

Community Newsletter



CTLR Open Day Event

The Cross Tay Link Road project held its open day on 12th October, allowing 300 local people the opportunity to find out more about Perth & Kinross Council's £150 million infrastructure project.

As well as providing guided tours of the project site and direct contact with engineers and sub-contractors, BAM UK & Ireland and PKC offered a fun, family event for children that included bird box painting, an Amery Plant simulator, and a chance to meet Spot the dog, a robotic dog fitted with in-built laser scanners.

“ We were delighted to see so many local residents join us in our first Open Day event. ”

The Lighthouse for Perth, a local non-profit service offering crisis support for anyone aged 12+ who is at risk of self-harm or suicide, benefited from fundraising on the day, which reached over £800. This amount was added to the online Silent Auction to bring a total of £5,403 for the charity.

Innes Mackintosh, Community Engagement Manager for BAM UK & Ireland at CTLR, commented, “We were delighted to see so many local residents join us in our first Open Day event. The feedback we received was incredibly positive with people from across the area interested in finding out more about the project.

“I'd like to thank everyone who came out to join in, and to give a big shout out to our subcontractors who have donated so generously to the online auction and on-the-day tombola in aid of The Lighthouse for Perth. Ensuring that CTLR leaves a meaningful legacy for local families is a key aim of the project and we are proud to be supporting such a worthwhile cause.”

In This Issue

- Flooding Q&A
- Luncarty Spotlight
- Sweco Awards
- BAM Women's Network
- Developing People
- News



The event also played host to The Heritage Hero Awards presented to students who participated in the excavation of Broxy Kennels Fort, the archaeological dig that took place between January 2022 and September 2022, ahead of earthworks commencing on the new road.

Jillian Ferguson, Roads Infrastructure Manager for Perth & Kinross Council commented, "The Cross Tay Link Road project will have a significant impact on Perth and the surrounding area, both during construction and once completed. To have extended this to include the excavation of Broxy Kennels Fort has been hugely exciting for the team and we are delighted to offer our congratulations to the volunteers receiving the Heritage Hero Awards."

To stay up to date with our public meetings and events, sign up to join our monthly e-newsletter:





Heritage Hero Awards

The Heritage Hero Awards were designed by Archaeology Scotland to recognise the achievements of volunteers investigating history, heritage, and archaeology in Scotland. The awards are designed to make cultural heritage accessible to all.

During the excavation of Broxy Kennels Fort, ten students from the University of the Highlands and Islands campus in Perth joined the GUARD Archaeology dig team to experience working on a large infrastructure project and the chance for a 'once in a lifetime' excavation of a complete Iron Age fort.

Several open days were also held during the course of the excavation to enable members of the public to see how the excavation was progressing.

These awards have been given to each of the students who participated in the dig. And also to one of the young people who visited the excavation during one of the open days. This experience led him to participating in other GUARD Archaeology excavations and then on to studying Archaeology at university now.

Maureen Kilpatrick of GUARD Archaeology commented, "This was one of the largest excavations of a fort of this period in a generation. Not only will the evidence we gathered reveal new insights into Iron Age Scotland, but these awards testify to how the excavation is enabling the next generation of archaeologists to develop their skills to investigate more of Scotland's archaeology in the future."



New Road Linking Stormontfield to A93 Now Open

Another major milestone in the Cross Tay Link Road project was reached in September this year, with the opening of a new road between Stormontfield and the A93. Alongside this, two out of four new roundabouts on the link road are now in use.

Derek Walsh, Project Manager for BAM UK & Ireland, the main contractor for the Cross Tay Link Road project, commented, "Since the opening of the newly realigned A9 in early August, works have progressed well, and I'm encouraged to report that this subsequent milestone remains in line with the overall plan. This new section of link road places us in a good position as we move towards winter and the additional challenges that brings.

