

February 2022 - August 2023

Community Benefits Report



Project Charter

Health, Safety and Wellbeing

People are at the core of what we do and everyone's wellbeing is our number one priority. We have a consistent, holistic approach to achieving this. Everyone involved in the project is expected to be open to challenge and open to change. It is everyone's responsibility to be proactive, call it out, don't walk by and always remember your safety is my safety.

Sustainability

The construction sector provides value for millions of people but uses many resources in the process. We understand this and are committed to carbon reduction in a bid to make the project as sustainable as we can with environmental protection and wildlife safeguards a key component.

Communications

We will create understanding of what the project will achieve through regular positive messaging to communities through a range of media channels. Project success is dependent on the development of a sharing culture with team members working together.

Legacy

We will leave a lasting positive legacy in Perth and Kinross and to its communities. This is a nationally important piece of infrastructure that will improve the local environment through reductions in air pollution, encourage active travel and improve connectivity.

Using the ethos and approach of the Perth and Kinross Offer, we will work with communities to deliver education, employment and cultural and environmental community benefits projects that will ensure a lasting social value for communities in the area.

Quality

We will deliver the best quality project we can all be proud of at the best value. We strive to get things right first time, deliver on budget and on time.

One Team

Everyone involved in the project is part of one team. Client, contractor, consultants, subcontractors, suppliers: only by working collaboratively will we deliver the type of project everyone aspires to.

Jillian Ferguson

Denise Ritchie

Carol Geddes

Gary Wilkie

William Diver



Welcome

The Cross Tay Link Road project is undoubtedly the most significant infrastructure investment Perth & Kinross Council has undertaken. Budgeted at £150m, the road will provide substantial economic and environmental benefits for generations to come.

It is crucial that alongside these long-term gains we consider the social value that a project such as this can deliver for the people of Perth and Kinross. As such, the project is targeted to achieve several community benefits including volunteering, work experience opportunities, adult employment, charitable donations of labour and equipment, fundraising and local charity support.

These targets dovetail neatly with the area-wide ambition as laid out in the Perth and Kinross Offer. The Offer comes from our commitment to balance the relationship between

people who design and deliver services and those who ultimately use them. Evidence shows that communities are better at identifying their needs and designing solutions. By focusing our efforts and resources together we can make a positive difference to people's lives.

During the procurement process, BAM Nuttall, the main contractor on the Cross Tay Link Road project, demonstrated a strong commitment to delivering on these promises. A series of KPIs were agreed and over the past 18 months the entire team has strived to deliver on projects large and small to improve the lives of people living, working and visiting in the Perth and Kinross area.

This report highlights the success stories so far and demonstrates the wider social value and legacy of this impressive project.



Contents

Project Achievements with Jillian Ferguson	4
Compensatory Planting	6
Denmarkfield Rewilding	8
Supporting Grassroots Sport	10
Skills Development and Employability	12
Supporting Local Charities	14
Contractor Focus: GB Landscapes	16
Community Artwork with Nichol Wheatley	18
Bringing the Past into the Future	20
Contractor Focus: Amery Construction	22
Clearing the Way Forward	23
Building Bridges & Forging Careers	24
Perth Autism Support	26
Green Bridge	28
Looking to the Future with Innes MacKintosh	30

Delivering for the Communities of Perth and Kinross

Jillian Ferguson

The premise of using public spending to make Perth and Kinross a better place to live, work and do business, has been an integral part of the Perth Transport Futures planning since its inception.

Perth & Kinross Council works towards a vision for procurement which aims to achieve commercial excellence while delivering best value services to the communities of Perth and Kinross. In doing so, the ambition is to drive economic, environmental, and social benefits in an effective, efficient, ethical and sustainable way.

Centring our ambitions around the guidelines laid out in the Perth and Kinross Offer, we looked to ensure that the purchase of all goods, works and services impacted positively on local people and promoted inclusive economic growth, fair opportunities for all, and tangible legacies for the communities we work and live within.

By building on these principles, we aimed not only to deliver best value for the design and build of the Cross Tay Link Road but also sought to leverage maximum social value and impact from this significant infrastructure investment.

Informed by both the Council procurement strategy and the Perth and Kinross Offer, the Community Benefits and Social Value Strategy for the Cross Tay Link Road project clearly set out the terms of engagement and expectations for the successful contractor from the outset.

The Cross Tay Link Road project will have a significant effect on Perth and the surrounding area, both during construction and once it is completed. Through this strategy, the Council aims to further improve the lives of local people and to enable local communities to thrive.

By boosting employment opportunities, expanding and enhancing skills, and engaging proactively with educational institutions, it is our hope that we can leave behind a legacy that will benefit generations to come.

In addition to this, we are determined to help and support more vulnerable members of our communities through charitable work and donations, and to build upon the project ethos by aiding projects focused on improving



public spaces and delivering environmental gains. The reach, by its nature, is wide and inclusive.

It is our intention to build on the award-winning results achieved in Stage 1 of the Perth Transport Futures project, and to galvanise the entire team as united in the aims and aspirations promised.

“

We are determined to help and support more vulnerable members of our communities.

”

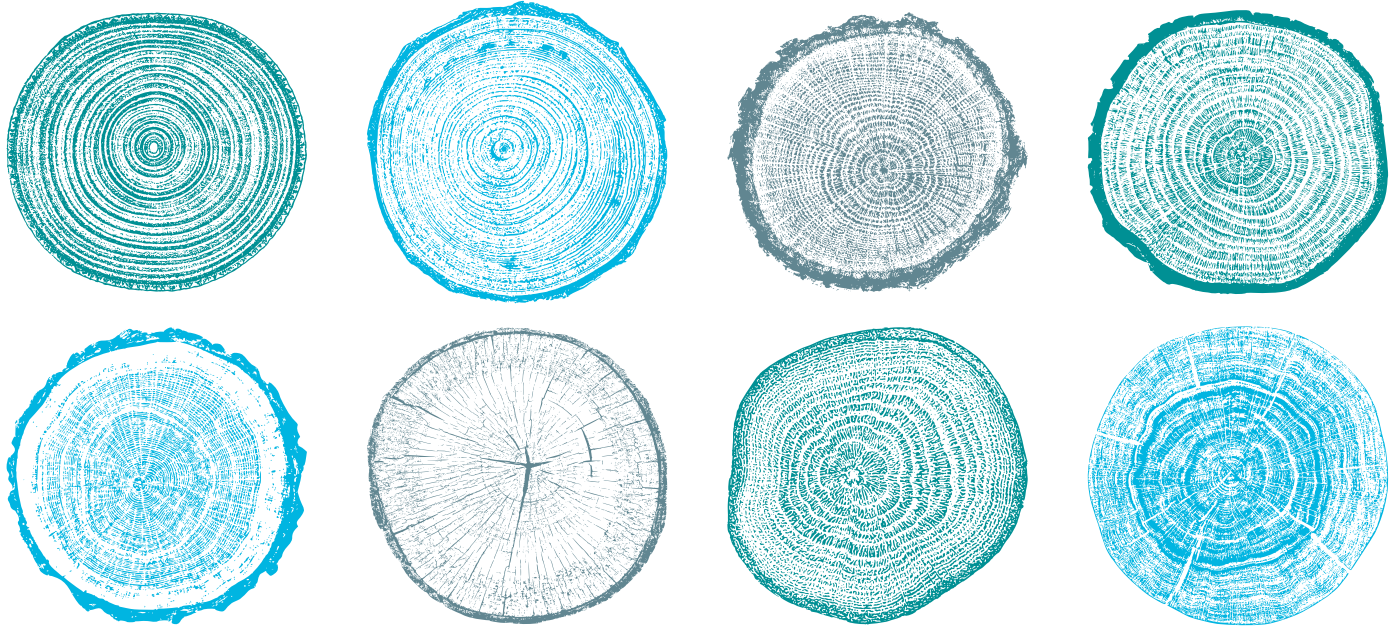
I am delighted then, to be bringing the first in a series of reports highlighting the success stories so far. A huge amount of work has taken place at all levels of the project; from our dedicated Community Benefits Team (hear more from Innes Mackintosh on page 30) to sub-contractors, enthusiastic individuals and community volunteers, it has been an incredible team effort.

You will find projects both large and small in these pages. The Rewilding Denmarkfield project (page 8) showcases just how much can be achieved when strong partnerships are forged. However, it is also the case that an individual visit from one young person – meet Zak on page 26 – can also make an impression that may well change a life.

I hope you enjoy this report, and will join me in congratulating the many businesses, individuals, and community groups who have worked to make these results possible.

Jillian Ferguson
Roads Infrastructure Manager, Perth and Kinross Council

Compensatory Planting



The renewed national effort to plant more trees and increase the overall woodland canopy has been notable in recent years as government, public and private sectors come together to tackle carbon targets. As well as addressing environmental needs, academic studies have shown the important role trees play in absorbing pollutants and bolstering social and health benefits. Conversely, areas of forests or woodlands that are impacted by new developments will inevitably suffer from loss of biodiversity; consequently, there is a need to compensate for this.

Jillian Ferguson, Project Manager from Perth & Kinross Council, commented, “As we look towards the future, and developing the space in which we live and work, there is an opportunity to make positive and long-lasting change. Not only will we address the immediate issues surrounding climate change, but we can also influence the biodiversity of our environment and provide health and wellbeing for generations.”

