

Inverness West Link Stage 2 – March 2020 Update

Progress

Works continue to progress well across the site with the focus being on the works in the canal, bridge abutments, the surfacing of the new roundabout and sections on General Booth Road. However unfortunately all works on the site were suspended on the 24th March due to government advice regarding the pandemic virus.

The concrete capping beams on the abutments were completed on the 6th March which allowed the removal of the temporary bracing and falsework (supports for concrete) and the completion of the welding to the sheet piles. The puddle clay to the invert of the canal and the stone pitching opposite the wharf were completed on the 12th March this allowed the pumps dewatering the canal to be turned off which allowed the section between the dams to refill with water over the weekend. The extraction of the sheet piles commenced on Tuesday 17th and allowed the pumps topping up the lower reaches to be turned off. Following the successful removal of the sheet piles the two stone dams were removed with long reach excavators fitted with GPS to ensure that there was no damage to the original fabric of the canal bed or slopes. Once all the stone had been removed from the canal it was open for marine craft on Monday 23rd March.

The HGV diversion that was avoiding the site was lifted on the 17th March following the successful surfacing to the North of the roundabout.

Due to the poor condition of the existing General Booth Road beyond the tie in location this was closed to traffic on the 18th March to allow the safe installation of services, additional drainage and additional surfacing. This was due to be completed and the road reopened on the 3rd April but has been postponed due to the site closing.

Preparations are underway for the delivery of the underpass for the A82. To allow this to be installed a temporary sheet piled retaining wall will be driven into the existing A82.

Planned Works (when works recommence)

The planned works will consist of:

- Works on General Booth road and the reopening to vehicular traffic
- Surfacing of General Booth Road and on the A82
- Concrete works on West and East Abutments
- Underpass Installation
- Timber Jetty Installation



Surfacing Completed to the North of the roundabout to facilitate the removal of the HGV diversion and the closure of General Booth Road.



Looking North with the completed works in the canal, wharf, abutments, stone pitching and dam in the foreground



Picture from the South with the canal almost open – silt curtain still to be removed. The works on the concrete apron the bridge can be seen on the left of the canal.



Looking North with the South dam removed and the capping beams on either side of the canal



View from the West of the site



Wharf Capping Beam with canal at full water level



Removal of the North Stone Dam with Long Reach Excavator



Swing Bridge apron reinforcing.



A view of the site from the North. This shows the canal refilled and the existing section of General Booth Road with the surfacing removed.