

CROSS TAY LINK ROAD

NEWS | OCTOBER 2022



MAIN CONSTRUCTION STAGE BEGINS

The majority of the earthworks on site are complete and the project is now moving into the main construction stage.

Contractor BAM Nuttall and Client Perth & Kinross Council agreed to bring the earthworks forward within the programme to take advantage of the better weather over the late Spring and Summer months.

This decision means the project is well placed to now move on to building the structures.

'We are now in a good position to progress with the project showpiece the River Tay Bridge,' said BAM Nuttall Project Director, William Diver.



'We have used the past 12 months to optimise the design of the project and add value, in particular changes to design and construction methodology have realised significant carbon savings.'

Work will also commence shortly on the 'Green Bridge', an active travel and mammal corridor that crosses the new link road at Highfield.

THE PROJECT'S THREE SITE AGENTS GIVE UPDATES ON THEIR PARTICULAR AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY



Douglas Halliday, BAM Nuttall Site Agent

Douglas is on his second spell with BAM Nuttall after leaving to work on the Queensferry Crossing. He counts the bridge linking the Isle of Sheppey with mainland Kent as one of his most interesting jobs to date.

'My responsibilities are for the construction of the new River Tay Bridge aspect of the project. This involves everything from design and construction, to managing contractors and from Health & Safety to environmental management on site.

'A lot of the detailed design work on the bridge structure is now complete and we have started to engage project partners to support piling operations for the bridge foundations, along with other contractors vital to the construction of the bridge superstructure.

'We are also just completing a cofferdam – a portable sealed dam - in the River Tay on the east side that will allow us to construct the bridge piers. The foundations for these piers will be under the river bed to preserve the existing river bank, which will be fully reinstated when the work is complete.

'Ground conditions on this job are particularly challenging with varied soil types adding complications to the construction process. In view of this we have brought in specialist contractors to support us through this phase of the work to ensure everything runs smoothly.'



James Wilson, BAM Nuttall Site Agent

James has worked for BAM for the past ten years including on the iconic 'rusty' bridge over the M8 in Glasgow.

'I'm responsible for everything east of the railway, basically the realignment of the A9. This will involve construction of a new section of the A9, two new roundabouts, and a bridge over the new stretch of road to the new River Tay Bridge along with associate slip roads.

'The site of the existing road will be transformed into a Park & Choose area along with recreational space and active travel routes.

On site we are progressing well with the earthworks to form the new junction. The weather over the Summer has been kind to us and we are well on schedule for the next phase of the works.

The archaeology work on site is now complete. It was a real experience for me to be involved in such a detailed dig and finding an almost complete souterrain, which I learned is an underground storage chamber, was a real highlight of the job so far.

Shortly we will be starting structural work on the new bridge over the A9. The biggest challenge for me over the months to come will be the logistics of getting material and personnel in to do the job while minimising disruption to traffic on the existing A9.'



Conor Fitzsimmons, BAM Nuttall Site Agent

Conor has worked for BAM for four years, but has more than 30 years' road building experience including the €260 million 40km M11 road in Ireland.

'My job is all related to the new link from the banks of the River Tay to the A94 north of Scone and everything in between. This includes earthworks, structures, drainage, construction of the active travel route, all pavement works and road surfacing.

'We have now completed Stage One of the contract and have now moved into the main construction with the earthworks substantially complete.

A major part of this was what we call the Highfield Cut, clearing trees and moving earth from the Highfield area and transporting it down to the river bank to be used as part of the bridge construction. This left us with a more level route to build the new road through.

The good weather over the last six months has allowed us to progress well and everything remains on schedule. Next on the list is drainage and some landscaping involving seeding and tree planting across the length of the new road.

Given our progress so far we are confident work will commence on the actual road surfacing next Spring as planned.'

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James Wilson,
BAM Nuttall Site Agent



CRAIGIE PUPILS LAST TO EXPLORE HILL FORT

Pupils from Craigie Primary School in Perth were among the last to have the opportunity to explore the Iron Age Hill Fort off the A9, before it disappeared for good.

Excavation of the site ended last month allowing the next phase of earthworks to start as part of the Cross Tay Link Road construction.

'For the pupils, staff and accompanying parents, this was a once in a lifetime opportunity to experience such an extensive hillfort excavation,' said local archaeologist Dr Gavin Lindsay, who accompanied the group.

'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. As an archaeological educator I'm incredibly grateful to the likes of BAM for making sites accessible as learning resources and would warmly encourage other developers to follow this great example of genuine community benefit.'

The group were able to look at the vast ditches enclosing the fort, explore the souterrain, or underground chamber, examine the remains of a roundhouse and hold late prehistoric pottery in their hands.