Whilst development of the Cross Tay Link Road project has resulted in the loss of 12.7 hectares of woodland, it is proposed to provide compensatory planting of 13.53 hectares.

In addition, BAM Nuttall and Perth & Kinross Council will plant more than 100,000 trees and shrubs across the project. By compensating for woodland lost, the project will generate a net-positive effect on the biodiversity of the area, as well as bringing additional social benefits including the restoration of lost habitats.

As well as contracting GB Landscapes to supply and plant the trees, BAM Nuttall is also working with local community groups and schools to develop new habitats and improve biodiversity. These projects have been agreed with the Planning Authority and NatureScot.



Denmarkfield December 2022 and January 2023



A new community woodland just north of Perth has been created as part of the Rewilding Denmarkfield project. As one of the major components of the compensatory planting objective, the first ground was broken in December 2022 and since then volunteers, schoolchildren, parents and teachers have planted more than 600 trees.

BAM Nuttall landscaping contractor GB Landscapes will plant over 8000 additional trees across the Denmarkfield rewilding project site prior to the end of 2023. More on this exciting project on pages 8 and 9.

Pitcairngreen - January 2023

The site at Pitcairngreen had been identified in advance of the project and as well as supplying and planting trees, GB Landscapes also carried out work to prepare the ground, supply and fit tree protectors, and provide and install deer fencing. Over the course of the three days they planted 4,820 trees with a squad of eight operatives. Oak trees represent half of the trees planted, other species planted include birch, hazel, rowan, cherry and holly. Maintenance of the trees will also be undertaken until those planted are established.



The Environmental Impact Assessment

As part of the Cross Tay Link Road design an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the project was undertaken to fully assess any environmental issues likely to arise as a result of the proposals.

The EIA process includes a requirement to manage whole life carbon, including construction and operational impacts. To enable this, the CTRL's potential carbon emissions continue to be managed through the implementation of PAS 2080 - the world's first specification for Carbon Management in Infrastructure.

Perth & Kinross Council leveraged feedback from the planning process and stakeholders to place sustainability at the heart of the CTRL project. As well as this, commitments included in the Interim Climate Emergency Report and Action Plan and the Take Climate Action priority identified by Transport Scotland's National Transport Strategy were consulted.

As well as meeting all PKC requirements, BAM Nuttall successfully demonstrated a commitment to deliver several biodiversity proposals including additional compensatory planting. Their plans included the engagement of GB Landscapes, a landscape designer, to deliver programming along with civil works, and to ensure the hand back of as much land as possible.

A strict timetable of works will ensure a final, established landscape scheme that integrates with the existing surroundings and delivers ongoing benefits for biodiversity and the environment.

Tree Planting Stats

Total woodland lost – 12.7ha
Total compensatory planting – 13.53ha

Compensatory Planting

Trees planted Denmarkfield – 8526 trees
Trees planted Pitcairngreen – 4,820 trees
Trees planted Highfield – 7354 trees
A9 – 4,707 trees
Wetland – 3340 trees

Rewilding Denmarkfield

Working in partnership with Rewilding Denmarkfield, the community group focused on delivering a 90-acre rewilding project just north of Perth, BAM Nuttall and Perth & Kinross Council have delivered a new community woodland, a community fruit orchard, and a community allotment.

The first ground was broken onsite in December 2022, by a 27-strong group of BAM Nuttall employees, the Friends of Denmarkfield community group, and the Denmarkfield Rewilding Project staff. Since then, there have been six site visits from Luncarty Primary School to plant trees and gain knowledge around the rewilding scheme.

The children and volunteers have planted more than 2,000 trees throughout these events and in addition to this, BAM Nuttall's landscaping contractor GB Landscapes have planted more than 8,000 additional trees across the rewilding site.

As well as supplying the trees themselves, BAM Nuttall also prepared the ground, supplied and fitted tree protectors, and provided and installed deer fencing on the site.

BAM Nuttall Project Director, William Diver, commented, "All trees have been sourced through Scottish suppliers and are indigenous to this region, so once established they will be sympathetic to vegetation in the surrounding area. This is a major rewilding project and a great example of our commitment to providing additional value to local communities as part of the Cross Tay Link Road project."

The careful planning and design of the woodlands, community orchard and species-rich grassland, has also resulted in the creation of a 1km-long pollinator corridor. This connects the new woodland to the semi-ancient oak woodland which runs along the River Tay Special Area of Conservation.

Rich in diverse forms of pollen and nectar from native flowering trees, shrubs, and herbs, this will provide habitat and food for a wide variety of pollinators and other wildlife. The Denmarkfield pollinator corridor lies within one of Buglife's priority B-Line areas, a national project aimed at creating pollinator-friendly corridors throughout the UK.



Izzy Jones of Rewilding Denmarkfield commented, "Since our work with the Cross Tay Link Road project began, we have seen a 317% increase in bee recordings, and a 124% increase in butterflies throughout the whole site. We have also recently recorded pine martens on the site for the first time, and there have been 81 different bird species recorded onsite, 21 of which are of conservation concern."

Ellie Corsie, Rewilding Denmarkfield Project Manager, said, "We are very grateful to the Cross Tay Link Road project for supporting our rewilding project. With the trees and fencing they have provided we are able to implement our ambitious and unique woodland creation project which will benefit biodiversity and the climate. We can't wait to get enthusiastic plot holders in to grow fruit and vegetables, and hopefully build up a knowledge-sharing community."

Perth & Kinross Council's Roads Infrastructure Manager, Jillian Ferguson, commented, "The new woodland, orchard and allotment at Denmarkfield are just three of the many community benefits associated with the wider construction project.

Ultimately, this project is about improving air quality by reducing vehicle emissions caused by traffic congestion, so it is a great bonus to be having positive carbon outcomes through new forestation as well."

Community Woodland

The community woodland covers 43,000m² and is a broadleaf woodland with a mixture of oak, birch, rowan, hazel, aspen, holly, wild cherry, crab apple, dog rose, blackthorn and hawthorn.

A series of community events generated much in the way of support from over 30 local volunteers, and school visits from Luncarty Primary School. This was then supplemented by GB Landscapes who completed the planting across the area.

Moving forward, BAM Nuttall will work with Friends of Denmarkfield to maintain the planted areas for at least five years to facilitate tree establishment, and to ensure ongoing community involvement at key times such as the removal of tree guards and stakes once trees are established. The new woodland will then be managed long-term by the Rewilding Denmarkfield team.

Community Orchard

With 180 fruit trees now in place, GB Landscapes' planting of the community orchard was completed in April 2023. Featuring apples, plums, pears, medlars, damsons and greengages sourced from two local businesses – Plants and Apples in Blackhaugh, and the Community Farm at Spittalfield – the orchard should provide its first harvest in two to three years.

BAM Nuttall will cover annual professional pruning costs for years two to five and will assist in supporting community involvement in maintenance and harvesting. As part of this, a series of tree planting events for local people and schools will take place over the 2023/24 planting season.

Community Allotments

Working closely with the Denmarkfield Rewilding team, BAM Nuttall and Perth & Kinross Council have created 49 allotment plots of various sizes, as well as arranging a shipping container to be donated by Greenwell Containers.

The plots have been built on a cycle path to encourage active travel (cycling or walking) and ease of use for all, and the ask is that all plots are cultivated organically. Currently, the allotments are available to residents from the Luncarty and Redgorton area.



About the Buglife B-Line Project

Our bees, butterflies and hoverflies have suffered badly over the last fifty or so years, due to changes in land use reducing pollen and nectar sources and leading to a decline in wildlife depending on wildflower-rich habitat.

B-Lines are an imaginative solution to the problem; by creating a series of 'insect pathways' running throughout the UK's countryside and towns, the aim is to restore a series of wildflower-rich habitat steppingstones. These will link existing wildlife areas together and will also provide large areas of new habitat to benefit bees, butterflies and other wildlife.

The Benefits of B-Lines

B-Lines bring a range of benefits to wildlife, people and agriculture, including:

- Helping conserve our native pollinators and a range of other wildlife and contributing towards biodiversity targets
- Helping our wildlife respond to climate change by making it easier for them to move around
- Increasing the number of insect pollinators and the benefits these bring to our farming sector (pollination being an important 'ecosystem service')
- Bringing nature to people
- Giving opportunities for everyone to play their part

Contributions

BAM Nuttall & Sub-Contractor Volunteer Hours	175
Fruit Trees and Hedging	£51,300
Shipping Container	£2,200
Fencing	£22,500

Planting Outcomes

- 49 allotments
- 8526 trees planted
- 43,000m² of woodland



Supporting Grassroots Sport

Para Athletics with Perth Strathtay Harriers

More than 200 young para-athletes and supporters joined Perth Strathtay Harriers in a fun day to raise awareness of opportunities for people of all abilities to get involved in sport.

Organised by the Harriers in conjunction with Perth and Kinross Disability Sport, the event was supported by BAM Nuttall through a selection of prizes for the fundraising raffle.

Open to young people aged five years to senior with physical, sensory, or learning disabilities and related conditions, events included wheelchair racing and frame running along with a range of distance races on the track.

