

Birnam to Logierait major gas project

Phase 3 - B898 pipeline construction

February 2024



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Phase 3 works

The third and final phase of our critical project will be carried out on the B898. Subject to any unforeseen delays, our contractor Morrison Energy Services is planning to begin work on Monday, 19 February 2024 to lay our new gas pipeline along the B898. This will take approximately nine months to complete. The B898 will be closed as a through road and a rolling road closure will be in place between its junction with the A9 and Logierait.

A signed diversion route will be in place for motorists at all times. (see map on page six)

Pipeline route

Work will commence at the junction with the A9 and the B898 and progress northwards. The pipe will be laid in the centre of the road all the way to Logierait.

We also plan to lay the new pipe in the private road coming off the B898 towards the Logierait bridge, where we have an existing gas Transmission Regulator Station (TRS). This is the point where the final connection will be made.

Access to properties

Access to driveways and access roads will be maintained at all times for the duration of our work on the B898. Where we are working close to or adjacent to your driveway or access road, we shall use regulation steel plates to maintain continual access for you and any visitors or delivery vehicles.

Emergency vehicles

A priority for us has been to inform all the blue light emergency services of our planned works.

This is to ensure they're aware of the road closure and know of the diversion routes in place, as our works progress along the B898.

Rolling road closure and updates

The B898 road closure is what's known as a 'rolling' road closure. This means the point where access is blocked will move northwards along the road as the work progresses.

We will post updates on the dedicated project page on our website (sgn.co.uk/our-gas-works/major-planned-projects/birnam-logierait-project). For anyone who can't look online, we will also send a letter to all B898 residents providing this information.

This will show exactly where the closure is at any time, and which diversion route you should follow (see page six for diversion route). You can access the webpage through the QR code on the front cover of this booklet.

Buses

We're liaising with the operators of all bus services currently using the B898.

In addition, we are in contact with the school transportation department at Perth and Kinross Council to ensure it's aware of the road restrictions and puts arrangements in place for the school children who travel by school bus.

Cycle route and walkers

National Cycle Route 77, which runs along the B898, will remain open throughout. For safety reasons, cyclists will have to dismount when reaching our works and walk past.

It will also be possible for pedestrians, dog walkers and hikers to safely pass our works on foot.

Compensation

Business owners can apply for a loss of gross profit because of our works.

To find out if you qualify, please complete the business compensation form on our website. From the homepage, search for 'Compensation' and select 'Small businesses affected by planned works'.

We are sorry to say there are no schemes available for compensation of private motorists when using the diversion route.