"Given the disrepair of the old road, which was particularly dangerous during the winter months and prone to flooding, we're confident that local residents in particular will find this most recent project development to be a significant benefit." The new road will allow motorists and active travel users a more direct route from Stormontfield to the A93, as well as easing traffic on Perth Racecourse meeting days.

The old road between the A93 and Racecourse Road is now closed, with diversion signs in place.

Jillian Ferguson, Roads Infrastructure Manager for PKC, commented, "The past few months have been crucial in terms of project development, both in terms of major milestones and ancillary works, and I'd like to thank the team on the ground for their hard work, and local residents for their patience."



Weather Disruption at Cross Tay Link Road

Huge volumes of rain, strong winds and storms battered Perth and Kinross over early October, with the impact felt throughout the region as a series of floods wreaked havoc across residential communities and the business sector.

Derek Walsh discusses the consequences of the storm on the Cross Tay Link Road project.

How did you react in preparation following the flood warnings?

We carefully inspected the site to identify areas with potential risk, particularly along the east and west banks of the River Tay. We took proactive measures by relocating equipment from these at-risk zones and ceased operations local to both riverbanks.

We also evaluated the bridge's accessibility for our workers and continued to monitor the Tay's water levels to ensure the safety of our personnel. This monitoring allowed us to take necessary precautions when the river's flood levels increased, mitigating any potential risks to our team.

What damage was caused over the weekend?

The flooding significantly affected the progress of the Cross Tay Link Road project. Initially, it cut off access to critical work areas, particularly the east and west piers of the Tay Crossing. As the flood levels continued to rise, it caused damage to temporary structures such as false works, formwork, and areas designated for temporary storage of equipment and materials like cranes, pumps, and teleporters.

Furthermore, various other project components, including earthworks, drainage systems, culvert installations, landscaping, and general groundwork, were also impacted. Once the weather conditions improved and the flooding receded, we were able to



assess the damages and immediately implemented necessary repairs and solutions as soon as it was safe to do so.

How did you go about repairing the damage?

Once the flood levels had receded the works were inspected by the relevant parties (BAM/PKC/Arup/Fairhurst). We assessed the damage and agreed what remediation works were required.

Once the site conditions permitted, (ie. the site dried out) the remediation works were carried out.

Has it impacted on schedule and if so, will you make up time?

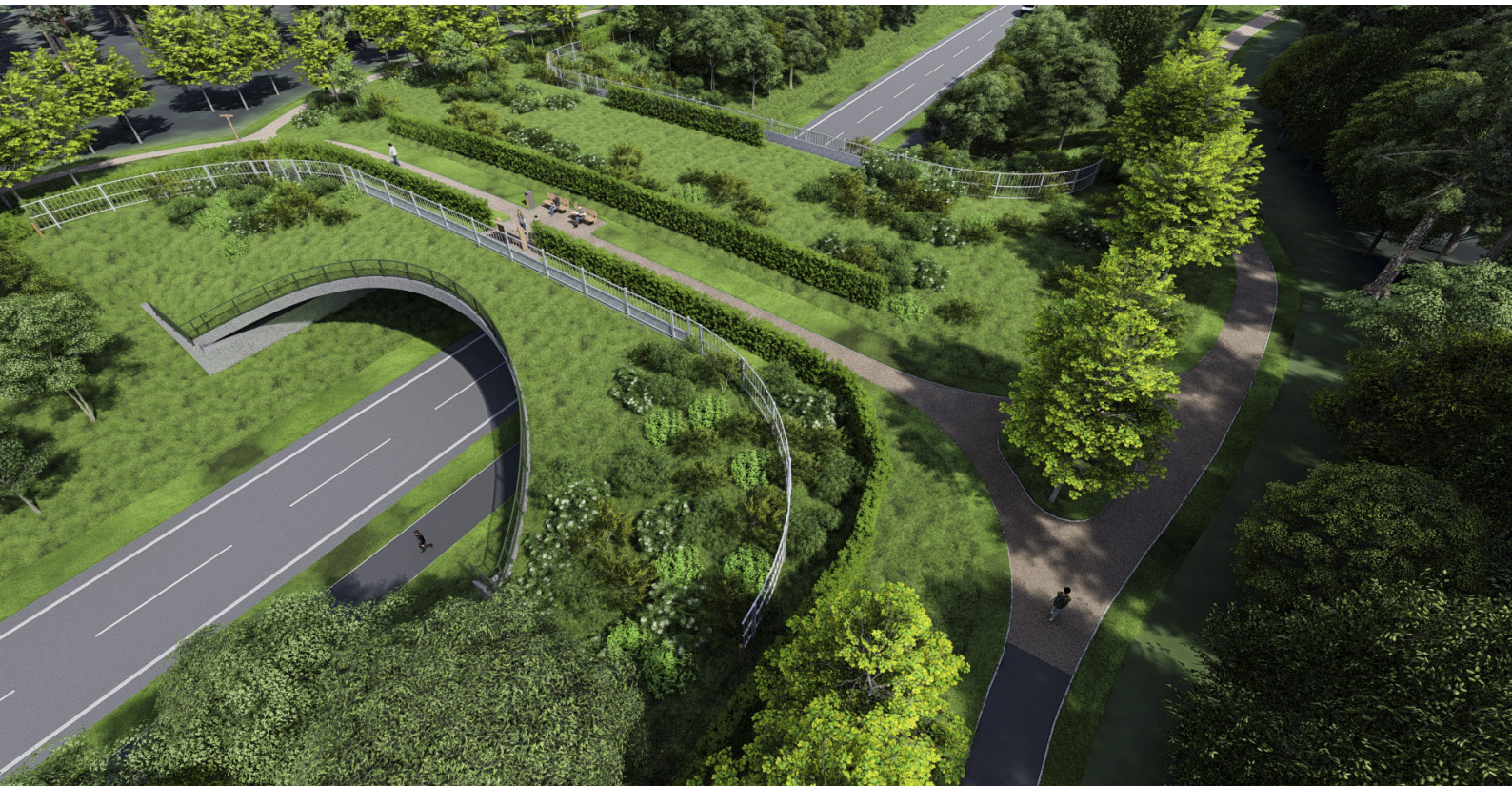
We're currently evaluating the full impact of the floods; an early assessment suggests a delay of more than one week in our programme. However, this estimate only considers the recent weather events. As we are in the winter period and given the extent

of the damage to the works, regaining this lost time is unlikely.

Have you made any changes for flood prevention going forward?

We have taken steps to replace the loss of the crane platforms, particularly focusing on the east pier of the Tay Crossing. In addition, we have expanded the platform area to further mitigate damage risk in the future. However, due to the topography of the site at this location, should the water levels increase to these previously experienced levels – the risk and impact on the works is still a concern and can't be mitigated.

We are proactively engaged in efforts to decrease costs and implement programmes to mitigate the potential impact of future flooding. Nevertheless, it's crucial to acknowledge that the risk of future flooding persists.



Carbon Champions Award for PKC and Sweco

Six engineers from Perth & Kinross Council and Sweco, one of the designers of the Cross Tay Link Road project, have been awarded the accolade of Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) Carbon Champions for their work on decarbonising the build through the design and procurement process.

The engineers awarded the title are:

- David Jackson (Sweco)
- Helene Piellard (Sweco)
- Jillian Ferguson (PKC)
- Ross Fletcher (PKC)
- Lewis Barlow (Sweco, now WSP)
- Kirsten Leggatt (Sweco, now Arup)

Perth and Kinross Council (asset owner) and Sweco (designer) worked in collaboration, with a focus on minimising the carbon output and environmental impacts of the project at design stage.

Several opportunities were identified, after which Sweco supported the development of the tender documents

with PKC, including carbon in the weighted evaluation criteria.