BAM Nuttall Senior Planning Engineer Saif ur Rehman, who volunteered on the day, commented, "It was really inspiring seeing so many young people keen to get involved in sport and their enthusiasm. It was truly a demonstration to me that sport really is for everyone."

Guildtown Football Pitch

Guildtown Football Pitch faced a significant challenge with recurring flooding, resulting in the cancellation of football games and regular training. The Community Benefits Team collaborated with BAM's primary drainage company, James Penman Ltd, to assist in identifying and resolving the flood prevention problems.

James Penman Ltd conducted a comprehensive site assessment of Guildtown Football Pitch, gaining crucial insights into the contributing factors. Using these insights, the team collaborated to devise flood prevention strategies, evaluate drainage systems, identify areas for improvement, and recommend necessary modifications to enhance the pitch's resilience to heavy rainfall and minimise flooding risks.



Supporting Young Carers with Scotland All Strong

As a social enterprise, Scotland All Strong provides fitness, strength, guided relaxation, and peer support at an affordable price point for people in Perth city centre. Its mission is to support the improvement and self-management of mental health and overall wellness.

As an organisation, Scotland All Strong receives referrals from a range of partner organisations including Perth Autism Support, Perth & Kinross Association of Voluntary Associations, Well Minds Listening and Perth Royal Infirmary.

As part of its commitment to deliver community benefits for all, BAM Nuttall has donated £900 to support Scotland All Strong's important work in addressing the current mental health crisis. The money will enable the team to deliver an eight-week programme for eight young carers in the Perth area. The aim is to improve the health and wellbeing of these young people -who have been identified by partner organisations – and to offer them an opportunity to learn new techniques for ongoing self-management.

Scotland All Strong Director, Andrew Douglas, commented, "Our core programmes offer powerful tools for the recovery and self-management of common mental health issues, including anxiety, depression, chronic stress, and low mood.

"Using fitness and mindfulness to manage mental health is a proven technique and we are delighted to receive this money to help these young people improve their wellbeing."

SOCIAL VALUE GENERATED

£300

of time and money donated to Para-Athletics day.

£900

donation cheque for Scotland All Strong

£1693

of labour over 2.5 days to Guildtown Football Pitch

HUMAN CAPITAL

TRAINEE, APPRENTICE AND GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES



3 Individuals have new Professional Qualifications



- 1 QUANTITY SURVEYOR
- 1 CIVIL ENGINEER
- 1 DIGITAL PRACTITIONER

Vocational Qualifications

21 → 168

Individuals

Hours



£1334 In social value to Perth & Kinross

Work Experience (Over 16s)

13 → 600

Pupils

Hours



£5197 In social value to Perth & Kinross

Work Experience (Under 16)

1 → 35

Pupil

Hours



£194 In social value to Perth & Kinross

Engagement with Schools, Colleges & Universities

2889 Pupils Engaged



Social Value:

£38,939

Employment Opportunities

26

FULL-TIME STAFF

26

SEASONAL STAFF

Skills Development and Employability

The OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) has argued that for the UK “developing the right set of skills and making full use of them in the economy is a recipe for higher productivity, growth and inclusiveness”.

By creating meaningful employment and nurturing a culture of skills development businesses can effect real change and contribute significantly to the quality of life of individuals and wider communities.

As part of the Cross Tay Link Road project, PKC outlined clear objectives in employability and skills development, taking into consideration current legislation, national guidance, and the Council’s Procurement Strategy.

As the main contractor, BAM Nuttall demonstrated a commitment to deliver on these key points and showed clear understanding as to the importance of investing in and improving the skill levels of all employees, and in providing opportunities for young people in communities across Perth & Kinross, and wider Scotland.

Jillian Ferguson commented, “The ultimate aim of the project’s community benefit requirements is to secure real economic and social benefit for our customers and communities.

“By tackling skills shortages and building new talent, we can ensure long-term economic prosperity at local, regional, and national level. When projects such as CTRL offer work experience, adopt inclusive approaches to recruitment, and break down barriers for people from disadvantaged groups, everyone benefits.”



The Community Benefits and Social Value Strategy outlines the following as key aims for the project:

Jobs and Apprenticeships

- advertising and recruitment of new jobs and apprenticeships arising from the main contract and sub-contracts
- new opportunities taken up by employees
- priority to local labour and upskilling of local labour
- targeting long-term unemployed
- opportunities for rehabilitating young offenders

Training and Work Experience

- work placement and work experience opportunities
- job ‘tasters’
- trainee, student and graduate placements
- training to support unemployed people into work
- mentoring school pupils/students to aid them in pursuing a career in the construction industry

Capacity/Supply Chain

- Mentoring and educational support workplace visits for school and college students.
- Provision of contractor time and mentoring/training support which supports the Council and identified community groups or third sector organisations.
- Supply chain development provision/donation of contractor skills, services, input to events, training or expertise.
- Provision of contractor time, skills and mentoring/training support which help build supply chain.
- Employability activities including training, work experience, jobs and apprenticeships.

Meet The Team

ice



Name: **Tommy Scott** (right)
Role: **Civil Engineering Student Placement**

Tommy Scott worked with the BAM team on a 15-week placement over summer 2023. As a civil engineering student at University of Glasgow, the placement was a condition of his Institute of Engineering QUEST Scholarship.

The Quest Scholarship

The Queen's Jubilee Scholarship Trust or QUEST was set up to encourage young people to pursue careers in civil engineering, and over the years has grown to offer opportunities for support and development to existing members.

As a QUEST undergraduate scholar Tommy receives:

- Up to £8,000 over the course of his study.
- Paid work placements every summer.
- Potential for a full-time job with a leading civil engineering or construction company when he graduates.
- Experience, knowledge and the badge of an ICE QUEST scholar, which is great for his CV and future engineering career.

The majority of the scholarships are funded jointly by QUEST and a sponsor company, and BAM Nuttall has been delighted to sponsor Tommy over summer 2023.

How did you come to choose BAM Nuttall for your summer 2023 placement?

I'm from Stirlingshire and in 2022, before I went into my first year at uni, I completed 14 weeks' work experience with BAM during the early stages earthworks for the CTRL project. When I started uni, there was a big push on the QUEST scholarship and I applied, citing my experience with BAM. There are a wide variety of companies looking at the applications for suitable candidates and the team selecting for BAM chose me.

When they suggested the Cross Tay Link Road project I was really pleased. As a major new piece of Scottish infrastructure, it's a fantastic project to be part of.

What have you been working on over summer 2023, and does that compare to the work you did last summer?

I've been working with the Link Road construction team, shadowing engineers and talking to the crews.

Last summer, I was here while the earthworks took place, and watched these large machines shaping a field into what

we need for the job. This year it has been far more technical which has allowed me to develop my knowledge base hugely; first year in uni is quite general and not civil specific so having four months onsite has been really important.

I've also been given some extra responsibilities this year and this trust has helped me understand what it is to be an engineer. I'd say the experience has given me a solid foundation for my second year and has prepared me in ways that theory work alone just can't do.

What part of the job have you enjoyed most?

I've been working on the road construction and to see 5km of road go down in two months has been incredible. The speed and accuracy of the team is so impressive. Seeing it complete, and watching people use it, is a real thrill.

I've also had a little involvement on the Green Bridge snagging, shadowing the inspections for quality and design. This has opened a new avenue for me to consider and I really enjoyed it.

Tommy Scott, Civil Engineering Student Placement

Cross Tay Link Road Supporting Local Charities

On appointing BAM Nuttall as the main contractor for the Cross Tay Link Road, PKC targeted the Community Benefits Team to support a minimum of six local charities.

Support could be offered as donations of equipment, labour, goods and services, or fundraising. In providing this help at a Perth and Kinross level, the project has ensured a positive result and meaningful impact on the lives of local people who need it most.

With almost 18 months to go, the team has already reached its target number of charities supported. Plans for the coming 18 months include increased fundraising to reach the £15k minimum target.

The Walled Garden, PKAVS Mental Health and Wellbeing Hub (right)

– £450 worth of cement and 5 wheelbarrows

PKAVS Mental Health and Wellbeing Hub provides support and opportunities to people recovering from associated difficulties within the Perth and Kinross area. Their walled garden in the grounds of the Murray Royal is a tranquil haven for people recovering from mental illness, allowing the team there to provide an integrative care approach through meaningful and therapeutic activities.

The composting bays in the walled garden were in poor condition and required upgrading to be used safely. Samantha Steven, Community Benefits Co-ordinator at BAM Nuttall, reached out to our supplier, Highland Industrial Supplies (HIS Ltd) Area Manager, Ian Young, who provided a generous donation of five wheelbarrows and seventy bags of cement.

This donation will help to ensure PKAVS' clients can develop new skills, gain confidence, and meet new people, all of which support their journey of recovery.

Perth Men's Shed Project

– 1 van full of off-cuts donated for use in projects

Perth Men's Shed is a non-profit organisation that offers a supportive space for men to come together, engage in meaningful activities, and establish social connections. The organisation relies on donated materials to carry out its projects, which help to improve wellbeing and mental health.

Through collaboration with the BAM construction team, the CTRL Community Benefits Team identified surplus wood that could be donated to the Perth Men's Shed project. This simple donation had a significant impact on the organisation and its participants by enabling the men to undertake a broader range of projects within the community.





Andy's Man Club – £1500 total donated

Andy's Man Club is a men's suicide prevention charity, offering free-to-attend peer-to-peer support groups across the United Kingdom and online. Aiming to end the stigma surrounding men's mental health, their goal is to help men through the power of conversation.

The Perth group is run by a small pro-active team of volunteers who visited both the Stormontfield office and the A9 office to give a presentation on their vital work. This has resulted in a win-win situation; the CTLR team has received information on local wellbeing support and an office whip-round raised £100 for the local branch.

On a larger scale, the visit to the Perth office has instigated a partnership between BAM and Andy's Man Club groups across the UK with several projects now linked into their local clubs. £1500 has now been raised in total.

#C200 Fund, Perth – £250 donated

The #C200 fund started in December 2018 when a group of colleagues decided to donate their Secret Santa money to buy gift vouchers for care experienced young people. They later learned that for some, this would be the only Christmas present they would receive.

There are around 200 care experienced young people in Perth and Kinross, aged 16-25. These young people are moving from the edges of care, towards independent living without any parental or family support. The #C200 fund was born out of a desire to help.

The charity recognises Christmas, birthdays, and wellbeing throughout the year by gifting vouchers to these young people through various charitable and social care partners. The team at the Cross Tay Link Road project raised £250 via internal fundraising to add to their pot in December 2022.

Perth Food Bank – 5 full combo vans of food delivered

Addressing the escalating demand for support amid rising living costs, the Cross Tay Link Road project team recognised the pressing need to contribute to their local food bank.

In response to the challenge, the project team embarked on a concerted effort to establish a regular monthly donation drive for the Perth & Kinross Food Bank. Over the past four months, the team has gathered contributions to the food parcels from various stakeholders.

Participants included main contractor BAM Nuttall, client Perth & Kinross Council, and several sub-contractors and consultants. The initiative has yielded significant results by providing immediate assistance and paving the way for a positive ongoing relationship.

Lynn Marie Neil from the Food Bank expressed appreciation for the team's donation, highlighting the increasing demand for food banks due to rising living costs.



Perthshire Women's Aid – £1001 (73 Pamper Packs)

In November 2022, Perthshire Women's Aid put out an appeal for donations of Christmas presents for their service users. Amery Construction, sub-contractor for earth moving and ground preparation on site, responded with 73 gift packs of bath oils, soaps, aromatherapy and relaxation treatments.

Perthshire Women's Aid Manager, Louise Craig, commented, "This is a fantastic donation. Due to the current climate, we have struggled to obtain our normal levels of gifts and these packs will go a long way to brightening up Christmas in many homes feeling the pinch this year."

Amery's Commercial Director, David Boyce, said, "We were delighted to make this donation to Perthshire Women's Aid. We know how hard they work to improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in society and we wanted to pass on our appreciation and acknowledgement of this."

Contractor Focus: GB Landscapes

Following the Phase 1 earthworks for the Cross Tay Link Road, GB Landscapes was appointed by BAM Nuttall as the landscaping partner for the project. A well-established working relationship, BAM Nuttall and GB Landscapes have many successful road scheme projects under their belt, delivering on time and on budget for a range of joint clients.

The partnership is unsurprising; GB Landscapes is one of the largest landscaping firms in the UK specialising in construction works, commercial hard and soft landscaping, and public authority landscaping. Since its launch in 1997, the firm has grown in size, reputation and expertise, advising on the design, construction, plant and maintenance of large-scale projects.

Working with BAM Nuttall on the Cross Tay Link Road project, GB Landscapes has a focus on delivering all landscaping using locally sourced plants and trees, and environmentally sound methodologies. This fits into GB Landscapes' environmental policy which promises only UK-based suppliers.

GB Landscapes is approved by the National Highways Sector Scheme, and members of Constructionline, the Association of Landscape Contractors Ireland, and the Construction Trading Board Ireland.



GB Landscapes Working in the Community

By its very nature, GB Landscapes is a company that gives back to the community. Experts in ensuring the traditionally harmful task of construction can bring long-term environmental benefits and enjoyment for residents and visitors to an area, their advice and input has been utilised in all areas of the works.

As with all sub-contractors, GB Landscapes was invited to participate in the extensive community benefits and social value programme as laid out by Perth & Kinross Council as a major

component of the Cross Tay Link Road project.



Landscaping goes far further than adding colour and beauty to a road project.



To date, GB Landscapes has been instrumental in ensuring the success of the Rewilding Denmarkfield project, providing 8,526 trees, plants and shrubs (see left).

Sourcing these from local Perthshire and Scottish nurseries, the aim has been to ensure we go further than environmental and social benefits by providing economic gains for the wider community.

Landscaping on the Cross Tay Link Road Project

Gary Baird (Managing Director) oversees the landscaping for the Cross Tay Link Road project, employing 30 personnel.

He explained, "BAM Nuttall and Amery completed the Phase 1 earthworks quicker than expected which allowed us to start the advance tree planting early, in the November 2022 to March 2023 season. This is significant; typically, in a job like this, planting will be left to the last year so not only are we ahead of time, but it also means that the trees will have an extra two years to mature.

"During this time, we focused on replacing the trees at Bertha Woods. As the first phase of the green regeneration, these small trees and transplants outnumbered those we had felled by over 100% and will start to mature in the next few years."

GB Landscapes has planted 45,000 trees to date, which is almost 50% of the intended landscaping quota. In addition to tree planting, GB Landscapes will undertake grassland seeding across the project and the Green Bridge at Highfield and will create five new bug and bee-friendly wildflower meadows across the site. On completion, there will be approximately 6,000 linear metres of hedgerows, which translates to 36,000 individual plants and over 8,000 individual plug plants and pond oxygenators will be planted across several planted wetlands.

Gary explained the bigger picture benefits of landscaping within the project. "Landscaping goes far further than adding colour and beauty to a road project. Planting trees and shrubs helps absorb water and slows the runoff which reduces soil erosion and controls flooding. The wetlands play a big part in this process, helping to purify the water by catching silt and providing drainage.

"We're only four to five months into the wetlands programme and already we can see ducks coming back, and beetles, flies and other insects being attracted to the algae in the reeds."



Community Artwork

Working with communities across the life of the project is a key objective for BAM Nuttall and the Council, and the project team is striving to improve the lives of local people by enhancing the areas they work, live and relax in. As part of this, the team has appointed Nichol Wheatley as the Artist in Residence to work with the nearby local communities in creating a series of legacy artworks.

Nichol is a Scottish artist, based in Kinross-shire, who has enjoyed a varied career since graduating from Glasgow School of Art in 1993. Nichol worked as a bouncer, a chef, a stonemason and a blacksmith before returning to art in 1999 to set up Perfect Circle with two other tutors, a commercial fine art company that ran until 2014.

He is best known for his painting of the Scottish landscape (particularly Kinross-shire), his large cycle of murals telling the story of Tam o’Shanter, and his work with Alasdair Gray.

Over the years Nichol has gained a wealth of experience in public realm art, creating huge mosaics and



murals, and has also worked as the arts consultant for many infrastructure projects.

There is much in the way of evidence to support that community-led artworks can bring local residents together, creating both legacy and unity. By focusing on subjects or values that are shared among everyone – such as history, nature and culture – Nichol hopes to generate ideas that will lead to mass participation and a series of artworks that will instil pride and ownership.

Aiming for up to nine locations throughout the new road corridor, it is the intention that these focal points provide a strong sense of identity, and support wayfinding and orientation.

Using the rich history and culture of the area as inspiration, some of the themes and features that might influence the development of the artworks are:

Scone Palace and Designed Landscape

Considered one of Scotland’s finest and oldest designed landscapes and containing Category A listed Scone Palace;

Perth Racecourse

The northernmost course in Britain with racing activities starting in this location in 1613, and opened in its current form in 1909;

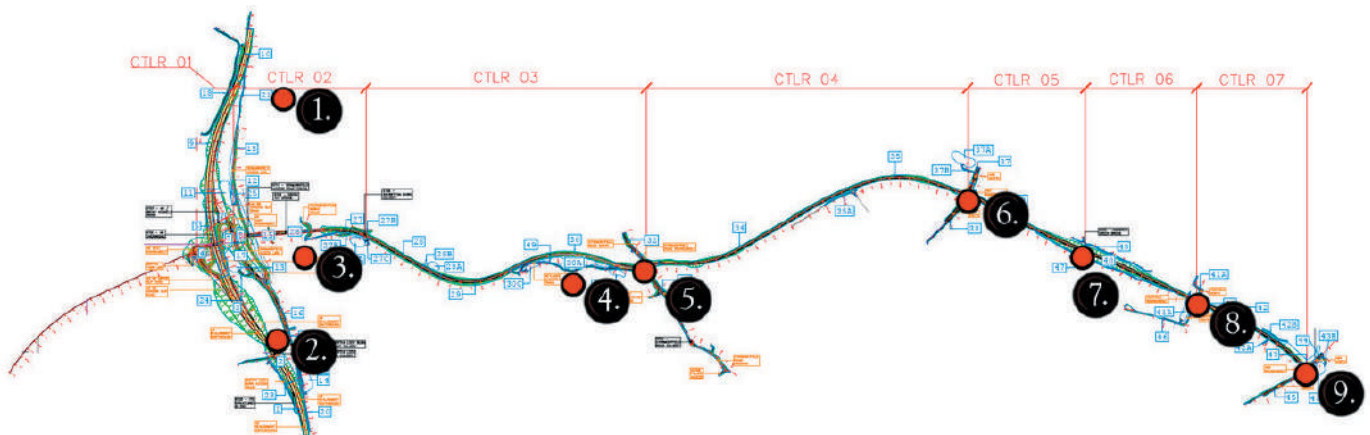
Archaeology

There are a total of 14 scheduled monuments within 1km of the proposed route; this includes the discovery of a souterrain which has been removed from the site, safely stored and ready to be installed at a suitable location within the project site;

Local Ecology

The site is rich in ecology with extensive woodland and tree belts.

Proposed Artwork Placement (subject to change)



- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Denmarkfield Rewilding Area | 4. Potential Location For A Bird Hide | 7. Green Bridge At Highfield |
| 2. Potential Location For Souterrain | 5. Stormontfield Roundabout | 8. Highfield Roundabout |
| 3. River Tay Bridge | 6. A93 Roundabout | 9. A94 Roundabout |



The Stormontfield Wishing Tree

The first artwork, The Wishing Tree, will be located at the new Stormontfield Roundabout. As well as acting as a clear marker for the entrance to Scone Palace and Perth Racecourse – two of Perth’s most iconic attractions – it will also become the starting point of the new visitor experience at Scone Palace.

Rising from the centre of the roundabout, and standing at circa 5m tall, the sculpture itself is a galvanised metal tree, powder-coated bone white, and set to appear as though floating to give an ethereal look and feel.

It will feature 40 symbols and motifs, representing various aspects of Scone Palace, and local community history and culture. Several historical aspects to the story of Scone have been suggested as inspiration for the basis of the artwork.

Why a Tree?

It has been a long-standing tradition for Kings and Queens to plant trees at Scone; both Queen Elizabeth II and King Charles VI planted trees here, as well as Mary Queen of Scots, James 6th and, potentially, James 5th.

In addition to this, the 3rd Earl of Mansfield famously planted 2,863,000 trees on his lands surrounding Scone.

The tree within the sculpture has taken inspiration from several famous trees on the estate, as well as reflecting the main species planted as part of the Cross Tay Link Road project – oak and copper beech.



We Are Looking for Artists to Contribute

If you are a local artist who would like to make a bid to create one of these artworks, then please contact Nichol directly to find out more.

nichol@nicholwheatley.com

The images on this page are precedent examples of previous work by Nichol Wheatley. Artists of any discipline are welcome to contact us.

Bringing the Past Into the Future



In early 2022, following archaeological planning advice from Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust, PKC appointed GUARD Archaeology to carry out advanced archaeological investigations within the footprint of the Cross Tay Link Road project.

The dig took place from January to September 2022 and involved more than 18,000 working hours, ten placement students from the University of the Highlands and Islands, 400 members of the public plus local school pupils and universities from further afield.

Seeking to determine “the presence, extent and significance of any known or unknown archaeology” GUARD Archaeologists conducted an initial metal detecting survey at Broxy Kennels Fort.

Warren Bailie of GUARD Archaeology commented, “This was one of the largest excavations of a fort of this period in a generation. A geophysical survey and evaluation revealed parts

of the fort and the site was then metal detected which led to the discovery of a possible bronze axe fragment, a medieval dagger pommel, and a brooch.”

18,000 working hours

10 placement students

400 volunteers

4 school visits

“The site was then stripped of its topsoil which revealed a series of four large ditches with an entrance facing north-east, and a souterrain in the second ditch on the north side.”

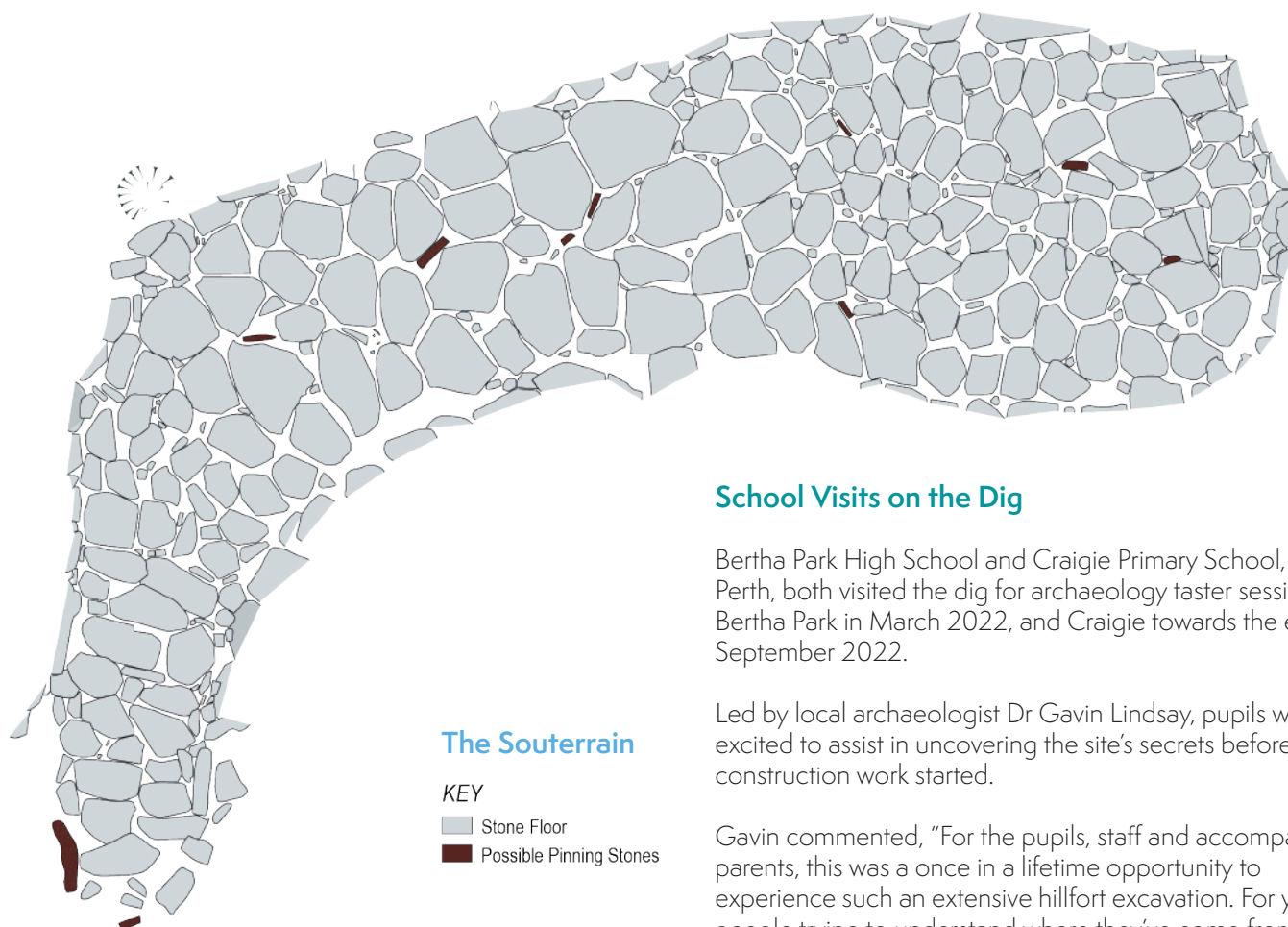
The souterrain was a 10-metre long dry-stone subterranean chamber which was constructed from stones gathered from the surrounding landscape. Souterrains are a particularly important aspect of Iron Age Scotland. There is

some debate about what their function was; this is one of the things that the GUARD Archaeologists are seeking to find out from the evidence they gathered during the dig.

Through the recovery, analysis and dating of samples during the excavation, an insight into the economy of the occupants, their food and fuel resources, will enable Warren and the team at GUARD Archaeology to reconstruct the changes in the fort and its environment over time.

Warren explained, “There were at least four phases of activity on and around the fort. The earliest being the Bronze Age activity, followed by the initial outer ditch of the fort, followed by two inner ditches, with the final phase being the souterrain and the latest ditch on the north side.

“Now we can begin to piece the story of the fort together through the analysis during post-excavation work to bring the results to publication.”



The Souterrain

KEY

- Stone Floor
- Possible Pinning Stones

School Visits on the Dig

Bertha Park High School and Craigie Primary School, Perth, both visited the dig for archaeology taster sessions; Bertha Park in March 2022, and Craigie towards the end, in September 2022.

Led by local archaeologist Dr Gavin Lindsay, pupils were excited to assist in uncovering the site's secrets before construction work started.

Gavin commented, "For the pupils, staff and accompanying parents, this was a once in a lifetime opportunity to experience such an extensive hillfort excavation. For young people trying to understand where they've come from and how this knowledge can inform where they're going, nothing comes remotely close to the benefits gained from experiencing archaeology in action and physically touching the past."

