

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

STATEMENT OF REASONS

1. INTRODUCTION

The Welsh Ministers, as the relevant highway authority, are responsible for all trunk roads in Wales. The A55 Trunk Road, also known as the Chester to Bangor Trunk Road, is a strategic route along the North Wales Coast.

The proposed scheme will remove the existing roundabout at A55 Junction 16 and replace it with a grade-separated junction with an overbridge and slip roads at Junction 16A. A new link road connection between Junction 16 and Junction 16A is proposed where the Junction 16 westbound slip roads would be retained. To accommodate these improvements, the total length of realigned trunk road (including slip roads and the overbridge) would be approximately 3070 metres, with 1540 metres of two way link road.

Additionally, approximately 480 metres of side roads will be affected. The improvements along Glan-Yr-Afon Road would include a route avoiding the replacement cattle grid on to the signalised crossing at the proposed overbridge onto the National Cycle Network Route 5 (NCNR5), where provision would be made for cyclists and pedestrians. A Signal controlled crossing is to be provided for cyclists/pedestrians at Junction 16A, providing new improved connectivity to the NCNR5, the beach and routes further afield.

There are six new structures within the Scheme, comprising both the east and west slip road retaining walls and associated structures, the Junction 16A overbridge over the A55 dual carriageway, structures to facilitate the new Afon Gyrach Crossing and the footbridge at Dwygyfylchi.

The Scheme will provide over 2 kilometres of active travel improvements, consisting of new off-road cycleways/footways and crossings. These works will extend from Conwy Road in Penmaenmawr to the south of the improved A55 Junction 16 to Glan-Yr-Afon Road in Dwygyfylchi and to the proposed new link road. These enhancements will improve the safety of both pedestrians and cyclists, including those using the NCNR5.

The scheme will also address a number of substandard features of the trunk road in the vicinity of the junctions. The key objective for the scheme is to improve access to regional, national and international markets and employment opportunities; in addition to improving resilience and safety, and reducing delays both to local traffic as well as for people travelling along the A55.

The proposals comprise:

- a. The draft Line Order, already published, to provide for the construction of a new length of trunk road and the construction of slip roads.
- b. The draft Side Roads Order, already published, to stop up lengths of superseded trunk road and to stop up, improve, create or alter other roads, footpaths, cycle routes and private accesses.
- c. The draft Compulsory Purchase Order, now published, to provide for the acquisition of the land and rights required for the construction and maintenance of the scheme.

(Collectively referred to as “the draft Orders”)

An Environmental Statement (ES) has been prepared in association with the above draft Orders and is available for inspection at the deposit locations listed in Section 10. This scheme is subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in accordance with Section 105A of the Highways Act 1980, Directive 2014/52/EU of 2014 (which amended the 2011 Directive) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (Miscellaneous Amendments relating to Harbours, Highways and Transport) Regulations 2017.

In accordance with Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), a Statement to Inform an Appropriate Assessment (SIAA) has been prepared on the possible impacts associated with the scheme on the Liverpool Bay SPA (Special Protected Area) and Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC (Special Area of Conservation).

The ES describes the proposals, identifies the main environmental effects on both the manmade and natural environment and describes the proposed measures to avoid, remedy or reduce impacts and provide environmental enhancement where relevant.

The ES is reported in four parts:

- The Non-Technical Summary
- Volume 1 – Technical Assessment Report
- Volume 2 – Figures
- Volume 3 – Technical Appendices

The Non-Technical Summary (NTS) summarises the ES in non-technical language. Volume 1 is the main technical assessment report, which details the methodologies and results of the EIA. It sets out ways in which identified impacts can be effectively mitigated. Volume 2 is a set of supporting figures which should be read alongside Volume 1. Volume 3 is a set of technical appendices which should also be read alongside Volume 1.

2. BACKGROUND TO THE SCHEME

Extensive work has been carried out considering road safety along the A55 Trunk Road, near to Penmaenmawr, dating back to 2005. Much of this work has focused on assessing options to improve the roundabout at Junction 16, which currently impede the traffic flow. In 2011 a scheme was included in the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) National Transport Plan to improve the A55 Junction 16. A further commitment to improve the junction was made in 2015 in the National Transport Finance Plan.

Options for transport interventions and other associated transport measures were appraised in studies carried out by Capita in 2005, Atkins between 2008 and 2011, and more recently by Ramboll as part of the Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance (WelTAG) Stage 1 study which proposed a short list of options.

