



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 over 9,000 metres of communication and utility ducting has been installed. Main construction works are complete on 8 new tram stops. We've also installed 228 OLE poles, 100% of the total along the route, and have strung 4,299m of overhead cabling, 93% of the total. Over 4,500m of drainage infrastructure has also been installed.

Program update

The energisation of the overhead lines is expected to take place w/c 13 February 2023 ahead of a testing and commissioning period, involving the running of an empty tram along the route, starting at the beginning of March 2023. In order to achieve this key milestone, some landscaping, public realm, and footpath works have been re-programmed, details of which can be found on the project website. [View the latest updates to the construction programme on the project website.](#)

In addition, 2-way traffic the length of Leith Walk will be in place from w/c 13 February 2023.

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. Please note that the planters that have been delivered to site are still subject to being moved to alternative locations along the route. 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.



Melrose Drive



Ocean Drive



Constitution Street



Leith Walk

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 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, starting on Sunday 5 February 2023.

Continuity Testing

Now that the overhead line has been installed from Leith Walk to Newhaven, continuity testing to ensure the OLE poles are earthed was required prior to the line being operational. This testing is now completed with reinstatement works scheduled to take place in the coming weeks.

Construction Updates

Newhaven to Leith Walk

Newhaven to Melrose Drive

Works are ongoing within this section. We will be installing new streetlights between Hawthornvale and Sandpiper over the coming weeks.

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 Monday 6 February 2023. You can [view these changes on the project website](#).

JC Decaux have installed bus shelters on both 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 scheduled in the coming weeks. To accommodate this work further traffic management changes will 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 remain in place for the next two weeks. Entrance to Stevedore Place will remain via the west entrance. Main pedestrian diversion remains in place via Tower Street. In addition, from Monday 6 February 2023 we will commence the removal of existing street lighting columns within this area. 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 ongoing and are scheduled to be completed by mid-February. [Further details can be viewed on the project website.](#) Final surfacing works are expected to take place at the Tower Street junction during February 2023.

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 13 February 2023 and parking enforcement is operational.

Coatfield Lane to FoTW

Works on the South Leith Parish Church (SLPC) wall are ongoing.

Footpath and landscaping works are continuing.

Leith Walk

Two-way traffic is scheduled to be in place for the full length from w/c 13 February 2023. Prior to two-way traffic returning there will be changes to traffic management arrangements to allow final surfacing works on the carriageway. This will require the installation of a contra-flow system and Steads Place will be closed for approximately one week, with access being maintained via Springfield Street. [View the traffic management plan for Stead's Place to Springfield Street.](#)

Foot of the Walk to Jameson Place

In order to carry out further surfacing and lining works at the Foot of the Walk junction, temporary traffic management arrangements will be put in place from 10 – 12 February 2023. Further details to follow via the project's communication channels.

Temporary loading / unloading provision is located between Crown Place and Crown Street on the east side of Leith Walk for businesses in the area.

Footpath works are ongoing west side between Foot of the Walk and Jane Street and on the east side between Smyth's Place and Manderston Street.

Jameson Place to Pilrig Street

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

Traffic heading south is now crossing over from the west side to the east side of Leith Walk, north of the Balfour Street junction. Vehicles will continue to be able to exit Balfour Street and turn right heading south.

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.

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

The logistics hub situated on Dalmeny Street is scheduled to be removed in the coming fortnight. Repairs are required to a manhole situated on the east side of Leith Walk, adjacent to Dalmeny Street. In order to accommodate these works we are required to temporarily close Dalmeny Street to vehicles. These works will be undertaken under an emergency closure and will be communicated via the projects communication channels. This will require the coordination of multiple disciplines. We are aiming to carry out these works next week, but please note a date is still to be confirmed.

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.

From Monday 13 February 2023, the project will carry out works that will see the integration of existing and new tram infrastructure. To accommodate these works there will be temporary traffic management arrangements in place. Further information will be communicated via the projects communication channels. During these works Edinburgh Trams will be terminating at Shandwick Place. [Further information is available on the Edinburgh Tram website.](#)

In order to accommodate street lighting works there will be changes to the traffic management at Blenheim Place from Wednesday 8 February 2023. Pedestrian access will be maintained with vehicles being managed via a priority system. These arrangements are expected to remain in place for 2 weeks.

[View the updated traffic management plans on the project website.](#)

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.](#)