Having opportunities such as this to visit local archaeological sites under investigation really makes a world of difference to these young people's learning. I'm incredibly grateful to the likes of BAM Nuttall and Perth & Kinross Council for making sites accessible as learning resources and would warmly encourage other developers to follow this great example of genuine community benefit."

Debbie Haggart, social studies teacher from Bertha Park High School, commented, "It is not often that we get the chance to see history being unravelled in real time, so it was a great experience seeing real archaeology in action."

Student Work Experience

In summer 2022, University of the Highlands & Islands archaeology student Geri Veitch joined the dig team for a 'fascinating' work placement and the launchpad for her career as an archaeologist.

"Due to COVID-19 our dig experience was done online which is just not the same, so it was great to get out and get your hands dirty on a real live dig.

I've been involved in all aspects of the job from digging out ditches to sampling the ground. The highlight for me was digging out the souterrain, uncovering it piece by piece to see it all in its entirety has been fascinating."



Archaeology Dig and Souterrain Discovery

Scan the QR code using your phone to discover our archaeology video of the dig.



Contractor Focus: Amery Construction



Amery Construction Limited was formed in 2000, and is a privately owned company operating within the building and civil engineering industries, and specialising in ground works, reinforced concrete structures, and infrastructure.

BAM Nuttall appointed Amery as their sub-contractor in early 2022, and from their depot in Aberdeen the team has supplied all plant machinery necessary to carry out the substantial earthworks required for the Cross Tay Link Road project. As well as this, the team bolstered their resources via a recruitment campaign at local level, which resulted in 50 to 70 jobs being created for skilled plant operators here in Perthshire.

As experienced operators, Amery pride themselves on their high standards of personnel training and ensure that every manager, supervisor and operative knows their duties and responsibilities, and carries them out safely. To help achieve this, they undertake regular training for all, with SMSTS as standard for managers and SSSTS for all supervisors.

Amery are highly experienced in this type of project and as such, were the

sole provider for the bulk earthworks which started in May 2022. By raising low lying areas and removing earth from higher land, the team cleared and levelled the entire site area surrounding the 6km stretch of new carriageway, as well as that through Scone Estates.

David Boyce, Commercial Director for Amery, commented, "Working with BAM Nuttall on the Cross Tay Link Road has been a fantastic job for us to be involved in. It is a brilliant design, and will work wonders for the city. Earthworks are very much Amery's speciality, and we feel fortunate to have recruited so many skilled workers in the area. We've brought a lot of experience to the job – especially important when stripping the topsoil around the areas of archaeological interest."

These initial works took seven months to complete, and a staggering 900,000 m³ – equivalent to 1.8 million tonnes – of earth were moved, resulting in a landscape that clearly outlined the new road design, making way for the main construction phase to begin. They were also an integral part of the team that delivered on the new A9 tie-in, which completed in late summer 2023. Amery will remain onsite for the duration of the job.

Amery Working in the Community

The ethos of Amery Construction is 'working together for success' and this has proved particularly pertinent during this contract. As with all sub-contractors onsite, Amery were invited to take part in the extensive community benefits and social value programme as laid out by Perth & Kinross Council as a major component of the Cross Tay Link Road project.

As well as working on the Denmarkfield Rewilding and path clearing at Redgorton Amery also provided a Christmas donation to Perthshire Women's Aid of £1001 which bought 73 pamper packs of bath oils, soaps and aromatherapy and relaxation treatments for the charity's service users.

Innes Mackintosh commented, "As the Community Engagement Manager for the Cross Tay Link Road project, I am touched by the generosity of Amery, not only in enhancing our local environment through rewilding and path clearing but also by extending a heartfelt Christmas donation of £1001 to Perthshire Women's Aid.

This donation, which translated into 73 pamper packs filled with bath oils, soaps, aromatherapy, and relaxation treatments, reflects our commitment to supporting and uplifting our community. In these challenging times, where the warmth of the holiday season may be dimmed for some, these thoughtful packs will undoubtedly brighten many homes and hearts.

Our partnership with Perthshire Women's Aid underscores our deep appreciation for the invaluable work they do, dedicated to improving the lives of the most vulnerable in our society."

Community Projects Clearing the Way Forward

BAM Nuttall, through its Cross Tay Link Road contract with Perth & Kinross Council, has committed to benefitting the environment and lives of people and communities across the whole of the Council area. The following projects are just some of those led by the Community Benefits Team, and have involved colleagues and partners from all areas of the project.

Clearing the Lade Path

January 2023

The Lade Path is a popular, off-road, walking and cycling route in Perth and is currently a focus of the Council's Community Greenspace Team, who aim to restore and improve Perth Lade and the wider green corridor making it more appealing to the public, and a better environment for wildlife.

Members of the CTRLR project team – both from BAM Nuttall and Perth & Kinross Council – joined forces with the Community Greenspace Team and Westbank Project to kickstart the path clearance works. Undertaking tasks such as litter picking, pruning and de-vegetation works, the team soon cleared a significant area of the Lade and the surrounding path.

This is the first of a number of works that the project team will undertake with the Lade Management Group, all of which will facilitate the vision of 'Love our Lade'.

This important project aims to make the Lade and its network a recreational resource for people of all ages, abilities, and interests by ensuring it is a safe route that links communities with urban and greenspace facilities.

'Community Projects' Jed Scotcher, PKC Technician for Roads Infrastructure, commented, "Being a part of the Lade clean-up was a great experience. It was rewarding seeing hard work pay off."



Clearing the Path at Redgorton

February 2023

The footway between Redgorton and Luncarty has been overgrown with topsoil, grass, and plant roots for years. This makes it difficult and unsafe to walk between the two areas without edging towards the moving traffic, an issue of particular risk to children and those with mobility impairments.

Calum Flett, a CTRLR engineer, reached out to Binn Group, Contraflow, and Amery Plant Hire – all sub-contractors engaged on the project – to assist in addressing this problem. Binn Group supplied the skips, Contraflow set up the traffic management and Amery Plant Hire provided the excavator needed for the works.

The team arrived raring to go, and with traffic management in place, they were well positioned to scrape back the soil and vegetation, carry out pruning and level the path. The result is a safer, wider path providing local people with an enjoyable walking route.

Balbeggie Path Clearance

When in 2023?

Following a request from a local parent, the Balbeggie Traffic Calming Group joined forces with PKC and BAM Nuttall to clear a dangerous, overgrown footpath running alongside a 60mph-zone road.

This has benefited the whole of the community and is seen as a great story and a step towards the road safety campaign in Balbeggie.

Andrew McOuat, Balbeggie Traffic Calming Group representative, commented, "We set up the Group to increase road safety in the village, particularly important as the new road is likely to bring increased traffic."

One of our priorities was to make it safer for children walking to school. By clearing this pathway along a stretch of the main 60mph road, we have ensured that the usable pavement surface is wide enough to keep them as far away from traffic on the road as possible.

BAM Nuttall has been very proactive in their support and the community is grateful for the work they have put in. It has made such a difference for the pedestrians who use this walkway daily."

Project	Hours Donated	Expenses Covered
Balbeggie	40	£1,547
Redgorton	66	£750
Lade Path	72	£350
Aberfeldy	32	£2,880
Total	210	£5,527

Building Bridges & Forging Careers



Meaningful engagement with the next generation of engineers and construction industry workers is a key component of the Cross Tay Link Road project. Both Perth & Kinross Council and BAM Nuttall recognise their role in ensuring young people throughout Perth and Kinross have access to the opportunities presented by a project of this scale and status.

Recognising the ongoing skills shortage in STEM-based industries, the project's Community Benefits Team and project staff are currently rolling out a series of visits to showcase the depth and range of career opportunities available within the industry. This is particularly relevant when addressing gender balance within these traditionally male-dominated environments. By targeting school-aged pupils, the potential to inspire and influence subject choice

and career paths is increased, offering long-term gains for the young people involved and the industry as a whole.

A number of visits have already taken place with encouraging results; whether attending careers fairs, providing materials or rolling out the Institution of Civil Engineers' approved Bridge Building Challenge, our team created inspiring opportunities for future generations.

John Slaven, Cross Tay Link Road Construction Manager for BAM Nuttall, commented, "School visits and events such as careers fairs give us an opportunity to explain to pupils of all ages the types of varied careers the construction industry can offer as well as outlining the types of subjects they should be studying to gain entry to our apprentice or graduate programmes."

“

“By using the Cross Tay Link Road project to inspire the next generation of engineers and construction workers, we're futureproofing the industry for years to come.”

Sarah Gardner,
Perth & Kinross Council

”

7 School Visits
1725 Hours Donated
786 School Kids Engaged
Social Value of £39,939



Breadalbane Academy, Aberfeldy, January 2023 and Blairgowrie High School, November 2022

Several project team members attended the careers fairs held at Breadalbane Academy – which was open to pupils within the school, plus Pitlochry Primary and High Schools – and at Blairgowrie High School. It is estimated that over 1000 pupils attended between the two locations.

An early evening session at Breadalbane Academy also enabled parents to learn more about career opportunities in the construction industry for their children, ask questions about the project and meet some of the team.

As well as pupil engagement, networking with other organisations in attendance allowed our team the opportunity to discuss potential joint ventures. Since then, the project team has joined forces with Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) to offer mock interviews, helping pupils prepare for real life situations.