The WelTAG assessment process develops, appraises and evaluates any proposed transport intervention. WelTAG 2017 was developed to reflect the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 and Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. WelTAG 2017 ensures that for any proposed road scheme, all the proposed options are measured against how they impact on existing local communities and key stakeholders from the point of view of environmental, social, economic and cultural effects. The assessment also considers how each option contributes to the wellbeing goals and project objectives.

Towards the end of WelTAG Stage 1 study, the long list of options developed during the study was appraised and a short-list of options put forward. It was this short-list that was presented at Public Information Exhibitions in December 2017.

Following these exhibitions, the short list of options was examined in further detail, taking into account feedback received from the public and key stakeholders during these exhibitions. As part of this assessment, the short-list of options was re-assessed against the agreed Project Objectives. Additionally, their short and longer-term impacts in relation to the sustainable development and the social, cultural, environment and economic well-being of Wales and their ability to maximise contribution to the seven well-being goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 were appraised. Factors relating to public and stakeholder acceptability, feasibility, risk and affordability were also assessed. These assessments formed the basis of the short list of five options presented at the public consultation held in the summer of 2018.

Following the public consultation, analysis of the questionnaires and responses showed that there was support for improvements along the A55 Junctions between Junctions 14 and 16A in particular improvements to Junctions 16. To address issues raised during the consultation, further

work was undertaken, including actions to assess the feasibility of minimising the demolishing of residential properties and consultation with members of the community. This resulted in the Preferred Route which was announced on 5th April 2019.

As part of the development of the Preferred Route, a number of design enhancements were considered, including:

- The arrangement of the informal sports pitch and public open spaces adjacent to the Puffin Services.
- A number of non-motorised user mini-schemes to improve active travel routes, including links to the existing Sustrans NCNR5 and Public Rights of Ways.
- The provision for the safety of pedestrians and cyclists crossing the link road and the A55, especially in the vicinity of the Puffin Services and at Junction 16A.
- Widening of Glan-Yr-Afon Road.
- Provision for incident management.

A Sustainable Development Report will also be available.

3. EXISTING CONDITIONS

The problems identified on the trunk road which the scheme seeks to address include:

- Environmental issues including noise and the visual impact associated with the A55. The Welsh Government has identified the section along the A55 near Llanfairfechan and Penmaenmawr as being a priority area for intervention in North-West Wales based on the 2007 noise maps.
- Social issues including those associated with the communities' reliance on the A55 plus the impact of the A55 severing the communities from themselves and the coast.
- Safety – the Junctions and A55 mainline between Junctions 14 and 16A do not comply with current design standards. Based on feedback from public consultation, there is a perception that the roundabouts are dangerous, with members of the public raising concerns about near misses and their fears of using the junctions.
- Delays – the A55 corridor experiences seasonal increases in traffic volume and delays, especially during summer weekends and where peak flows correspond with the ferry.
- Poor Network Resilience – the primary issues identified relate to lack of local and strategic diversion routes, during incidents or planned works, and the operational requirements for tunnel maintenance.
- Sustainable Travel – Public consultation has identified that there is a perception that there is a lack of competitive sustainable travel options, poor coastal access for non-motorised users and concerns with respect to the safety of cyclists.

4. POLICY CONTEXT

A review of the legislative and policy context for the scheme from an environmental perspective is reported in Chapter 5 of the ES. Policies that are specific to the assessment topics are further set out and taken into account in the ES assessment topic chapters (Volume 1, Chapter 7 to 16).

In summary, whilst a wide range of legislation and policy documents have been taken into account as part of scheme development work, the main legislation and policy documents taken into account in the ES include:

- 1) Environment (Wales) Act 2016;
- 2) Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016;
- 3) Planning (Wales) Act 2015;
- 4) Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015;
- 5) Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013;
- 6) Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017;
- 7) Climate Change Act 2008;
- 8) Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006;
- 9) Human Rights Act 1998;
- 10) Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended);

