



“Much, Much More Than a Mere Transport Project!”

THE FIRST NEW TRACKS LAID

Junction with Main Line Renewed



Above - As It Was: This was how the first few hundred yards of the Levenmouth Rail Link appeared, at Waukmill, near the Thornton junction, on 24th. May, 2016. *LMRC News* described the track then as being “in seemingly-perfect condition”. The images are, as seen from where a lane leading from the road near Coaltown of Balconie reaches the Railway..., **Left:** The view towards Cameron Bridge and Leven, and, **Right,** towards the main line at Thornton. **Inset:** Grass was gone a little further on, towards Leven.

ON THE Long Curve, where the Levenmouth Rail Link starts from the Edinburgh-Perth-Aberdeen line at Thornton, a new line of railway has *already* been laid, the *Rail Freight Magazine website* reported on Wednesday, 30th.

March. A section of track leading to Earlsseat Quarry, just short of one mile (1.61 Km.), which had previously been upgraded to suit freight trains serving the Quarry for a few years recently, has now been taken up in favour of

“Laying the first rails on the new Levenmouth Rail Link is a tremendous milestone for this exciting project and great news for the local community”.

— Bill Reeve, Director of Rail at Transport Scotland.

“seven pairs of continuously-welded rail sections, in 240-metre [274-yard] lengths, were positioned on the sleepers before being clipped into place to form the first mile of the new Levenmouth branch line”, the website stated. Bill Reeve, the Director of Rail at *Transport Scotland*, the Scottish Government’s main transport management agency, added: “Laying the first rails on the new rail link is a tremendous milestone for this exciting project and great news for the local community”.

LMRC’s Next Meetings...

Tuesday, 26th. April,
6.30 p.m., at the ...
Fife Renewables
Innovation Centre!!*

[* SUBJECT TO CORONAVIRUS STATUS.]

Tuesday, 31st. May,
6.30 p.m., Details T.B.C. ...

Please See Back Page for Information and Campaign Contacts - LevenMouth Rail Campaign members are sent codes to enable them to access On-line Video-Meetings.

One photograph on the *Rail Freight* 'site shows the Rail Link as it leaves Thornton, now complete with an almost-gleaming layer of ballast and a single-track line, as well as the main line as it approaches the junction from the North. Some people have had concerns about the single track leading off here; this is actually a safety thing. An extra, double-track through a rail junction only brings extra complication - and a greater chance of mishap. The Quintinshill junction, just north of Carlisle, where the route to Glasgow via Dumfries and Kilmarnock leaves the main *West Coast Main-Line*, also features a single-track; Quintinshill Junction just happens to be the site of Britain’s worst-ever railway disaster, which led to 226 deaths, *mostly troops off to war*, in 1915.

The photograph also shows there has been plenty of activity already around the former Thornton Junction Station. Several trees have been felled here - ardent environmentalists might want to take a deep breath (or two) before they read on through this edition of *LMRC News!* - and a wide lane has also been created on the inside of the curve to provide access for the various digging and lifting machines, and trucks, needed to prepare the track-bed, lay the ballast, and then set the sleepers and track in place. **A good thing’s truly worth working for...!**

Coronavirus Caution!

Despite the U.K.'s hugely-successful Vaccination campaign, 'Covid-19' remains a serious threat. ...

Remember Your **Mask!** ... and the **"F.A.C.T.S."** !!

- ★ **FACE COVERINGS** are **Still Required** in Enclosed Spaces* ;
 - ★ **AVOID** Crowded Places; ★ **CLEAN** Hands & Surfaces Often;
 - ★ **TWO-METRE** (6ft.) Distancing; ★ **SELF-ISOLATE ... Still!**
 - * Face Coverings Required on Public Transport, in Shops, etc.
- [* From Official N.H.S. Guide Website. Valid 'til Sunday, 20th. March.]

IMPORTANT PASSENGER ANNOUNCEMENT :
The Next Train from LEVEN
to EDINBURGH
(and Other Destinations),
☺ Calling at **CAMERON BRIDGE**, is ☺
Now Due: December 2023!

REPAIRS TO THE Main Bridge over the River Leven and the route of the Rail Link, in Leven, were approved by *Fife Councillors* in January – and this will mean that traffic will be diverted for a year or so.

The work on Bawbee Bridge – which features an opening-day plaque dated 1957 – will be closed for a year from this August.

Bawbee Bridge is acknowledged, by a Council transport manager, as being in a “deteriorating, poor condition”, so it needs extensive work, which would include higher parapets over the railway, to ensure the trains will be able to pass beneath it in safety.

The Bridge will also get a new, stronger road-deck, so that it can accommodate the huge amount of traffic that crosses daily.