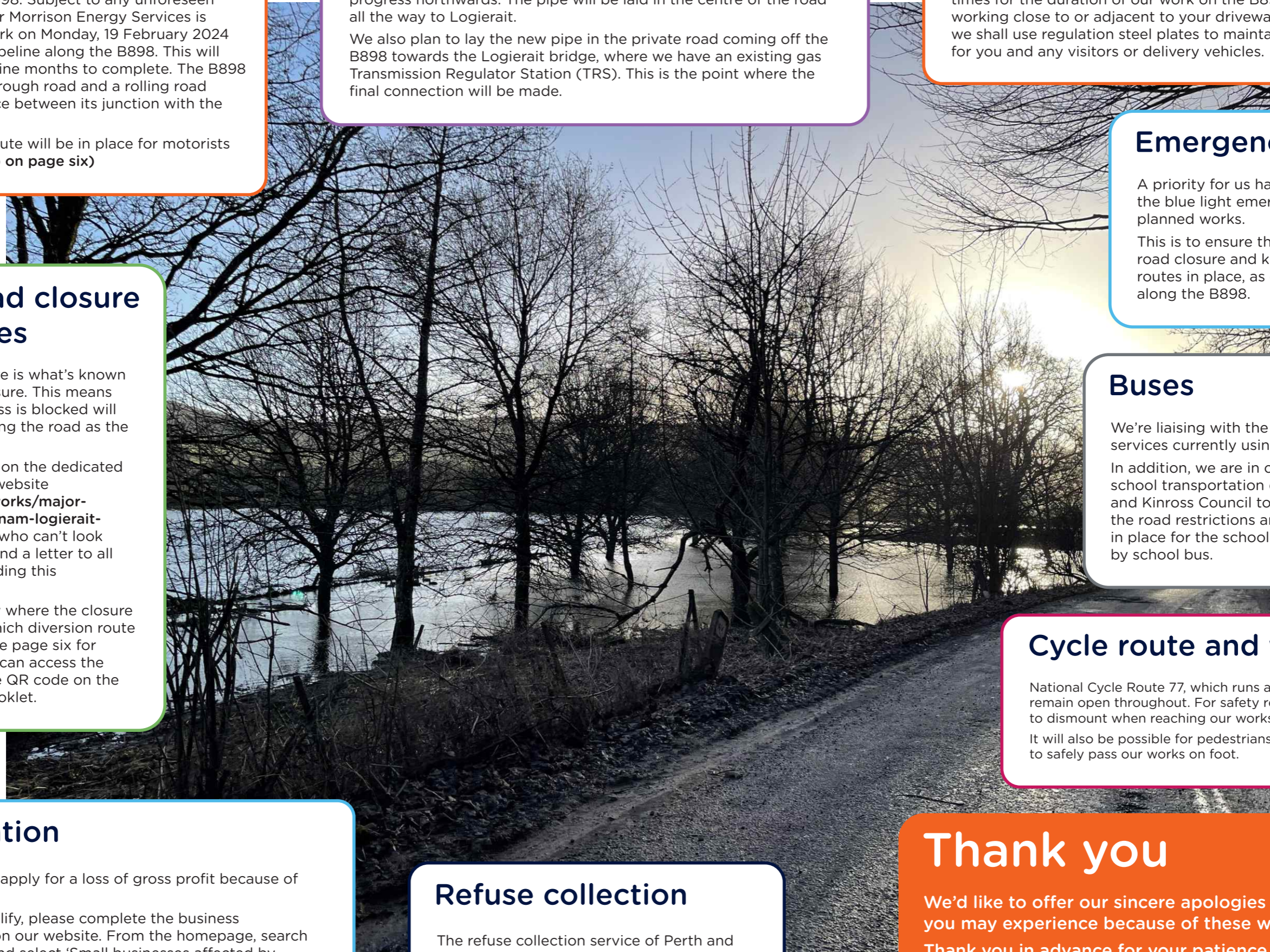
Refuse collection

The refuse collection service of Perth and Kinross Council has been informed of the coming road restrictions and will continue to offer the full service to all residents which is currently in place.

Thank you

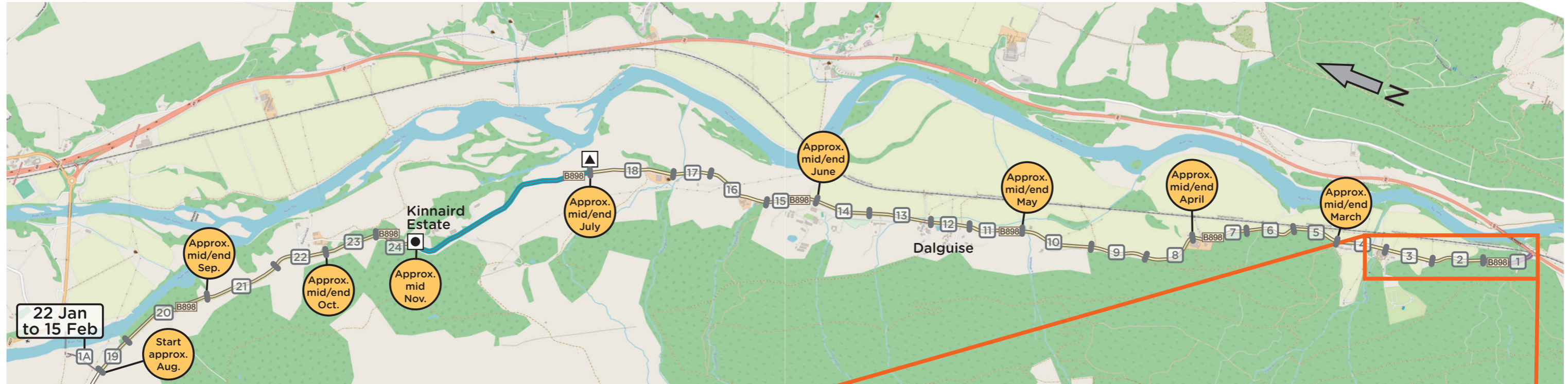
We'd like to offer our sincere apologies for the disruption you may experience because of these works.

Thank you in advance for your patience while we continue with our critical project to ensure safe and reliable gas supplies to thousands of homes and businesses in Birnam, Logierait, Dunkeld, Aberfeldy, and Pitlochry.