- 11) Highways Act 1980;
- 12) Prosperity for All – The National Strategy 2017;
- 13) Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales 2019;
- 14) Taking Wales Forward 2016;
- 15) National Transport Plan for Wales 2010 and its Finance Plan 2015, 2017, 2018;
- 16) Green Corridors on the Welsh Government Trunk Road and Motorway Network 2018 and Trunk Road Estate Biodiversity Action Plan 2004;
- 17) Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan 2012;
- 18) Economic Renewal, A New Direction 2010;
- 19) Prosperity for All: Economic Action Plan 2017;
- 20) One Wales: One Planet 2009;
- 21) One Wales: Connecting the Nation – The Wales Transport Strategy 2008;
- 22) Trunk Road Forward Programme 2002, 2004 and 2008;
- 23) Environment Strategy for Wales 2006;
- 24) Wales – A Vibrant Economy November 2005;
- 25) The Wales Spatial Plan 2008 Update;
- 26) Planning Policy Wales Edition 10 2018;
- 27) Technical Advice Note 18: Transport 2007;
- 28) Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment 2017;
- 29) Technical Advice Note 23: Economic Development 2014;
- 30) Technical Advice Note 5: Nature Conservation and Planning 2009;
- 31) Technical Advice Note 15: Development and Flood Risk 2004;
- 32) Technical Advice Note 11: Noise 1997;
- 33) Conwy County Council Local Development Plan;
- 34) Conwy Integrated Network Map.

Below is a description of the main policies from a transport perspective, relevant to the scheme, at both UK and Welsh levels. In addition, the scheme will take into account the latest Welsh Government guidance on Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Well-being of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015

This 2015 Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales with an overarching aim of creating a Wales we all want to live in, now and in the future. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals and places a duty on public bodies in Wales and those listed in the Act to work and improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. To help do this they must set and publish well-being objectives and think more about the long term, work better with people and communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach.

The WelTAG appraisal considers how improvement to the A55 Junction 16 and 16A would contribute towards the well-being goals, objectives and ways of working.

Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013

The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 places a legal requirement on local authorities in Wales to map and plan for suitable routes for active travel, and to build and improve their infrastructure for walking and cycling every year. It creates new duties for highways authorities to consider the needs of walkers and cyclists and make better provision for them. It also requires both the Welsh Government and local authorities to promote walking and cycling as a mode of transport so that local communities rely less on cars when making short journeys.

In the context of road schemes, there is significant opportunity to reconfigure existing infrastructure so that it better meets the needs of existing and new settlements and facilitates active travel. For example, the scheme seeks to provide healthy and active travel options alongside the A55 through the provision of improved, sustainable accessibility between local areas and the coastline.

Climate Change Act 2008

The Act imposes a duty on the Secretary of State to reduce UK wide greenhouse gas emissions in 2050 to a level which is at least 80% below the level of emissions in 1990. It also obliges the Secretary of State to set carbon budgets for successive five-year periods and to prepare

proposals and policies for meeting those carbon budgets. Part 2 of the Act establishes the Committee on Climate Change.

Highway Act 1980

The scheme is being promoted and would be constructed using the powers of the Welsh Ministers as Highway Authority in accordance with the Highways Act 1980. These powers were transferred to the Welsh Ministers by virtue of the National Assembly for Wales (Transfer of Functions) Order 1999 and the Government of Wales Act 2006.

The Welsh Ministers derive statutory authority to construct a new highway or improve an existing highway under sections 24 and 62 of the Highways Act 1980 respectively. All other ancillary powers required to construct the new section of trunk road, stopping up parts of the existing trunk road and stop up, alter, improve and construct highways, public rights of way and private means of access etc would be exercised through the making of statutory orders. The powers relied on by the Welsh Ministers are cited in these statutory orders and are to be published in draft alongside a draft compulsory purchase order which, if made, would enable Welsh Ministers to acquire all land and rights over land necessary for the construction and operation of the proposals.

Prosperity for All – The National Strategy 2017

The Welsh Government's National Strategy outlines its long-term aim to build a Wales that is prosperous and secure, healthy and active, ambitious and learning, and united and connected.

Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales 2019

Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales sets the foundations for Wales to transition to a low carbon nation and works within the context of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 which requires Welsh Government to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in Wales by at least 80% for the year 2050. It also sets a target that the Welsh Government should seek to achieve a carbon neutral public sector by 2030. This plan identifies measures for how Welsh Government plans to meet the first carbon budget (2016-20).

On 29 April 2019, the Welsh Government declared a climate emergency in Wales to draw attention to the magnitude and significance of the latest evidence from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and highlighting the recent climate protests across the UK.

