



## NEWSLETTER WINTER 2025

Welcome to the North West Connexions Winter Edition! We're pleased to share some of the projects and activities we worked on during October, November and December and what's coming up in the North West.

To help us improve how we communicate with you, please take a moment to [complete our short survey here](#).



*Our crews are out there in the coldest of conditions, battling against ice and snow.  
Here's 'Gritty Gritty Bang Bang' out clearing the route on the A87 at Glenshiel.*



## INVEST IN NORTH WEST

With almost £24 million of Transport Scotland investment, BEAR delivered extensive improvements across the North West network, including safety barrier upgrades, resurfacing, bridge deck refurbishment, landscaping and more, making roads and infrastructure safer despite the challenging weather. [Read more.](#)

## NEXT UP IN NORTH WEST

Major projects are planned across the North West in the coming months, including traffic signal upgrades at Raigmore Interchange, retaining wall replacement on the A835, improved footways in Inverness, and extensive resurfacing between Oban and Fort William, enhancing safety, resilience and journey quality. [Find out more.](#)



## NO REST FOR BEAR

BEAR continues vital resilience work at the A83 Rest and Be Thankful, clearing debris, repairing protective structures and responding to hillside risks to keep Argyll moving safely through challenging winter conditions. [Read more.](#)



## A9 ROUTE REINFORCED

Explore how the A9 upgrade programme is improving safety, resilience, and journey reliability along one of Scotland's key routes. From Perth to Thurso, these enhancements support communities, strengthen connections, and future-proof the corridor for residents, businesses and visitors across the Highlands. [Keep reading](#).



## FREEZY DOES IT

Spring might be a little while away yet, but our teams have already delivered a significant programme of winter service across the North West trunk road network.

Between October and December, over 2000 treatments were carried out to keep routes moving, with 9,308 tonnes of salt spread across the network.

Road surface temperatures dropped as low as  $-9.3^{\circ}\text{C}$  at Aultguish on the A835 on 21 November, one of several sharp cold spells that required proactive action from our winter teams. Across the three-month period, we also experienced 10 snow days, with gritters deployed around the clock to respond to changing conditions.

Our winter teams will continue to monitor the network closely as the colder months continue, ensuring communities across the North West remain connected whatever the weather brings.

## WEATHERING STORMS

Winter brought the first two named storms of the season, Amy and Bram. With flooding, fallen trees and debris to deal with, our teams once again demonstrated their preparedness, resilience and commitment to tackling severe weather events. [Read more.](#)



## FUTURE-TALENT TOUR

We recently hosted a BEAR Scotland Graduate Careers Event at our South Queensferry Education Centre. The event involved team presentations, networking with graduates and a tour of the Queensferry Crossing. The 18 students who attended from different universities all provided overwhelmingly positive feedback.

## BEAR CARES

We want to make a real difference in the areas we work in. Every year our staff vote for the causes they want to support, both nationally and in their local communities. We also support several long-term charity partners, local sports and educational initiatives, and individual employee fundraising. In 2025 we donated £59,000 to more than 100 organisations and committed over 1,000 volunteer hours to provide support 'in-kind'. [Read the full BEAR Cares report.](#)





## GIVE YOUR LITTER A LIFT

North West trunk roads pass through some of Scotland's most breathtaking scenery, and we want to keep it that way! That's why we're supporting Keep Scotland Beautiful's roadside litter campaign to keep our roads and verges safe, clean and litter free. Remember to always #GiveYourLitterALift or #TakeItHome to help keep Scotland beautiful.

## HOW TO REPORT DEFECTS

If you notice an issue on a trunk road please let us know.  
To ensure defects are addressed effectively please contact:

Traffic Scotland Customer Care Line **0800 028 1414**  
[enquiries@bearsotland.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@bearsotland.co.uk) or our [website](#)

 **Report an Issue**

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