

## OP4 Progress Report to 20 March, 2019

Very little physical work has been carried out on OP4 during the winter months, while the infrastructure team has been engaged on work on the running line.

However, the time has not been wasted. The last few months have been focused on planning the work for the forthcoming year and the finalisation of some outstanding detailed design. With the completion of the work on the running line, the team has now restarted work on the carriage shed.

The response to the 'Wall-to-Wall' appeal last autumn was fantastic. Thank you to all who contributed. The main focus for the appeal was to complete the wall cladding all around the east/north side of the shed, as well as the Heritage Skills Centre (HSC). However, because of the generosity of our donors, we also will be able to complete the cladding on the western (railway) side of the maintenance road as well as the southern face.

Before the cladding can be erected, there is a lot of preparatory work required, principally the completion of the dwarf wall all around the shed and HSC, the ground floor of the HSC, and the construction of the ramp at the north end of the shed. The contract for the cladding is being prepared with the intention of starting work during April.

The ground floor slab of the HSC is a significant piece of work, for which we are currently finalising the detailed design: structural calculations, thermal insulation, and damp-proofing. We are looking at the most economical way of laying the floor, using either in-house resources or contractor.

The trackwork in the yard is substantially complete, the remaining items being the relaying of the connection to the running line (programmed for mid-May to mid-June); final connections to roads H and J; and road J inside the shed. These latter items will be completed later in the year, once the rear wall between the HSC and the shed is in place.

Inevitably the best laid plans are subject to change, but with a fair wind behind us, I am confident that all four roads will be available for use by September later this year.



*The photo shows the beginnings of the dwarf wall on the western side of the maintenance road.*

**By Barry Luck, OP4 Project Manager (Infrastructure)**