The announcement referred to Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales (published the previous month) and stated that this Plan sets the policies and proposals intended to meet the 2020 carbon emission targets. The statement referred to the Welsh Government's previously set targets in 2017, reaffirming the commitment to achieving a carbon neutral public sector by 2030. The Welsh Government stated that the next plan, which will set measures to meet emissions reduction targets by 2021-26, was being prepared and must go further and faster.

Taking Wales Forward 2016

Taking Wales Forward sets out the government's programme to drive improvement in the Welsh economy and public services, delivering a Wales which is prosperous and secure, healthy and active, ambitious and learning, united and connected.

National Transport Plan for Wales 2010 and its Finance Plan 2010, 2015, 2017, 2018

Published in 2015 by the Welsh Government, the National Transport Finance Plan followed the National Transport Plan 2010 to list the schemes the Welsh Government sought to deliver across the different areas of transport policy for which it is responsible. The 2018 Plan is not a policy document in itself but provides a framework of schemes pursuant to policy aims set out in the Wales Transport Strategy 2008.

A scheme to improve the A55 at Junctions 15 and 16 is detailed in the plan under reference R18. The scheme is described as the Design and Construction of grade separated junctions at Junctions 15 and 16 on the A55. The scheme includes new slip roads and an under bridge at Llanfairfechan and a new over bridge and slip roads at Dwygyfylchi. The improvements to Junctions 14 and 16A were not included in the considerations at the time. These have since been included to enable the improvements to Junction 15 and 16.

Green Corridors on the Welsh Government Trunk Road and Motorway Network 2018 and Trunk Road Estate Biodiversity Action Plan 2004

The Welsh Government, as the Highway Authority for trunk roads in Wales, has direct responsibility for the maintenance, improvement and development of the trunk road and motorway network for Wales. Under the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, the Welsh Government has a duty to have regard for the conservation of biodiversity in its work.

The Welsh Government Transport Directorate is already incorporating biodiversity into its work, and the TREBAP¹ contributed to this ongoing process.

TREBAP set out eleven Habitat Action Plans and seventeen Species Action Plans some of which are directly relevant to the scheme: boundary features, coastal and estuarine habitats, lowland dry grassland, lowland meadow, water bodies, woodland and planted native trees and shrubs, bats, otter and reptiles. The Green Corridors on the Welsh Government Trunk Road and Motorway Network initiative will deliver against the Economic Action Plan², creating a sustainable economy and promoting the economic, cultural, social and environmental well-being, and enhancing people's quality of life in Wales.

Over a five-year period, the initiative will deliver a programme of work and activities. The junction improvements will contribute tree and shrub planting to improve structure and age range of the planted area, introduce wildflower areas for visual quality and for pollinators, create wildlife corridors and contribute to carbon sequestration.

Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan 2012

The Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan for Growth and Jobs (WIIP) is designed to prioritise, scope and coordinate delivery of the Welsh Government's major infrastructure investments, whilst improving the long term economic, social and environmental well-being of people and communities in Wales.

The Plan, through Chapter 1, sets a number of high level investment priorities including: 'Improving transport links, particularly East-West transport links in both North and South Wales'. This priority is further explored through Chapter 2 of the Plan which outlines an aim to secure the most out of the existing road network through well planned maintenance and upgrades to ensure the road network operates more efficiently by:

- a) Prioritising investments which contribute to economic growth – addressing urban congestion and improving access to key areas, and by improving the capacity and reliability of our key east-west corridors.
- b) Being more agile in our approach to developing solutions to underlying problems to address problems that people face every day.

The A55 forms part of the Trans-European Network (TENs) route and the Plan recognises the importance of the route.

Economic Renewal, A New Direction 2010

Economic Renewal, A New Direction was published in July 2010. It sets out the role that the Welsh Government can play in providing the best conditions and framework to enable the private sector to grow and flourish. Part 3 of the document encourages investment in high quality and sustainable infrastructure to underpin economic growth. People, business and communities need to be well connected within and beyond Wales to have access to the right facilities and services where they live and work. Investors and indigenous businesses must be able to count on communications, transport, energy and other infrastructure necessary for 21st century enterprise.

One Wales: One Planet 2009

One Wales: One Planet was first launched by the Welsh Government in May 2009. This document sets out the objectives to achieve the goal of sustainable development. One Wales:

¹ Trunk Road Estate Biodiversity Action Plan (TREBAP) (Welsh Assembly Government, 2004b) (TREBAP)

² Prosperity for All: Economic Action Plan 2017

One Planet defines sustainable development as 'enabling all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations.'