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Phase 3 - B898 pipeline construction



B898 map

The large map shows the length of the B898 where the pipe will be laid.

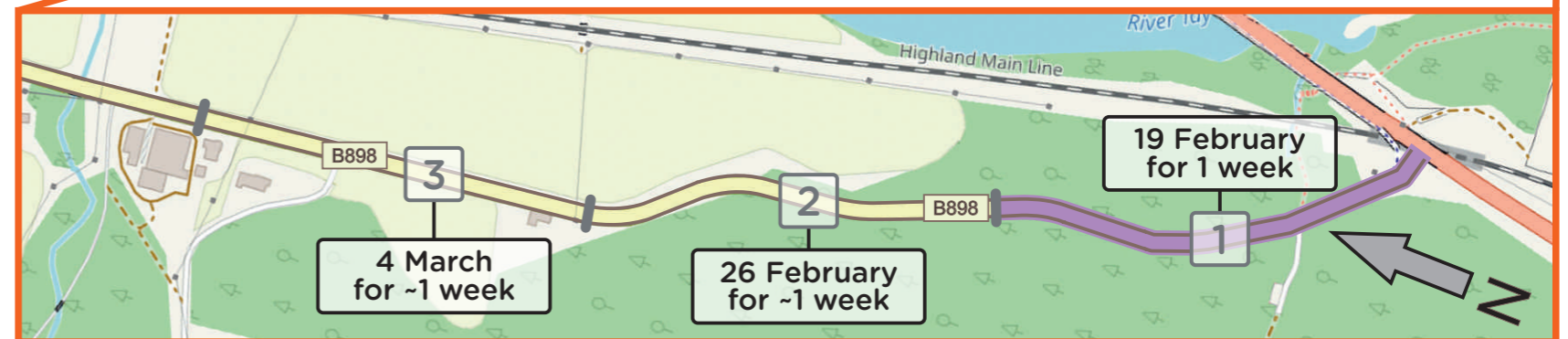
The sectional cutout (right) shows the section of the road which will be closed at any time and the approximate dates the pipe will be laid.

The large map shows **24 sections** on the B898, each approximately 300m (328 yards) in length.

Starting with section 1 adjoining the A9, work will start on Monday 19 February 2024. The teams work northwards up to and including section 18. The section marked in blue contains a pipe laid in 2015.

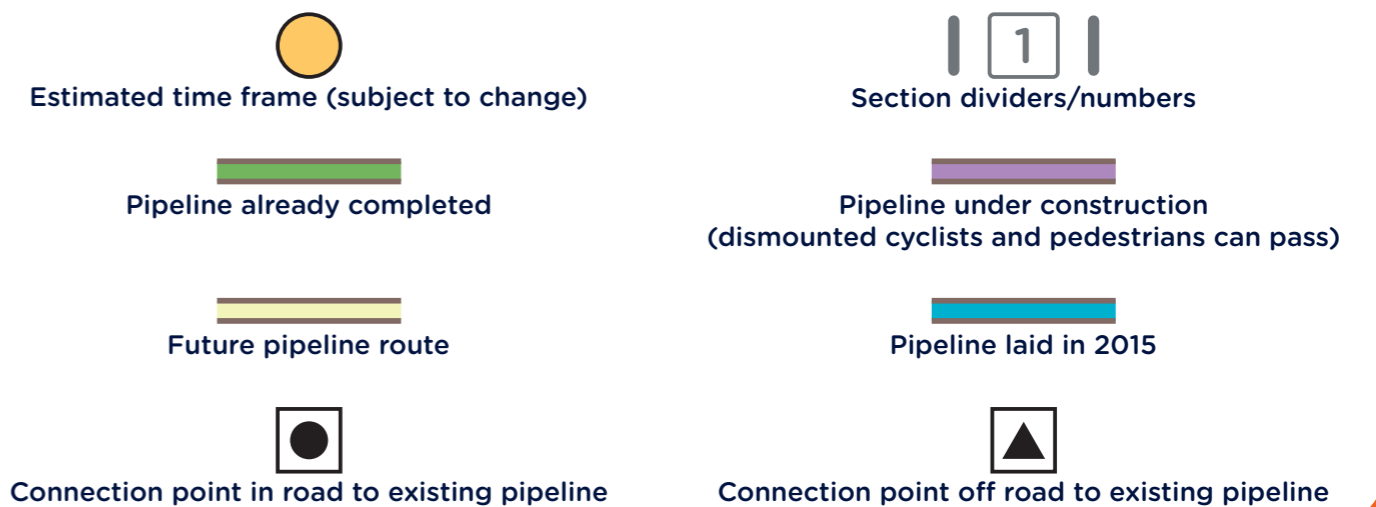
When section 18 is complete, we move to section 19 and then work southwards along the B898, finishing at section 24 and making the final connection.

