

N5 BALLAGHADERREEN TO SCRAMOGE ROAD PROJECT

NEWSLETTER – ISSUE 01

Official newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of the N5 Ballaghaderreen to Scramoge Road Project Newsletter.

This publication provides an insight into the progress of works currently underway on this major project.

Project Overview

- The N5 Ballaghaderreen to Scramoge Road Project comprises of a Type 1 Single Carriageway cross section, consisting of two 3.65m wide lanes and associated hard shoulders and verges
- The project is approximately 33.4km in length
- The alignment commences east of Ballaghaderreen at a tie-in with the N5 Ballaghaderreen Bypass and continues eastwards, bypassing Frenchpark to the south
- The alignment crosses to the north of the existing N5 at Cashel and continues in an easterly direction largely parallel to the R369 through the townlands of Kilvoy and Corry East towards the N61 approximately 3km south of Elphin
- The alignment continues eastwards from the N61, passing to the north of Clooncullaan Lough before turning in a south-easterly direction bypassing Strokestown to the east before re-joining the existing N5 in Scramoge.

Major elements:

- Approximately 33.4km of National Primary Road to Type 1 Single Carriageway cross section
- Approximately 15.4km of realignment of existing National Secondary, Regional and Local roads
- Five roundabouts (and associated public road lighting): Frenchpark Roundabout (R361 south of Frenchpark), N61 Roundabout (between Tulsk and Elphin), Shankill Roundabout (N61/R369), Strokestown Roundabout (LP-1405) and Kildallogge Roundabout (R368/LP-1405)
- 16 at grade mainline 'T' junctions, of which five are staggered
- 3 road under bridges and 1 road overbridge, four River bridges, 1 active travel underpass and 14 culverts
- Approximately 200m of retaining walls at two locations
- Provision of 9 farm underpasses with associated accommodation roads and accesses
- Drainage, Landscaping and Accommodation Works.

PROJECT PROGRESS

Design and Construction

Wills Bros is responsible for the design and construction of the project. We appointed design engineers RPS to provide a permanent design for the project. RPS are market leaders in the infrastructure sector and bring extensive experience in Irish road schemes.

Since the main construction contract was awarded in October 2023, we have been really busy progressing the planning and programming of the works. Our highly skilled team consists of more than 40 staff who are all situated at our project's offices at Bellanagare.

As a team we are committed to delivering this project in a safe and effective manner using best practice techniques with regard for the local community, natural environment, and road users alike.

Compound Set Up

We have completed our office and compound set up at Kilvoy, Bellanagare, just off the R369.

As Wills Bros are committed to reducing their carbon footprint, we are installing solar panels adjacent to the site office to provide electricity to run our office block. Furthermore, we are installing energy efficient radiators which will reduce our overall energy consumption.

We have also installed an electric vehicle charging system which any member of our site team can avail of.



Who we are? Wills Bros company profile

Wills Bros were formed in 1972 as plant hire and civil engineering business in a joint partnership between James and Charles Wills. In 1999 Wills Bros was incorporated and took over the activities of Wills Brothers Plant Hire Limited.

The Company has undertaken a vast number of civil engineering projects throughout Ireland utilising its extensive fleet of owned plant and equipment with all projects being supervised by its team of long serving staff.

As a family run company, Wills Bros take pride in the standards they achieve in their projects, which cumulate in numerous repeat contracts with their clients.

Their client base is very extensive ranging from nearly all local authorities within Ireland, major private developers, and associated construction industries.





Enabling Works

Site clearance was completed before the beginning of the bird nesting season which commences on the 1st of March.

The erection of silt fencing adjacent to fishery sensitive streams along with temporary attenuation pond installation is ongoing in accordance with our sediment control plan.

The installation of bunting poles which delineate overhead power lines is currently ongoing.

Site access points/plant crossings are being created where the new road crosses all existing main roads and side roads. Car parking areas are being installed at these locations to provide safe access and egress for Machine Operators and General Operatives. Wheel wash facilities have also been set up where there are significant truck movements to and from the site along designated haul routes. Combined with the new Wills Bros Bugatti Veyron Road Sweeper this will ensure the existing road network is maintained in a clean condition during the construction works.

We are liaising with the local National and Secondary schools in the area regarding increased construction vehicular activity associated with the project and have also organised a visit to the schools by the local RSA representative to inform pupils of the dangers of moving plant and machinery. Pre earthworks drainage has also commenced and is progressing well.

Earthworks

Earthwork operations have commenced with the excavation and placing of material for haul road construction to provide access into the various areas of the project.

There has been a significant investment in the purchase of new plant for this project. Wills Bros are continually improving their plant fleet which improves productivity, reduces downtime and repairs, replacing older plant creating a more modern, efficient, economical, and environmentally friendly fleet. Improved technology including the introduction of AdBlue to reduce emissions and automatic devices to reduce idling time when the plant is not being used increases efficiency and reduces emissions.

For example, a new Komatsu 365 Hybrid excavator with an operating weight of between 36–37t has a lower fuel consumption of between 22% and 30% compared with similar older models. Nearly all new plant is now fitted with GPS technology on leaving the factory which improves efficiency, increases productivity, and reduces emissions.

Archaeology

As part of advance works for the project, archaeological test trenching was carried out along the route by Archaeological Management Solutions. In total 101 archaeological sites were excavated and recorded. These include sites dating from the neolithic to early modern period and include ringforts, fulachta fiadh, vernacular structures, ring-ditches, cremation pits, settlements, cereal drying kilns, and charcoal production pits.

The most impressive site was at Gortnacranagh, where from the prehistoric period, animal deposits as well as other artefacts were ritually deposited into a fen bog via a series of timber and stone platforms.

A 6m high wooden statue, known as the Gortnacranagh Idol was broken in two and deposited at the edge of this site. The original Idol is undergoing restoration at present. A replica of the Idol, created using original methods, can be viewed at the Rathcroghan Visitor Centre in Tulsk.

A series of talks have taken place over the last number of years about the archaeological findings from the project and these can be viewed on the Rathcroghan Visitor Centre Facebook page. A storymap giving an overview of the findings can also be viewed at:

<https://www.tii.ie/technical-services/archaeology/storymaps/>





Expected works over the coming months

Q2 2024

- Detailed Design
- Construction of Site Access Points
- Well Monitoring
- Pre-Condition Surveys
- Noise and Vibration Monitoring
- Water Quality monitoring
- Archaeology
- Silt Fencing
- Pre Earthworks Drainage

Q3 2024

- Pre Earthworks Drainage
- Earthworks
- Blasting
- Structures
- Culvert Installation



Tionscaldal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council

Website

Our project website, www.n5b2s.ie and our newsletters will keep you informed of progress on the works. These will inform you of upcoming elements of the project and where these will likely impact the general public.

We are committed to constructing the works with the minimum disruption to the public and to road users and to contributing to the Irish economy through job creation and endeavouring to source materials and subcontractors through the local supply chains where possible.

Contact us

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