One Wales: Connecting the Nation – The Wales Transport Strategy 2008

Published in 2008, by the then Welsh Assembly Government, the overarching aim of the Wales Transport Strategy is to promote sustainable transport networks that safeguard the environment while strengthening the country's economic and social performance. The strategy has been prepared in the context of the One Wales programme, a progressive agenda for Wales. The strategy sets out a number of policy outcomes, delivered through strategic priorities. These include:

- Reducing environment impacts from transport;
- Integrating local transport;
- Improving access between key settlements and sites;
- Enhancing international connectivity; and
- Increasing safety and security.

Trunk Road Forward Programme 2002, 2004 and 2008

The aim of the Welsh Government's 2002 Trunk Road Forward Programme was to improve the economic and social conditions in Wales, through increasing efficiency and accessibility in all areas. The A55 was identified in the Forward Programme within the 'East – West (north) strategic corridor'.

Wales – A Vibrant Economy 2005

Wales – A Vibrant Economy was published in November 2005 and is the strategic framework for economic development in Wales. The main vision of the document is to create; 'a vibrant Welsh economy delivering strong and sustainable economic growth by providing opportunities for all.'

The Wales Spatial Plan 2008 Update

Ultimately, through provisions in the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 the Wales Spatial Plan (WSP) will be replaced by the National Development Framework (NDF) when published. The programme had suggested publication in 2020. However, no update has been published as yet. Therefore the WSP remains relevant to this assessment.

The scheme is located in North West Wales Eryri and Môn by Chapter 17 of the WSP. The vision for this area is 'A high quality natural and physical environment supporting a cultural and knowledge-based economy that will help the area to maintain and enhance its distinctive character, retain and attract back young people and sustain the Welsh Language'.

'Internal connectivity within the region, across its dispersed settlements, to the Central Wales region and between Eryri a Môn's primary and secondary hubs and the rural areas is more complex but crucial to ensuring the distribution of growth and access to services and leisure especially with NHS services being delivered out of hospitals and closer to home. A suitable road network must be maintained along with the further development of public transport. Opportunities to develop the region's other mainline (Conwy Valley and Cambrian Coast) and leisure railways for the transportation of people and goods, where appropriate, must also be considered... Work to address the capacity issues on the Britannia Bridge and the A487 around Caernarfon to help improve this link further is also required as is the enhancement of the road network within the region especially in relation to the main north-south and east-west corridors.'

Planning Policy Wales Edition 10 2018

In the context of transport schemes, PPW10 recognises that a prosperous Wales can be promoted through the development of modern and connected infrastructure and that in order for cohesive communities to be created, they need to be well-connected.

PPW10 notes the key role transport infrastructure such as trunk roads and motorways play for national and international connectivity. Access to jobs and services through shorter, more efficient and sustainable journeys should be enabled through the planning system; with new infrastructure as a means of achieving this.

Technical Advice Note 18: Transport 2007

TAN 18 (Welsh Assembly Government, 2007) encourages an efficient and sustainable transport system as a requirement for modern society. It states that to achieve a more sustainable pattern of development it is necessary to understand the interactions and linkages between land use and transport and devise integrated strategies, objectives and policies at the national, regional and local levels.

Conwy County Council Local Development Plan

County level planning policy provides a clear vision on how new development can address the challenges to be faced and identifies where, when, and how much new development will take place in Conwy up to 2022. The Plan Area is rich in historic assets, has a buoyant tourism industry, excellent transport links, good water and air quality and a high quality natural environment (including coast and countryside). However, population and household projections have demonstrated that the population of the Plan Area could increase by as much as 7,850 people by 2022.

One of the Spatial objectives of the LDP is to encourage efficient patterns of movement and to recognise the strategic role that the A55 and rail corridors will play in meeting the development needs of the Plan Area, and to give particular attention to development locations that are convenient for pedestrians, walking and cycling in Conwy to aid the reduction of transport CO2 emissions.

Conwy Integrated Network Map

The Integrated Network Map (IMP) proposals are a requirement of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013. The INM sets out Conwy Council's 15-year vision to improve cycling and walking routes and improvements for active travel. There are a number of active travel routes identified around the A55 at Penmaenmawr and Llanfairfechan.

