



Trams to Newhaven

Project Newsletter



Construction Updates

Trams are scheduled to be operational in Leith and Newhaven by Spring 2023. All of the required track slab has been laid, and almost 14,000 metres of communication and utility ducting has been installed. Main construction works are complete on all of the new tram stops, all of the 228 OLE poles have been installed, and we have strung 4,600 metres of overhead cabling, 100% of the total.

Program update

The energisation of the overhead lines is taking place from Friday 17 February 2023 ahead of a testing and commissioning period, involving the running of an empty tram along the route, starting at the end of February 2023.

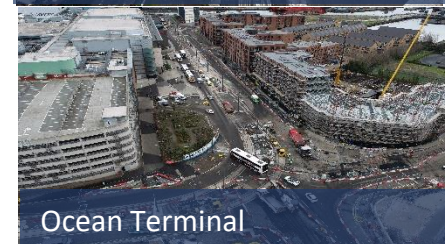
[View the latest updates to the construction programme on the project website.](#)

Localised work sites

Localised works continue on carriage and footways throughout the route to install tram systems infrastructure, tram stop fit outs, the installation of overhead line equipment, installation of new signs, street lighting, planters, landscaping, street furniture and traffic signalling.

Traffic management and pedestrian diversions will be set up as required with any changes being communicated via the project's communication channels.

Following the incorporation of street lighting into the OLE poles, works are ongoing to remove old lighting columns. This requires localised work sites to undertake excavations and to disconnect the columns. Once removed, the excavations will be temporarily backfilled with full reinstatement taking place at a later date.



Cycle Lane

To accommodate the above works, both cycleways on Leith Walk remain closed and diversion routes are in place.

Please note there may be instances of emergency works being undertaken by utility providers on the route which are not project related.

Out of Hours Works

[There is a section on the project website that details planned out of hours working over the coming weeks.](#)

This section of the website will be updated on a regular basis and promoted through the project's twitter account. In order to minimise disruption to the wider traffic network along the route and to keep our workers safe, cable pulling through the newly installed underground ducting, and the installation of cantilevers and overhead cables needs to be carried out at night when the site is unoccupied.

The nightshift works on the Overhead Line Equipment are carried out by specialist teams. We will endeavour to minimise disruption as much as possible and to undertake the work as quickly as possible.

Please note that these works are carried out on a rolling basis and that the timelines quoted relate to the whole section.

To prepare for the testing and commissioning period, preparatory works are required on the tram tracks. This involves cleaning and grinding the tracks so they are in optimal condition. In order to minimise disruption to traffic, these will take place out of hours on Leith Walk.

Continuity Testing

The testing of the OLE poles is now completed and reinstatement works are scheduled to take place over the coming weeks.

Construction Updates

Newhaven to Leith Walk

Newhaven to Melrose Drive

Works are ongoing within this section. New streetlights between Hawthornvale and Sandpiper will be installed over the coming months.

Melrose Drive

Main infrastructure works continue with hard landscaping and surfacing works ongoing.

Ocean Terminal

Hard landscaping continues on the eastern carriageway heading south towards the Holiday Inn. Fence lines have been removed from the north side of Ocean Drive following completion of main infrastructure works.

Traffic Management arrangements at Ocean Terminal south roundabout are being managed under 4-way controlled temporary traffic lights. We are aware of a build-up of traffic in the area during peak times and continue to monitor the area.

[View the traffic management plan for Rennie's Isle to Ocean Terminal on the project website.](#)

As part of final surfacing works at the south roundabout there will be further traffic management changes from w/c 20 February 2023. [You can view these changes on the project website.](#)

JC Decaux have installed bus shelters on both the east and west sides of the street.

Temporary traffic management arrangements remain in place at the north roundabout at Ocean Terminal.

Rennie's Isle to Tower Place

Hard landscaping works are ongoing with surfacing works ongoing. To accommodate this work further traffic management changes may be installed within the area.

Stevedore Place

The east entrance to Stevedore Place was closed from w/c 23 January 2023 to allow works to take place. These works were rescheduled with arrangements expected to be complete by Friday 17 February 2023. The removal of existing street lighting columns within this area continues. In some cases, this will impact on some of the newly landscaped areas, however reinstatements will be undertaken.

Constitution Place to Baltic Street

The reinstatement of the setts at Tower Street are completed. Final surfacing works are expected to take place at the Tower Street junction after which the road will re-open to traffic.

Baltic Street to Coatfield Lane

Vehicles can now access this section, travelling in both directions. Tram stop fit out works continue. Please note that the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) will be in place from Monday 27 February 2023 and parking enforcement is operational.

Coatfield Lane to FoTW

Works on the South Leith Parish Church (SLPC) wall are complete with fence lines being removed. The junction of Constitution Street with Laurie Street will close from Tuesday 21 February 2023 for approximately two weeks. Access will be maintained via Constitution Street / Queen Charlotte Street. The Kirkgate House car park will be accessible via the newly constructed carriageway from Queen Charlotte Street / Constitution Street. Fence Lines have been removed at the FoTW tram stop.

Leith Walk

Two-way traffic was reintroduced for the full length of Leith Walk on Tuesday 14 February 2023.

Foot of the Walk to Jameson Place

The permanent loading area located on the west side between Crown Place and Crown Street will become available in the coming week. Those who require assistance with deliveries between 165 Leith Walk and FoTW are encouraged to make arrangements with our logistics teams. Footpath works are ongoing on the west side between Foot of the Walk and Jane Street and on the east side between Jameson Place and Manderston Street. The reinstatement of the public realm at the Kirkgate will be completed during March 2023.

Jameson Place to Pilrig Street

Main construction is now completed. The logistics hub situated on Dalmeny Street has now been removed. The repairs to the manhole cover at Dalmeny Street were completed on Monday 13 February 2023.

Pilrig Street to Annandale / Montgomery Street

The Brunswick Street / Leith Walk junction remains closed until further notice. Albert Street is closed at its junction with Leith Walk due to ongoing Scottish Water works which are not related to the project.



York Place to London Road

Please note:

a) There is now no left turn from Leith Walk into London Road. Traffic coming from Leith Walk wishing to access London Road should do so via Picardy Place and then turn right onto London Road. A CCTV camera is in operation to monitor and further traffic signage will be installed. In addition, we have installed bollards and will continue to monitor the situation.

b) There is no right hand turn from London Road onto Leith Walk. Traffic coming from London Road wishing to access Leith Walk should turn left and go via Picardy Place before heading straight onto Leith Walk.

c) Hard landscaping works are progressing well at Blenheim Place. Once the works are complete within the existing site set up, works will commence on the existing footway with access to properties and the surrounding area being maintained. Those affected will receive direct communication with further detail.

Support for Businesses

A Support for Business package, is available to businesses on the route. More information can be found on the project website.

Itison

Please, note that the Itison voucher scheme is now closed. Thank you to all businesses and customers who took part. Over 31,000 vouchers were sold that generated almost £300,000 of spend in participating businesses.

Small business spotlight



[The full Business spotlight can be found on the project website.](#)