Jillian Ferguson, Roads Infrastructure Manager for PKC, commented, “We worked in unison to embed the carbon requirements within the procurement process for the build phase of the project. With the carbon baseline set, those wishing to tender had to demonstrate how they would achieve a further 30% reduction against the specimen design.”

The proposed carbon savings stated were then implemented as a contractual Key Performance Indicator in the awarded contract to BAM UK & Ireland, the main contractor for the build phase of CTRLR.

Jillian continued, “Contractual measures have been put in place to ensure there remains a focus on embodied carbon with savings measured and reported, along with a penalty if they fail to meet these targets. We’re now halfway through the build, and we can report we are on

target to achieve a 45.5% reduction against the baseline (specimen design).

“To have our work recognised by the Institution of Civil Engineers is a real honour, and I’d like to thank everyone who worked on achieving these groundbreaking results.”

This innovative approach to carbon savings has now been embedded in the recently updated PAS 2080:2023 – Carbon Management in Buildings and Infrastructure guideline document as an example of best practice for procurement.

David Jackson, Principal Carbon Consultant, Sweco, commented, “Embedding carbon requirements into the contractual obligations has challenged the main contractor to seriously consider carbon impact on the Cross Tay Link Road project. This innovative approach by PKC has led to significant carbon reductions being achieved through both design and procurement and has shaped how the industry as a whole will deliver large infrastructure projects.”

About the ICE Carbon Champions initiative

The ICE Carbon Champions programme recognises decarbonisation efforts from across the civil engineering community and provides recognition for project owners as well as best practice insights and expertise for the wider industry.

The programme is part of former ICE President Rachel Skinner's Shaping Zero initiative, designed to enable civil engineers to implement the drive to net zero. It forms part of the ongoing efforts of the institution to place the decarbonisation of the industry at the heart of its, and the sector's, agenda, in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs).

Rachel Skinner said, "It is human nature to think that disasters and problems will happen to someone else, somewhere else, but the reality is climate change is affecting, and will continue to affect, each and every one of us – and we all have a responsibility to make positive change.

"These individuals, through their hard work and innovative thinking, are doing just that – delivering real change within the industry to help reduce the amount of carbon produced by infrastructure. In celebrating these achievements, we want to recognise this, but also educate and inspire others to look at what they can do in their own projects."

Awarded Engineers



David Jackson
(Sweco)



Helene Piellard
(Sweco)



Kirsten Leggatt
(Sweco, now Arup)



Ross Fletcher
(PKC)



Lewis Barlow
(Sweco, now WSP)



Jillian Ferguson
(PKC)



What is PAS 2080 certification/verification?

PAS 2080 is the leading standard for carbon management solutions in buildings and infrastructure development. Sometimes mistakenly referred to as PAS 2080 certification, PAS 2080 is a verification scheme to assess compliance. The standard's development has been supported by the building and construction industry leaders, such as Skanska, Mott MacDonald, National Grid, and Anglian Water.

The standard applies to new projects or programmes of work, as well as the management or retrofit of existing assets and networks. This means that any new buildings or infrastructure projects should consider the carbon footprint throughout their entire lifecycle, from design and construction to operation and end-of-life.



New Tay Crossing to be named Destiny Bridge

The new bridge over the River Tay created as part of the Cross Tay Link Road project will be named Destiny Bridge, and the road between Destiny Bridge and the A94 at Scone will be called New Kingsway.

Councillors agreed three potential names for the new bridge and crossing in May and gave pupils at primary and secondary schools in Perth and Kinross the chance to choose their favourite, with each school asked to vote for one of the three suggested names.

Before the vote, presentations designed to help pupils gain an understanding of the project and the history behind the suggested names were given to each school. Pupils were also provided with a short, animated flythrough of the new road and bridge. In total 43 schools voted for their preferred name: five secondary schools, 37 primaries and one specialist school.