5. CONSULTATIONS

The wider public has been informed about the proposed scheme via a full public consultation exercise held between June and August 2018 and two public information exhibitions held in December 2017 and June 2019 at local venues. During both the public consultation and the public information exhibitions, people were encouraged to complete feedback forms and/or questionnaires. Issues raised during these consultations and exhibitions have been considered during the design process and as the draft Orders have been developed. There has also been continued stakeholder engagement via the Public Liaison Officer and the project team, as described below.

Environmental Bodies and other stakeholders have been consulted individually and as part of an Environmental Liaison Group (ELG) during the evolution of the design. The ELG brings together representatives from Conwy County Borough Council, Cadw, Natural Resources Wales (NRW), Gwynedd Archaeology Planning Services and the North and Mid-Wales Trunk Road Agent. It is intended that the ELG will continue to meet regularly throughout the pre-construction and construction period.

Scheme details have also been presented to the Design Commission for Wales, Sustrans, Cycling UK and Conwy County Borough Council, as well as Town Councils and local councillors. Their comments have also been considered in the development of the scheme, including the active travel proposals.

Statutory Undertakers have been consulted regarding diversions and protection of infrastructure. Detailed discussions have also taken place with Network Rail. Landowners and people whose properties or private accesses would be directly affected by the scheme have been contacted and informed about the details of the proposed scheme. Where landowners have had specific concerns or queries, the project team have provided information via the Public Liaison officer.

6. SCHEME OBJECTIVES

Taking into account the need to address the problems identified and in accordance with national and local policy, the following eleven objectives have been identified:

- OBJ1) Improve access to regional, national and international markets and improve access to employment opportunities
- OBJ 2) Improve road safety on the A55 from Junction 14 to Junction 16A
- OBJ 3) Improve journey times and journey time reliability on the A55 from Junction 14 to Junction 16A
- OBJ 4) Improve resilience on the A55 for strategic and local traffic
- OBJ 5) Improve journey times, journey time reliability and safety for access onto the A55 from Llanfairfechan and Penmaenmawr
- OBJ 6) Reduce severance with coastal areas for the non-motorised users and enhance provision made for walkers and cyclists
- OBJ 7) Contribute towards building healthier communities and better environments
- OBJ 8) Increase opportunities to provide integrated transport
- TECH OBJ 9) Minimising technical departures from standards
- TECH OBJ 10) Minimising need to reduce speed limits
- TECH OBJ 11) Minimising disruption during construction

7. THE PROPOSED SCHEME

The total length of new trunk road (including slip roads and the overbridge) would be approximately 3070 metres, with 1540 metres of two way link road, and would affect 480 metres of side roads.

The scheme would encourage free-flowing traffic in both directions on the A55, improve road safety and improve access to the communities of Penmaenmawr and Dwygyfylchi by replacing the roundabout at Junction 16 with westbound on and off slip roads only and upgrading Junction 16A to a grade-separated junction. Slip roads would allow safer access and egress from the A55 with local roads modified to meet current highway design standards. The Scheme involves changes to both Junction 16 and 16A.

At Junction 16 the existing roundabout at the eastern approach to Penmaenmawr would be replaced by westbound on and off-slip roads. The new arrangement at Junction 16 would only be used by westbound vehicles for access to Penmaenmawr and by vehicles leaving Penmaenmawr to travel west towards Bangor. The works would start on the A55 mainline approximately 510 metres south west of the existing Junction 16 roundabout and extend north eastwards for a distance of 570 metres to approximately 270 metres north east from the roundabout. The new at-grade junction would require additional land take to the south of A55 and to the south of Conwy Road to facilitate the west bound on and off slips and a new roundabout connecting to Conway Road and Ysguborwen Road. The total length of new road at Junction 16, including slip roads, would be in the order of 950 metres.

A new signal-controlled grade-separated junction would be constructed further east at Junction 16A, at Dwygyfylchi, with a new overbridge and with on and off east and west bound slip roads that would provide four-way movement. The westbound slip-roads would rise on embankments to a height of approximately 9 metres above existing ground level, to meet an overbridge across the A55. There would also be access off the eastbound off slip road to the Dwr Cymru /Welsh Water (DCWW) water treatment works, on the northern side of the A55.

The realigned A55 mainline and lengthened slip roads would commence at a point 508 metres south west of the centre point of the existing roundabout for a distance of 572 metres along the dual carriageway to a point 270 metres north east of the centre point of the existing roundabout, where the road would taper back to meet the existing dual carriageway. The total length of new road at Junction 16A, including slip roads and overbridge, would be in the order of 2120 metres.