Bawbee Bridge, on average, carries 18,000 vehicles every day. - Its £8,150,000 strengthening scheme will mean that the only direct route between Leven and Methil will be closed — and all 18,000 vehicles crossing it every day will either have to cross a temporary bridge over the River Leven, or face a diversion of five miles (or eight kilometres) – ironically close to the length of the new railway. The route will be via a temporary bridge and a new roundabout. *Fife Council* has agreed to the new bridge near the swimming pool complex, or *Levenmouth Leisure Centre* – and the funding is in place. From the roundabout, it will lead traffic past *East Fife F.C.'s Bayview Stadium*, then on to South Street, in Methil, before linking with other roads there and, eventually, the A.915 and the return to the ‘other half’ of Leven. The work will be incorporated into the Rail Link project, and will therefore involve *Transport Scotland* and *Network Rail*.

Councillors also acted quickly to play-down fears that the major works on Bawbee Bridge may delay the opening of the

The Extensive Rebuild of Leven's ‘Bawbee Brig’ Now Needed as Part of Revival of The Rail Link

Story: **Claire Warrender, Fife Courier (D. C. Thompson Media)**,
Thursday, 20th. January:



Above: Bawbee Bridge is seen here on Saturday, 12th. March, together with the Methil Docks rail-bridge.
Below: A temporary bridge, like this one in place at Workington, Cumbria, on 26th. April, 2010, will soon be needed to fill a considerable gap here in Leven.



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'Brougham Hall News' Image.

Be Patient..., or -

Work **HAS** Now Commenced on the Long-Awaited ...

Levenmouth Rail Link

The Public are advised to Stay Away from the Railway Trackbed while these Works are in Progress. Heavy Machinery will be in Use — and there will be many other Hazards on the whole Line.

Better Late for a Train than, Well..., **"LATE"**!



Poster Imagery by Alistair Aynsough / LMRC News.

long-awaited Levenmouth Rail Link itself.

Fife Council's Labour leader, David Ross, said: "I don't anticipate there will be any delays in opening the Railway", while John Mitchell, their roads and transportation manager, said: "Doing nothing is not an option. ... Delaying work 'til after the Railway is in place will double the cost — and there's a real, long-standing issue with this Bridge.

"It is in a deteriorating, poor condition."

Assurances over Levenmouth Rail Link opening

Liberal Democrat Councillor Tim Brett asked for reassurances over timings of bridge repairs after concerns were raised by the Levenmouth Rail Campaign and other campaigners. We are due to have the Railway operating by December 2023, now less than two years away — and this project is going to take in excess of one year."

Mr. Mitchell replied: "The whole point is to integrate the project and have it delivered before the Railway." Fife Council's S.N.P. leader, David Alexander, commented: "As far as I'm concerned, this is a very, very positive outcome."

— Further assurances were given by other Councillors that the work on Bawbee Bridge would not delay repairs to other bridges across Fife.

"THE OLD ONES ARE STILL THE BEST! ..."



A CIRCA-200-Year-Old Milestone, by the A.917



on the eastern approach to Upper Largo, 'stands proud'. **Not so**, the modern 30mph (48 km/h) speed limit sign alongside it! This photo. was taken a few weeks ago, on Sunday, 27th. February, but at the LMRC 'Zoom' meeting of Tuesday, 29th. March, ahead of the anticipated influx of tourists brought by the new Railway, members were asked to go and look for and photograph downed or damaged road-signs and report their locations. **There are many**, ...

MORE CYCLE-RIDES TO SEE WORKSITE SIGHTS

Image from Allen Armstrong and CLEAR Buckhaven and Methil.



... Oh, and All the Local Attractions, too!

Above: Cyclists in sunshine at Bawbee Bridge, Leven, on their trek on Sunday, 20th. March.

AFTER THIS 'Sunny Success' of a cycle-ride (jointly arranged by CLEAR Buckhaven and Methil and the LMRC, on Sunday, 20th. March), other rides are being *pencilled-in* for the coming weeks - weather permitting. Quite apart from the 'obligatory local tourist attraction' (s), of course, these rides are for participants to see for themselves the progress being, *or soon to be*, made on the Railway and its new stations, as well as on the riverside and countryside along the River Leven where it is followed by the line. Parkland and recreation areas are being created as well, over the full five miles or more.

Several e-bikes are available from CLEAR for the next cycle rides, for new users to test — and, so long as they're booked in advance, they will be available free for the ride. For dates, booking, and any other information, please contact **CLEAR Buckhaven and Methil** on **01592 715021**. Other *Contact Points* are on the back page of this LMRC News, but you can also always check their **Facebook Page**, or website.

Wishin'... Digging... and Hopin'! *

Ironical Scenes at Site of Elie Station



IN FEBRUARY, close to old Elie Station, on the 1965-closed East Fife Line, work uncannily like that now commencing on the Levenmouth Rail Link, was being done, with trees and other plantation also cleared from the track-bed there. **Wishin' and Hopin'** their line will be back one day!

