

Project Newsletter



Construction Updates

Trams are scheduled to be operational in Leith and Newhaven by Spring 2023. To date 99% of track slab has been laid (almost 4,600m), and over 9,000 metres of communication and utility ducting has been installed. Main construction works are complete on five new tram stops at Constitution Street, McDonald Road, Ocean Terminal, Balfour Street, and Foot of the Walk and progressing well at the Port of Leith stop. We've also installed 188 OLE poles, 88% of the total along the route, and have strung almost 1,300m of overhead cabling, 28% of the total. Over 4,300m of drainage infrastructure has also been installed.

Main construction works for the project are scheduled to be completed during 2022 and, following a period of testing and commissioning, operational in Spring 2023. 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, street lighting, landscaping, and traffic signalling. Associated traffic management and pedestrian diversions will be set up as required with any changes being communicated via the project's communication channels.

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

In order to minimise disruption to 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 quotes relate to the whole section.











Newhaven to Melrose Drive

The installation of new street lights between Hawthornvale and Sandpiper continues.

Melrose Drive

The traffic management arrangements in this area have changed to allow tram infrastructure works to progress and will be controlled under four-way temporary traffic lights.

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.

The traffic management arrangements in this area have changed to allow tram infrastructure works to progress and will be controlled under four-way temporary traffic lights.

Rennie's Isle to Tower Place

The installation of OLE poles in this now complete.

Hard landscaping works are ongoing. On completion surfacing works will take place.

The Victoria Swing Bridge remains open to pedestrians.

Stevedore Place

There is a requirement to carry out some remedial works on a short section of track slab at the west end of Stevedore Place. These works have started and are scheduled to be completed in the coming weeks. Works to carry out the reinstatement of the west entrance to Stevedore Place have started.

Constitution Place to Baltic Street

Attenuation pipe works at Tower Street are complete. Reinstatement of cobbles is due to start w/c 5 December 2022.

Surfacing work between the casino building and the entrance to Tower Street Industrial Estate are scheduled to start w/c 5 December 2022.

Please note, there is no right turn from Constitution Street onto Bernard Street. While works at Tower Street and Rennie's Isle continue, the temporary diversion route for traffic heading west is straight ahead via Constitution Street, right onto Queen Charlotte Street, continue to Water Street, left onto Burgess Street, left onto The Shore, and right onto Sandport Place.

Pedestrian management arrangements are in place at the Royal Bank of Scotland corner.

Baltic Street to Queen Charlotte Street

Vehicles can now access this section, travelling in both directions.

Tram stop fit out works continue.

Queen Charlotte Street to Coatfield Lane

The Queen Charlotte Street junction is open for east / west bound traffic.

The final surfacing works in this section are scheduled for w/c 5 December 2022.

Coatfield Lane to Foot of the Walk (FoTW)

Works on the South Leith Parish Church (SLPC) wall are ongoing with scaffolding erected. All of the OLE poles have now been installed on top of the wall.

With the opening of the Queen Charlotte Street to Coatfield Lane section to vehicles, Constitution Street has now closed to all vehicles from Laurie Street to the SLPC entrance. This is to allow remedial works to be undertaken on a section of concrete between the two track slabs.

Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times.

New street lighting in this section will be turned on over the coming weeks.

Leith Walk

With street lighting having been incorporated into the OLE poles in the central reservation, the project is now disconnecting and removing the existing lampposts along Leith Walk.

These works are progressing northbound.

Two-way traffic is scheduled to be in place for the full length of Leith Walk by w/c 19 December 2022.









Cycle Lane

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

Foot of the Walk to Manderston Street

Traffic management arrangements are changing over 3/4 December 2022.

Full details are available on the project website.

This will also see the removal of heras fencing on the east side of Leith Walk from Crown Place to Manderson Street. Please note Crown Place will remain closed to traffic.

Manderston Street to Balfour Street

Drainage and hard landscaping works are progressing on the east side of Leith Walk between 165 Leith Walk and Jameson Place.

During w/c 5 December 2022 surfacing in this section will be undertaken between Balfour Street and Smith's Place. Once completed heras fencing will be removed.

Balfour Street to Pilrig Street

Main construction is now completed and the majority of heras fencing has been removed from Pilrig Street to Jameson Place.

Please note, the carriageway on the west side from Pilrig Street to Balfour Street is closed to vehicles with access to Arthur Street via Balfour Street or Pilrig Street.

Temporary loading / unloading provision is located on the central reservation on the east side of Leith Walk for businesses in the area.

Pilrig Street to Annandale / Montgomery Street

The Brunswick Street / Leith Walk junction remains closed until further notice.

Annandale Street to Picardy Place southbound road closure

The London Road junction has now reopened. 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 by going via Picardy Place and then turn right onto London Road.
- 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.



Local School Christmas Poster Challenge

The Trams to Newhaven team is committed to maximising the social, economic and environmental benefits through the delivery of the project. We are committed to working in partnership with local schools/community groups recognising the impact we are having in the area.

We are inviting local schools and community groups to help us spread some festive cheer in Leith this Christmas! We would like to decorate some of our site offices perimeter fencing with posters created by local children. These posters will help spread a little joy throughout the community of Leith. Please visit our website or get in contact for further information on the Christmas Poster campaign.











Small Business Spotlight



Tell us a bit about your business.

Harburn Hobbies was started just before WW2 and was at 122/4 Leith Walk with a 'boys' toyshop and a separate 'girls' toyshop. Harburns is a family business and in the same family since 1966. In 1978 Harburn's moved to 67 Elm Row at the top of the walk.

What makes your business unique?

Our shop is somewhat unique and colourful, very different from other conventional shops. Many models are displayed in illuminated cases. There's a nostalgic element to it - what life was maybe like in our childhood.

Why Leith?

Harburn Hobbies has always been a Leith business since it was started during the 1930s. Being in Leith there was always that community spirit. Many of the lunchtime customers back then were from Henry Robbs the shipbuilders.

Name fellow Leith businesses you love to visit.

Valvona & Crolla, Embos and Garlands.

You can view the full spotlight on the project website.

Itison Update

New itison vouchers are available for Leith Walk and Constitution Street businesses. Check out the participating businesses and get the vouchers to redeem them before they sell out again. Don't forget to redeem the vouchers, businesses on the route are waiting for you.



The redemption period for the itison vouchers has been extended to the 31 December 2022. If you have bought vouchers you can use them at participating businesses on Leith Walk, Constitution Street and at Ocean Terminal. They are a great way of supporting businesses on the route during construction.

Contact Us



newhaven.tram@edinburgh.gov.uk





@tramstonewhaven



@TramstoNewhaven

Download our more detailed newsletter:









