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Charles Brand in the
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Construction Update

June 2026

The latest news, progress updates, and forthcoming works.



Construction Manager Update

Welcome to the second edition of our Corran Ferry Infrastructure Improvement Scheme Construction Update. We are 4 months into the work and thanks to everyone for helping us settle in. The project is at a significant stage with a focus on the marine elements, constructing new slipways, overnight berth and breakwater, with our barges and workboats now on site. We are progressing well, and like most projects we have encountered a few challenges, notably Scottish rock is particularly sore on English drill heads!

We appreciate your understanding and patience as we progress the work, particularly when we have been caught out with the timings of concrete deliveries and the incoming tide, and now we have commenced the sheet piling operations on Ardgour.

Finally, good luck to Scotland in the World Cup and well done to Innes from all of us on your mammoth fundraising.

Construction Update No. 2



Nether Lochaber

With the soil, vegetation and tree roots now all removed, and stone delivered for the new marshalling area we now have a secure site to maneuver about it. Works are now focusing on the shoreline and the marine environment.

To protect the marshalling area rock armour must be placed, with the most critical vulnerable point of a rock armoured structure being the "toe" (the very bottom base). If water currents erode the bed material beneath this bottom layer, the entire armour structure can collapse.

Once the "toe" has been prepared we can then place the rock armour, large, angular, interlocking stones which dissipate wave energy and prevent water currents from washing away the soil base. The rock armour for the project is being supplied locally by Corrigan's.



Slipway & Breakwater

9 x circular steel piles are being installed on Nether Lochaber to facilitate the new slipway and breakwater. This initially required a trench to be cleared along the line of the piles. A second barge is now drilling the pile sockets, placing the circular piles and grouting them into place.



Construction Update No. 2



Health & Safety

With all Charles Brand Group Limited projects, we operate a proactive workplace process where designated personnel, safety managers, or trained employees monitor the environment and work processes to document potential hazards before accidents occur and highlight positive actions on site. Each month an observation is selected to receive a £50 voucher with Graduate Engineer Naveed Khawaja being selected for April and Site Supervisor Christopher Sloan for May.

We also regularly check our emergency procedures, rain, hail or shine as you can gather we are still waiting to do an emergency evacuation when the sun is shining so I've included a photo of the driest evacuation we have had yet 😊

Highland Fire Protection recently visited the site to service our fire protection equipment and provide additional equipment for plant and vehicles.

We hope we never need it, but it is better to be prepared.

First Aid Training

With operations and our accommodation on both sides of Loch Linnhe we have provided employees with the opportunity to undertake First Aid Training, ensuring we have high levels of first aiders on site at any time. We also opened up the opportunity to our Highland Council colleagues on site.

The course is being delivered by Simon Wells of Highland First Aid Limited.

Five personnel are undertaking the 3 x day First Aid at Work course, and two have completed the 1 x day Emergency First Aid Course.



Construction Update No. 2

Ardgour Community

Following our last newsletter the 40 x hi-vis vests in a range of sizes, gloves and heavy-duty refuse bags have been delivered to the storage box opposite the Ardgour Memorial Hall.

At the May Community Liaison Meeting we handed over some paint which was requested for the inside of the Hall.

We also had super athlete and fundraiser extraordinaire Innes Turnbull at the meeting who completed a 13-mile sponsored run to buy rugby and football goals. Massive congratulations Innes from all at Charles Brand.

Finally, I still have the new noticeboard on my list. I promise it's coming soon, keep getting distracted by bacon rolls and coffee! ☺



Community Liaison Meetings

Community Liaison Meetings (Construction) are the 3rd Wednesday of each month, 7pm-9pm at Ardgour Memorial Hall.

Minutes from each meeting are posted on the Highland Council website.

[Corran Ferry Infrastructure Improvement Scheme - Community Liaison Meetings - Highland Council](#)



Marine Mammal Observers

Ocean Ecology, based in Oban, are providing Marine Mammal Observers (MMO) across the marine works.

With the installation of the circular piles at Nether Lochaber and the sheet piles at Ardgour we have 2 x MMO's on duty

The MMO will scan the water surface for marine mammals (dolphins, seals) and other protected species (otters) using binoculars and eye-height observation points.

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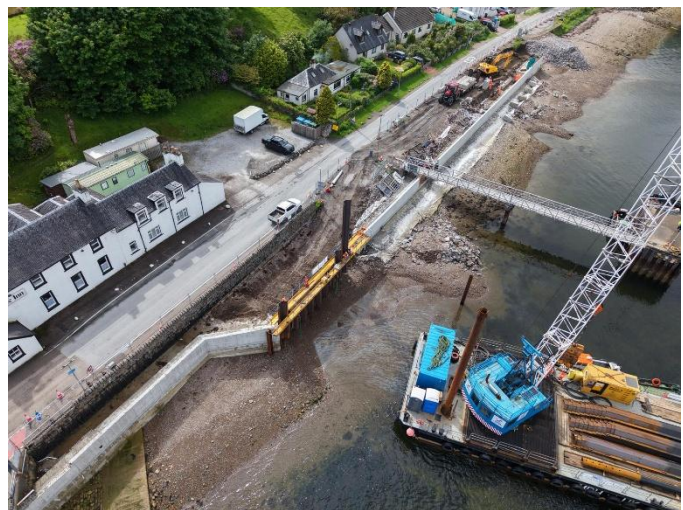
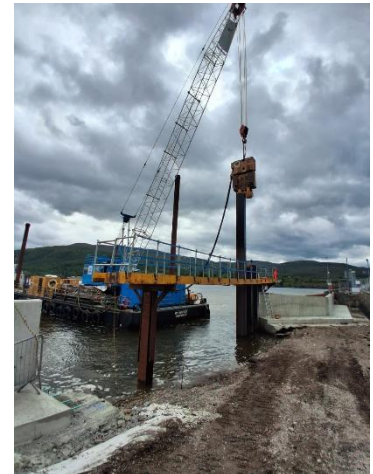
Ardgour Progress

Works are really progressing on Ardgour with the new concrete wall being constructed along the shore, the interceptor tank installed, services work and rock armour.

Over the last few weeks, we have moved into the marine works with the dredging and hopper barge digging along the pile line of the overnight berth and depositing the material on to the area of subsea bund at the new proposed slipway. By doing so we are eliminating the need for disposal and reducing the need for new imported material.

Along with the dredging barge we also now have a piling barge on site at Ardgour. The sheet piling work has now commenced with the piling gate installed and piles being vibro-driven in. The piling barge needs to remain afloat so the initial piles need to be worked on high tide but works will progress faster as we move out into deeper water.

We appreciate the operations on Ardgour have become more visible since the last update and brings associated noise and nuisance. We are trying to limit these as much as possible and work at times to reduce disturbance, whilst working around the tides. A vibration monitor is in place on Ardgour which constantly monitors vibration levels, with noise monitoring being undertaken using a handheld device. We also have TNEI carrying out noise monitoring visits, where they leave specialist equipment for a 24hr period at several locations across the works.



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UHI – General Construction Operations



In May a group from the UHI General Construction Operations course and their lecturer Martin Johnstone attended the project site. The group were provided with an overview of the planning and environmental impact process, the design and works to date, finished off with a site tour of the Nether Lochaber site. The class graduated Wednesday 10th June and we wish them all the best in their future endeavours within the construction industry.

We are in discussions with Martin regards the next course intake undertaking practical projects within the local community which Charles Brand can support with resources and plant.

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