

N22 Baile Bhuirne – Macroom Road Development

Newsletter No.4 April 2021



Tionscaldal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



An Roinn Iompair
Department of Transport



Bonnáagar Iompair Éireann
Transport Infrastructure Ireland



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Progress in the last 3 months

Newsletter no. 3 was published at the end of November 2020 and since then significant progress has been made in a variety of areas throughout the works. The focus in recent months has been primarily on bridge works.

In Section 3 of the works, from the Carrigaphoooca to Coolcower, concentration in recent months has been to complete bridges in this area so we can haul over these structures in order to carry out our bulk excavation and placing operation during the earthworks season from April through to October. There are a total of 18 structures to be built in this area, with 12 of these structures currently under construction including:

1. The riverbridge over the Suláin River (S28) needed a total of 14 of Banagher Concrete's 2nd longest ever precast concrete beams, each 48.75m long, to be installed for its two spans. The delivery of these beams from Offaly to site was a particular challenge which was achieved over a period of 8 nights. Beam installation was completed on 11th February with works now progressing with the target of having the bridge deck poured for Easter.
2. The construction of 7 of the required 12 balancing arches on the west side of the Suláin River are also progressing well at this time.
3. The underbridge over the Coachford Road at Ummera (S27) is another two-span bridge, which needed 14 25m long bridge beams with the last of these beams having been installed just before Christmas over a 2-night period.
4. The riverbridge over the Láinne River (S26) is a single span bridge that needed 7 49.9m long beams, each weighing in excess of 155 tons, with the beams being the longest ever precast concrete beams made and installed either in Ireland or the UK. These beams were lifted into position on the 15th and 16th December by a 600T crawler crane. An update on this element of the project is available at this link: <http://www.n22bbm.ie/abha-na-lainne-droichead-bhiomai-laney-river-bridge-beams/>
5. The overbridge at Coolyhane (S24) has been progressed significantly with the bridge deck being poured pre-Christmas and concrete works on the deck progressing.
6. Works have also commenced recently on the Ballyveerane Underbridge (S23/23A) which consists of reinforced earth panels which make up both abutments.
7. The riverbridge over the Foherish River near Carrigaphoooca (S19) has also had its bridge deck poured recently and is nearing completion.
8. Works have also commenced recently on the Carrigaphoooca Underbridge (S17) which consists of reinforced earth panels which make up both abutments.

In addition to the bridge works, significant progress was also made in the installation of culverts and cattle-underpasses in Section 3. Works have also commenced with site clearance, interceptor drainage and rock removal in Section 2 from Carrigaphoooca and will continue in a westerly direction.

Works have also commenced in the Section 2 at Tonn Láin, Coolnacatheragh and at Coolavokig, with site clearance, topsoil stripping, interceptor drainage and rock removal. The rock outcrop at Tonn Láin was successfully removed in a 10-week period leading up to the Christmas break. An update on this element of the work is available at this link: <http://www.n22bbm.ie/n22bbm-nuashonru-maidir-le-baint-carraige-ag-gearradh-4-sa-tonn-lain-update-on-rock-removal-at-cut-4-in-toonlane/>

In the Western end of the project, in Section 1, significant progress was made in December 2020 in the completion of the haul road from the Tonn Láin Compound to the Biochail River Bridge (S03) site at Cappagh West, Ballyjourney. This facilitated the delivery of the large bridge elements, which were manufactured by TECADE in Seville Spain, to the bridge site directly from the N22 without the need to traverse any local roads.

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The bridge elements were transported from Seville to Ringaskiddy by ship and from there to site, by road, over 4 nights at end of Jan 2021. A team of welders from TECADE started work on the assembly of the bridge deck on site early in February with the first section of the bridge successfully launched on Thursday 4th March. The remainder of the bridge deck was assembled and the final push-launch was completed on St. Patrick's day. Works will now commence on the construction of the bridge deck. The largest concrete pour of the project so far, was for the central pier of this bridge and an update is available at this link: <http://www.n22bbm.ie/mor-dhoirtheadh-coincreite-do-dhroichead-abhann-na-biochaille-s03-i-mbaile-bhuirne-large-concrete-pour-for-the-bohill-river-bridge-s03-at-ballyvourney/>

The bridge on the "Top Road" at Cappagh East (S04) has been progressed in recent weeks and all in-situ concrete works are now complete. Works will continue on the wing walls and finishing works over the coming months.

The bridge at Killeens, near the Ballymakeera Reservoir(S05), has been progressed and the bridge deck has now been completed. Works will continue over the coming months on the finishing works with a view to have this structure complete and ready to receive traffic at the start of May.

Significant progress has also been made with the installation of culverts and cattle underpasses in this Section.

Rock removal by rock blasting has commenced at Slievareagh with 5 blasts having been successfully completed to date. The rock which has been removed has been processed for reuse around bridges in particular.

Health and Safety

Since the last newsletter the project was deemed an essential service under the government guidance for Covid-19 Level 5 restrictions.

Whilst we were grateful to be able to continue with the progress of the project, during the Level 5 restrictions, we acknowledged that working practices would require significant changes to ensure the safety, health and welfare of all parties affected by our works.

In order to reduce the risk of exposure on the project and to the wider community, the decision was made by the project management team to focus on critical works only and reduce the numbers on site by half. Other measures were also taken in line with and above the requirements of the CIF C-19 Pandemic Standard Operating Procedure

We are proud to report that, during this time, no cases of Covid 19 transpired on the project and we remain Covid free. We credit this to the cooperation of the staff and contractors who remained working during this period and put in extra efforts to comply with our Covid-19 controls.

Looking forward:

Some of our objectives in the short term for Section 3 include having beams placed on the Carrigaphooca Underbridge(S17) and at Ballyveerane Underbridge(S23/23A) as well as the changeover of the existing N22 traffic at Carrigaphooca to the new Westbound Link Road, which is currently under construction. The earthworks season is due to commence in early April, ramping up to full output in May. At the western end of the scheme the priority will be to complete the Biochail River Bridge (S03) and to commence works on the Coolnacaheragh Underbridge(S09) crossing over the existing N22.

All temporary traffic management arrangements will be included on the MapAlerter system which can be accessed at <https://www.mapalerter.com/>

If you would like to be added to the circulation list for our newsletter please contact us at info@n22bbm.ie

All of the staff involved would like to thank the people of Macroom, Baile Bhuirne and districts for their cooperation while acknowledging that the works may cause some disruption. We appreciate your patience and apologise for any inconvenience. Please be aware that the scheduling of these works may change as works progress – the public will be kept informed of any such changes.