

Welsh Government

**A40 Llanddewi Velfrey to Penblewin
Improvements**

Environmental Statement Chapter 1:

Introduction

A40LVP-RML-EGN-SWI-RP-LE-0001

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08/07/19

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1 Introduction

1.1 The Scheme

- 1.1.1 This document is Volume 1 of the Environmental Statement (ES) for the A40 Llanddewi Velfrey to Penblewin Improvement (referred to in this document as ‘the Scheme’). The ES reports the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. The Scheme consists of:
- a) A northern bypass for the village of Llanddewi Velfrey from Bethel Chapel to Ffynnon.
 - b) Online improvements to the A40 from the settlement of Ffynnon westwards to Penblewin Roundabout.
- 1.1.2 In accordance with Regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 and Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, an Assessment of Implications on European Sites (AIES) has also been prepared to consider the possible effects of the Scheme on European sites. The findings of the AIES are reported separately. ES Chapter 8 Ecology and Nature Conservation also addresses ecological and nature conservation aspects of the Scheme.
- 1.1.3 The existing A40 Trunk Road runs between London and Goodwick and is officially known as the London to Fishguard Trunk Road. The A40 crosses the River Severn at Gloucester and the River Wye at Ross-on-Wye and then passes through Brecon, Abergavenny, Carmarthen and Haverfordwest terminating on the harbour in Fishguard Bay. The Scheme includes a proposed improved section of Trunk Road over a total length of 4.3km between Llanddewi Velfrey and Penblewin Roundabout.
- 1.1.4 The redundant sections of existing A40 road would be reclassified and cease to be a trunk road, reverting to the local authority.
- 1.1.5 The location of the Scheme is shown on Figure 1.1 in Volume 2. Further details of the Scheme are provided in Chapters 2 and 3 of this ES.

1.2 Purpose of the Environmental Statement (ES)

1.2.1 EIA is a means of identifying and collating information to inform an assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of a project. The findings of the EIA process are reported in an ES in order to ensure that, when deciding whether to grant consent for a project, the decision-maker has access to information regarding the likely significant effects on the environment. This allows these effects to be considered in the decision-making process. The requirement to prepare an ES is set out in law.

The EIA Directive

1.2.2 Amendments made to the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU by Directive 2014/52/EU, require several significant changes to the EIA regime in Wales. The legislative framework for EIA is set by European Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU (collectively referred to as the EIA Directive). The current Directive requires EIA to be undertaken in support of an application for development consent for certain types of schemes.

1.2.3 In accordance with Regulation 61 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, an Assessment of Implication of European Sites (AIES) has also been carried out to consider the possible effects of the Scheme on European sites. The findings of the AIES are reported within a Statement to Inform an Appropriate Assessment.

The EIA Regulations

1.2.4 For highways schemes, the requirements of the EIA Directive are currently transposed by the Highways Act 1980, as amended by The Highways (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations 1999 and The Highways (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007 and more recently by the Environmental Impact Assessment (Miscellaneous Amendments Relating to Harbours, Highways and Transport) Regulations 2017. The latter came into effect on 5 December 2017.

Requirement for EIA

1.2.5 The proposed 4.3km long A40 Llanddewi Velfrey to Penblewin Improvements requires an EIA because the Scheme is of sufficient size

to be a ‘relevant project’ as defined in Annex II, ‘*a project for constructing or improving a highway where the area of the completed works together with any area occupied during the period of construction or improvement by requisite apparatus, equipment, machinery, materials, plant, spoil heaps or other such facilities exceeds 1 hectare or where any such area is situated in whole or in part in a sensitive area.*’ The Scheme will require over 27 hectares of land and therefore exceeds the minimum threshold to become a ‘relevant project’.

