

A NEW RAILWAY FOR MIDLOTHIAN AND THE BORDERS

# CONNECTIONS



The Borders Railway project has released an artist's impression of the viaduct over the Hardengreen Roundabout in Midlothian.

## A timetable for delivery

While advance work to fill mine works and remove vegetation have been underway for several months, earth works involving the removal of thousands of tonnes of spoil will begin in Midlothian in late March. New bridges and roads will also be built as part of the £295m construction project.

Similar earth works will become evident right along the route by May this year, with work on the large structures also starting during the summer months. A diversionary route on the city bypass to the east on Sherrifhall roundabout will be built during the summer. The diversion will be in place by September in order to allow engineers to create a bridge for the railway to pass underneath the road.

Major civil engineering projects will also become evident at Hardengreen roundabout where a major viaduct will cross the A7, at Gore Glen, where a further bridge will cross the A7 and at Falahill where a new road and rail interface will be required. In addition, seven new stations will be built in Shawfair, Eskbank, Newtongrange, Gorebridge, Stow, Galashiels and Tweedbank.

Hugh Wark, Project Director for Network Rail said:

“Undoubtedly, the next 12 to 18 months will be the most intensive period for the construction of the railway. There are numerous locations where the railway runs through cuttings which must be excavated or along embankments which need to be built. Our biggest challenges will be delivering this project in locations where it comes close to communities or impacts busy roads such as the city bypass.

“In truth, however, everyone who lives in Midlothian and the Borders or travels regularly on the A7 will be impacted by the work on Borders Railway in one way or another. We’re committed to keeping disturbance to a minimum but undoubtedly the number of trucks required to move earth and transfer plant machinery and materials will result in increased road traffic.

“We know from experience that this railway is generating a huge level of enthusiasm and interest in the area and that there’s a great deal of anticipation to see services operating along the route. Before that happens, however, there’s a huge amount of hard work to do and we’d like to thank everyone in advance for their patience and understanding while we get the job done.”

### ROUTE MAP





Transport Minister, Keith Brown (left), NR Route MD, David Simpson

**IT'S OFFICIAL**  
 NETWORK RAIL DECLARED AUTHORISED  
 UNDERTAKER OF THE BORDERS RAILWAY

Network Rail will begin construction of the Borders Railway in spring this year following the completion of a project transfer agreement between Network Rail and the Scottish Government.

The agreement, which was signed in Newtongrange Mining Museum in November followed eleven months of detailed planning and negotiations between the two organisations.

Transport Minister Keith Brown said: "The official handover of the Borders project to Network Rail today marks a milestone in our efforts to provide a fast and efficient rail link that will significantly contribute to the area's economy.

"Borders Railway will bring inward investment for the local community plus approximately £33 million of benefits for the wider Scottish economy. It will support 400 jobs during the construction phase and act as a catalyst for increased business development and housing opportunities within easy commuting distance of Edinburgh."

## Spotlight on Galashiels

On completion of the Borders Rail project, Galashiels will benefit from a new railway station giving residents the opportunity to travel by train to Midlothian or all the way through to Edinburgh. Furthermore, adjacent to the new station on Stirling Street, there will be a Transport Interchange linking the new railway to a new bus station.

The three-storey interchange will also include retail outlets, a café and toilets as well as a car park.

The interchange is part of a wider plan to remove through-traffic from the town centre to make life better for businesses, shoppers and residents. It will also give residents and visitors access to rail and bus service links to the Scottish Borders and further afield in one place. Galashiels will see some major changes in the coming months and years ahead of the opening of the Borders Railway. Changes to road layouts as part of the construction of the railway will include several new road bridges in the town as well as the closure of Plumtreehall Brae to through traffic, with a pedestrian link retained. Diversions and changes to the Black Path will also come into force as construction gets underway. Replacement sections of path will be provided at several locations.

Understandably it may take some time for residents to adjust to the new routes and road layouts as well as any temporary diversions, however, regular and detailed communication will be provided.



Artist's impression of Galashiels Railway Station

## First local jobs created

**The Borders Railway project has announced the first wave of appointments for people living in the local area.**

Fifteen local people have been employed by the Borders Railway project delivery team, with a further three positions now open. The three new positions are junior roles within the commercial team at BAM, recently announced as the main contractor for the delivery of the Borders Railway.

The Borders Railway project is committed to supporting local communities across Edinburgh, Midlothian and the Scottish Borders throughout construction and delivery of the project and this includes an intention to create as many local jobs as possible.

In addition, a BAM 'meet the buyers' event on 27 February attracted interest from over 200 potential suppliers locally and further afield. Suppliers will now be identified to fulfil some of the subcontracting roles identified to meet the construction delivery schedule.

Hugh Wark, Project Director, Network Rail, said: "I'm very pleased that the Borders Railway has already started employing local people, with an additional three positions currently open in the Midlothian area. More opportunities will become available as the project moves forward."

