



National Coring Programme of Road Reinstatements 2022/23

NATIONAL CORING PROGRAMME

Roads Authorities across Scotland have completed a programme of coring reinstatements undertaken by the Statutory Undertakers following their works on the road network. This was to determine if the reinstatement of the bituminous layers had been undertaken to the required specification. This was the eleventh National Coring Programme and the cores were taken on reinstatements carried out between 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2021.

The report was published on the Scottish Road Works Commissioner's website on 30/10/2023.

[National Coring Report 2022-23 Programme | Scottish Road Works Commissioner](#)

Following years of improvement in the quality of reinstatements, this last coring programme has again noted a further increase in standards. A total of 1764 cores were taken and 180 failed to comply with the specification. This equates to a pass rate of 90%, which is an increase of 2% since the previous 2019/2020 programme.

Whilst this improvement is welcomed, RAUC(S) recognises that room remains for further improvement. Efforts will be focused on this going forward.

ENDS

Notes:

Utility companies have statutory powers to place and maintain their apparatus in the public road but must comply with legislation, codes of practice and co-operate with roads authorities to minimise the disruption and damage caused by their road works.

The Roads Authorities and Utilities Committee Scotland (RAUC(S)) is a body set up to co-ordinate issues arising from this throughout Scotland. It has joint chairs representing the roads authorities and utility companies as follows:

Roads Authorities co-chair – Philip McKay (Aberdeenshire Council)
Philip.mckay@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Utilities co-chair – Fiona McInnes (Scottish Water)
Fiona.mcinnis@scottishwater.co.uk

When roads are excavated by utility companies, they must be reinstated in accordance with a national specification issued by the Scottish Government.

This can be viewed at:

[Specification for the Reinstatement of Openings in Roads | Scottish Road Works Commissioner](#)

The coring programme involves taking cores from a representative sample of recent reinstatements and checking to ensure they comply with this specification. At the time of testing, the reinstatements are not showing any outward signs of failure, but those that do not meet the specification are considered to be more likely to give rise to problems in the future. Road works in Scotland are monitored by the Scottish Road Works Commissioner who has a duty to promote good practice and the power to impose penalties on organisations who are not complying with their duties.