- 1.2.6 Guidance in relation to the procedure for determining whether or not an EIA is required for highways schemes is set out in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) Volume 11, Section 2, Part 3 (HD 47/08) (Highways Agency et al., 2008) and Interim Advice Note (IAN) 126/09(W) (Welsh Assembly Government, 2011). This requires that a ‘determination’ process is followed for certain highways schemes. The determination process (Screening) for this EIA is set out in Chapter 4 Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology, Section 3 and the full Screening Report and Record of Determination are included in Volume 3 Appendix 4.3.

1.3 Scope and content of the ES

- 1.3.1 Although there is no statutory provision as to the form of an ES, Section 105A of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, requires that the ES must contain the information referred to in Annex IV of the EIA Directive. That information must include at least:
- c) a description of the project (comprising information on the site, design and size of the project);
 - d) a description of the measures envisaged in order to avoid, reduce, and, if possible, remedy significant adverse effects;
 - e) the data required to identify and assess the main effects which the project is likely to have on the environment;
 - f) an outline of the main alternatives studied by the Secretary of State and an indication of the main reasons for their choice (taking into account the environmental effects);
 - g) a non-technical summary of the information mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (d).’ (Highways Act 1980, as amended, Section 105A)
- 1.3.2 This ES provides the information set out above, together with other relevant information listed in the EIA Directive. The information

supplied within this ES is considered to provide a clear understanding of the main or likely significant effects of the Scheme on the environment. Further detail regarding the scope of the ES in relation to legislative requirements is provided in ES Chapter 4 Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology. The Scoping Report is included in Volume 3 Appendix 4.1.

Structure of the ES

1.3.3 The ES has been structured in order to allow relevant environmental information to be easily accessible. This volume of the ES (Volume 1) includes the main text of the ES.

Chapter 2: description of the Scheme and information relating to construction of the Scheme

Chapter 3: information relating to the main alternatives considered during the evolution of the Scheme and the reasons for the choices made.

Chapter 4: outlines the approach and methodology adopted during the EIA process.

Chapter 5: legislative and policy context

1.3.4 The ES Volume 1 environmental assessment topic chapters that follow Chapter 5 are listed in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1 Structure of this ES

Chapter	Topic title
2	The Project
3	Alternatives Considered
4	Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology
5	Legislation and Policy Context
6	Geology and Soils
7	Road Drainage and the Water Environment
8	Ecology and Nature Conservation
9	Landscape and Visual Effects
10	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage
11	Community and Private Assets (excluding agriculture)
12	Community and Private Assets: Agriculture
13	Air Quality
14	Noise and Vibration
15	All Travellers
16	Materials
17	Population and Human Health
18	Climate Change
19	Assessment of Cumulative Effects: Introduction
20	Assessment of Cumulative Effects: Same scheme effects
21	Assessment of Cumulative Effects: different scheme effects
22	Management of Environmental Effects
23	Conclusions

- 1.3.5 Figures and appendices to accompany the text of the ES are provided separately in Volumes 2 and 3. Volume 3 includes specialist reports providing relevant background and technical information.
- 1.3.6 A Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the ES, using non-technical terminology, is available as a separate bilingual document.
- 1.3.7 A habitats regulations assessment has been undertaken for the project due to the proximity of European designated sites and the presence of European Protected Species. Following a screening assessment a full Assessment of the Impacts on European Sites (AIES) has been completed. The completed assessment is include in appendix 1.1

The Assessment Team

- 1.3.8 The Welsh Government (as the Overseeing Organisation) awarded a Professional Services Contract for the Scheme development and environmental surveys, including publication of the ES and up to any Public Local Inquiry. The contract was awarded to Carillion plc, supported by Arup and Richards Moorehead & Laing Ltd (RML). In January 2018, Carillion went into liquidation and so Welsh Government awarded a contract to Arup supported by RML to complete the contract for preparation of draft Orders and the statutory process (Key Stages 3 and 4).
- 1.3.9 The EIA process was managed by Arup and RML, taking into account information and assessments provided by the Welsh Government and the design team. Individual chapters were prepared by authors from Arup and RML.

