



Arboriculturalist Callum McCutcheon

More to River Ness Flood Alleviation Project than meets the eye...

As Summer turns into Autumn, works continues to build momentum on the River Ness Flood Alleviation project. Before construction of the flood wall can commence, Morgan Sindall must first ensure the area is protected both ecologically and environmentally. To do this, a team of local specialists have been engaged to carry out extensive research. In this months' newsletter read about a few of those experts.

Arboriculturalist Callum McCutcheon (pictured top right) has been employed by Morgan Sindall for Phase 1 of the River Ness Flood Alleviation Scheme.. On a daily basis Callum is on site to ensure the safety and protection of trees during construction work. There are over 30 trees between Ness Bridge and Friars Bridge, predominantly Lime trees.

Ecological Experts Highland Birchwood recently carried out an extensive survey on the habitation of species in the River Ness works area. In particular, to find out if red squirrels, bats and otters were visible in the locale. The report concluded there was no sign of habitation of those species at this time within the area of works.

Local Archaeologists Lynn Fraser and Mary Peteranna from RoCAS (Ross & Cromarty Archaeological Services) were employed during the enabling works earlier this year. In Phase 1 they anticipate the possibility of finding remains of earlier building and other archaeological deposits surviving below the build up of the river bank. The image below illustrates two pottery fragments from the neck of a 16th-17th century stoneware jug with a distinctive "Wild Man" face (see below). These were recovered by Morgan Sindall worker Gavin Thomson during test pit excavation at the junction of Bank Street and Douglas Row.



The Highland Council

website at www.highland.gov.uk Within the *Flood Alleviation Scheme* you will find a host of useful information about the River Ness Flood Alleviation project, to include *NEW* this month webcams and time lapse videos - take a look...

Twitter Get up to the minute information on the River Ness Flood Alleviation works from the Highland Council Twitter page. For more information log on to www.twitter.com/highlandcouncil

Need to get in touch? If you have any queries or require further information about the Flood Alleviation works, please contact 07557 744442 or RivernessFAS@highland.gov.uk

Looking ahead... to work taking place over the next few weeks. From 14 October - Piling will commence along Bank Street and Douglas Row. Drainage works will continue on Bank Street and Huntly Street to include the area between Celt and Wells Street and Friars Place.