Work on section 1A, on the private Logierait bridge road, started on 22 January and will end on or before 15 February.



Map data © OpenStreetMap <https://openstreetmap.org/copyright>

Key



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Phase 3 diversion route

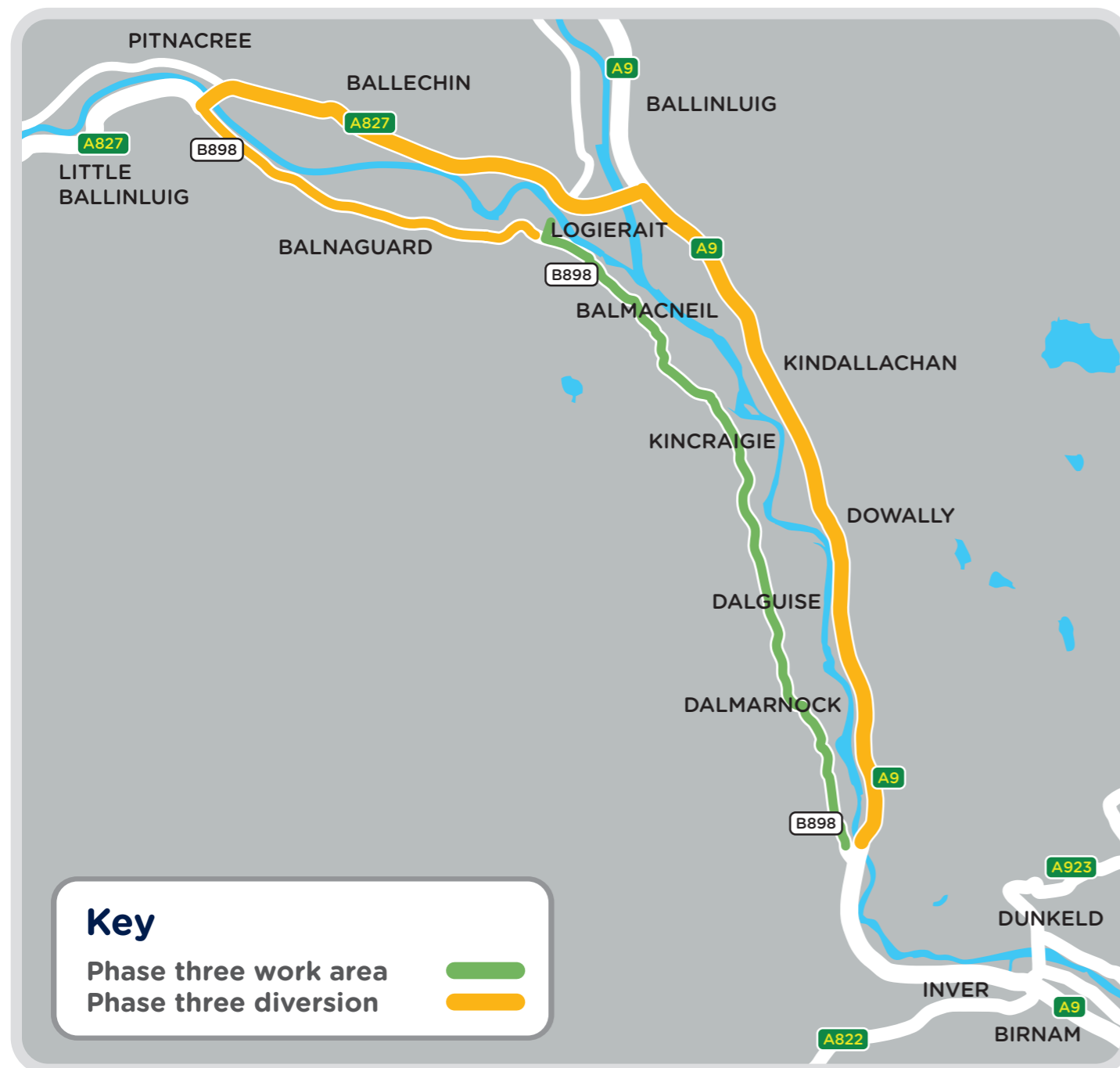
The diversion route for different residents will vary according to where our works are on the B898. As they progress along and pass your property entrance, your available route will change. The diversion is shown on the map below.