* See Back Page (Later!)

LMRC News is Produced by ALISTAIR AYNSCOUGH at Colinsburgh, Fife, Scotland, and Transmitted by Adobe PDF, and e-Mailed to the **Levenmouth Rail Campaign**

by the Creator of

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Laying Down The Plans for



Top-Right: Trees are down, and only their stumps remain in the ground, where Leven's new railway station is to be built, in this scene from Tuesday, 22nd. March. **Insert:** In this view, from 17th. May, 2019 - the day of the LMRC's second of three *Walk The Line* days - local schoolchildren are seen in the shadow of trees as they get their rewards of crisps and bottled water from the marshals after completing their trek from Durievale, Windygates (near the former Cameron Bridge station, and also the site of the new one) along the track-bed and right back to Leven. -►



Leven Station

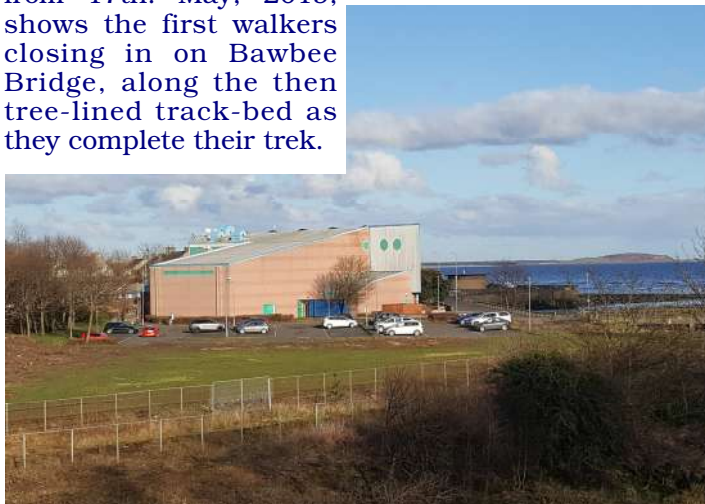
◀ **Opposite Page, Centre-**

Left: Seen here on Tuesday, 22nd. March, part of the *Levenmouth Leisure Centre* car-park is flanked by the A.955 road on its rise to Bawbee Bridge — once a tree-lined route.

Centre-Right: The modern arch for the railway at Bawbee Bridge is also seen here, on Tuesday, 22nd., with the ground cleared of shrubbery and trees and a temporary fence erected in their place, and with industrial buildings beyond the arch. **Lower-Right:** The road gets busy, on the same day, on the approach to Bawbee Bridge - it's something the planners, about to erect a temporary bridge here, during the reconstruction of the rail-link, will now be having to think about.

This Page, Right: The track-bed on its approach to the site of the new Leven Station, as seen on Tuesday, 22nd., from the bridge it passes under.

Lower-Left: The *Leisure Centre's* closeness to the Rail Link and its planned Station is clear to see that same Tuesday ... and the Bus Station is also not at all far beyond it. **Lower-Right:** Another view, from 17th. May, 2019, shows the first walkers closing in on Bawbee Bridge, along the then tree-lined track-bed as they complete their trek.



Laying Down The Plans for

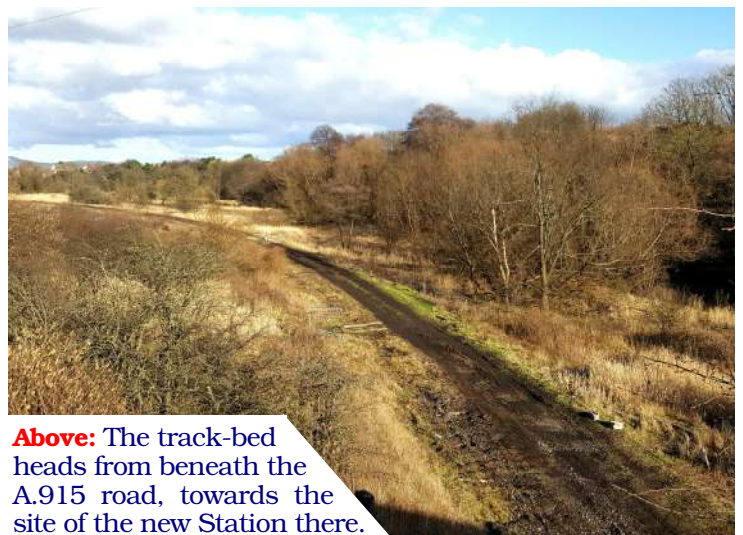
THE NEW WAY IN

BY SATURDAY, 12th. March, a new junction was being formed along the east (Leven) side of the A.915 *Standing Stones* main road — close to the bridge by which it crosses the railway at Cameron Bridge ... Here, work got underway.

