

A737 Dalry Bypass

Project newsletter



Progress at Highfield roundabout



Farrans Roadbridge JV Project Manager Brian Snow

Welcome

Welcome to the fifth issue of our regular A737 Dalry Bypass project newsletter.

We have enjoyed a milder winter than last year's 'Beast from the East'.

As we enter into spring, we hope that the better weather continues to allow us to make good progress. My team and I now look forward to completing the delivery of the bypass later this year.

We appreciate your patience whilst the work is ongoing. We would ask you to continue to be mindful as you drive through traffic management that our workforce is at times working adjacent to the moving traffic. As always, we remain grateful for the cooperation shown by the local community whilst we construct this important project.

Brian Snow, Project Manager
Farrans Roadbridge JV



Aerial image of the Highfield roundabout and link roads to the B707/C99 and current A737

EARTHWORKS

The earthworks on the east side of the viaduct have been completed. This major milestone will allow us to lay the road surfacing, and install safety barriers, road signs and street lights. The new roundabout at Hillend is now well under construction and the layout of the new road is really taking shape. There is currently traffic management in place at Hillend to allow the new roundabout to be constructed. Upon completion, the new roundabout will link the existing A737 to the new Dalry Bypass.

TOP-SOILING AND LANDSCAPING

The earthworks are nearing completion and the top-soiling of embankments is underway. Landscaping and planting will follow.

STRUCTURES

Another milestone was recently achieved in December 2018, with the final installation of the precast concrete deck panels on the viaduct over the River Garnock and the Ayr to Glasgow railway line. In total there were 324 precast units installed. The precast deck panels have been joined with concrete stitching, where concrete is poured into the gaps between the panels, to form a single bridge deck surface. The bridge parapets, kerbs and footpaths are currently being constructed and this activity will be followed by the road surfacing on the bridge.



Main carriageway under Blair Road overbridge

Progress update

SURFACING

The construction of the main carriageway continues to make good progress. The remaining final layer of road surfacing is to be laid on the main carriageway between the viaduct and the eastern end of the bypass. Once the earthworks have been completed for the roundabout at Hillend, road construction will start soon after.

Safety barrier, street lighting and road sign installation are well under way and will be followed by the placement of the final road surface layer and road markings.



Aerial photo of Highfield Interchange

1. Aerial view of Hillend roundabout from Blair Road where the new A737 Dalry Bypass links to the existing A737 **2.** Approach to viaduct which takes the road over the Garnock Valley **3.** Completed road embankments and roundabout at Highfield



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COMMUNITY

Over the course of the project we have worked closely with many of the community groups in the local area.



The completed sign which includes a section on the project and (right) the posts donated by Farrans Roadbridge



Bypass art

The Dalry Bypass Art Group approached us to ask if we could help them with signs they were planning to install in Dalry as part of the heritage project they were delivering for the community.

The Art Group held an art exhibition in Spring 2017, where they asked the local primary school pupils to submit ideas and pictures for the event. The group then arranged the installation of heritage signs in Dalry town centre and the public park. We were delighted to

be able to help with this request and supplied the Art Group with nine metal posts to enable the signs to be erected.

Julie Wales, from Dalry Bypass Art Group said: "We would like to thank Farrans Roadbridge for their assistance in supplying the posts for our boards and for the courteous manner received since the request was made right through to the delivery of the posts."

Foodbank donation

Site staff and subcontractors continue to support the North Ayrshire Foodbank.

On this occasion our donation amounted to a massive 110kgs of food items. Just before the Christmas break, generous project staff dug deep into their pockets to donate toys and books as well as the food. One of our subcontractors, Murform also made a separate collection from staff at their Livingston office to make the donation as generous as possible.



Construction Manager Tristram Browne handed over the donation to the Ardrossan-based foodbank

SPREADING FESTIVE CHEER!

We were pleased to make a financial donation to the Dalry Welfare Club to assist with their Christmas social event. The group meet every Tuesday to take part in an armchair exercise class in Rosearden Hall, Dalry. Community Liaison Officer Angela Newlands popped in for a coffee and chat before the armchair exercise class and met Chairperson Myra Sim and the members of the club.



CHRISTMAS IN DALRY

Farrans Roadbridge were delighted to be one of a number of businesses able to provide Dalry Action Group with a financial donation towards ensuring the local community could enjoy their annual Tinsel and Torchlight parade. Santa was able to take time out of his busy schedule to visit the town centre to switch the festive lights on and Santa's elves were on hand to give presents to the children.

DALRY COMMUNITY SPORTS CLUB

We were pleased to support the Dalry Community Sports Club with a donation to assist with the Garnock Valley Parklives initiative. Through its 16-week programme, which runs over the summer months, it aims to increase access to sports and leisure opportunities for the children of Dalry, Kilbirnie, Beith and the surrounding areas, and encourages a more positive and healthy lifestyle.

SPOTLIGHT ON ENVIRONMENT

Farrans Roadbridge's environmental work ethos is the four Rs – **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Recover**, and the project is always looking for ways to reduce its carbon footprint on the A737 Dalry Bypass.



Since the project started, the volume of earth which has been reused within the site is in excess of 130,000 cubic metres.

This has significantly reduced the volume of soil having to be disposed of outside the site. The reused excavated earth has been predominately used to construct environmental bunds to mitigate the environmental effects of the new road.

The project benefits from the onsite presence of a dedicated Environmental Advisor, Monika Wojda (pictured left), who works with the construction team to ensure that all construction works on site are in accordance with the project's environmental statement and relevant legislation.

Reuse, restore!

The project team came across an opportunity to reuse some surplus soil locally, at a steading in Dalry.

In the mid-19th century, the area was a mine where ironstone was extracted to supply the nearby Blair Iron Works. Plans were put in place to restore the quarried site back to agricultural land using surplus material from the A737 Dalry Bypass construction works.

The primary benefit was establishment of a surface layer of mineral topsoil which means the site can now support the growing of crops.

Prior to restoration, the site had no potential to support any crops. To achieve the desired result, boulder clay was used as a subsoil which provided additional depth to the soil profile to support the intended crop growing and provided flexibility for the long-term



The site before work to restore the quarried land was undertaken

management of the site. The reprofiling of the site prior to the spreading of soils was also beneficial as the steep slopes were removed to provide safe conditions for grazing and management of the site with standard agricultural machinery.

The restoration included the following works:

- Reprofiling of the site to remove any steep slopes and back lying areas and to ensure clear surface drainage lines
- Importation of extra subsoil which was laid directly over the site including a further layer of topsoil
- When groundworks were completed, the land was sown in co-operation with the landowner and returned for agricultural use.

North Ayrshire Council Senior Development Management Officer Anthony Hume recently visited the improved site and said: "I had the chance to take a look at the restoration works, which were very impressive and quite possibly the best land restoration scheme I have ever witnessed. I can honestly say that the land has been completely transformed in a very positive way. I would be grateful if you could pass on my thanks to all who were



The site after the restoration work was undertaken

involved in making this happen in such a short timescale."

The owner of the site stated: "I am impressed by how well Farrans Roadbridge have transformed an old industrial site into a gently sloping field for sheep to graze."

FURTHER PROJECT INFORMATION

If you have any matters you wish to raise concerning the project, please contact: Angela Newlands, Community Liaison Officer by email on dalrybypass@farrans.com or telephone **02890 394089**.

For more information on the project please visit:

transport.gov.scot/projects/a737-dalry-bypass

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.