A new link road running roughly parallel to the A55 on the south side would form a new junction with Ysguborwen Road in the west. Extending east it would pass close to the north side of houses in Maes-y-Llan and then loop round the south side of Puffin Café and Service Station to meet the new grade separated junction 16A. Glan-Yr-Afon Road, to Dwygyfylchi and Capelulo, would meet with the link road at a 'T' junction close to Junction 16A. The total length of new road between the extent of the changes to the side roads, would be approximately 1,530 metres.

The existing highway network would be modified at a number of locations, where the proposed improvements would join or cross existing routes.

Details of the side road improvements include:

- Glan-Yr-Afon Road – Consisting of realignment works and localised road widening, over a length in the order of 251m, to enable Glan-Yr-Afon Road to tie in with the new link road. Much of the approximately 207m of stopped up existing road, would be located under new embankments for Junction 16A westbound off-slip and the link road. A cattle grid would be provided on Glan-Yr-Afon Road.
- Ysguborwen Road – New realigned length of approximately 60 metres to tie in with new link road. Approximately 170m of the old road would either be incorporated into the new link road alignment or would no longer be required. Dependant on detailed design, there is an opportunity for a part of the existing road to provide a section of footpath next to The Oasis.
- Conwy Road – Realigned over a length of approximately 170m to accommodate the upgraded westbound slip road arrangement at Junction 16. Part of the original alignment would be located under the new slip roads, with the remainder being located in an area of proposed landscaping.

The Design Speed of the proposed Trunk Road is 120kph and would be subject to the national speed limit. Side Roads speed limits would be in keeping with the existing local road network.

The scheme incorporates a range of active travel measures to enhance the provision made for walkers and cyclists. It is anticipated that these would improve the quality and connectivity of the existing walking and cycling routes, including:

- Active travel route alongside the link road – A shared cycleway and footpath route alongside the link road, intercepting existing footpaths
- New Puffin services footbridge and ramps – Replacement multi-span truss footbridge with Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant ramps and enhanced access between Dwygyfylchi, NCNR5 cycleway and the coast
- Improvements to Glan-Yr-Afon Road – A new 160m cycle/footway along Glan-Yr-Afon Road to provide improved connectivity to Dwygyfylchi from the east and to the proposed new segregated route along the new link road
- Improvements to Conway Road – A 400m segregated cycle/footway along the north side of Conway Road, providing a link between the residential area of Penmaenmawr, the existing Footpath 29/06 and local amenities such as the Penmaenmawr Phoenix Football Club ground

The scheme would use conventional piped drainage to remove water from the carriageway. This drainage, along with attenuation storage, would be designed to store surface water and then discharge it to the existing network, under the North Wales coastal railway line and then into the sea via existing outfalls.

Fencing of the road boundary would be provided, where required, in the form of post and wire stock-proof mesh fences, to discourage farm stock and pets from adjacent areas and to delineate the Welsh Government landownership. Special forms of this fence, with mesh buried below the

ground would be required to reduce the risk of collisions with legally protected species such as badger and otter. Further fences would be required to discourage access to hazardous locations, such as the tops of retaining walls and steep slopes. In other locations, where noise or visual assessments indicate they are required, the boundary would be formed by walls, or, for example, by acoustic barriers.

The improvements would incorporate signage, for example, in relation to junctions and destinations. Although there would be no proposed Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) provided as part of the scheme, it includes for the provision of ducting which would enable ITS to be installed after completion of the scheme.

Highway lighting is already provided along this length of the A55 and on adjacent county roads. New lighting would be installed along the A55 and at Junction 16 to meet current standards. Luminaires would be designed to emit no light above the horizontal level. LED Luminaires are proposed because these can be more directional and so reduce light spill beyond the road. Lighting of the link road would be subject to agreement with the highway authority.

The requirement to provide a safe road with good visibility for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists means that sometimes features in the setting are adversely affected by the proximity of the new road and associated structures and earthworks. The route has been aligned to minimise the impact of the scheme on adjacent properties and other features.

The following public rights of way would require modification:

- Footpath No. 29/08 – Localised footpath diversion works where the existing footpath crosses the proposed link road.

8. THE CASE FOR COMPULSORY PURCHASE

The draft Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) is published under the Highways Act 1980 and the Acquisition of Land Act 1981. The draft CPO is published in association with the following:

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-

The CPO is required to ensure the timely acquisition of land and rights required for the scheme.

