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North West ConneXions

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2026

Welcome to the summer edition of North West Connexions. In this issue, we highlight some of the key projects, events and activities delivered during April, May and June, as well as upcoming plans across the North West.

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



BEAR vans and blue skies over the A87 captured from Uig Viewpoint



A SPRING WITH A SWING

From lifting a swing bridge and investigating ageing structures to delivering more than 21km of resurfacing and new active travel routes, it's been another busy quarter across the North West trunk road network. Discover how our teams are improving safety, reliability and resilience on some of Scotland's most important routes. [Read more.](#)

PENDING PROJECTS

Major infrastructure improvements, new pedestrian facilities and essential maintenance are planned across the North West in the months ahead. From retaining wall replacements in Glen Ogle and Pitlochry to a new puffin crossing in Brora, discover how we're investing in safer, more resilient journeys. [Continue reading.](#)



SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER!

It's been another busy year inspiring the next generation through education and STEM engagement. During the 2025/26 academic year, almost 10,000 pupils across Scotland took part in Transport Scotland's Schools Education Programme, delivered

by BEAR Scotland. Alongside this, our teams supported local schools through STEM careers events, virtual work experience opportunities and community projects, including biodiversity initiatives led by young people. Together, these activities are helping to raise awareness of engineering careers and develop the skills of tomorrow's workforce.

[Learn more](#)



CONNEL CASE STUDY

Essential maintenance on the unique A828 Connel Bridge has improved road surface quality and prepared the structure for future upgrades. Careful co-ordination helped deliver the project while keeping disruption to a minimum. [Read the case study.](#)

Bragging rights go to anyone who can name the 1981 Donald Sutherland film Connel Bridge features in.

NUFFIN' BUT PUFFIN

Our recently completed puffin crossing project in Golspie has improved pedestrian safety and accessibility while providing valuable lessons. [Read more](#) about how collaboration and community feedback are helping shape plans for a similar crossing project in Brora.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BEAR Scotland donated £9,521 to 24 charities and community groups across Scotland during April, May and June. From fundraising for CHAS and SAMH to supporting local causes, our teams continue to make a positive impact in the communities



a positive impact in the communities we serve. [Find out more](#) about how BEAR gives back.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Strong relationships with communities and stakeholders are vital to everything we do. Over the last quarter, our North West team has been working closely with MSPs, community councils and residents to keep people informed and involved in projects across the network. [Discover more](#).



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 or our [website](#)

 **Report an Issue**



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