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Charles Brand in the
Community

Construction Update

April 2026

The latest news, progress updates, and forthcoming works.



Charles Brand

Welcome to the first edition of our Corran Ferry Infrastructure Improvement Scheme Construction Update. We are excited to begin work, ahead of the proposed new ferry, which we understand everyone is looking forward to. Our goal is to keep you informed every step of the way, ensuring our work minimises disruption and delivers this critical new infrastructure for the local area.

On site, Ryan Lavery (Construction Manager) leads a team of engineers and site agents and works closely with Andy Bate (Community Liaison / Environmental Clerk of Works). Should you have any queries or concerns, please contact Ryan or Andy who will be available to answer any queries that you may have (contact details are contained in the Contacts section).

In conjunction with the Highland Council, we also have monthly Community Liaison Meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month 7pm-9pm. These are being held at the Ardgour Memorial Hall.

Construction Update



Nether Lochaber

Since the 16th February our work has been concentrated on the Nether Lochaber site. The area of woodland required clearing ahead of bird breeding season with mitigations in place regards protected species, and an area of Japanese Knotweed removed. The remaining logs, root balls and stockpiled vegetation will be removed, with stone continuing to be laid to the required levels. This will enable the new drainage and utility infrastructure to be installed.

Upcoming Works – Nether Lochaber

- w/c 20th April – Dredging Works at Nether Lochaber
- w/c 18th May – Piling at Nether Lochaber (3 weeks)

Dredging works will begin in Nether Lochaber week commencing 20th April, before moving to Ardgour week commencing the 12th May.

The dredging on Ardgour will continue through to late September.

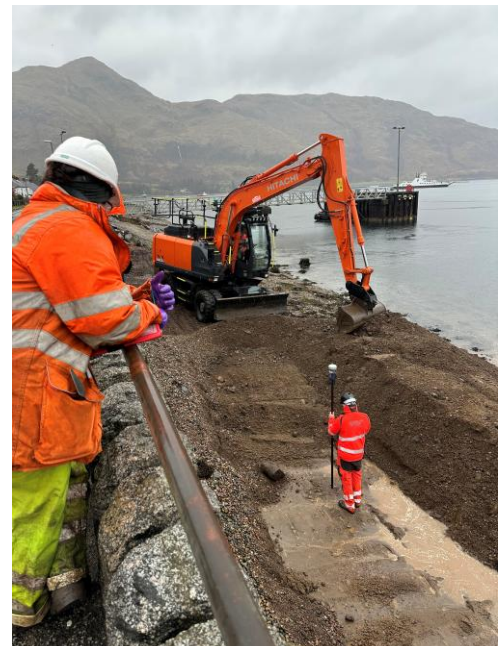
The dredging will be undertaken by a large excavator on a barge with a hopper alongside (image on next page).

The dredgings are being reused within the project.

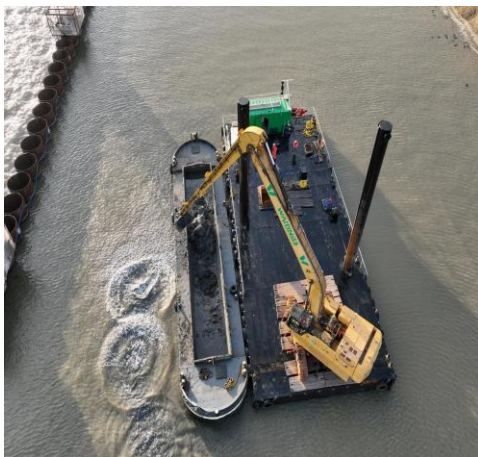
Ardgour Retaining Wall

In preparation for work at Ardgour, we undertook a preliminary dig on the beach, adjacent to the current slipway. The archaeological and cultural heritage impact assessment, presented in the CFIS Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) (Affric Limited, 2025), identified and assessed potential impacts from the proposed development on known heritage assets. The assessment identified there will be direct impacts on two assets, both located on the Ardgour side of the Narrows. One of these is beside the current slipway and recorded as a boat maintenance/breaking area.

Headland Archaeology provided a watching brief of the works and checked the excavation at regular intervals. In the end we found nothing, not a rusty nail, piece of glass, or even a more recent piece of plastic! Nice clean sand and stones 😊



Construction Update



Planned Works at Ardgour

We will begin to establish our Ardgour work site from the 7th April, which will see hoarding established along the top of the retaining wall. This will exclude the parking area which is being utilised by ferry staff and plant access to the beach established. Following this we will begin the process of taking down the existing stone wall. Works in this area will continue through to August.

Dredging work will begin in Ardgour on 12th May and continue through to late September. The dredging will start at Nether Lochaber before moving over.

Upcoming Works – Ardgour

- 7th April – Site Set-Up / Erect Hoarding
- 8th April – Retaining Wall Works
- 12th May – Dredging Works Ardgour
- 8th June – Piling Ardgour Slipway and Berthing Structure

The dredging and piling work will continue until late September.

TNEI Group, who provided noise and vibration baseline monitoring at the planning stage have been appointed by Charles Brand to provide monitoring for the construction phase.

Community

Our chainsaw crew of Kevin and Joe McCulla spent 2 x afternoons at Ardvuillin, Hopscotch Charity's residential facility in Ardgour.

With the storms over recent months many trees had come down blocking paths, impacting on the main drive and damaging their trampoline.

Andy Bate has been speaking to the Community Councils on both sides of the Loch regards potential projects, and have even identified a few more trees for our chainsaw crew.



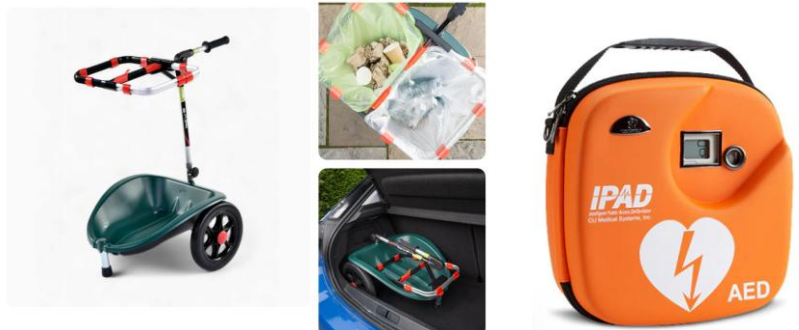
Construction Update

Community

In preparation for Ardgour's Big Spring Clean Week (12th April-18th April), we have purchased 3 x Handi Cart Duo Recycling Carts and 3 x Streetmaster Litter Grabbers which can be folded down and stored within the storage box opposite the Ardgour Memorial Hall.

We will also provide 40 x hi-vis vests in a range of sizes, gloves and heavy duty refuse bags.

We have also purchased a Handi Cart so we can patrol the Nether Lochaber side between our compound, the work site and the existing ferry slipway.



2 x Defibrillators, one on each side of the Loch, have been purchased to cover the construction works. These will be handed over to the Ardgour Community Council and Nether Lochaber Community Council when the construction works is complete.

Community Liaison Meetings

The next Community Liaison Meeting is Wednesday 18th April, 7pm-9pm at Ardgour Memorial Hall.

The meetings are on the 3rd Wednesday each month.



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

The MMO will scan the water surface for marine mammals (dolphins, seals) and other protected species (otters) using binoculars and eye-height observation points. They will advise halting or delaying operations when animals enter the pre-determined exclusion zone.

All data collecting and reporting is via specific Joint Natural Conservation Council forms.

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