

A NEW RAILWAY FOR MIDLOTHIAN, EDINBURGH  
AND THE SCOTTISH BORDERS

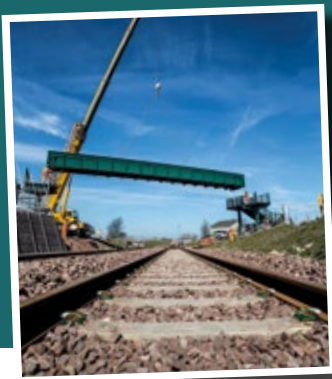
# CONNECTIONS



## The last bridge

The final footbridge over the Borders Railway has been installed as part of the construction of the new route. Ninety-five bridges have been refurbished and forty-two new bridges constructed on the railway between Edinburgh and the Scottish Borders.

This footbridge at Harelaw provides a connection from Newton Village to the new station at Shawfair.



## Final countdown

**Railway track installed, construction to be completed by summer**

**Construction of the Borders Railway is now into its final months and on course to be completed in June 2015.**

Following the completion of rail installation in February, stress testing, welding and stabilisation of the rails has been taking place down the 30 miles of the route. These activities stretch and straighten out the rails to create a smooth line. Top ballast continues to be laid and tamped to keep the track in place.

The railway corridor has to be secured to make the route fit for active use. Installation of permanent fencing will be completed before the railway becomes fully operational to restrict access to the lines.

All signalling equipment and communication masts have now all been installed along the route and the signalling system is currently being tested.

Ongoing vegetation management is being undertaken along the route to prevent heavy leaf fall and to remove any overhanging trees on the railway. This will also help reduce risk to train drivers and prevent obstructions and future disruption to train services.

With the route entering its final phase of construction, Network Rail asset management and maintenance teams, who will be responsible for the day to day maintenance when the line is completed in June, will also begin familiarising themselves with the new line.

## Train wrapping

A massive artwork on wheels has been unveiled to promote the new Borders Railway throughout the country.

With just six months to go until Scotland's most exciting rail project in over a century is open to the public, Infrastructure Secretary, Keith Brown, revealed the 70 metre long train wrapped in specially-designed livery to promote some of the top attractions of those areas served by the new railway.

The livery has been designed to catch the eye of train-loving kids and rail enthusiasts as the three-carriage train travels between Scotland's seven cities.

It features illustrations of Edinburgh Zoo's beloved pandas, Midlothian's famous and historic Rosslyn Chapel and the Scottish Borders' world-class scenery.



Keith Brown, Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities and John Swinney, Deputy First Minister of Scotland and the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Constitution and Economy at the launch of the new Borders inspired train

## Stations update

With the rail now installed on the route, the team has now moved on to getting the seven new stations along the Borders Railway ready for passengers.

With construction on the project drawing to a close in June, there is a lot of work to be done finishing off the car parks and access roads.

Furthermore, the stations will require power and lighting installation, along with communications and CCTV technology.

Work is progressing well at Tweedbank station where the construction of the main support buildings adjacent to the railway is underway. These building will be used by the rail teams who will be working on the route.



Tweedbank Station



Melrose 7s referee Cammy Rudkin and Stuart Mackay, Communication Manager for BAM

## Melrose Sevens

The Borders Railway team was on hand at this year's Melrose Sevens to encourage spectators to kick their cars into touch and take the train from September 2015.

The team informed fans about future rail services using the nearby new Tweedbank station and encouraged as many people as possible to sign up to receive information about the new services to enjoy a car free tournament in 2016.

Community engagement through sports sponsorship has been a very important aspect of the project team's activity in the build up to completing the railway and the Melrose Sevens is one of many Borders events that will really gain from having direct rail access, bringing thousands of tourists from Edinburgh and beyond.

Hugh Wark, project director, Network Rail, said: "We were delighted to be back again for what was our final year at this iconic Border's institution and build excitement amongst spectators who will benefit from taking the railway to next year's event!"

# A closer look at the stations

With the rail now installed, the focus for the Borders Railway team has moved onto making sure that the stations will be ready for public use in September 2015. Here is a selection of recent images of the seven new stations that have been built along the line.




