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CÒMHDHAIL ALBA

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Record of Determination

A830 The Muidhe

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Project Details

Description

The proposed works involve carriageway resurfacing and reinstatement of road markings with a 50mm inlay.

The resurfacing procedure is as follows:

- Set up traffic management (TM) and mark out site
- Mill out 50mm surface course
- Lay 50mm surface course
- Roll surface and allow it to go off
- Mark out lining schedule on site
- Remove TM and open road
- Lining/studding will be carried out at a later date under mobile TM or lane closures

The works are proposed to be carried out in summer 2021 between the hours of 8pm and 6am and will take five nights to complete.

Traffic management for the scheme will involve overnight road closures with periodic amnesties in place to allow traffic through the area of works.

Location

The scheme lies on the A830 trunk road in the Highland Council region, west of Glenfinnan. The length of the scheme is 706m (approximately 0.49 ha).



Figure 1. Location Plan

Description of Local Environment

Population and Human Health

The scheme lies in a remote area on the A830 trunk road west of Glenfinnan. There are no residential or other properties in the surrounding area within 300m of the proposed works.

There are no formal [cycleways](#) or [core paths](#) within the scheme extent. There is one walking route (Beinn Odhar Bheag and Beinn Mhic Cedidh) recorded on [WalkHighlands](#) that starts within the scheme extent and follows the A830 along the western part of the scheme extent. There are no paved footpaths within the scheme extent, but a few laybys are present along the A830 within the scheme extent. There is also a small carpark and pedestrian access across the railway south of the A830 in the central part of the scheme extent.

Noise and vibration levels in the surrounding area are likely to be primarily influenced by vehicle travellers on the A830 trunk road and the parallel railway. There are no designated [Candidate Noise Management Areas](#) (CNMAs) or Candidate Quiet Areas (CQAs) within proximity to the works location.

The A830 trunk road links the A82 at Fort William with the west coast at Mallaig. It is important for commercial, commuter, tourist and local traffic. The national speed limit applies throughout the scheme.

Biodiversity

Baseline data has been obtained from the [National Biodiversity Network \(NBN\) Atlas](#), NatureScot (NS) [Sitelink](#), and [Scotland's Environment web \(SE\)](#) online mapping tools. A site visit was not undertaken.

The scheme lies just within the boundary of the Moidart and Ardgour Special Protection Area (SPA). A high-level Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) screening was undertaken and consultation with NatureScot was carried out to determine the risk of potential impacts on the SPA as a result of works.

The scheme does not lie wholly or partially within any other SPA, Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Ramsar site, or Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The NBN Atlas does not record any protected animal species within 2km of the scheme during the past ten years. Only records with open-use attributions (OGL, CCO, CC-BY) were included in the search criteria.

The NBN Atlas does not hold records of invasive non-native species (INNS) or injurious weeds using the same search criteria.

There is an area of woodland listed as Ancient (of semi-natural origin) on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) approximately 70m west of the scheme extent at the nearest point.

The area surrounding the scheme is dominated by temperate shrub heathland with some deciduous woodland present to the west and northwest. Several small watercourses are also present in the surrounding area.

Land

The works do not lie within any area of land designated as a National Park or National Scenic Area (NSA). Land cover in the vicinity of the scheme is recorded as temperate shrub heathland to the north and south, with deciduous woodland present to the north and northwest of the scheme.

Soil

The scheme lies partially within Fassfern to Loch Ailort Road Cuttings Geological Conservation Review Site (GCRS). However, this GCRS is not associated with a SSSI.

Bedrock within the scheme extent is comprised of Beinn An Tuim Striped Formation – Psammite and Pelite, which is a metamorphic bedrock of sedimentary origin, and igneous intrusions of Eil-arkaig Dyke Swarm - Lamprophyre.

Superficial deposits are not recorded within the scheme extent. However, the nearest superficial deposits are comprised of Peat - Peat, which are sedimentary deposits of organic accumulations.

Soils within the scheme extent are recorded as peaty gleyed podzols.

Water

The Allt Lon a Mhuidhe watercourse runs roughly parallel to the A830 within the central part of the scheme extent. It is located approximately 10m south of the trunk road at the nearest point. The Allt Lon a Mhuidhe was classified by SEPA in 2018 as having an overall condition of 'good'.

The scheme is located within the Fort William groundwater body which was classified by SEPA in 2018 as having good overall condition.

