

Stockingfield Bridge Update



Work well underway on new Stockingfield Bridge

Work is now well underway on a new £12 million active travel bridge over the Forth & Clyde Canal in North Glasgow.

The bridge will link the communities of Maryhill, Gilshochill and Ruchill and will also provide the final piece of the Forth & Clyde cycle route.

The project, delivered by Scottish Canals with funding from Sustrans and the Glasgow City Council Vacant Derelict Land Fund, will also deliver a new public recreational space on a currently vacant site.

Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity, Michael Matheson said:

“It’s great to see work commencing on an exciting new bridge for the Forth & Clyde Canal at Stockingfield Junction. Funded by the Scottish Government through the Sustrans Places for Everyone programme, this new bridge will offer people living and visiting North Glasgow better walking, wheeling and cycling connectivity than before.

“The Stockingfield Bridge will make it even easier for the communities of Maryhill, Ruchill and Gilshochill to get

around locally in a sustainable way, as well as accessing the fantastic nature reserve at Possil Marsh. At the same time, it completes a missing link in the National Cycle Network Route 754, which offers a traffic-free route between Glasgow and Edinburgh via the spectacular Falkirk Wheel.

“We’re continuing to invest in permanent active travel infrastructure to help make walking, wheeling and cycling the easy choice for everyday journeys. Scotland’s Canals are uniquely suited to support this ambition and we are lucky to benefit from these historic assets. For our health, wellbeing and to respond to the climate emergency, we’ll continue to support similar projects across Scotland as we work to build an Active Nation.”

The design takes into account the needs of all canal users, those using the towpath and the actual canal. It needed to be of sufficient height to allow the passage of canal traffic and cyclists. An opening bridge design was considered. But given higher maintenance costs and the need for them to be actively staffed when they need to be opened, meant this solution was discounted.

The new link will open in summer 2022.



**Scottish
Canals**



Balfour Beatty



Noise on site

As part of initial ground works contractor Balfour Beatty had to reinforce the canal bank.

Firmer ground conditions than initial research anticipated, meant this required pile driving which although within set noise limits, was a major inconvenience to local people. This is now drawing to a close and will be completed early in the New Year.

“We appreciate everyone’s patience and understanding during this period,” said Scottish Canals Director of Operations, Richard Millar.



Towpath closure

Unfortunately as part of the construction it will be necessary to temporarily close sections of the Forth & Clyde and Glasgow Branch canal towpaths.

These will be closed at Stockingfield Junction from November 2020 to approximately July 2022. Active travel diversion route signs are now in place. It is a lengthy diversion but is the safest available and has been approved and agreed by active travel charity Sustrans. The canal itself will also be closed to all traffic at the junction from November 1 to March 15 2021, and for certain periods later next year as well.

A local project with national importance

Stockingfield Bridge is key piece of national transport infrastructure

It opens up great new opportunities for people to get out of their cars and move around by more sustainable means.

Karen McGregor, Director of Scotland for Sustrans said: “Sustrans is delighted to be supporting the construction of the new Stockingfield Bridge through our Places for Everyone scheme. The new bridge will open up opportunities for local people and make it easier to travel along the canal, whether you walk, wheel or cycle. It’s fantastic to bring the communities of Maryhill, Ruchill and Gilshochill back together.”

For more information on Sustrans active travel routes log on to sustrans.org

Timeline

2007 – Scottish Canals commissioned consultants to develop proposals for a new bridge at Stockingfield Junction

2008 – The ‘Big Man’ sculpture idea developed but rejected due to economic downturn

2016 – Consultants asked to develop a new planning application for a bridge

2018 – Following consultation with local people and stakeholders the current design was approved.

March 2020 – Planning application passed with only one objection.

October 2020 – Main works begin

June 2021 – Main support mast erected

July 2021 – Work starts on west bridge

September 2021 – Work starts on east bridge

September 2021 – Steelwork complete

January-August 2022 – Landscaping

August 2022 – Completion

Future updates

We are keen to get as many people signed up online as possible to receive future updates. If you would like to be informed about project progress please email your details to craig.cowbrough@scottishcanals.co.uk