

Sept-2026 Update on temporary road closures on the A831 near Beauly substation

As part of the Beauly 132kV Reinforcement project, new underground cables are to be installed beneath the A831 road adjacent to Beauly Substation to connect new infrastructure into the existing electricity network.

These works are critical to the successful delivery of the project and must be carried out safely for both the workforce and road users.

In addition to the operational benefits, these works will deliver a lasting visual improvement to the local landscape. By replacing sections of the existing overhead network with underground cable infrastructure, the project will reduce the prominence of overhead lines and associated equipment in the area.

Following our previous communications, the project team would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to provide feedback on our previous proposals for the temporary road closures on the A831.

We have carefully reviewed all comments received and used this feedback, alongside further technical assessments of the works, to revise our approach.

Our aim is to strike the best possible balance between minimising disruption for local communities and road users while ensuring the works can be completed safely and within the shortest practical timeframe.

How feedback has informed our revised plans

The feedback received made it clear that both the previously proposed two-week road closure and the alternative option of six weekend closures would have caused significant disruption for local communities, businesses and road users.

Since sharing those proposals, the project team has continued to review the construction methodology and identify opportunities to reduce the duration of full road closures. As a result of this additional engineering and construction planning, we can now undertake a significant proportion of the works using temporary traffic management rather than a full road closure.

This revised approach means that:

- Full road closures will now be required on only two non-consecutive weekends working back shifts to maximise productivity while keeping noise levels as low as reasonably possible.

- The remaining works will be undertaken using temporary traffic lights and singlelane traffic management where it is safe and practical to do so. Dates for these will be confirmed in due course.
- The overall impact on road users will be significantly reduced compared with the options previously consulted on.

We have also rescheduled the works to take place after the peak summer holiday period and introduced a later Friday start time to reduce disruption to school transport and local journeys.

Planned road closure dates and times

The proposed temporary road closures are as follows: **Closure 1**

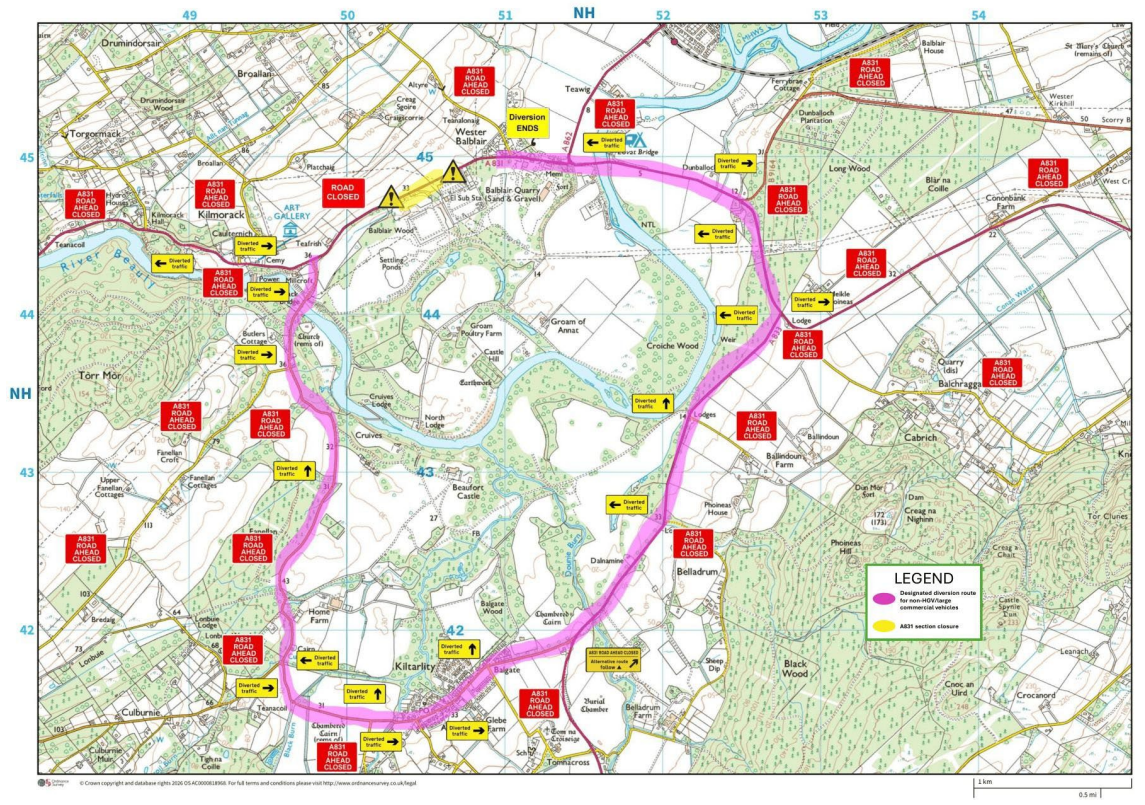
- Friday 18 September, 1:30pm to Monday 21 September, 10:30pm **Closure 2**
- Friday 02 October, 1:30pm to Monday 05 October, 10:30pm

The road will reopen between these closures to allow normal traffic movements to resume.