The CPO, if made, will require some new access points to be constructed. The draft Orders would enable the construction of appropriate environmental mitigation measures and alternative means of access to land affected by the proposed scheme.

The amount of land identified in the CPO for the scheme is considered to be the minimum necessary to construct and subsequently operate and maintain the scheme together with the provision and maintenance of the environmental mitigation measures, which are necessary in order to avoid, reduce and remedy significant adverse effects.

In drawing up the proposals regard has been given to the interference with the rights of all those with an interest in the land affected by the CPO and who would otherwise be affected by the scheme.

9. POWERS TO CONSTRUCT THE SCHEME

The scheme would be authorised and constructed using the powers of the Welsh Ministers as Highway Authority in accordance with the Highways Act 1980 in conjunction with the Acquisition of Land Act 1981.

The powers to construct the new sections of trunk road would be exercised through the making of 'The Chester to Bangor Trunk Road (A55) (Junctions 16 and 16A Improvement Realignment and Slip Roads) Order 202-', already published in draft.

The power to stop up; alter; improve highways, public rights of way, and private means of access would be exercised through the making of 'The Chester to Bangor Trunk Road (A55) (Junctions 16 and 16A Improvement Realignment and Slip Roads) (Side Roads) Order 202-', already published in draft.

As the Highway Authority for trunk roads in Wales, the Welsh Ministers are empowered to undertake improvements to the existing trunk road (under section 62 of the Highways Act 1980) and to construct new highways (under section 24 of the Highways Act 1980).

The draft Compulsory Purchase Order, if made, will enable the Welsh Ministers to acquire all the land and rights over the land necessary for the proposed scheme. In drawing up the proposed scheme, regard has been given to the interference with the rights of all those with interests in the relevant lands and/or who would otherwise be affected by the scheme.

10. DEPOSIT POINTS

Copies of the draft Orders, accompanying plans and map, the ES, the NTS, Determination Notice and the Stage 3 Scheme Assessment Report, may be seen at all reasonable hours during the objection period at the following premises:

Maen Alaw Community Centre, Bangor Road, Penmaenmawr LL34 6LE

Please note: Access to these venues will be subject to the relevant COVID-19 restrictions in place at the time. Due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions, inspection of the documents will be by prior appointment only. To arrange to inspect the documents, please either contact the venues directly using their contact details provided above or contact the Scheme Public Liaison Officer, Mike Gilbert on mobile telephone: 07840 330 238 or email: A55J15J16@Ramboll.com.

Anyone unable to access the Orders digitally or visit the deposit locations should contact the PLO to make alternative arrangements.

Additional copies of the published information may be obtained from the Welsh Government or can be viewed on the project website: www.gov.wales/a55-junctions-16-and-16A.

11. LODGING OBJECTIONS TO THE DRAFT CPO

Any person wishing to support or object to the draft CPO may do so by writing to Orders Branch, Transport, Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ quoting reference qA1420042 and stating the grounds of support or objection.

Please Note: Should you wish to object, support or make representations your correspondence will be considered by the Project Team and we may need to consult with people and organisations outside the Welsh Government. As part of the consultation process we may pass information to others, including information you have given to us and your personal data. We will however, only disclose your personal details where it is necessary to do so to enable us to deal with the issues raised. If you do not wish for certain personal data to be forwarded to third parties, you should state why when submitting your correspondence and the Welsh Ministers will copy the representations to the appropriate third parties with the name and address removed. Should the scheme become the subject of a Public Local Inquiry (PLI), all correspondence will be seen by the Inspector to the PLI who may give them less weight as a result. All correspondence will be kept in the PLI Library and become publicly available.

Any objections, correspondence in support or suggested alternatives should be despatched to arrive no later than the date detailed on the CPO public notice.

12. DECISION PROCESS

As part of the decision making process, the Welsh Ministers would consider all responses to the draft Orders and then decide whether to hold a Public Local Inquiry.

The decision as to whether or not to proceed to make the draft Orders would then be taken by the Welsh Ministers after taking account of the findings and recommendations of the independent Inspector, should a PLI be held.

Should the CPO be made and the scheme proceed to construction, the Welsh Ministers will, through their valuation agent, enter into negotiations with all affected landowners regarding compensation for the land and rights needed and where appropriate the carrying out of accommodation works on their retained land to mitigate the effect of the scheme.