

Blackford Rail Freight Facility



Highland Spring Group - Company Background

- **Company established in 1979**
- **Remains a privately owned company**
- **UK bottled water market has grown from 30 million litres in 1980 to over 3 billion litres today**
- **The Highland Spring Group (HSG) has 4 production sites across the UK and employs over 500 staff members**
- **HSG is the UK's leading producer of natural-source bottled water, producing almost 1 litre of every 5 litres of bottled water consumed in the UK.**



Her Majesty the Queen opening our new bottling hall in 2017

Corporate Social Responsibility

- We only extract 3% of total rainfall from the Ochils Hills
- Land accredited organic status by Soil Association in 2001
- Implemented numerous energy saving initiatives
- Blow plastic bottles on site which reduces additional road miles
- Reduced the weight of our Brand bottles by 10% between 2015 and 2017
- Our packaging is already 100% recyclable however, in 2018 HSG trialled our Eco Bottle which is also made from 100% recycled PET
- Named UK's leading ethical bottled water brand for 10 years running

Successful Use of Rail to Date

- Geographically, sales are split 75% South and 25% North
- Product currently moved by JG Russell's by road from our Fells and Ochils sites to Coatbridge
- In 2012, target set with one customer for 90% of product to be moved by rail by 2020
- By 2016 we moved 144m litres (88%) of customers product by rail
 - Removed 6,150 truck movements
 - 2m miles moved by rail
 - 1,535 tonnes CO₂ saved
- JG Russell - 99.4% delivery performance on Southbound rail transportation

Decision to Invest in Rail

- Blackford site within close proximity to main running line
- Ambition to be rail linked door to door to further reduce our carbon footprint
- Strategic partnership with JG Russell has made this project possible
- Freight facility enables HSG to transport goods in an environmentally sustainable way and remove approximately 40% of HGV movements from the village
- Committed to being a good neighbour

Project Progress

- Successful trial in 2012 to prove the existing rail siding at Blackford could be further developed to allow us to move product by rail
- Planning permission granted March 2016 and revised September 2018
- Offer in principle for grant funding from Transport Scotland
- Entered the GRIP process in February 2017
- Currently at GRIP 5 (Detailed Design)

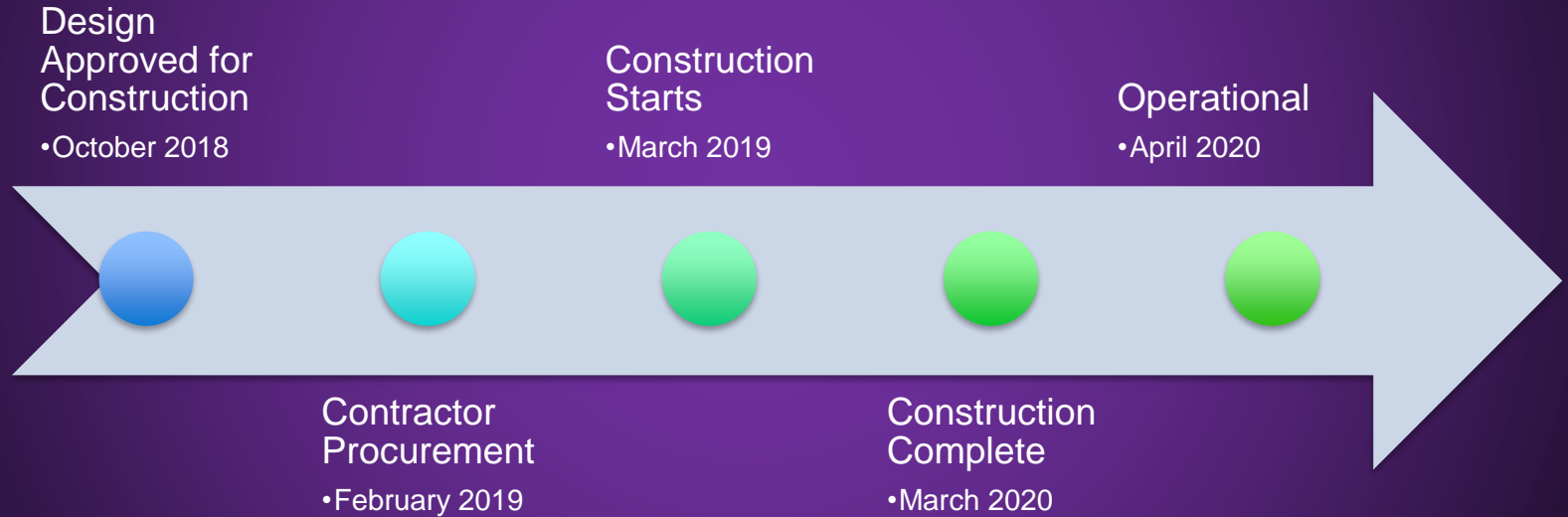
Blackford Freight Facility

- Freight facility will be operated by JG Russell
- Operating hours 07:00 to 22:00 on week days and 08:00 to 17:00 on Saturday
- Each train will consist of 22 containers
- Storage capabilities for containers which will be loaded and unloaded by an RTG crane
- Facility sensitively designed to minimise the noise and visual impact on the community
 - Fully electric crane
 - Acoustic barrier
 - No audible alarms
 - Carefully selected lighting

Network Rail GRIP Process

- Network Rail very supportive to date
- Scottish Government target to increase rail freight by 7.5% by the end of CP6
- Highly experienced project team
- Focus on safety
- Make sure “build it right 1st time”
- Commitment to successful outcome

Project Timeline



Environmental Benefits

- Project Benefits – Year 1
 - 40% of production at our Ochils site will move to rail
 - 8,000 truck movements removed from the road
 - 2.9m road miles switched to rail
 - 3,200 tonnes CO₂ saved which is equivalent to taking 627 cars off the road for a year
- Opportunity to bring raw materials in to the site by rail further reducing our carbon footprint