



Aerial view of the Bowling site

Strategic Infrastructure Development, Bowling

Q3 Newsletter, October 2025

A major industrial and commercial site at the former ExxonMobil oil terminal in Bowling is starting to take shape with site clearance nearing completion.

The site is being transformed to unlock the potential of mixed-use development including storage, distribution, industrial, business and office space. It is a joint investment project between West Dunbartonshire Council and Glasgow City Region City Deal with funding from both UK and Scottish Governments.

The site is expected to bring £20.6 million of additional private investment and £331.4m net additional Gross Value Added to the City Region over 25 years.

The project includes the reconfiguration of Dumbuck junction on the A82/ A814, the construction of a new railway underbridge, partial reconstruction of an existing railway overbridge, 2.2km of spine roads and the phased implementation of raised platforms ready for development of future buildings on the site. Of the 150-acre area, 47 acres are planned for development, with green network and green infrastructure enhancements including a waterfront pedestrian and cycle path being developed.

In addition, a heritage area has been identified around listed structure Dunglass Castle.

Project Updates:



The Exxon Infrastructure Development project continues to make steady progress across several key areas. At the West Junction, earthworks and drainage operations are ongoing, with the focus currently on service diversions. These diversions are essential for unlocking the remaining areas of earthworks and include a 250mm intermediate pressure gas main and four Scottish Water pipelines. Of these, three water diversions are close to completion.

The team has faced considerable challenges due to historic, uncharted services and poor ground conditions. Despite these obstacles, the project remains on schedule, thanks to the dedication and adaptability of everyone involved.



Visual of the installation of the reinforced concrete protection units for gas main diversion.



Visual of the gas main diversion, showing new pipeline being laid and welded.

Project Updates:

West Junction 750 existing watercourse

Significant progress has also been made on the West Junction's existing watercourse diversion, with reinforced concrete protection units now installed for the gas main.



Visual of watercourse diversion

Localised Cycle path diversions are required throughout the works

Cycle path diversions are required throughout the works to maintain safe access for the community. The new gas pipeline is being laid and welded, and all works are proceeding according to plan.

During the Gas main tie-in works at A814 Glasgow Road, a section of the Cycle path had to be closed from the 15th October for 4 weeks to allow safe working. We thank you for the understanding of the path users.



Visual of cycle path diversion

Project Updates:

A814 Dumbarton Road Junction

At the A814 Dumbarton Road junction, widening works have commenced, including earthworks through the existing embankment and removal of the original masonry wall.



Visual of earthworks

Elsewhere, Spine Road 1 is taking shape. This new road runs 1.8 kilometres from A814 Glasgow Road to A814 Dumbarton Road, Bowling. Earthworks in the eastern section are well underway, with surcharge being placed to allow a six-month settlement period.



Visual of surcharge on spine road

Looking ahead, the project team remains committed to delivering the works safely, efficiently, and with minimal disruption to the community. Regular updates will continue to be provided as the project progresses. We thank everyone for their continued support and patience as we deliver these essential infrastructure improvements



Project Overview

Rail Underbridge Takes Shape:

Unlocking Opportunity for West Dunbartonshire

A major milestone is underway in Bowling, where Network Rail, working in close partnership with Story Contracting Ltd. and West Dunbartonshire Council, is delivering a transformative £5.9 million infrastructure project that will help unlock the full potential of the former ExxonMobil site.

At the heart of this regeneration is a new rail underbridge — a vital piece of engineering that will enable a new access road across the site, paving the way for future investment, connectivity, and community benefit.

The Network Rail project team has already completed extensive preparatory works, shifting 80,000 tonnes of earth to create a casting yard — a vast concrete platform where the 2,500-tonne bridge structure is being built.

The four-month build of the 10-metre-tall and 33-metre-long structure is now over halfway through.

With the steelworks in place, a series of concrete pours were recently undertaken to build up the bridge walls and bridge deck.

A critical phase of work is scheduled for the festive period when part of the railway embankment will be removed to make space for the new bridge.

The structure will then be rolled into position, followed by the reinstatement of the track and signaling infrastructure - all carefully planned to minimise disruption and keep passengers moving.



Concrete platform walls under construction

Laura Craig, scheme project manager at Network Rail Scotland, said: “This bridge is a gateway to wider regeneration. It’s taken careful planning and strong collaboration to get to this point, and we’re excited to see it take shape. We’re committed to keeping communities informed and delivering this work safely and respectfully.”