1.4 Publication of the ES

- 1.4.1 This ES has been submitted alongside the draft Orders for the Scheme. Statutory Orders are prepared by Welsh Ministers and published in draft. The draft Orders for the Scheme include the following.

A draft Line Order to provide for the new section of trunk road and the reclassification of the existing A40 (detrunking).

A draft Side Roads Order to deal with local highway issues (including roads, footpaths, bridleways, byways and cycleways) and private access issues. Side Roads Orders can relate to closure, diversion, improvement or new provision.

A draft Compulsory Purchase Order, which provides for the acquisition of the land and rights required.

How to view or obtain copies of the documents

- 1.4.2 Copies of the draft Orders, the ES and supporting information are available to view during normal office hours at the following locations:
- Welsh Government office** of the Orders Branch, Transport, Department of Economy Science and Transport, Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ.

Pembrokeshire County Council, County Hall, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1TP

Llanddewi Velfrey Village Hall, Llanddewi Velfrey SA67 7PA;

Preseli Services Petrol Station, Llanddewi Velfrey SA67 7PD

Narberth Library, Kirkland Arms, 34 St. James St, Narberth SA67 7BU; or Narberth Queen's Hall, 44 High Street, Narberth, SA67 7AS

Whitland Town Hall, 1 King Edward Street, Whitland SA34 0AA

- 1.4.3 Further copies of the Non-Technical Summary can be obtained free of charge from the Welsh Government in Cardiff at the following address: Orders Branch Transport Department of Economy, Science and Transport Welsh Government Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NQ.
- 1.4.4 The full ES is available to view and download from the Welsh Government website: <http://www.wales.gov.uk/transport>
- 1.4.5 Electronic copies of the ES (on DVD) can be purchased from the above Welsh Government address at a cost of £20 (including postage and packaging).
- 1.4.6 Paper copies of the ES are also available from the above address, although an administrative charge will be made to cover the cost of copying (price on application).

1.5 Next Steps

- 1.5.1 Following publication of the draft Orders, there will be an opportunity to support, comment or object to the draft Orders, put forward alternative proposals, or comment on the ES by writing to the Welsh Government at the address below:
- Orders Branch,
Transport Department of Economy, Science and Transport,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff CF10 3NQ.
- 1.5.2 All such correspondence should be sent to arrive at the Welsh Government no later than Friday 20th September 2019.
- 1.5.3 Welsh Government will consider all of the responses to the draft Orders and then decide whether to hold a Public Local Inquiry. Such Inquiries

are held before an independent Inspector who would hear and consider the evidence both for and against the published Scheme and subsequently report the findings and recommendations to the responsible Welsh Ministers. The Welsh Ministers would consider all issues before deciding whether to proceed with the Scheme and, if so, make the Orders with or without modification.

1.5.4 Subject to the above process, the key dates for progressing the Scheme are set out in Figure 1.2. Note that Key Stage 5 is an internal Welsh Government procedure.