The voting was as follows:

Coronation Crossing & Destiny Road:	0 votes
King's Bridge & Destiny Road:	16 votes
Destiny Bridge & New Kingsway:	27 votes (winning name)

Perth and Kinross Council leader Councillor Grant Laing said, "The Cross Tay Link Road is the biggest infrastructure project in the history of this council. As such, it seemed fitting that we gave children and young people the opportunity to choose the name of the new bridge and road.

"They have made an excellent choice that connects the new road with Scone's historic role as the crowning place of Scottish kings."

Provost Xander McDade added, "These names celebrate the amazing history of Perth and Kinross and, with the Stone of Destiny returning to Perth next year, its future too.

"There was a clear favourite amongst our school pupils and I am sure the names will prove to be popular with residents across Perth and Kinross."



MSP Visit

John Swinney, MSP for Perthshire North, visited with contractors and officials working on the Cross Tay Link Road in early November.

Commenting, Mr Swinney said, "I was delighted to meet with the team currently working on the construction of the Cross Tay Link Road. It was also particularly welcome to view in-person the progress on the road that has been made since my previous visit earlier this year.

"The CTLR is a hugely ambitious infrastructure project that will bring with it improvements to air quality, better traffic flow and new economic opportunities. To that end, I look forward to continuing to liaise with all those involved in this project over the coming months, and to viewing the construction process again prior to next year's scheduled opening."

John Slaven, Construction Manager for BAM UK & Ireland, commented, "The Cross Tay Link Road project has progressed well over the summer months, with key milestones reached including the opening of the realigned A9, the opening of the new section of Link Road between Stormontfield Road and the A93 and the substantial completion of both the A9 overbridge build and the Green Bridge main construction.

"Ensuring we keep the area's elected officials, and in turn, the wider community, up to date with these advances is hugely important and we'd like to thank Mr Swinney for his time on site."

Luncarty Spotlight

When Luncarty Primary School Headteacher, Deborah Swan, reached out to the Cross Tay Link Road project for assistance, a team of willing volunteers from PKC, BAM UK & Ireland, the Community Council and our subcontractor, Venesky Brown, came together to help the small village school.

The school has a lovely inner courtyard that had become overgrown and unusable; it also included a summer house that was deemed unsafe which had been used as a store for old plant pots and clutter over the years.



As well as this, the nursery area had been badly affected by flooding, and had been hit several times over. The team included:

- Sarah Gardner and Bruce Robertson from PKC
- Innes Mackintosh and Calum Flett from BAM UK & Ireland
- George Black from the Community Council
- Three employees from Venesky Brown
- Sally Small, Luncarty Primary School teacher

Over the course of a day in early August 2023, the team cleared the entire area of clutter, weeds, and dying foliage. Three tonnes of gravel were then shipped in to add a flood prevention barrier to the nursery area.

Sarah Gardner, Project Officer for PKC, commented, "It was a hard day of physical labour for the team involved, but we all found it tremendously rewarding and it was wonderful to see just how much it meant to the school. Making big differences in small ways lies at the heart of the Cross Tay Link Road Community Benefit programme and this is a perfect example of what we can achieve as a community working together."

Deborah Swan commented, "The transformation has left our staff absolutely thrilled, and the results are nothing short of amazing. Many school parents have taken notice, remarking on the significant difference it's made.

"The clearance was a task that would have been nearly impossible for us to tackle alone, but thanks to the Cross Tay Link Road team's incredible efforts, it's been a truly remarkable change. Plans for the future of this space are already in motion.

"Speaking of the nursery, it was always at risk of flooding, leading to some soggy children going home. We had to cordon off this area for safety reasons. However, thanks to the dedicated work of the CTRL team, we've not only resolved the flooding issue but also opened both areas to our children. We can't express enough gratitude for their time and unwavering effort."

Social Value

BAM UK & Ireland, PKC and Venesky Brown Hours – 120

Gravel Costs: £200

Social Value Total: £2,240

BAM Women's Network



The Cross Tay Link Road project welcomed the BAM UK & Ireland Women's Network for Scotland to the site on Thursday 2nd November, where they enjoyed a full agenda including presentations and discussion, and a site tour and progress report.