Above: This was a Saturday (it was 12th. March), so things here were staying silent in the sunlight as there was no weekend work being done here. Still, it's clear a lot has already been done on this patch, not least what looks like it could be a start made on a road down to the site of the new Cameron Bridge station, lined with the yellow poles and tape used on building-sites to establish the site vehicles' height-limits. A pile of logs is set aside, the results of tree-clearing operations at the site of the new Cameron Bridge Station. **Right:** Workers-on-Site, "Works Access" and other signs and traffic cones mark the new junction from the A.915 road at Cameron Bridge, also on Saturday, 12th. March. **Below:** Memo. to the local intruders and 'ne'er-do-wells' from the local Police ... "Show Us Dealing...!!"



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Above: The track-bed heads from beneath the A.915 road, towards the site of the new Station there.

Cameron Bridge Station

“Can’t Wait for ‘Active Travel’!...?”

Right: A cyclist joins a work-team on the track-bed of the Rail Link where it passes under the A.915 here at Cameron Bridge ... almost as if appearing impatient for the creation of the “Active Travel” network of cycle-footpaths intended to accompany the completed railway !!

Right: The track-bed curves gracefully through the site of the new Cameron Bridge station on Saturday, 12th. March — note the clearing of trees that’s been done. ...



'REINSTATE THE LEVEN-EDINBURGH RAIL-LINK!'

A SHOCKING SUGGESTION?

Rumoured that New Levenmouth Line "May Not Be Electrified"

THIS WOULD Truly Be a Shocking Suggestion if it's true..., but then, again..., maybe it won't if there's no electricity here! We hope and trust that this is nothing more than a cruel rumour. Notice was paid to it at the LMRC 'Zoom' meeting on Tuesday, 22nd. February - instantly leading to calls for electrification here, and for checks with Network Rail and other agencies to see if this is just a rumour..., or whether it's in their plans. Campaigners fear for the promises of efficient, reliable - and environmentally-sound - Levenmouth services.

Network Rail Scotland say ...

['Project Timeline'...] - "THE RE-INSTALEMENT of the Levenmouth Rail Link is part of wider improvements to Scotland's railway infrastructure, and will provide a major boost to economic sustainability and connectivity. "It will deliver opportunities for local people - unlocking access to education, culture, entertainment and employment options, as well as attracting new business and investment." ...

Stations and Infrastructure
- Winter 2020-2021

Planning and Consenting Process
for Stations - Summer 2021

Fencing-Off, and Main Construction
Work Starts on Sites - 2022

Re-Opening Date *[Stated by*
Select Media Sources] - Dec'r., 2023

LMRC Meetings

The Meeting for Tuesday, 26th. April,
will be Held at 6.30 p.m. at

**The Fife Renewables
Innovation Centre**

Methil Docks, Ajax Way, Leven, KY8 3RS.



"Get Here" *

... to the "F.R.I.C."!



* 'Song-Title Arrows' ... Oleta Adams (1991).
['Wishin' & Hopin' (for Elie dig, Page 3) ... Merseybeats (1964).]

"WATCH YOUR BACK!..." (-date) - "EVER Since the Leven-to-St. Andrews [coast] line closed, in September 1965, I have been urging that, if Leven station was to be used, it should be given proper terminal facilities. Without good time-keeping and bus connections, people would be driven to seek alternative means of transport. This is exactly what has happened." — Sir. John Gilmour, East Fife M.P., at *Leven Line Closure Inquiry*, January 1969.

LMRC Contacts



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Twitter: www.twitter.com/LevenmouthRail

LMRC Action Group 'Virtual' - and Actual - Meets
All Meetings Start on Tuesdays at 6.30 p.m.

The Next Meetings for LMRC are as Planned :



- Tuesday, 26th. April., at **F.R.I.C.**;
- Tuesday, 31st. May, **Venue T.B.C.**..
- Tuesday, 28th. June, **Venue T.B.C.**..
- Tuesday, 28th. June, **Venue T.B.C.**..

LMRC Don't usually have July Meetings ... but one may happen via 'Zoom'

CAMPAIGN CALL

"LOBBY YOUR MSP!" SAY LMRC

ALTHOUGH, of Course, we now welcome the fact that the Levenmouth Rail Link is now being restored, the LMRC will remain active and continue to follow its progress. ... If you have concerns at any stage, you should still write to your MSP, MP or Local Councillor.

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Railway "Revivals" in Your Thoughts ... ?

Keep the Ball in Their Court !!!

CAMPAIGN CALLING ...

LOBBY YOUR MSP

... .. Say LMRC,

Please Keep This 'Ball' Rolling !