Further information on the railway bridge can be accessed via the links below:

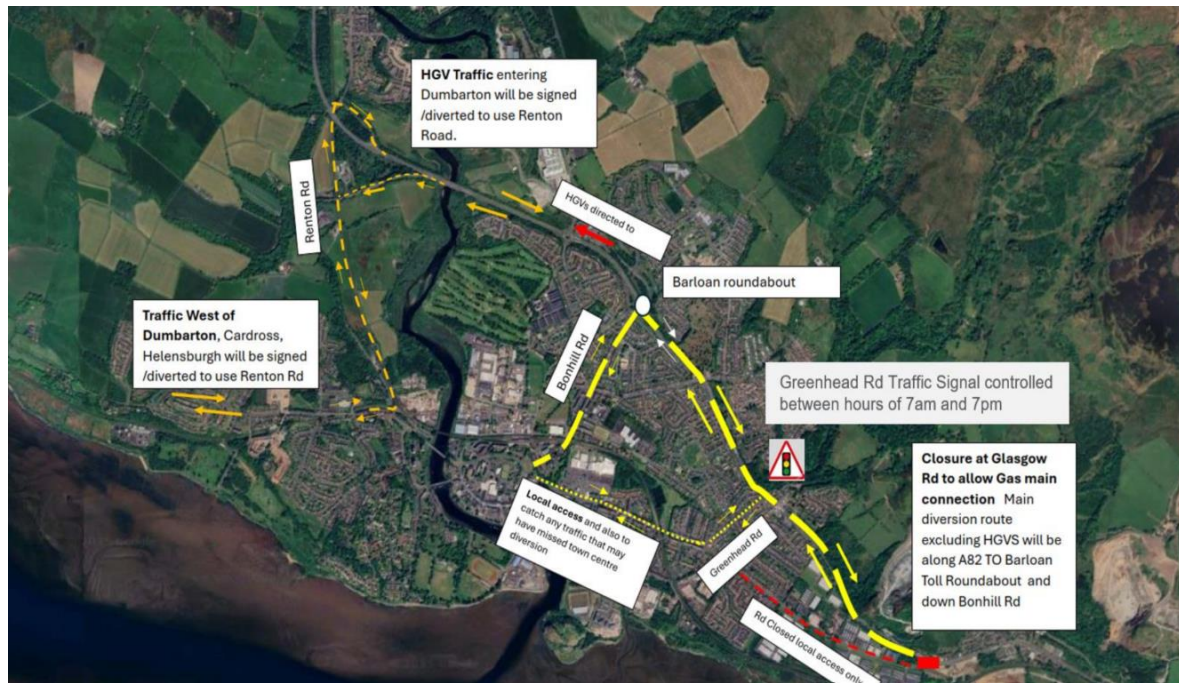
<https://scotlandsrailway.com/projects>

<https://www.scotrail.co.uk/plan-your-journey/engineering-works>

Traffic Management:

To facilitate the gas main tie-in, Glasgow Road at Dumbuck Junction was closed for five weeks from 15th September until 20th October along with the NCN7 cycle path for 4 weeks duration.

While the traffic diversions were necessary to put in place, we appreciated the public's patience and understanding during this period. Every effort was made to minimise inconvenience for residents and road users.



Any proposed traffic management is carefully planned and coordinated between the Project Team, Transport Scotland, and the Council's Roads Department. We understand how important being able to use the road network with minimal disruption and every effort is made to reduce the impact on road users.

Updates on proposed traffic management activities will be communicated through the following websites and social media feed.

- Council Webpage for Traffic Regulation Orders/ Traffic Management:
<https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/council/public-notices/traffic-regulation-order/>
- Scottish Roadworks Online:
<https://www.roadworksscotland.org/>
- Traffic Scotland:
<https://www.traffic.gov.scot/traffic-information/roadworks>

Additional Traffic Management Restrictions on the A82 Trunk Road include:
Public Holidays, Holiday Weekends, Local events.

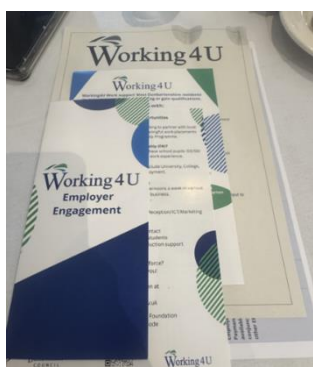
Social Impact Updates:

The Exxon Site Infrastructure Development Project continues to make a meaningful impact in West Dunbartonshire, promoting STEM skills, career pathways, and construction industry opportunities.