Air

The works are not wholly, or partially, located within an [Air Quality Management Area](#) (AQMA).

No air quality monitoring stations are located within proximity to the scheme. The nearest AQS monitoring station is located approximately 25km east of the scheme in Fort William. The pollution level on 17/06/2021 was classified as Low (Index 2). It is considered that pollution levels in the general vicinity of the scheme will be lower than those at the AQS monitoring station in Fort William due to the remote nature of the scheme location. Baseline air quality in the area of the scheme is likely to be primarily influenced by traffic along the A830 trunk road and nearby railway.

Climate Change

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 creates mandatory climate change targets to reduce Scotland's GHG emissions. BEAR Scotland have a Carbon Management Policy in place with the core aim of reducing out carbon footprint which we measure and report annually.

Material Assets

The following materials will be used during the works:

- Asphaltic material
- Road-marking paint
- Bituminous emulsion bond coat
- Milled in road studs

The following plant will be used during the works:

- Paver
- Planer
- 2CX JCB
- Roller 120 and 161
- Circular saw
- Bitumen cooker
- Roller dead weight

- Bowser
- Road sweeper
- Emulsion sprayer
- Mobile welfare unit/van
- Pickup
- Chapter 8 vans
- Company car
- Tipper lorries

Waste

Approximately 506 tonnes of asphalt planings will be produced as a result of these works which will be fully recovered for re-use under a SEPA paragraph 13 waste exemption. Construction records from IRIS indicate that this section of the A830 was last resurfaced in 2006 to a depth of 78mm. Material below this depth was laid in 1988 and consists of unknown bituminous material up to depths of 250-400mm. Sample coring was undertaken for this scheme and coal tar was detected in a few cores; however, all evidence of coal tar was found at depths of 150mm or deeper. Considering the proposed treatment of a 50mm inlay for this scheme and taking into account the depth of material laid in 2006, the chance of encountering coal tar is extremely unlikely and coal tar is not expected to be present within the milled off road planings.

Cultural Heritage

According to [Pastmap](#), there are no features of cultural heritage located within 300m of the scheme.

Vulnerability of the Project to Risks

The following environmental factors were identified as potential risks to the project:

- Unidentified ecological constraints
- Disturbance of protected species

Description of Main Environmental Impacts and Proposed Mitigation

Population and Human Health

During road resurfacing, activities undertaken on site may have temporary adverse impacts on road users as a result of vehicle noise and delays due to traffic management measures. However, considering that there are no residential properties within 300m of works and with the following mitigation measures in place, the risk of significant impacts on population and human health is considered to be low.

- Traffic management will consist of overnight road closures with periodic amnesties in place to allow traffic to pass through the area of works.
- Works will be carried out at night over a period of five nights to reduce impacts on road users due to the road closure.
- Measures to reduce impacts of works will be detailed in the Site Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) and adhered to on site.

Biodiversity

During road resurfacing, activities undertaken on site could potentially have a temporary adverse impact on biodiversity in the area as a result of an increased vehicle presence and the potential for disturbance to protected species and pollution of habitats. The scheme lies just within the boundary of Moidart and Ardgour SPA. The high-level HRA assessment and consultation with NatureScot concluded that the works would not result in Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on the qualifying features due to the timing of works, short duration, and localised nature of the scheme. In addition, pollution controls and good practice measures to reduce impacts of works will be detailed in the SEMP and adhered to on site. Any protected species in the area are likely to be accustomed to road noise on the A830 and the scheme is of short duration. Therefore, with the following mitigation measures in place, the risk of significant impacts on biodiversity is considered to be low.

- Works will be undertaken in late August at the end of the bird breeding season.
- Toolbox talks for relevant protected species will be delivered to site staff and included in the SEMP.
- Pollution controls and good practice measures to reduce impacts of works will be detailed in the SEMP and adhered to on site.

Land

During road resurfacing, activities undertaken on site are not expected to have an adverse impact on land as the works involve like-for-like replacement of the road surfacing material. There is some potential for minor impacts as a result of damage to roadside verges or littering. Land use will not change as a result of the works and no land take is required. Therefore, with the following mitigation measures in place, the risk of significant impacts to land is considered to be low.

- Throughout all stages of the works, the site must be kept clean and tidy, with materials, equipment, plant and wastes appropriately stored, reducing the landscape and visual effects as much as possible.
- Where applicable, upon completion of the works, any damage to the local landscape (i.e. damage to grass verges or hardstanding of the A830) should be reinstated as much as is practicable.
- Works are to avoid encroaching on land and areas where work is not required or does not have permission to do so. This includes general works, storage of equipment/containers and parking.