David Birrell, Chief Executive of Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce said: "The announcement of the first new jobs dedicated to delivering the Borders Railway is good news. It's not just about the employment, which obviously has to be welcomed, but it's a clear step towards boosting transport links between Edinburgh and the Borders which will be of huge benefit across the board."

If you are interested in finding out more and specifically in applying for a role, please email [info@bordersrailway.co.uk](mailto:info@bordersrailway.co.uk) with your details and a member of the team will contact you directly.



## De-vegetation works clear the way for Borders Railway

Significant progress has been made with the second phase of vegetation removal works required along the route of the Borders Railway. In particular, significant works have taken place at Hardengreen, where a new bridge is to be constructed over the roundabout, and at Fountainhall and Falahill where new roads will be built.

De-vegetation works along the new Borders Railway route will become much more visible to local residents as tree removal work increases in pace along the line of route to Tweedbank.

De-vegetation of the railway line involves the removing of trees and other shrubs that are blocking the path for construction works to take place. The removal of vegetation is required to open up a safe working area for the construction of the railway, stations, bridges, new roads and working space for the contractors. All de-vegetation activities undertaken throughout the Borders Railway project

will be overseen by an Environmental Clerk of Works, who is on-site to ensure that every measure is taken to mitigate potential damage to the surrounding environment.

Hugh Wark, Project Director, Network Rail, said: "The de-vegetation works highlight the significant progress of the railway at even this early stage. The project is committed to delivering appropriate landscaping and planting ahead of the opening of the railway in 2015. We will continue to keep residents advised of upcoming work as construction moves forward."

If you would like to find out more about the Borders Railway project and works in your local area, please visit: [www.bordersrailway.co.uk](http://www.bordersrailway.co.uk). A second programme of community drop-in meetings will be held this spring and local residents are encouraged to attend.

## Advance work

Advance work has been progressing quickly in the Midlothian area throughout January and February 2013 with a marked increase of construction activity along the whole route of the Borders Railway. The purpose of the advance work is to prepare the available land for the main construction work.

### Advance works will include:

- The removal of additional trees and vegetation along the railway corridor.
- A programme of further ground investigations, using mobile drilling rigs, to establish the type of ground and rock along the route of the railway.
- A range of engineering and environmental surveys to provide detailed information to support the development of the construction plan.
- A programme of fencing work to secure the working areas.
- The construction of access points to the railway corridor.
- The identification and protection of water, gas, private water supplies and other utilities.
- Any work that is required to make the site safe and ready for civil engineering works.

## THE RAILWAY IN NUMBERS

**7** Brand new stations

**30** miles of new railway line

**1969** year The Waverley Line closed

**2015** year the Borders Railway will open

**£294m** construction cost

**81%** of those living along the route say they will see benefits for themselves and the community



## Paths Close to Make Way for Railway

Paths following the former Waverley Railway route through Midlothian and the Scottish Borders began closing in February to make way for the construction of the Borders Railway. Closure of the route between Sheriffhall and Gorebridge took place in late February, with Borders paths to follow in March and April.

In Midlothian, the closure of the path was carried out in sections, starting at Sheriffhall and working towards Gorebridge. The path has now been fenced off to allow site clearance and earth works to begin in March.

Although the Black Path will be closed, routes which cross it will remain open where possible, otherwise alternative paths have been provided by Midlothian Council.

A number of key pedestrian routes affected by the railway corridor will

also be maintained until new bridges are constructed. In particular crossings will be maintained in Newtongrange linking the town centre to the Old Star/Victoria Road estate, adjacent to Edinburgh College, linking up the national cycle route and some of the paths at Gore Glen Country Park.

Closure notices will begin to appear along sections of the Black Path route between Galashiels and Tweedbank during March.

Craig Bowman, Communications Manager for the Borders Railway project said:

“For many people the closure of these paths is the first tangible evidence that construction work is about to begin. We know these routes are currently well used by walkers and cyclists and we are working with the local councils, Sustrans and others to provide clear directions to the alternative routes.”

## NEW OPTIONS NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Once completed, the Borders Railway project will deliver a range of benefits to all communities along the route.



Access to neighbouring towns and Edinburgh will open up with a total route travel time of around 55 mins.



A convenient and relaxing alternative to travelling by road.



Simpler access to and from Edinburgh will give local tourism and business a boost.



Trains will run every 30 mins at peak times and fares will be set by the operator.



Fewer car journeys will result in lower carbon emissions, less congestion and fewer road accidents.



Cycle hoops at each station will also encourage more onward travel by pedal power.

## 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:

0845 604 4146

[info@bordersrailway.co.uk](mailto:info@bordersrailway.co.uk)

@BordersRailway

## STAY INFORMED

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

For more information about the project and our drop-in events, visit: [www.bordersrailway.co.uk](http://www.bordersrailway.co.uk)



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