

## ▶ A warm welcome to the second issue of our GAIA project newsletter

After good progress to the turn of the year, the project began to feel the inevitable effects of the COVID-19 pandemic with the construction site temporarily closed in early April in line with Scottish Government guidelines. We have been following the phased construction re-start, including new safety measures and controls on site, enabling the site to return to operation in June.

Since returning, work on site has moved forward on all available fronts, with progress visible from the perimeter of the site. The new roundabouts and Abbotsinch Road alignment can be clearly seen as we prepare to install the new road surfacing. Both our major structures - bridges over the White and Black Cart rivers - are progressing well, with the substructure works at Wright Street complete in readiness for the bridge deck to commence in early September.

Substructure works on the new Black Cart Bridge, providing a new pedestrian route and cycleway, continue, while the superstructure assembly has started in preparation for installation this November. Upgrade works on the existing Abbotsinch Road have also gathered momentum as new kerb lines and surfacing is installed following a series of complex service diversions. More detailed information on the ongoing works can be found on the project website at

[www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/gaia](http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/gaia)

I would like to thank local road users for their patience during the ongoing lane closures and works at the A8 Abbotsinch Road, Greenock Road and Inchinnan Road junction. More details are provided in the newsletter of further traffic management works at this location and I want to assure you we will do everything we can to complete the works as quickly as possible, minimising disruption for all road users.

As the works continue, our site team, in close collaboration with Renfrewshire Council, SWECO and our designers RPS will continue to deliver the project safely while striving to keep any disruption for our neighbours to a minimum. Our road sweepers will continue to ensure Abbotsinch Road is kept clean at all times.

I would like to personally thank all of our stakeholders and the general public for their ongoing support and co-operation on the project. I look forward to updating you on progress again in a few months' time.

Best regards,

**Douglas Halliday**  
WBCEL Project manager

# OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

**ISSUE 02**  
AUTUMN 2020

## PROJECT PROGRESS

### Abbotsinch Road

The existing Abbotsinch Road has been widened with new drainage kerbing installed along with multiple service diversions. The new cycleway on Abbotsinch road is well underway. The addition of this public amenity will provide a new active travel route throughout the area including links to new developments within the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District Scotland (AMIDS): The National Manufacturing Institute Scotland (NMIS) and the Medicines Manufacturing Innovation Centre. This will also improve connections to Renfrew and Inchinnan.



### 132KkV Cable protection

Our works have also involved providing protection measures to a series of fragile high voltage underground (132kv) cables which one of our new roads has to cross. Preliminary proposals for the protection measures involved a series of steel-reinforced concrete beams spanning an array of reinforced concrete piles. We explored alternatives with our designer while prioritising solutions which minimised disturbance to the sensitive assets and utilised sustainable materials. The carbon footprint of this solution is a fraction of the original proposals due to the elimination of reinforced concrete in favour of hollow recycled plastic crates.



### Structures

The Wright Street Link Bridge works achieved a significant milestone in July 2020 installing the crosshead beams which completes the bridge sub-structure construction. With the kind help of our stakeholder Westway, the team were able to access the site with the 44 tonne precast beams for the first phase of assembling the bridge.

Piling work has now been completed at the Black Cart superstructure and the abutments will be constructed well in advance of the superstructure installation in November.



### Traffic Management

The construction programme over the coming months will result in unavoidable disruption at the A8 Abbotsinch Road, Greenock Road, Inchinnan Road Junction as we complete the junction realignment works and prepare for the Black Cart Cycleway Bridge installation in November.

The lane closures which are currently in place are planned to continue until the end of September. These will be followed by a series of weekend closures in October and number of overnight closures in November. We appreciate this will be an unwelcome inconvenience but can assure you we will do everything possible to complete the works as quickly as possible and minimise disruption.

Information on all upcoming roadworks are published in advance on the project website [renfrewshire.gov.uk/gaia](https://renfrewshire.gov.uk/gaia) and through Renfrewshire Council's social channels.

We kindly ask you observe any speed restrictions or lane closures, which are in place to ensure the safety of everyone in the surrounding area.

### SITE NEWS

#### COVID-19 Site provisions

We recognise the critical importance of providing enhanced safety measures as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. We are proud the site has achieved a COVID-19 Compliance Assessment **5 Star rating**.

#### Considerate Constructors - Site project Score: 42/50

Our site is registered with Considerate Constructors. This scheme aims to improve a construction site's image through being respectful to the general public, their employees and reducing any impact to the environment.

