

Stirling Alloa Kincardine Railway and Linked Improvements Project – Progress is Well on Track

The Stirling - Alloa - Kincardine route reopening project is one of the most important railway infrastructure projects Scotland has seen for decades.

Construction Work Entering Final Stages



A significant amount of work has taken place on the Stirling - Alloa - Kincardine railway over the last six months, with construction expected to be complete in spring 2008. Following a period of commissioning and driver training / familiarisation, we expect passenger services to be fully operational in summer 2008. When the route reopens it will allow the people of Clackmannanshire direct access to the rail network for the first time in nearly 40 years.

All major works such as construction of bridges and retaining walls, laying of the track, installation of signals and road construction have now been completed. The structure of the new Alloa station building will be completed in early January. Construction of the three major level crossings on the route at Waterside, Blackgrange and Cambus are well underway. Installation of the machines to open and close the

barriers, lighting columns and CCTV cameras (these allow the signaller at Stirling to check that no vehicles or pedestrians are on the crossing before closing the barriers) will take place during January 2008. The new control panel for the route has been successfully installed in the Signal Box at Stirling. The wiring for the signalling and telecommunications systems will be installed in January and February along with modifications in the Signal Boxes at Stirling and Longannet.

To ensure the safe operation of the railway we will be carrying out a programme of felling works in January/February 2008 where individual trees present a potential threat to visibility and safety along the line. Around this time we will also be installing twelve secured access points to allow the safe and efficient maintenance of the track, points and signals.

New lines of communication

Recent visitors to the SAK Railway website may have noticed that it has a new look. We will be updating the website regularly with the latest news from the project. Whether you want to find out how work is progressing or learn more about the history of the line visit www.sakrailway.co.uk

There is also a new enquiry line which will be open Monday to Friday from 9am until 5.30pm. Members of the public can call 0141 229 7648 or email any queries or comments to info@s-a-k.co.uk



Graham keeps us in the picture

Local man Graham Sharp of Alloa has taken a particular interest in the new line using it as a subject for his photography. Graham has taken a series of photographs since construction began creating a visual record of the work in progress on the Stirling-Alloa-Kincardine line. The pictures have been used to illustrate the new project website and can be viewed at www.sakrailway.co.uk



Safety warning to would be trespassers

Members of the public are being warned that they risk serious injury or even death by trespassing on the site of the Stirling-Alloa-Kincardine railway. As construction work progresses there is not only danger from heavy machinery working on the line but also from the 650 v power cables that run alongside the tracks. These cables are now live and will deliver an electric shock which can kill if tampered with. The cables power the signals, point motors and heaters and level crossing barriers among other things.

A number of security measures have been put in place to prevent trespassing including roving dog patrols, a landrover security patrol, heightened police presence and covert operations in conjunction with the British Transport Police.

Scott Prentice, Project Manager "While we are doing our utmost to ensure that all areas of the site are secure we urge the public to heed safety warnings in relation to the railway. At this point in the construction of the line many sections of the cable are now live meaning that anyone who trespasses on the line risks paying a high price for a shortcut."

New railway to go down in the history books

Former local newspaper editor David Bytheway is to write a new book on the Stirling-Alloa railway in conjunction with the Clackmannanshire Field Studies Society. The society was successful in gaining £4750 from the Lottery grants scheme Awards for All to fund the book which will trace the history of the line from the early wagonways in the 1760s to the present day. David (left) is pictured receiving the grant from the Lord Lieutenant of Clackmannanshire, Mrs Sheena Cruickshank, watched by Nissar Mohammed of First Nuttall, the joint venture contracted to build the railway.



Many similarities between the early wagonways and the new railway have been identified through research for the new book, for example, the wagonway for which Alloa was famous was single tracked with passing loops while the new railway follows a similar layout. Both also enable the transfer of coal across the county and as with the wagonways when they were first introduced, the reopening of the Stirling-Alloa-Kincardine railway will bring a number of benefits to the local community.

David, who lives in Coalsnaughton, Clackmannanshire, has already received a great deal of help from the Scottish Railway Preservation Society in researching for the book but is also keen to hear from anyone who has a memory of the line. You can contact him on 01259 752947 or by e-mail at DavidTryst@AOL.com or info@s-a-k.co.uk

Further information can be found at www.sakrailway.co.uk, or please leave a message on the project phonenumber – 0141 229 7648.

