

Tyn-y-bryn Bridge Newsletter

Issue 2



Welcome to our second project newsletter.

Balfour Beatty has been appointed as the main contractor to carry out works on and around the Tyn-y-bryn footbridge by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, with works procured through the SCAPE Civil Engineering framework.

Since work started on site in June 2023, a lot of progress has already been made towards realigning the river channel, repairing the embankment, and getting ready for the arrival of the brand-new footbridge.

Over the last month, the base (or abutment) that the new bridge will sit on has been installed. The base has been established using an innovative method where a material called geopolymer is injected directly into the ground and then steel reinforced concrete is placed on top. The bases are now in position in preparation for the new bridge which will be lifted in to position over the coming weeks.

All of the two-tonne block stones have been installed providing much-needed additional strength and durability to the riverbanks. In addition, the sheet piling that holds back the earth is now complete.

We have also installed 19 small weirs into the river. A weir is a small barrier built across the river - like a small dam. They help to control the flow of water by enabling the river water to pool behind them and then gradually flow over the top.

Upcoming road closure marks major milestone in project

Weather permitting, on Friday 17 November there will be an overnight road closure (from 8pm – 6am) on a short stretch of the A4119. This will be from the Mill Street roundabout to the roundabout south of Trebanog. The diversion route will be clearly signposted.

The road closure marks a big milestone in the scheme as it will allow for a 120-tonne crane to lift in to position the new 11-meter footbridge. Advance notice boards will be placed on the roadside to remind local residents of the upcoming closure.

Ryan Anderson, Project Manager at Balfour Beatty, said: “This will be an exciting day for the project with the new footbridge being lifted into place.

“However, we are aware that the temporary road closure may cause some disruption. We would encourage residents to plan ahead and allow extra time for your journey overnight on 17 November.

“We are also aware that those living close to the site may experience some disruption from noise and lighting on the night of the bridge lift. Please be reassured that we will work as quickly as we can and will keep any disruption to a minimum.”

Did you know...

There are various species of fish in the River Ely, including trout and grayling. The 19 small weirs that have been installed in the river will help to provide areas for the fish to rest while they are migrating upstream.



Careers fair – your future in civil engineering

In September, we attended the '2023 Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC and Partners Jobs Fair' at Pontypridd.



The event hosted over 50 organisations who were ready to hire and who showcased career opportunities available to the hundreds of local people who attended.

We had a great day talking to people about the wide range of careers available within the construction industry. We enjoyed some really interesting and inspiring conversations, with many people scanning our QR code to find out more about a future in civil engineering, our current vacancies and our apprenticeship schemes.

Did you know... We're committed to using local labour on our sites as much as possible. Since the start of the project in June 2023, 55% of people working on the Tyn-y-Bryn site live within 40 miles.

Join us! Search our job vacancies and apply via: www.balfourbeattycareers.com or scan this QR code.



Get this newsletter direct!

We hope that you find this newsletter informative.

If you would like to hear the latest news on the project, you can sign up to our newsletter mailing list. Please send your name and email address to: tynybrynbridge@balfourbeatty.com or scan this QR code on your phone to fill out the form online.



Geobear takes the load

Geobear - an innovative international ground engineering company - has installed the base that the new footbridge will sit on when it's lifted in to position at the start of November.

The base (or abutment) has been installed using Geobear's innovative method where a team of expert ground and structural engineers create small holes in the ground, through which an expanding geopolymer resin is injected. Once underground, the resin expands to fill all the gaps and compact the soil.

This method has significantly increased the bases' weight bearing capacity which has allowed for the design of the base to be reduced. It has also offered an alternative from using traditional concrete which has a much larger carbon footprint.

In addition, the whole process of installation can be carried out in just a matter of hours rather than more traditional methods which are far more time and cost consuming.



This newsletter is available in other formats on request.
Please contact tynybrynbridge@balfourbeatty.com for more information.