



Dear Sir

Our Ref: qA1420023
Date: 23 July 2021

THE CHESTER TO BANGOR TRUNK ROAD (A55) (JUNCTIONS 16 AND 16A IMPROVEMENT REALIGNMENT AND SLIP ROADS) ORDER 202-

THE CHESTER TO BANGOR TRUNK ROAD (A55) (JUNCTIONS 16 AND 16A IMPROVEMENT REALIGNMENT AND SLIP ROADS) (SIDE ROADS) ORDER 202-

(Ref A55J15J16-2021-057E-R)

I refer to your letter making a representation to the above Draft Orders dated 4 May 2021 on behalf of Cycling UK. Please note that your response has been registered as an Objection to the above Draft Orders and you should since have received a Welsh Government letter dated 25 May 2021 confirming that a Public Local Inquiry is to be held.

I note your comments made commending the efforts of the project team to engage with yourselves in the preparation of the current proposals, including the improvements to the National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 5, shared paths along the local roads which will run parallel with the A55 and across the A55 overbridges at The Puffin Café and at Junction 16A.

I also note your belief that the users of share paths alongside district distributor roads should have priority at junctions with side roads and private means of access, in accordance with the Welsh Government's Active Travel Guidance. The detailed design of the interaction with property entrances and side roads and will be undertaken in accordance with design guidance and in consultation with Conwy County Borough Council, Sustrans Cymru, Cycling UK and property owners.

In your representation you made reference to Section 9 of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013, which requires Welsh Ministers and each local authority, in so far as it is practicable, to take reasonable steps to enhance the provision for walkers and cyclists when exercising their powers under the Highways Act 1980. The need of all users has been considered in the development of the scheme including pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians and those with visual impairments and mobility issues.

You asked to confirm whether improvements will be made to the NCN Route 5 where it runs parallel to the A55 dual carriageway between the bridge over the railway to the west of J16 and Penmaenbach to the east of Junction 16A. The Welsh Government has undertaken to improve the NCN Route 5 between Penmaenmawr Beach Front and the Penmaenbach headland by widening the current path to generally 3 metres width, excepting several short lengths where existing constraints prevent this. Examples would

include at the railway bridge headwall where the path will be widened but the full 3 metres width cannot be achieved and at positions of existing A55 communications infrastructure.

I note your concerns regarding substandard infrastructure for cyclists, including inadequate path width, excessive gradients and/or clearances adjacent to carriageways and/or vertical features. The scheme has been designed in accordance with appropriate guidance and in consultation with Conwy County Borough Council, Sustrans Cymru and Cycling UK. The Detailed Designer will be required to fully detail the scheme in accordance with the Welsh Government's Active Travel Design Guidance and follow the Departure from Standard process, should Ministers deem that the scheme proceeds to construction. A departure may be required on the upgrading of the NCN Route 5 between the existing roundabout and the railway bridge, where the width of the route cannot be fully widened to 3 metres throughout. It is understood that Cycling UK and Sustrans Cymru would be consulted during the detailed design and construction process.

I hope that I have satisfactorily addressed the points you have raised.

Please note that you can find more details about the scheme in the Online Exhibition which is now live, including flythroughs, and can be found on the Welsh Government A55 Junction 14/15 & 16/16A Engagement website at the following link: <https://a55engagement.gov.wales/exhibition.html>.

Should you require clarification, or wish to discuss the matters prior to responding, please contact Rob Griffiths of Ramboll as follows: Tel: 07918 720458 / Email: Robert.Griffiths@ramboll.co.uk.

Yours faithfully,

James Healey. B.Eng. C.Eng. MHKIE. MICE.

Project Engineer – A55 Junctions 15/16 Improvement Scheme

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