involved in the delivery of schemes such as this. He is ideally placed to engage with local communities and other stakeholders in a proactive and meaningful fashion.

Simon commented: "I am excited to be involved in this major infrastructure scheme right on my doorstep and look forward to working with local communities and other stakeholders to ensure their interests are fully taken into account as the design develops."

Assisting Simon in his role is Landowner Consultation Manager Sharon Kelly, who is also based in the Inverness office. Throughout the design process, consultation with all landowners and tenants directly affected by the preferred option will be undertaken. Sharon will be managing a team of staff, who will undertake face-to-face meetings and ongoing liaison with all affected landowners and tenants. Several of the landowner consultation team members have been drawn from our road design team and are involved in developing the design of the alignment, drainage and other elements.

Sharon commented: "We have already met a number of the affected landowners and this is providing valuable information which will be fed back into the scheme design process. We are hoping to meet all directly affected landowners and tenants within the next two months and during this period we will be contacting all landowners and tenants to arrange to come and see them."



Jacobs Stakeholder Coordinator Simon Young (left) and Landowner Consultation Manager Sharon Kelly (centre) with some members of the landowner consultation team (left to right): Matt Mackie, John MacLennan and Michelle Brock.



Introducing the Jacobs management team

In addition to the community engagement team, Jacobs has a large team of specialists working on the scheme. This includes road design, transport planning, geotechnical, structures, environmental and landscape specialists.

Since being appointed in May this year, Jacobs has been working rapidly to mobilise their full design and assessment team. Led by Contract Director Rob Galbraith, Jacobs now has over 100 people mobilised to work on the project. Rob is joined on the management team by Contract Manager Helen Bradley, Roads and Infrastructure Manager Graeme Herd and Environmental and Landscaping Manager Shirley Henderson.

including the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route, the Queensferry Crossing and the Clackmannanshire Bridge.

The Jacobs team are responsible for developing and finalising the design of the preferred option, carrying out a full engineering and environmental assessment of the proposed road and preparing the statutory documents necessary to allow the scheme to move to construction.

Jacobs Contract Director Rob Galbraith commented: "This will be one of the biggest transport schemes in a generation to be constructed in the Highlands and we are delighted to be continuing our work with Transport Scotland in taking it forward. I am sure that anybody who travels on the A96 regularly will appreciate the benefits this scheme will bring. I am also acutely aware of the potential impacts on local communities and the environment and am committed to working with everybody in the area to ensure that these impacts are minimised."

In addition to meetings with stakeholders, early work to assess the environmental impacts of the scheme and refine the road alignment design is now under way.

Contract Manager Helen Bradley commented: "We have a very ambitious target to complete the outline scheme design and environmental assessment in time to publish draft statutory orders during 2016. I am pleased that we have been able to mobilise our team so quickly but there is a tremendous amount of work to do. Our aim will be to complete all this work on schedule while still engaging fully with all stakeholders to ensure the scheme is developed to best meet the needs of all interested parties."



Jacobs Contract Manager Helen Bradley and Contract Director Rob Galbraith.



Jacobs Roads and Infrastructure Manager Graeme Herd.

Preferred option for Inverness to Nairn (including Nairn Bypass) scheme as announced in October 2014.

