



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release**

HELIX PROJECT CELEBRATES AWARD OF FIRST MAJOR CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

The Helix project has taken an exciting leap forward with the award of its first major construction contract.

Raynesway Construction has been appointed to build a new access road into the Helix site. The Helix is a £43 million development which will transform 300 hectares of land between Falkirk and Grangemouth into a high quality parkland featuring the following elements:

- the Kelpies® - two Landmark sculptures in the shape of horse's heads
- a central park with a plaza linking to a lagoon and events space
- pathways and cycle networks
- a blend of new and existing woodland areas
- a canal extension connecting the Firth of Forth and the River Carron with the Forth & Clyde Canal, alleviating some of the navigational issues on the River Carron
- new community allotments

Helix project manager Mike King said: "We are delighted to be working with Raynesway Construction on this vital contract, which is a significant milestone for the Helix. The road will allow other important areas of the Helix to be constructed, such as the central park and canal hub elements. It will also act as the main access road for the many visitors expected to visit the completed Helix site every year."

Work on the road will get under way in January 2011 and will take 24 weeks to complete.

The new road will enter the Helix from the existing Etna roundabout spur off the A9 in Falkirk. It will run adjacent to an existing seasonal wetland area and the Forth & Clyde Canal before finishing up at canal Lock 3 and the gateway to the new canal hub.

Raynesway's contract also includes the provision of parking facilities adjacent to the Etna roundabout entrance.

Stephen Scott, Managing Director of Raynesway Construction, said: “As Civil Engineering contractor for the Helix project, it will be a pleasure to work with the Helix and their partners on such a high profile and important project in the area which we trust will be a welcome boost for the local community.”

Notes to Editors

1) **The Helix**

The Helix is being driven by a partnership of Falkirk Council, British Waterways Scotland and Central Scotland Forest Trust through the Helix Trust.

The project has been awarded a £25 million grant from the Big Lottery Fund as part of its Living Landmarks Programme, while significant funding and land has also been committed by Falkirk Council and British Waterways Scotland.

For more details about the Helix, visit www.thehelix.co.uk

2) **Raynesway Construction**

Raynesway Construction is an operating unit within the Northern Division of Balfour Beatty Regional Civil Engineering. It specialises in carrying out small civil engineering projects in Central Scotland. The company has its head office in Paisley and currently employs over 115 staff.

More info: www.rayneswayconstruction.co.uk

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The Helix Trust is a company limited by guarantee and is a charity registered in Scotland, number SC040959

