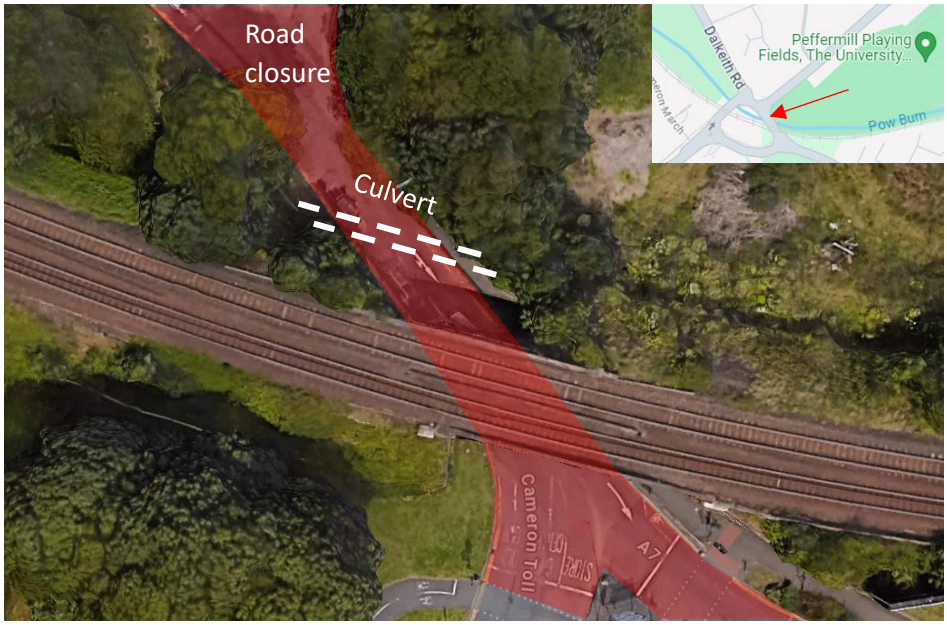
Collapsed culvert at Cameron Toll

Update 19 March 2024

Background (repeat from 23rd February update)



Culvert location

On 13 February during an unrelated inspection of the rail bridge, a partially collapsed culvert was identified below the road near Cameron Toll Railway Bridge and this has required closure of the roundabout between the Peffermill Road and Old Dalkeith Road arms of the roundabout.

The culvert carries the Pow Burn below this part of the roundabout and spans 3.6m. Most of the culvert is masonry and believed to be more than 200 years old, but under the footpath and central roundabout verge are concrete sections which were constructed more recently.

Exploratory works were immediately undertaken on the day of the collapse to expose and inspect the remaining structure. Due to the condition of the remaining length of masonry culvert, localised repairs would not be economical, and likely result in further regular disruption.

A decision has therefore been made to replace the masonry section of culvert, a 10m long section running approximately between kerb lines.

Progress to date

Since the previous update on 23rd February, Story Contracting commenced works on site on 4th March as scheduled. A site compound was set up, and protection to the utility services passing through the culvert was installed.

Overpumping equipment was installed to pump the Pow Burn through a pipe to allow dry working conditions within the culvert. Much of the existing culvert has been removed and the

precast concrete units, together with the reinforcing steel has been ordered to form the in-situ concrete sections in the coming weeks.

Site compound setup


Overpumping equipment

The footpath adjacent to the site is now closed to facilitate the works, and pedestrians should use the crossings situated around the roundabout to navigate around the site. Unfortunately due to the site extent, and the plant and equipment operating, for the safety of the public and the operatives, it is not feasible to facilitate a pedestrian or cycling route through the works.

Road resurfacing

Whilst the roundabout is partially closed, the Council has also taken the opportunity to improve drainage and resurface roads in the area. To date the westbound lane in Peffermill Road has been resurfaced. Resurfacing works on the roundabout will commence on 2nd April for approximately 3-4 weeks. This will tie in with the school holidays to help reduce any disruption. Drainage works to repair/replace gullies has also commenced and will continue into April.

Bus gate on Prestonfield Avenue

Unless explicitly signed otherwise, the bus gate on Prestonfield Avenue is not accessible to vehicles, and drivers should follow the clearly signed diversion routes via The Wisp and Craigmillar Castle Road. We acknowledge the inconvenience this creates for drivers but Prestonfield Avenue is not a suitable road for an extended diversion route and therefore we are seeking to minimise its use.

The exception to this will be when roundabout resurfacing starting on 2nd April will require this to be used as a short-term diversion for approximately 3-4 weeks.

Next steps

Culvert replacement works will continue as previously planned (completed items marked in green and ongoing items in orange):

1. ~~Installing over pumping equipment to divert and pump the watercourse over the road, to create dry working conditions.~~
2. Removal of the remaining masonry culvert.
3. Preparation for installation of the precast units, then installing these (weighing over 6 tonnes each) using a crane.
4. Creating the in-situ concrete sections by installing formwork, reinforcing steel bars, and pouring concrete, in multiple stages to work around the services. This is one of

the smallest parts of the job, but one of the most time consuming due to the concrete curing periods.

5. Backfill, reinstatement and resurfacing, in advance of re-opening of the road.

Road resurfacing works will progress in parallel.

Re-opening

The works are progressing to schedule, resulting in the road due to be re-opened by **Friday 10 May**. The team will endeavour to improve on this date due to the recognised importance of this route, however it is vital that a well-engineered solution is constructed safely.