Pedestrians and cyclists

People will be able to pass our works on foot. The works will always be barriered off to ensure the safety of the residents and public at large.

At the point of our works, we're only allowing non-powered cycles to pass. Cyclists will have to dismount and push their bikes past the works. It isn't practical or safe for motorcyclists to do the same.

National Cycle Route 77, also known as the Salmon run, links with other cycle routes and travels along the B898 on its 54-mile route from Dundee to Pitlochry. Despite the works, cyclists will be able to get through, although they will have to dismount when passing the works area.



Your questions answered

Q. Why is it going to take you nine months when you said it would be less at the public meeting?

This is a complex engineering job which is being carried out by specialist teams. There's approximately 8.3km of pipe to be laid, including several river and culvert crossings. Safety is our number one priority and the safety of all residents, visitors, cyclists and our workforce have all been considered when planning these works. It's not straightforward to predict actual timescales and our experiences along the A9 in recent weeks have shown there to be some challenging ground conditions. We will however do our utmost to do the work as quickly as possible while ensuring everyone's safety. Our revised estimate of nine months to completion is we believe, a realistic estimate and allows for an element of flooding which has been evident over the last few months.

Q. Instead of closing the road why don't you have two-way traffic lights like in Birnam?

That would have been our preferred option, but the B898 is part of the national roads system and we have to adhere to all legislation and safety requirements when working on the public highway. The B898 varies in width throughout its length and the area needed to safely dig and barrier off the works to regulation distances and the plant and equipment required, will not allow traffic of all types and sizes to safely pass by. In addition, sections of the road will require to be drilled using specialist equipment which can't be carried out under the constraints of a narrow work area. We are however, keeping the road open to bicycles and pedestrians.

Q. Why aren't you putting the pipe in the adjacent fields?

This is a critical gas pipeline which will safeguard gas supplies for a very wide region. After long consideration at the planning stages, the chosen route was to place the pipeline in the public highway, as opposed to privately owned land. This was agreed with the relevant authorities and is by far the best long-term location for this pipeline. There are many constraints in placing critical infrastructure in private land and its generally accepted energy infrastructure is designed to be contained in publicly accessible land. Reasons include the ease of access and maintenance, the reduced risk of damage, the avoidance of any structures being built on top and the reduced risk of becoming inaccessible due to flooding incidents.

Q. We don't have gas, so there's no benefit to us.

This pipeline will form part of the national gas infrastructure and will ensure gas supplies to homes and businesses across the area and beyond to Pitlochry and Aberfeldy is safeguarded over many years to come. Because of the new pipeline, it could be possible for householders in the future to apply to have a gas connection extended to their communities. In the past this has been achieved in similar circumstances in other parts of the country.

Q. You recently closed the private road at the Logierait bridge end. Will that be open again before you close the B898?

Laying 200m of pipeline down the private road started on 22 January. This will NOT overrun into the B898 closure at the A9 end. We apologise for any misunderstanding that has arisen over this aspect of our works.

Q. What contingencies have you in place to allow ambulances to get past on this road?

We have contacted the Scottish Ambulance Service and informed them of our works and the diversions in place. We have been in touch with the Police and Scottish Fire & Rescue services, so they are also aware of the access issues. In addition we are informing the postal and refuse collection services, so they are aware.

Q. What is happening about school buses - we haven't heard anything yet?

We have been liaising with the education department at Perth and Kinross council and their plan is to run extra buses for the children affected. Details of these bus arrangements will be made available as soon as they are put in place.





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We realise you'll be severely affected by our works, and we're extremely sorry for this. These are however very essential works and are needed to ensure the safe and continued operation of the gas network in the local and wider area for years to come.

How to get in touch with us:



WhatsApp
07490 077 649



Text
07490 077 649



Live Chat
sgn.co.uk



Talk
0800 912 1700



Email
BirnamtoLogierait@sgn.co.uk



Read more
sgn.co.uk (Business compensation scheme)



You can call us from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 4pm Saturday.



You can contact us by text, WhatsApp or Live Chat from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.



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