When visited by the Considerate Constructors Scheme's auditor, the site achieved a level of excellence by scoring at least **8 out of 9 points** from the five sections of the Scheme's Code of Considerate Practice. The sections include Care about Appearance, Respect the Community, Protect the Environment, Secure Everyone's Safety and Value their Workforce.



#### Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District Scotland (AMIDS)

Our project is providing the infrastructure for the **AMIDS**, which will become an internationally recognised centre for advanced manufacturing, leading innovation, and research and for driving sustainable growth in the Scottish economy. At its heart is Nethererton Campus, which will be home to the National Manufacturing Institute Scotland (NMIS) and the Medicines Manufacturing Innovation Centre.

Interserve, construction contractors for the Medicines Manufacturing Innovation Centre, commenced work on site on 17 August, undertaking pre-construction surveys and site establishment. It is anticipated the NMIS construction will start on site in Autumn 2020. Construction of both facilities will run in tandem with our operations until the contract concludes. Further information on AMIDS is available at:

[www.paisley.is/amids](http://www.paisley.is/amids)



Artist's impression

# COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND ENGAGEMENT

## School visits - Gleniffer High

In February, Gleniffer High School invited our team to a career day. This event was hosted to help advise S3 pupils choosing their subjects. It included discussing all Civil Engineering roles' and what the entry requirements would be for uni and college. This event was attended by our Public Liaison Officer (PLO), Site Administrator and Health & Safety manager to showcase the various roles that are within construction. Events such as this give our team the chance to truly make a difference to young people that want a career within Civil Engineering.



## Lagoon Leisure Centre Job Fair

In March, our PLO attended a Jobs fair at Paisley's Lagoon Leisure Centre. The event was hosted by **Invest in Renfrewshire** and was attended by many employers from a variety of industries.

Employers from different businesses came together to promote employment within the local community. Our PLO, Rachael, even ended up speaking on local station **Pulse Radio 98.4FM** to promote all of our training and employment opportunities.



## Work experience placements

We are committed to providing opportunities for young people in Renfrewshire. One way we do this is by facilitating two-week work placements.

**Lewis Graham** attended a work placement with us through local partner Invest in Renfrewshire. He was able to see and understand the various departments we have based on site. He worked with the online section learning about utility diversions, TM, kerbing and drainage.

Lewis did so well that **he was offered a full-time position** as a general operative.

He said: "The whole thing from start to finish has been such a good experience. From the Sector Based Work Academy in construction meetings online through Invest in Renfrewshire, sorting my CSCS card to how I was treated at the **Wills Bros** site and shown how to do various things. Then ultimately getting a job with Wills. Better than anything I could hope for I'm honestly so thankful to everyone involved!"

If anyone in the area is interested in a placement such as this, please contact our PLO, Rachael Finlay. Her details can be found below.

# LOOKING AHEAD

## Over the coming weeks and months, the GAIA project will be focusing on:

- **Wright Street Bridge** - Superstructure precast beams installation in September 2020 to allow commencement of the bridge deck
- **Black Cart Bridge** - Completion of substructure and on-site assembly of Superstructure ready for installation in November.
- **A8 junction** - Major preparatory works for tying in the new road alignment and manoeuvring the Black Cart Bridge in to place for lifting in November.
- Continuous **work with our local partners** to create employment and opportunities for the people of Renfrewshire.
- **Existing Abbotsinch Road** - Site clearance, kerbing, drainage, and installation of street lighting will all be taking place.
- **Realigned Abbotsinch Road** - Foul drainage network and pumping station installation. Large sections of new road surfacing. Installation of verges and paths.
- **Environmental** - Continue to work closely with SEPA, our onsite Ecological Clerk of Works and Environmental advisor to manage environmental issues on site.
- Continuing to have **open communication** with our stakeholders and the general public about any works that may impact them directly.

## Staying connected

**Rachael Finlay**, our Public Liaison Officer (PLO), is the first point of contact for surrounding businesses, residents, and community organisations. Her role involves overseeing communications and liaising with the general public to achieve as little disruption from the project as possible. She is also involved with fulfilling all community benefits directed to the project. Rachael is committed to creating employment, training, and developing skills throughout Renfrewshire.

To contact WBCEL there is a site email: [info@gaiaproject.co.uk](mailto:info@gaiaproject.co.uk) or site phone on **07464 910226**

For latest updates scan the QR code to access the project website at [renfrewshire.gov.uk/gaia](http://renfrewshire.gov.uk/gaia)