Owen Wilson, Trainee Quantity Surveyor at BAM Nuttall, commented, “Not everyone at school is thinking about what they want to do when they leave or aware of the range of possibilities that are available within the construction industry. I certainly wasn’t too aware when I was that age. If we can use events like this to start increasing awareness of the possibilities out there, hopefully, we can start reaching out to the next generation of engineers and quantity surveyors.”



Bertha Park High School, Perth, January 2023

Construction professionals from BAM Nuttall – Samantha Steven, Business Improvement Co-ordinator, Matthew Rose, Intermediate Quantity Surveyor and Calum Flett, Site Engineer – provided S4 and S5 pupils with an insight into the various job roles and careers available within the construction industry, as well as sharing their personal pathways from study to career.

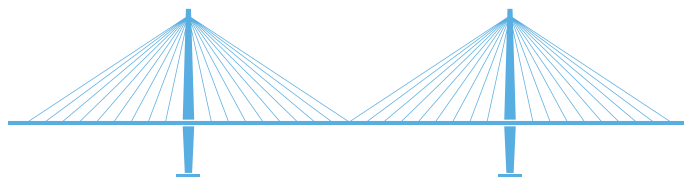
As a result, Perth & Kinross Council and BAM Nuttall propose to work further with the school to facilitate site visits, which may lead to work experience for those with a keen interest in the construction industry.

Technology Department, Kinross High School, February 2023

The rising cost of raw materials is impacting negatively on opportunities for pupils in STEM-based subjects as schools make the tough decision to cut back on project expenses. Recognising that desk dividers bought throughout the COVID-19 pandemic could be recycled and used by Technology Departments, BAM Nuttall arranged for 30 screens to be packed up and delivered to Kinross High School.

Scott Urquhart, Principal Teacher at Kinross High School, commented, “Many thanks to BAM Nuttall Ltd for their kind donation of 30 sheets of acrylic, our pupils will benefit greatly from these. Many of our S4 pupils are already looking forward to incorporating the 6mm-thick sheets into their final SQA projects.”

The increased cost of all materials is hitting school budgets hard and so it is a real bonus for the school and the pupils to have this thickness and quantity of materials.”



Blairgowrie High School, November 2022

More than 140 S1 pupils were introduced to The Institution of Civil Engineers’ approved Bridge Building Challenge, aimed at assisting them to make informed decisions when choosing subjects for a career in engineering.

Construction professionals from Perth & Kinross Council and BAM Nuttall supervised the construction of a weight-bearing bridge made from paper, string, and tape.

After being briefed on the task, the pupils were split into groups to design, build and test their structure which had to span a 500mm gap between two desks at a width of 200mm. Many innovative solutions followed, including one or two that our engineers hadn’t considered!

Sarah Johnson, Assistant Civil Engineer at BAM Nuttall, commented, “Carrying out fun, informative tasks like this is an ideal way of engaging pupils and encouraging them to find out more. It is vital in securing a pipeline of new talent across the dozens of different job opportunities we can offer.”

Perth Autism Support Partnership

Perth Autism Support (PAS) was founded in November 2011 to support gaps identified in the support of autistic children and young people, and their families, in the Perth and Kinross area.

Its apprenticeship showcase brings together a network of employers from across Perth and Kinross and aims to raise awareness of the autistic workforce's strengths as well as increasing future work opportunities for autistic individuals.

Innes Mackintosh, Stakeholder and Communications Manager for the Cross Tay Link Road project, attended the showcase where he discussed the apprenticeship and employment opportunities offered at BAM Nuttall.

Innes commented, "The evening was a great success with lots of questions from the young people visiting the stall. We have plans to return, to chat with those who couldn't make it, and I look forward to building on this great partnership and doing all we can to support everyone's transition into the world of work."

As a result of the showcase, Zak (aged 15), a Perth Autism Support user, requested a site visit and spent a day observing the activities of our construction site.

Zak commented, "I had a great day onsite and it was really interesting to see all the different jobs people did. I didn't realise how many different jobs there are within construction. It was also really exciting to see the bridge being made."

Following Zak's visit, group leaders at PAS contacted Innes to request a larger site visit for more of their young people. In order to ensure an enjoyable and safe experience for all, Innes Mackintosh and Calum Flett attended a two-hour online training session in Autism Awareness.

Innes explained, "The Autism Awareness Training course is suitable for all workplaces and all levels of employees and covers the definition of autism, its impact on children, adults, and families and the current theories on what factors may influence the condition.



"Calum and I found it to be extremely worthwhile and as well as preparing us fully for the site visit, we also shared our knowledge with the wider team. This will prove invaluable as we move forward with our BAM-PAS partnership."

On the 11th July, six young people and two carers attended the Cross Tay Link Road site with Laura Henderson, Autism Support Co-ordinator – Employability, to enjoy an afternoon presentation and tour. Following a presentation on the project, the children were asked to dress in full PPE before being split into two groups for a full tour of the site in BAM Nuttall's Hilux vans. As a result of the timing, they were the first group to be shown the new A9 site, which proved to be very popular.

“

It has been great working in partnership with BAM Nuttall, as we have been able to provide lots of different activities for our young people and it's provided them with an insight into the world of work. All of our young people have thoroughly enjoyed their experiences and we look forward to working together soon to support our future talent!

Elaine Finnie, Transport Services Manager,
Perth Autism Support.

”

Perthshire Scout Group Visit

The 10th Perthshire Scout Group was established in 1909 and is still going strong today, welcoming girls and boys aged between 6 and 19 years old. The group is led by a hardworking team of volunteers that support the young people in their physical, mental, and spiritual development.

A group of 26 Scouts and leaders visited the Stormontfield office where they were given a presentation and safety briefing by Construction Manager, John Slaven. They were then taken by bus, which was supplied by Docherty Midland Coaches, for a site tour that included the east pier where Site Engineer, Calum Flett, gave an overview of the piling works.

A highlight of the day had to be the opportunity to sit in plant supplied by BAM Nuttall's subcontractor, James Penman Plant Hire Ltd, to add to the experience.

Chris Kirk, Scout Leader, commented, "The day gave the group a real insight into the construction industry and a chance to see first-hand the work going into the Cross Tay Link Road project."



Kinross High School STEM Students Visit

A group of five pupils from Kinross High School, all interested in careers in the construction industry, were offered the opportunity to enjoy a site visit.

Calum Flett and Innes Mackintosh, together with Billy O'Donoghue, the General Foreman, met the students at the East Pier where they were offered insights into the piling works for the River Tay Crossing on both east and west sides, and the new A9 overbridge works. They were also given a breakdown of all other works completed to date.

Finally, they were transported to the Green Bridge on the Link Road where Calum Flett offered a short update on this important section of the build.

William Diver, Project Director, commented, "There is an industry-wide shortage of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics skills within construction and the CTRLR project team strongly believes that workplace visits promote potential career opportunities and jobs that may be of interest to young people. It certainly worked in this instance, with two pupils making the decision to pursue a career in civil engineering as a direct result of their visit."



The Cross Tay Link Road Green Bridge

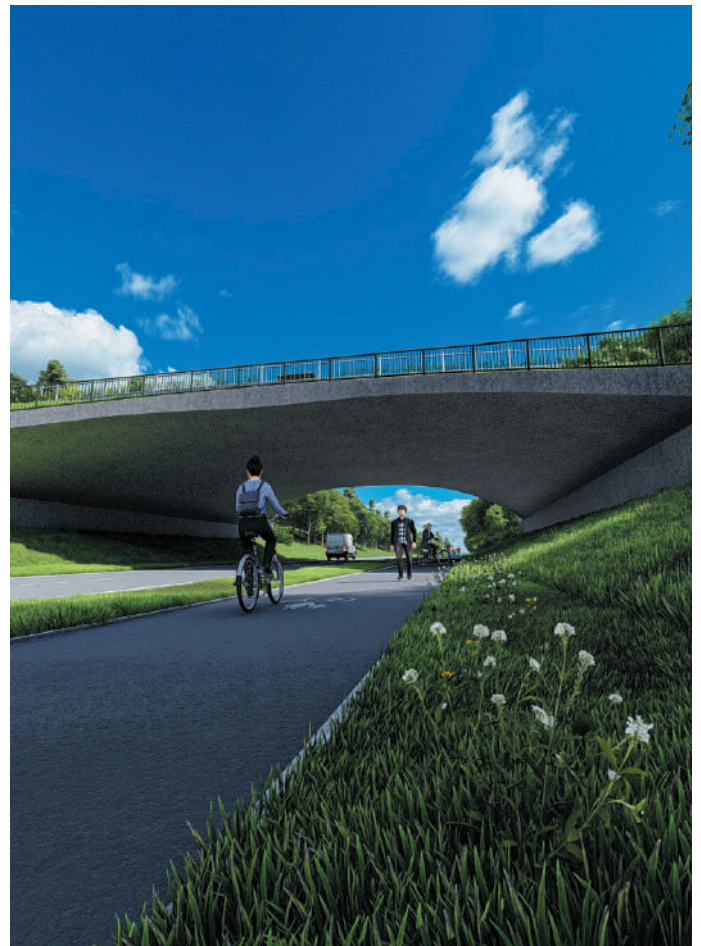
Work is now underway on the Green Bridge element of the Cross Tay Link Road, and with the in-situ concrete foundations and abutments now in place, the pre-cast arches are due to be installed next. It is anticipated that the bridge will be complete by late 2023.