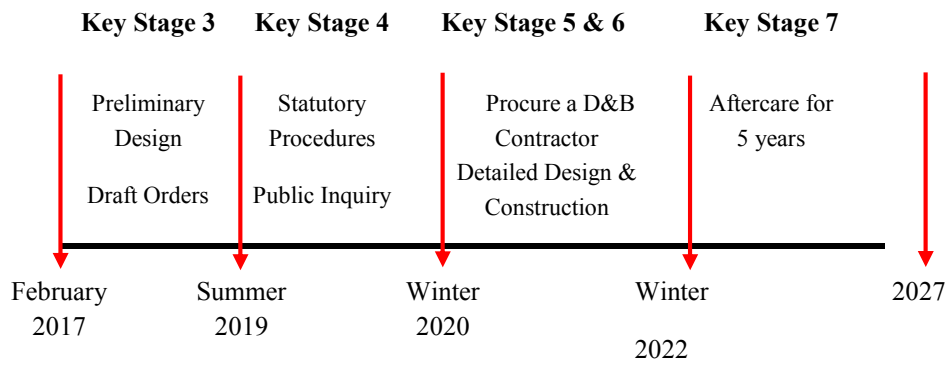


Figure 1.2 Project timeline

1.6 Abbreviations within the Environmental Statement

1.6.1 Below is a table of the abbreviation used within this Environmental Statement

Table 1.2 Abbreviations used in the Environmental Statement

Abbreviation	Full term
AIES	Assessment of Implications on European Sites
ALC	Agricultural Land Classification
ASSI	Area of Special Scientific Interest
AQMA	Air Quality Management Areas
BAI	Bat Activity Index
BMV	Best and Most Versatile
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
CCC	Carmarthenshire County Council
CCR	Climate Change Resilience
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CPO	Compulsory Purchase Act
CRoW	Countryside Rights of Way
CRTN	Calculation of Road Traffic Noise
D&B	Design and Build
DAT	Dyfed Archaeological Trust
DCfW	Design Commission for Wales
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DMRB	Design Manual for Roads and Bridges
DTM	Digital Terrain Model
DWI	Drinking Water Inspectorate
EAR	Environmental Appraisal Report
ECAT	Environmental Co-ordination and Advice Team
ECoW	Environmental Clerk of Works
ECO	Environmental Co-ordinator
EFA	Environmental Function A from DMRB vol10
EFB	Environmental Function B from DMRB vol10
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMP	Environmental Master Plans
EMS	Environmental Management Systems

Abbreviation	Full term
EPS	European Protected Species
EQS	Environmental Quality Standards
ES	Environmental Statement
ESCR	Earth Science Conservation Review
GWDD	Groundwater Daughter Directive
GCR	Geological Conservation Review
GHG	Green House Gas
GLVIA	Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
HAWRAT	Highways Agency Water Risk Assessment Tool
HEDPR	Handover Environmental Design Performance Report
HIA	Health Impact Assessment
HV	High Voltage
I&TP	Inspection & Test Plan
IAN	Interim Advice Note
ICCI	In-combination Climate Change Impact assessment.
IROPI	Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest
ITS	Intelligent Transport Systems
JNCC	The Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LB	Listed Buildings
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LDP	Local Development Plan
LED	Light Emitting Diodes
LLFA	Local Lead Flood Authority
LV	Low Voltage
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
MEMP	Maintenance Environmental Management Plan
NAPPA	Noise Action Plan Priority Areas
NCR	Non-Conformance Reporting
NDF	National Development Framework
NERC	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
NGR	National Grid References
NMU	Non-Motorised Users
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
NTS	Non-Technical Summary
OS	Ordnance Survey
PCC	Pembrokeshire County Council

Abbreviation	Full term
PCNP	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park
PCO	Pollution Control Officer
PIE	Public Information Exhibition
PLO	Public Liaison Officer
PMA	Private Means of Access
PMAs	Permanent Alternative Access Arrangements
PNTP	Prioritised National Transport Plan
PPW10	Planning Policy Wales Edition 10
PRoWS	Public Rights of Way
QA	Quiet Areas
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
REAC	Register of Environmental Commitments and Actions
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SAC	Special Areas of Conservation
SAM	Scheduled Ancient Monuments
SIA	Social Impact Assessment
SIAA	Statement to Inform an Appropriate Assessment
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SWTRA	South Wales Trunk Road Agency
TAN	Planning Guidance (Wales) Technical Advice Note
TREBAP	Trunk Road Estate Biodiversity Action Plan
UKAS	United Kingdom Accreditation Service
WCA	Wildlife and Countryside Act
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WeITAG	Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance
WHO	World Health Organisation
WIIP	Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan
WSP	Wales Spatial Plan
ZoI	Zone of Influence
ZVT	Zone of Theoretical Visibility