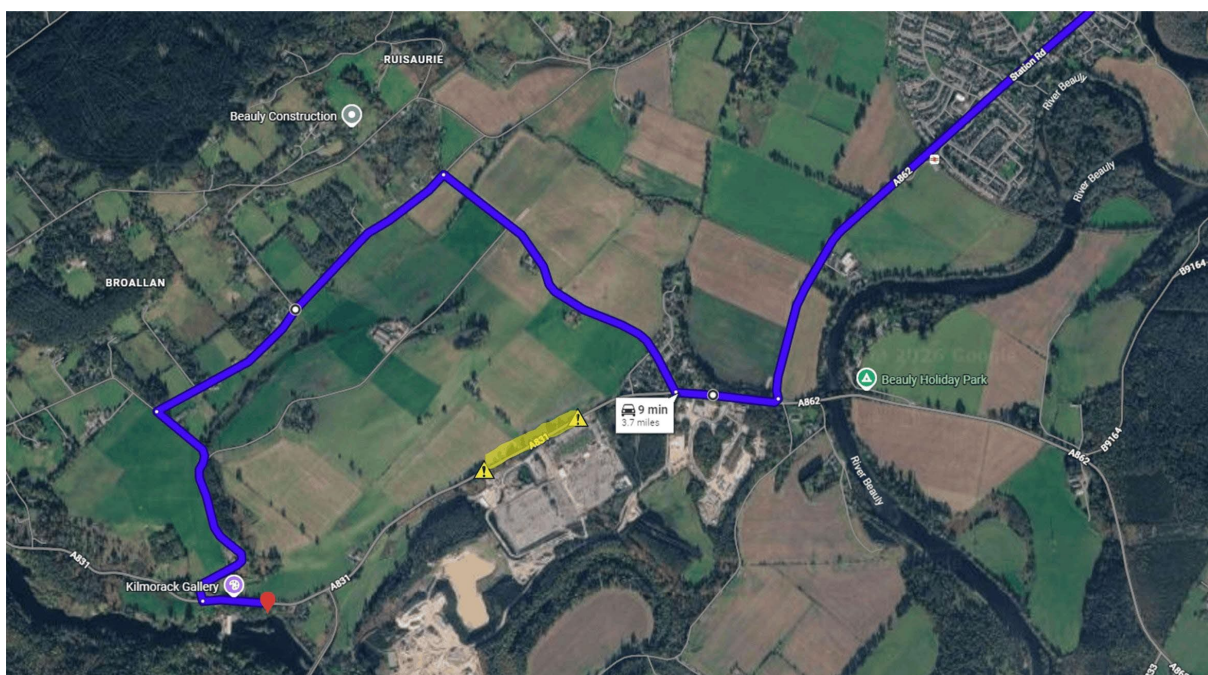
Diversion routes

During the closures, a signed diversion route will be in place via the A862 and A833 through Kiltarlity, rejoining the A831 west of the closure.

Signage will be erected in advance to inform road users of the upcoming closures.



Please note, the image above is indicative only and sufficient signage will be placed along all the sections of the designated diversion route, with particular attention given to turning points and junctions where there may be potential for confusion. Additional advance warning signs will also be positioned on roads approaching the A831 to provide road users with adequate notice to allow them to plan accordingly and follow the diversion safely.



An alternative diversion route is also available via the Broallan, turning near Kilmorack Gallery. Road users should note that sections of this route are single track with passing places and may not be suitable for all vehicles.

Bus services and school transport

We recognise the importance of maintaining reliable transport links for local communities and have been working closely with D&E Coaches to minimise disruption during the closure periods.

The Friday school pick up and drop off will be unaffected. On Mondays, an understanding has been reached with the bus operator to maintain the school service, with the quicker alternative route via Broallan being used to minimise disruption and maintain reliable access for pupils and students.

The local public transport schedule remains largely unaffected with only minor delays not exceeding 15 minutes anticipated. Travelers are therefore encouraged to continue using public transport as normal, while allowing a little additional time for their journeys as this will be along the alternative route.

Emergency services access

Access for emergency services will be maintained throughout the closure periods, with arrangements in place to facilitate a rapid response should emergency access across the closed section of the A831 be required.

Separate Planned Temporary Black Bridge closures

The proposed Black Bridge closures planned to start 15 Sept have been postponed and separate communication will be shared with the community on proposed dates in the near future, while discussions are ongoing with The Highland Council Road Authority and key stakeholders.

Please note that these works form part of the Black Bridge project and are being managed separately. They are not connected to the proposed temporary closure of the A831 at Beaully Substation.

The programme of works is currently being developed to ensure that the Black Bridge closures and the proposed temporary A831 closures do not take place at the same time.

We are sharing this information to help road users understand the wider programme of planned activity in the area and to minimise disruption wherever possible. For updates about the Black Bridge project please go to [New Fanellan 400kV substation and Converter Station - SSEN Transmission](#)

Keeping the community informed

We recognise that these works may cause some disruption for local communities, businesses and road users. We will make every effort to carry out the works safely and efficiently, with the aim of completing activities as quickly as possible and minimising disruption wherever we can. Any significant changes to the programme or traffic management arrangements will be published on the project webpage and communicated directly to affected stakeholders where appropriate.

If you have any questions, or if there are local considerations that you feel we should be aware of, please contact us using the details below.

We would like to thank local communities, businesses and road users for their patience, understanding and cooperation while these essential works are being carried out.