Class teacher Shelley Irvine said:

'It was so successful. One of our pupils has been so inspired he's charting history starting with a palaeontology presentation and working forwards!'

The pupils were that impressed with their visit they reconstructed a model of the fort back in the classroom.'

A full report of the excavation is now being prepared and will be available in various formats for the public to examine. This is likely to be published in around 18 months' time.

SOUTERRAIN UPDATE

The discovery of a complete souterrain, or underground storage chamber, has been deemed so significant that it has been saved from the bulldozers.

Plans are now being drawn up to relocate the structure as a permanent reminder of what was on the site in the past.

'A structure as well preserved as this has never been uncovered before so keeping it intact for future generations to learn about who lived here in the past seemed a fitting legacy for the excavation works carried out on the site,' said Perth & Kinross Council's Roads Infrastructure Manager, Jillian Ferguson.

Several options for the relocated souterrain are currently being looked at.



SIGNING UP FOR THE PERTH & KINROSS OFFER

The project team has signed up to a Project Charter outlining its commitments and behaviours over the course of the project.

Central to the Charter is adoption of the Perth & Kinross Offer as a way of adding value to local communities.

The Offer sets out how Perth & Kinross Council plans to involve Council staff, and the role local residents, businesses, elected members and community planning partners have to play in working together to make life better for everyone living in the area.

The Charter outlines promises of delivery and behaviours in the areas of Health, Safety and Wellbeing, Legacy, Quality, Communications, Sustainability and Teambuilding.

All the main partners involved in the delivery of CTRL have signed the charter: Perth & Kinross Council, SWECO, Fairhurst, ARUP and main contractor BAM Nuttall.

Perth & Kinross Council Roads Infrastructure Manager, Jillian Ferguson said:

'The Project Charter is an important document in defining what it is we want to achieve and how we intend achieving this.'

The Charter gives a direction and a sense of purpose to the management from the start of the project to its completion and gets buy in from everyone involved in its delivery.'



SAFETY ON SITE



People are at the core of what BAM Nuttall does and everyone's safety is the company's number one priority.

Everyone involved in the project is required to attend an intensive workshop session on the company's health, safety and wellbeing initiative 'Your Safety Is My Safety'.

But BAM recognises wellbeing is about more than health and safety and ran sessions across the company around suicide prevention and the need to recognise mental health issues. Tool box talks were also delivered in September

BAM also runs a Worldwide Safety and Wellbeing Day every October.

Health and Safety will remain at the forefront of the project for its full duration.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS DELIVERY STARTS

BAM Nuttall is committed to delivering a range of community benefits throughout the construction of the Cross Tay Link Road.

This could be anything from generating employment and training opportunities for local people, to environmental improvements or up-skilling, and training opportunities to work experience.

The community benefits team are about to embark on a programme of interactive schools visits to get pupils interested in a career in construction and engineering.

Two new community groups Cross Tay East and Cross Tay West, to help us identify and deliver projects that will improve people's lives in the area over the long term, have been created and are actively looking at developing a range of projects.

One of the first communities to benefit was Luncarty, who were looking for a defibrillator to improve first aid in the village.

George Black, chair, Luncarty, Redgorton & Moneydie Community Council said:

'Having a defibrillator in a weatherproof cabinet in the middle of the village means it will be easily accessible to the widest number of people. These are very easy to use and just might save someone's life. It's a great resource to have in the village and on behalf of the wider community I would like to thank BAM Nuttall for their support. The new machine will add to the resources already available and will be sited at the opposite end of the village.'

If anyone would like to get involved in delivering community benefits for your neighbourhood, contact Innes.mackintosh@bam.com



Picture shows: George Black, chair, Luncarty, Redgorton & Moneydie Community Council

COUNCILLOR GRANT LAING, LEADER, PERTH & KINROSS COUNCIL

I have spoken at length about how important the new Cross Tay Link Road will be in improving air quality and the health benefits this will have for local residents and visitors.

What has perhaps been underplayed in all the debate about the road, particularly around the required recent increase in funding for the project, is the potential economic and environmental benefits it will bring.

The project will facilitate new investment of £174 million in new commercial space in the area with the real prospect of more than 5000 new jobs being created.

Overall, it is estimated that the project will create an extra £283 million net additional economic output for the wider city region.

We are also creating significant employment opportunities for local people during the construction phase and generating spend among local supply chains.

The environmental benefits go further than better air quality. By displacing traffic, the road will enable us to create a cleaner and more attractive centre with improved walking and cycling experiences within the city.

Removing traffic congestion from the city centre means a more user friendly space that visitors will be more comfortable spending their time, and their money, in.