The Women's Network was launched in April 2022 by the Scotland civils team of BAM UK & Ireland, and has the ongoing support of regional director Dougie Grant. It was recognised that many women in the company work in silos, particularly with the introduction of hybrid working post-Covid, and that this offered little opportunity for discussions around the issues that are important to women. The Network aims to bring women together on a regular basis.

Isla Hill, BAM's Regional Bid Manager for Scotland, commented, "We want to be a company that attracts and nurtures all talent, and to be recognised as a destination employer. By ensuring that we place the female agenda front and centre, we are endeavouring to level the playing field for women."

"We are now 25% female in BAM UK & Ireland; while this is a vast improvement on statistics from a decade ago and better than the construction industry at large*, we would like to see that figure grow."

Hannah Grainger, Section Engineer commented, "As a female engineer you used to walk onto a site and people stared because it just wasn't the norm; now, it's not as big a deal. Plenty of women are building careers in the technical roles and we are represented as engineers, quantity surveyors, and planners."

The Women's Networking Day at CTRL attracted women from across Scotland with delegates travelling from Inverness, Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Dundee. The event covered:

- Visibility of Future Workloads
- Professional Development
- Women's Wellbeing and Mental Health
- The Gender Gap

In addition to discussions and workshops, the delegates enjoyed a site visit with progress update.

Hannah continued, "This was the second time we visited the Cross Tay Link Road project and those of us who attended both could see a huge difference. Having the opportunity to see such a large-scale infrastructure project up close is fantastic and helps bring our work to life – particularly for those women who tend to be more office based."

Jillian Ferguson, PKC, commented, "As a female engineer, and the lead contact for PKC on the Cross Tay Link Road project, I am delighted to have welcomed back the Women's Network to our site. It is so important that we all play our part in encouraging young women into the industry, and in ensuring that we nurture and develop those building careers."

* In total, 13 per cent of the construction industry in the UK is made up of women, according to Office for National Statistics figures.

Cameron: A Shining Example of Apprentice Excellence

We were proud to see our Engineering Apprentice Cameron Hay shortlisted in this year's Perthshire Chamber of Commerce Star Awards. Cameron started with BAM UK & Ireland on the Cross Tay Link Road project in September 2022 and has proven to be a dedicated team member.

Selected as one of three Apprentices of the Year, Cameron attended a glittering awards ceremony in November where he was celebrated by some of Perthshire's leading businesses, and his team members. Innes Mackintosh explains why Cameron was selected as the BAM UK & Ireland nominee: "Cameron is an exemplary apprentice who is driven by an unwavering pursuit of excellence in his daily work. With a

natural understanding of his role and tasks, he consistently delivers on his own workload, as well as supporting his colleagues in achieving their goals.

"Cameron's journey into construction and engineering began with the guidance of a Careers Advisor who recognised his preference for hands-on learning.

"He was familiar with BAM UK & Ireland following a memorable trip by his school in Glasgow to a nearby site. It was this initial encounter that sparked his interest in construction. After spending a week's placement on a George Leslie site, he applied for an apprenticeship at BAM UK & Ireland and following a rigorous assessment and interview, secured a spot. The evaluation included written and spoken

word assessments, team-building scenarios, and a one-on-one interview.

"During his time at BAM, Cameron's hard work and determination has gained him several qualifications which have not only enhanced his professional capabilities but have ensured his readiness for complex tasks in the construction and engineering industry.

"Cameron has a promising career in the construction industry. He is not only an exceptional apprentice; he is a future leader in the field of engineering."



Work Placement | Alex Anderson



Alex Anderson, 19, joined us for a 6-week work placement towards the end of 2023. Having attended an open day with Perth Autism Support earlier in the year, Alex was keen to expand his knowledge and insights into the project, and the processes involved in ensuring everyone is safe while working on site.