Working in Partnership with the Working4U Team

Balfour Beatty is proud to collaborate with West Dunbartonshire Council's Working4U team to boost local employment and training.

We recently attended the regional Jobs Fair, engaging with over 300 attendees to promote the Exxon Infrastructure Development Project, share job opportunities and connect with local talent.



We also supported the Employer Breakfast Event, which showcased 2025 incentives including:

These initiatives are helping bridge skills gaps, empower local talent, and deliver lasting social value across West Dunbartonshire. We are looking forward to supporting a range of upcoming employment and careers fairs in both schools and the community.

Restoring Dunglass Castle Public Gardens and supporting youth football

Network Rail teams are also making a real difference locally. In August, 13 volunteers from Network Rail and Story carried out 69 volunteering hours over two days to help restore the Dunglass Castle Public Gardens.

Clearing overgrown vegetation from the garden walls and opening access routes into the garden to allow the walls to be assessed for repair, the team laid the groundwork for future repairs and public use.

Elsewhere, Network Rail and Story are proud to have teamed up with Craigandro 2015's, a local children's football team, to donate essential equipment that will benefit the wider club. Based nearby in Renton at the Tontine Football Pitch, the club welcomes over 400 children across various age groups every week.



As a railway neighbour, Network Rail and Story are committed to supporting the club beyond the pitch. Later this year, Network Rail project team will be delivering rail safety sessions to the young players, helping them stay safe as the railway line runs alongside their football pitches. It's all part of the ongoing effort to invest in the wellbeing and safety of the communities Network Rail are connected to.



Scottish Pathways to Construction: Building Skills, Building Futures

Balfour Beatty, in partnership with West Dunbartonshire Council's Working 4U and funded by CITB, recently delivered a powerful local initiative aimed at tackling skills shortages in the construction industry.

The Scottish Pathways to Construction Programme focused on supporting new entrants to the sector through a blend of accredited training and hands-on experience.



Course participants with course leaders.



Course participants attending the Course Induction.

Eleven local participants received accredited training in Abrasive Wheels, REHIS & Health & Safety, Working at Height, and CSCS Green Card and nine participants completed a week-long on-site work placement

This programme shows how targeted training and practical experience can unlock potential and strengthen the local workforce.



Course participants travelling to the training Centre



Photos of course participants during training sessions

The Project Team:

Client: West Dunbartonshire Council

The Council serves 89,000 residents and a lively business community in an area stretching from the banks of Loch Lomond to the shores of the Clyde. The region is one of great diversity and natural beauty with a rich history, shaped by its world-famous shipyards.

It boasts many attractions, ranging from the rugged beauty of Dumbarton Rock to historic whisky warehouses. The Council has big ambitions to deliver first class services, grow the local economy, revitalise the region's town centers and waterfront, and provide a modern education service for future generations. The development site at Bowling is a key infrastructure project aimed at driving economic growth and improving transport links for residents of West Dunbartonshire and the wider community.

Funders: Glasgow Region City Deal

The Glasgow Region City Deal encompasses a total of eight partner councils that make up the Glasgow City Region. Working in collaboration with local and national stakeholders to drive regional economic growth and improvement. The aim is to develop plans that will help to grow the local economy and provide a great place for residents to live, work and study; for businesses to flourish and for companies to invest in. Since the Glasgow City Region Cabinet was established in 2014, millions of pounds have been invested in improving transport and connectivity; growing skills; supporting businesses and freeing up derelict land for housing, retail, and commercial development.

The ground-breaking £1.13 billion City Deal, one of the largest in the UK, is funding major infrastructure projects: creating thousands of new jobs and generating millions of pounds of private sector investment.

Contractor: Balfour Beatty

Balfour Beatty are a leading international infrastructure group, trusted by customers to deliver sustainable solutions and strengthen communities. Balfour Beatty finance, develop, build, maintain and operate the increasingly complex and critical infrastructure that supports national economies and deliver projects at the heart of local communities. Delivering a lasting positive impact for the communities we work in is embedded in how we operate. As the contractor for the Bowling Development site Balfour Beatty supports the community by working with local organisations and education providers to ensure local people benefit, and we leave an impact legacy beyond our project.

Feedback or concerns?

BBExxonInfrastructureDevelopment@balfourbeatty.com

We have a project website that shares key project information and regular updates:

<http://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/business/regeneration/strategic-sites/glasgow-city-deal>