

Newhall Bridge

Newhall Bridge Widening Briefing Note

29th June 2018

The Newhall Bridge Widening scheme has been tendered and is in the process of being awarded.

The temporary bridge in place at Newhall is a Quickbridge, 2 units wide. The revised structure will be a Quickbridge, 3 units wide, set at the original road level. Some of the masonry parapets will remain.

The anticipated timing of the scheme pivots around a planned road closure which runs from Saturday 11th August 2018 to Sunday 19th August 2018, both dates inclusive. Work on and off site will take place in advance of the road closure but will not significantly delay traffic.

A Temporary Traffic Regulation Order has been prepared for publication. This will be published 2 weeks before the planned implementation of the road closure.

Elements of the bridge are being fabricated at the smithy adjacent to the existing bridge.

Advance works require to be undertaken by BT Openreach. It is anticipated that their advance work will be concluded by 27th July 2018.

SEPA and Cromarty Firth Fishery Trust have been consulted.

Diversion signing is planned as a separate contract. This will allow the bridge contractor to focus on the bridge works without being distracted by traffic issues. Traffic will be diverted via Killen.

It is intended to make use of MFR radio to publicise the temporary road diversion.

The bus companies have been advised of the planned road closure.

A landowner has expressed concern that there might be unacceptable levels of use of the private track which runs from Newhall Crossroads (Cromarty Junction), crosses a privately owned bridge over the Newhall Burn and emerges on the Newmills road some 600 metres from Newhall Bridge. The landowner has had experience of this route having been used in the past by vehicles which are unsuited to such a track, resulting in her having a very large repair bill. The diversion signing contractor will be instructed to erect signs at each end of the track showing this route as a No Entry and he will be required to monitor the situation, amending signing as necessary.

Due in part to the land limitations, it is not proposed to provide a temporary pedestrian footbridge. Determined walkers and cyclists will be permitted to use the private track discussed above which is signed as 'Ceum Path'.