

Inverness West Link Stage 2 – January 2021

Progress

Despite the poor weather in January works have still progressed across the site. The works on site this month focussed on the installation of sign foundations, kerbing, landscaping, planting, installation of street lights and bollards in the park and a concrete pour to the rear of the swing bridge.

Our bridge fabricator Cleveland Bridge completed the welding of the bridge sections which permitted the installation of 94 tonne of steel ballast blocks to the rear of the bridge. The ballast blocks are there to ensure that the bridge is balanced and doesn't tip over when it is being swung. The painting of the bridge is progressing well with it painted black and white to reflect the colours used on the Caledonian Canal. Once again the big white tent encapsulating the bridge allowed them to progress without any delays due to the weather.

The encapsulation has allowed various sub-contractors to progress well with Highland Fencing and Barrier Contractors installing the parapets, Waterseal applying a waterproof membrane to the bridge deck and Fairfield installing the power and control cabling. We were also able to install the stainless steel kerbs in preparation of the 40mm of surfacing to be laid in February.

On the existing Tomnahurich Bridge the Control system was integrated to allow Scottish Canals to operate the bridge from the new control building. Fairfield have installed the new bridge control system with Irn Security installing an upgraded camera and PA system for Tomnahurich and a new system for Torvean.

Works commenced on the Park Run with the removal of vegetation from the North of the pond and the removal of dead trees along the route of the proposed new path.

Planned Works for February

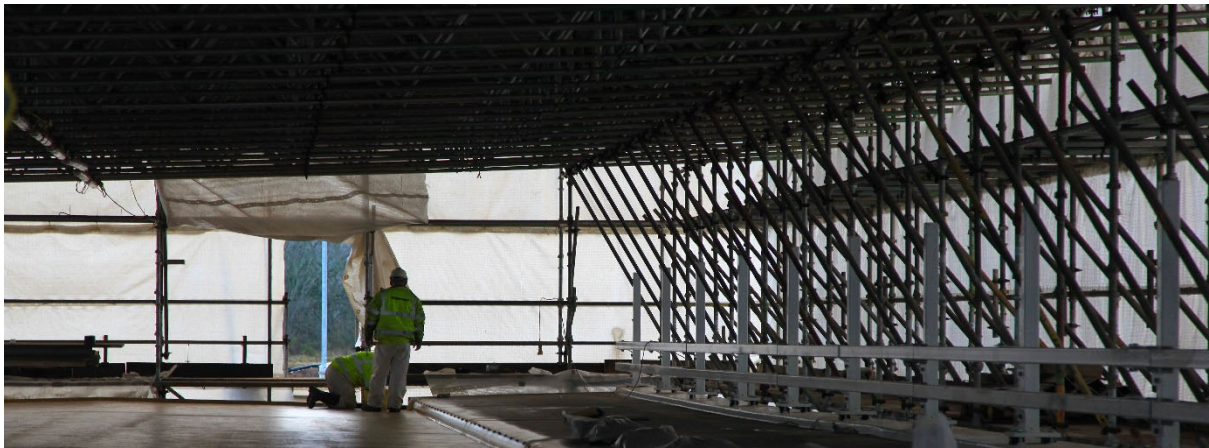
The planned works in February will see the bridge deck and footways surfaced, the jack down of the bridge off the temporary supports onto the pivot bearing. The installation of the hydraulic pipework and control cabling, the removal of the encapsulation and all going well we would hope to be in a position to move the bridge towards the end of February / beginning of March.



Looking West to the new underpass under the A82 – footpath ready for surfacing



East abutment with the bearings and shock absorber clearly visible



Waterproofing of the bridge deck and the bridge parapets installed along the edge of the footway



Installation of the steel ballast blocks to the rear of the bridge