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## SHAWFAIR:

The work at Shawfair station is the most progressed of all the stations, with both platforms and footbridge now installed. Lighting has been put into place, and the car park is close to completion. Electronics for CCTV are also being put in place.

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## ESKBANK:

This station will be a single platform, with a sheltered waiting area. Free car parking facilities are available with approximately 159 spaces.

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## NEWTONGRANGE:

The platform is in place, and the team is currently laying the mono-blocking for the car park which will have 55 available spaces.

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## GOREBRIDGE:

Gorebridge is the last station in Midlothian. A single platform, it will also be supported by a car park. Work is currently being undertaken on the access road to the car park.

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## STOW:

The cope stones at the two platforms at Stow station are nearing completion.

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## GALASHIELS:

The platform is now in place and the installation of cope stones is at an advanced stage. The transport interchange adjacent to the station will support visitors wanting to travel on the railway.

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## TWEEDBANK:

The train will terminate at Tweedbank. Work is progressing on the island platform including the installation of cope stones. Work on the car park is also at an advanced stage with the installation of mono-blocking nearing completion.

## Borders Railway welcomes Falkirk High School engineering students

Sixth year pupils from Falkirk High School have paid a visit to the site of the new Borders Railway, to learn more about the engineering feats behind the project.

The visit was part of a project being carried out by the pupils to design an optimal loop length for the Highland Main Line as part of the Engineering Education Scheme (EDT), the largest provider of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) activities for 11-21 year olds across the UK.



Engineering students from Falkirk High

# Communities receive £15,000 from Borders Railway Fund

A local dance group, a junior football team and a heritage centre are among the 26 community organisations and charities throughout the Scottish Borders and Midlothian to benefit from the final £6k round of the Borders Railway Community Fund.

The Community Fund was set-up in 2013 to help support community engagement and safety. Since then, a total of £15k has been distributed to 70 local groups. This last round of funding comes three months before the construction of the new railway is completed.

Hugh Wark, project director, Network Rail, said:

“This last round of funding marks the completion of the Community Fund initiative we started two years ago to help provide a lasting legacy for this flagship infrastructure project. We are delighted that we have been

able to support so many fantastic projects and we look forward to watching their progress.”

Some of this year’s beneficiaries and their projects include:

- Galashiels Academy - an engineering project that looks at the science behind the motion of trains
- Newtongrange Primary - working with junior road safety officers from the school to deliver a road safety campaign for pupils, parents and the wider community
- Newtongrange Church of Scotland - increasing activities for elderly members of the community to stimulate social contact and tackle loneliness
- The Tweedbank Fair Committee - contributing towards the costs of this year’s event

# Opening day celebrations take shape



Launch day excitement

The Borders railway Opening Celebrations Committee (BROCC) would like to thank everyone who submitted their ideas for the opening ceremony.

Transport Scotland, in conjunction with the local authority partners, are reviewing all the suggestions to decide which to take forward. Individuals will be contacted later to advise if their suggestions will be incorporated into the opening celebrations.

Each of the three local authorities along the line of the route (City of Edinburgh, Midlothian and Scottish Borders) has produced ‘Golden Tickets’ competitions to give residents the opportunity to ride on the first trains

on the new railway. Details of this contest can be found on the Borders Railway website.

Rail services commence on Sunday 6 September. Ticket purchases can be made via National Rail Enquires 12 weeks in advance of any planned journey. Therefore, tickets for the first planned services on Sunday 6 September will be available on the 14 June.

Also watch out for the Steam Train Experience timetable which is planned to run for a number of weeks after the new route goes live to gauge passenger interest in a summer service for 2016.

## CONTACT US

If you’d like to find out more about the Borders Railway project, or have an enquiry about the construction process, please contact us using one of the methods below:

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@BordersRailway

During the course of construction, Network Rail will provide regular updates about the progress of the project.

STAY INFORMED

For more information about the project visit: [www.bordersrailway.co.uk](http://www.bordersrailway.co.uk)

Sign up to our newsletter and keep up to date with all the latest news and progress updates at: [www.bordersrailway.co.uk](http://www.bordersrailway.co.uk)