Working closely with the team, and in particular, Ralph Yardley, Project Safety Advisor for Cross Tay Link Road, Alex was shown various elements of the job. We caught up with him afterwards to find out how he got on.

What interested you in Cross Tay Link Road?

I like things done in a particular way, and to make sure everything is safe first. I am interested in health and safety because it applies to every job.

What did you do on the day?

Looking at incident and accident reports, looking at how things were built and using AEDs, different defibrillators etc.

What did you enjoy most?

I enjoyed seeing how the bridges would be built, I found that interesting, and having an inside look at how all the roads will be in the future.

What do you feel you learned?

First aid, accident and incident reports and the foundations of bridges being built and how it all connects together with the roads.

Has this visit inspired your career? If so, in what way?

To pursue a career in health and safety. I feel when I go into work I will have a wider knowledge.

Why is it important for employers to offer work placements like yours?

Offers insight and experience of something they would be doing for their future.

What would you say to others thinking about doing a placement day?

It is a great opportunity to learn and add to your future CV as it shows you can commit to working, as well as gaining valuable experience.

Is there anything else you'd like to mention?

Thank you very much for having me and showing me lots of new things. I am excited to see all the new roads and bridges come together.

Project Developments

Milestones September to December 2023

New Kingsway

It has been a busy summer and autumn on the Link Road with a significant portion of the surfacing now completed. The roundabouts at Stormontfield, the A93 and the A94 opened to traffic in the recent months with some minor works (signs, street lighting, hard landscaping) remaining.

A section of the Link Road between Stormontfield roundabout and the A93 roundabout was opened for public use in early October. This is facilitating local upgrade works to the existing Stormontfield Road which includes the installation of a new precast box culvert.

Work has also progressed well on the Green Bridge at Highfield. This will allow access across the new road to Highfield Plantation for active travel users and wildlife, thus maintaining connectivity. Access paths leading up to the bridge are well advanced, and landscaping works commenced in November and will run through to spring 2024.

Destiny Bridge

A significant milestone has been reached with commencement of the initial superstructure (hammerhead) on the River Tay bridge. The hammerhead construction, when completed, will enable the erection of the balanced cantilever form traveller.

The west abutment piling has been completed recently as part of the foundation. Located between the newly realigned A9 and the Highland Railway line, the pile cap (foundation) when completed will facilitate the abutment (end support) construction.

Early in 2024, construction of the initial form traveller deck segment of reinforced steel, high-strength concrete, and post-tensioning cables will commence. A careful construction sequence will ensure that a segment will be constructed on either side of each pier to maintain a perfect balance.

The bridge is currently forecast to be completed in 2024.

A9

With the new A9 alignment to the west completed and open since August 2023, the focus moved to the next phase of the works. This includes the completion of ancillary works such as bus-bays, footpaths, and accommodation works. In addition, there has been good progress on earthworks and drainage along the old A9 route.

All culverts are now done, with the recent completion of the Bertha Loch replacement culvert. The earthworks for the new park-and-choose area progressed well despite the recent challenging weather events.

The A9 Overbridge superstructure has also advanced with the abutment backfilling completed and the deck waterproofing commenced.

Planning and implementation of enabling works for the next phases has also taken place, including the construction and opening of the new diversion route of the existing cycle path to ensure public safety for both cyclist and pedestrian users.

Get in Touch

For specific questions about the Community Benefits Programme, contact BAM UK & Ireland's Stakeholder and Communications Manager, Innes Mackintosh, on innes.mackintosh@bam.com

If you have any questions about the CTRL, please contact roadsinfrastructure@pkc.gov.uk or crosstaylinkroad@bam.com or call **0330 332 5400**

Further information and updates around the CTRL project can be found at perthtransportfutures.co.uk

Follow us on X (twitter) [@PTFutures1](https://twitter.com/PTFutures1) and LinkedIn: [Cross Tay Link Road](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cross-tay-link-road)