The development will also allow us to look at longer term ways of increasing access to active travel and public transport opportunities.

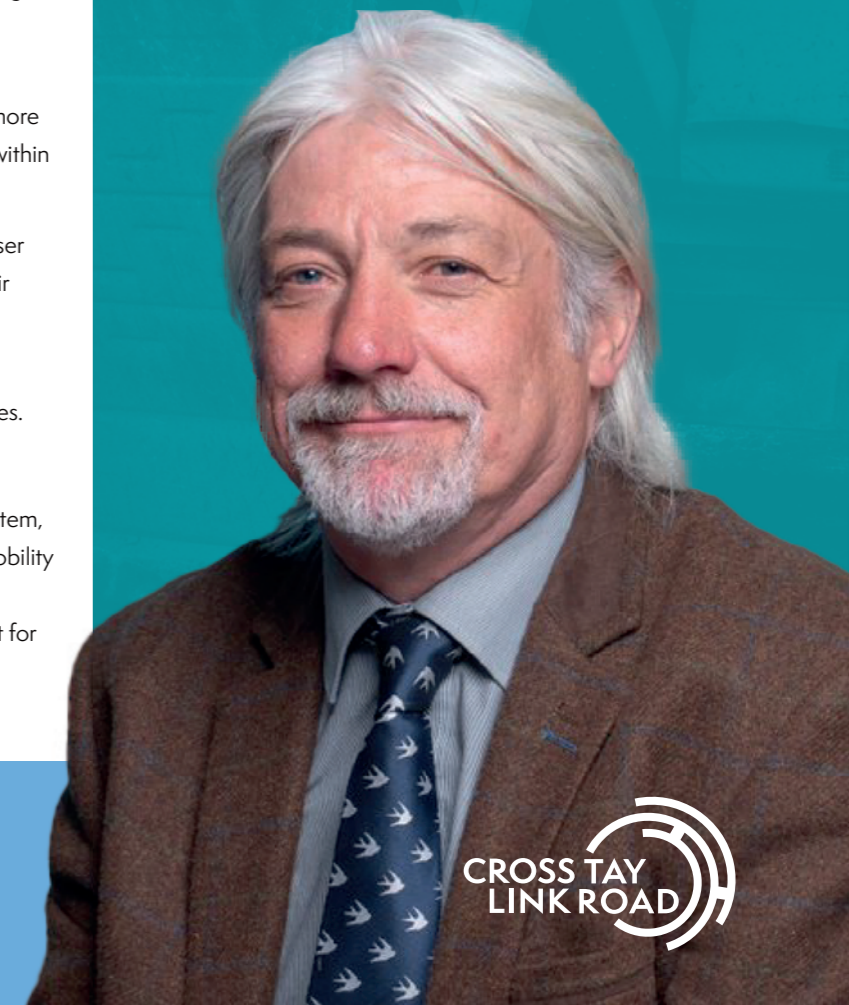
The benefits of this new road are clearly multifaceted.

It will provide a more efficient and better-connected transport system, with the economic opportunities this opens up, it improves the mobility of commuters, enhances the attractiveness of the area to inward investors and ultimately delivers a cleaner city centre environment for the benefit of all users.



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G. Laing
Leader of Perth & Kinross Council.





NEW SITE OFFICE

The Cross Tay Link Road team have now moved into new office accommodation nearer the construction site.

The new office address is:

Cross Tay Link Road Project Office, BAM Nuttall Ltd, Stormontfield Road, Perth PH2 6BB.

The project also has sub site offices on the A9 and on the A93.

VISITORS TO SITE

The main office on Stormontfield Road is working construction site, visitors must notify their main contact by email 48 hours in advance if they are planning to visit.

On your visit request you must clearly state: your name, who you work for, purpose of visit and date and time of intended arrival.

On arrival reverse park, enter the offices at the main door, ring the bell and wait at the reception.

Ask for your host if they have not already met you. Your host will then take you through the site registration and induction.



PROJECT PROGRAMME

<p>January 2022 - Pre project site clearance of trees and archaeological exploration.</p>	<p>May 2022 - Start of earthworks.</p>	<p>August 2022 - Main construction phase begins (Tay Crossing bridge construction commences).</p>	<p>September 2023 - A9 tie-in works complete; traffic moved on to new alignment.</p>	<p>February 2025 - Tay Crossing bridge and Link road open to traffic.</p>
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If you have any questions about the CTLR, please contact roadsinfrastructure@pkc.gov.uk or crosstaylinkroad@bam.com or call 0330 332 5400

Further information and updates around the CTLR project can be found at perthtransportfutures.co.uk. Follow us at [@PTFutures1](https://twitter.com/PTFutures1) and [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/perth-transport-futures)