Giant Poppies alert!

Giant red poppies have been painted on the famous grass pyramids at Junction 3a on the M8 motorway to celebrate the 2012 Scottish Poppy Appeal.

A team of ground staff from the Scottish Rugby stadium, Murrayfield, have painted three poppies, each measuring 10m x 10m, on the front of three of the seven pyramids near Bathgate, owned by the nearby Pyramids Business Park. The stunning red emblems will be visible for the next few weeks to raise awareness of the Appeal, run by veterans' charity Poppyscotland.

Following the success of the initiative in 2011, Poppyscotland decided to display the poppies again this year in order to enable as many people as possible to see the iconic emblem during its key fundraising period.

Ian McGregor, Chief Executive of Poppyscotland, said: "When we introduced the poppies on the pyramids last year we received a tremendous response. Having poppies in such a prominent position on Scotland's busiest motorway meant that thousands of drivers saw them every day. It was so successful that we decided to do it again in 2012. Importantly, it raises awareness and support for the Scottish Poppy Appeal, which brings in vital funds to enable us to provide essential support to Scotland's Armed Forces community."

A Scottish Rugby spokesman added: "Our ground staff are very experienced and they were up for the challenge of painting on to a surface slightly steeper than the pitch at Murrayfield! We were delighted to get involved in this initiative to support Poppyscotland and raise awareness of the 2012 Scottish Poppy Appeal in a way that will create a stunning visual impact."

Poppyscotland uses money raised from the Scottish Poppy Appeal to provide year-round support to veterans and their families in Scotland, who may find it hard to make the adjustment from military to civilian life, struggling with issues such as finances, housing and employment.

The paint and machinery to apply the poppy design to the pyramids has been provided at a discounted cost by Linemark UK.