Straddling the new Link Road, the Green Bridge will reconnect existing footpaths in the forest plantation at Highfield, Scone.

Green bridges – also referred to as wildlife overpasses – allow woodland mammals and insects safe passage across manmade impediments. The report “Green Bridges – A Literature Review” (NECR181), commissioned by Natural England, identified that green bridges can make an important contribution to sustainability by:

- Creating a safe crossing point for wildlife
- Joining up habitats and connecting colonies
- Providing a home for wildlife
- Creating a crossing point for people
- Facilitating movement of beneficial pollinators
- Integrating roads and railways into the surrounding landscape

Jillian Ferguson, Project Manager, Perth & Kinross Council, commented, “The environment is at the core of the CTRLR project’s aims with long-term benefits including improved air quality, and the easing of traffic congestion and noise pollution, particularly in Perth city centre. Alongside these more obvious gains, minimising the impact of infrastructure on the environment through careful design has always been a key priority and the construction of a green bridge to maintain ecological and pedestrian connectivity is an essential element in delivering on this objective.”



Building the Infrastructure

Alan Limerick (right), Senior Site Engineer for BAM Nuttall, explains the engineering – and challenges – behind the Green Bridge.

“Although not a new concept entirely, there are very few green bridges in existence in Scotland and the Highfield one will certainly be one of the longest single-span green bridges on completion. It runs 27.2 metres long and, at its widest point, is 33 metres wide.

“Unusually, it is narrower in the middle than it is at the ends and there is a 2-metre drop between the east to west abutments. Building a bridge on a 6° downhill camber does present additional challenges within the build but, on completion, the slight curve shape together with the Swiss-designed arches from BEBO will offer a striking aesthetic and distinctive feature.

“BAM Nuttall partnered with Beattie FRC from Falkirk for works on the reinforced concrete abutments and the BEBO arch unit installation. The installation of the BEBO arch units took place in March which involved the split arch units being lifted into position simultaneously using two 150-tonne mobile cranes working together.

“The two split arch units were lowered into position to rest against each other at the crown of the arch prior to the units being stitched together. Follow on works included the construction of a parapet upstand for handrails, waterproofing of the top side of the arch units, and drainage works.

“Over the coming few weeks the bridge will be sprayed with a waterproofing system to protect it.

“Once the structural works are completed the soft and hard landscaping works will be undertaken to form the safe crossing point for both wildlife and people as well as reconnecting ecology habitats and creating new habitats.”



Growing the Landscape

Sean McLeod, Landscaping Clerk of Works for the project, will oversee the planting and landscaping of the Green Bridge.

“Landscape planting is a significant aspect of the CTRLR project and the Green Bridge is one of the major elements of this. The bridge will connect two sides of an existing woodland area at Highfield and in the narrower middle section will offer a 5m-wide footpath and viewing platform, and 14m of greenspace for wildlife to cross. Planting will be undertaken during 2023 and we can expect to see green space emerging almost straight away, and continuing throughout 2024.

“Originally this area was a monoculture of trees, but we have taken the opportunity to expand the biodiversity of the woodland, improving on what was there with a mix of broadleaf trees and conifers. In addition to this, we are creating a wildflower meadow which, as well as being low maintenance, also

offers a better environment for bees, bugs and reptiles, and allows small mammals and birds to forage under cover.

“From an ecology point of view, creating a pass for wildlife to go over is always better than the option of tunnels going under. A seamless route across the new Link Road will reconnect the woodland area and allow a safer and more natural environment for our wildlife and give walkers and cyclists using the footpath the opportunity to witness more nature up close.”

Sarah Gardner, CTRLR Project Officer at Perth & Kinross Council, added, “We are also working with Scone Estates and the local community to identify and implement additional path links within the woodland area to enhance connectivity for all users. The community will also work with Nichol Wheatley, a local artist, to design and implement waymark signing and an information panel at the new viewing platform.”

Wildlife at Highfield

- Red Squirrels
- Deer
- Small Mammals
- Bees and Bugs
- Reptiles

The Scottish Green Infrastructure Forum defines a green bridge as “a structure designed to allow wildlife to cross a manmade impediment, such as a road or railway line.” There are several examples of this kind of green bridge around the world, but very few in the UK and only a handful in Scotland. The Green Bridge at Highfield plays a significant part in the landscape design objectives as laid out by Perth & Kinross Council for this project.

Looking Forward to Delivering More

I started with BAM Nuttall in August 2022, as the Community Engagement Manager within the Cross Tay Link Road project. As a local lad, I was drawn to the position; I work, live, and raise my family here and knowing that I could effect real and lasting change for the people in the communities around me was a significant factor in my move from my previous employer, which I'd been part of for nearly 20 years.

I'm pleased to report, therefore, that with the support of BAM Nuttall and Perth & Kinross Council, we have delivered almost £12.5m of social value for the people of Perth through the project.

As we look forward to the next 12 to 18 months of community engagement, it is clear that the work of the BAM Nuttall Community Benefits Team, in partnership with PKC, will continue to benefit and inspire many organisations and community groups. The calendar is full of school visits, requests pending, and ideas for adding value across the area.

It's important to note that our work does not involve awarding grants or funding. Instead, BAM Nuttall supports local communities through its sizeable resources. On the Cross Tay Link Road project, we have provided machinery, plant, labour and expertise as well as using our supply chain to offset materials costs. This model offers organisations and groups with limited time, experience, and resources more benefit than a cash award.

A great example of this is the path clearance projects; within a week of Balbeggie Traffic Calming Group approaching us concerning the safety of children walking to school we had a contraflow in place, and the path cleared and made safe.

In the months ahead, we have planning permission in for a ramp at RDM hall and an outdoor classroom at RDM primary school, both in Scone, and our architects are currently assisting Luncarty Football Club in planning and designing their new 100-seater stadium.

The construction and engineering sectors require a skilled workforce, and BAM Nuttall is committed to its role in ensuring a long-term pipeline of talent through a programme of work aimed at inspiring the next generation. This includes school visits, careers fairs, mock interviews, and presentations, for primary, secondary, and further education students. In the past year, we've conducted 13 visits, with seven featuring the Institute of Chartered Engineering's Build a Bridge challenge.



This has been exceptionally well received and we have been invited to return to many of the schools visited to teach the next wave of children. With this in mind, BAM Nuttall as a company has adapted the challenge into a larger-scale Cable Stay Bridge, to further encourage students in their learning and understanding.

We are also broadening our apprenticeship programme to include a Communications student from Perth College UHI, and in addition to this, our partnership with Perth Autism Support will extend to a weekly placement for a young person interested in Health & Safety.

Much of this work with young people has evolved from our relationship with the DYW – Developing the Young Workforce. Following attendance at a careers Fair in September 2022, word on the Cross Tay Link Road's Community Benefit programme spread fast and with educators, leaders, and pupils keen to become involved in our exciting infrastructure project there is certainly more of this to come.

Of course, our flagship project over the remainder of 2023 and 2024 will be the Community Artwork Series with Nichol Wheatley in partnership with local artists. I look forward to working with the people of Perth to ensure we leave a legacy that will be enjoyed for generations to come.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the individuals we have met and engaged with throughout the many successful projects we have undertaken so far. Our achievements have been made possible thanks to the collaboration, support and team effort of everyone involved in the Cross Tay Link Road project.

We look forward to continuing our journey together.

Innes Mackintosh
Communication and Community Engagement Manager



How Can the Cross Tay Link Road Help Your Community?

Our ambitious plan requires your input

We would like to hear from community groups, individuals and organisations who have ideas and projects focused on enhancing the lives of the people around them and bringing social value to our local area.

How can you get involved?

Book a Site Visit for Your Group

We've welcomed in school groups, engineering degree students, Scout groups, Perth Autism Support, local councillors, and many more. Let us know why you think your group would benefit and we will endeavour to arrange a visit for you. Email: Innes.Mackintosh@bam.com

Gain Assistance for Your Project

Assistance for your project may be offered as services in kind, or via the provision of goods. We also look to support smaller projects via the Perth & Kinross Community Benefits Wish List. We do not issue direct pots of funding.

Join a Meeting

We hold quarterly meetings in Luncarty and Scone and would love to see you there. These meetings offer updates and give you the chance to speak to our engineers and Community Benefits Team.

Sign Up to the Newsletter

Sign up to our digital newsletter and receive monthly updates on how the project build is progressing and where our community benefits programme is making a difference. We'll also share dates of meetings and any significant news on works in your area.

Visit PerthTransportFutures.co.uk and click onto Community Benefits where you will find a link to register your interest in attending our meetings and a short newsletter sign-up form.





Using the ethos and approach of the Perth and Kinross Offer, we will work with communities to deliver education, employment, cultural and environmental community benefit projects that will ensure a lasting legacy and meaningful social value for the people who live and work and visit Perth.

Cross Tay Link Road Project
Stormontfield Road | Perth
PH2 6BB

perthtransportfutures.co.uk



PERTH &
KINROSS
COUNCIL