Soil

Although the scheme is located partially within Fassfern to Loch Ailort Road Cuttings GCRS, resurfacing activities undertaken on site are not expected to have an adverse impact on soils or geology as the works will be restricted to made ground within the A830 carriageway boundary. Works will entail like-for-like replacement of the surface course; therefore, the risk of damage to features of geological interest is negligible. There is some potential for minor impacts as a result of damage to roadside verges or littering; however, with the following mitigation measures in place, the risk of significant impacts to soils is considered to be low.

- There will be no excavation works out with made ground within the A830 trunk road boundary.
- The parking of machinery/personnel and storage of equipment on verges will be minimised as far as is reasonably practicable.
- Upon completion of the works, any damage to the local landscape (i.e. damage to grass verges) should be reinstated as much as is practicable.

Water

During works, there is the potential for temporary impacts on water quality. Any construction work has an inherent risk to surface waters and groundwater as a result of pollution. Potential contaminants include fuel and oils from mechanical plant and dirty water run-off from the construction site. However, taking into account the nature and scale of the works and the following mitigation measures, the risk of significant impacts to water is considered to be low.

- The scheme will not entail any in-stream works.
- Pollution control measures will be detailed in the SEMP and adhered to on site to prevent sediment or other materials entering the water environment (e.g. roadside drainage).

Air

During works, there is the potential for temporary impacts on air quality. Activities undertaken on site may cause dust and particulate matter to be emitted to the atmosphere. However, taking into account the nature and scale of the works and the following mitigation measures, the risk of significant impacts to air is considered to be low.

- All plant, machinery and vehicles associated with the scheme must be maintained to the appropriate standards and must switch their engines off when not in use.
- All delivery vehicles carrying material with dust potential will be covered when travelling to or leaving site, preventing the spread of dust beyond the work area.
- All construction activities will operate in line with good practice measures for construction as outlined in the SEMP.

Climate Change

During works there is potential for impacts as a result of the emission of greenhouse gasses through the use of vehicles and machinery, material use and production, and transportation of materials to and from site. However, taking into account the nature and scale of the works and the following mitigation measures, the risk of significant impacts to climate is considered to be low.

- BEAR Scotland will adhere to their Carbon Management Policy.
- BEAR Scotland undergo annual CEEQUAL Assessment.

Material Assets

The works comprise like-for-like replacement of the existing road surfacing material and will not involve construction of or alteration to any roadside infrastructure. Therefore, material assets are not considered further.

Waste

During works, there is potential for impacts as a result of improper storage or disposal of waste. However, taking into account the following mitigation measures, it is unlikely that the works will have a significant impact as a result of waste.

- The waste hierarchy (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Dispose) will be employed throughout the construction works.
- Road planings will be re-used or recycled under a SEPA Paragraph 13(a) waste exemption and in line with BEAR Scotland's Procedure 126: The Production of Fully Recovered Asphalt Road Planings.

Cultural Heritage

During road resurfacing, activities undertaken on site are not expected to have an adverse impact on cultural heritage as there are no recorded features of cultural heritage within 300m of the scheme. However, the following good practice measures will be in place to reduce the risk of impacts to undiscovered features of cultural heritage interest.

- People, plant, and materials should, as much as is reasonably practicable, only be present on areas of made / engineered ground (i.e. A830 carriageway). Where access out with these areas is required for the safe and effective completion of the scheme, it should be reduced as much as is reasonably practicable and ideally be limited to access on foot.

Vulnerability of the Project to Risks

There is potential for minor impacts on the project as a result of environmental risks such as discovery of a protected species on site. However, taking into account the nature and scale of the works and the following mitigation measures, the vulnerability of the project to risk is considered to be low.

- A Site Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) has been produced by BEAR Scotland which sets out a framework to reduce the risk of adverse impacts from construction activities on sensitive environmental receptors. The subcontractor will comply with all conditions of the SEMP during works and may be subject to audit throughout the contract.

Cumulative Effects

The works are required to maintain the safety of the A830 trunk road for use by vehicle travellers. No significant impacts on environmental receptors as a result of the proposed works have been identified.

The proposed works will be limited to the like-for-like replacement of the road surfacing material and potential impacts are short-term and localised to within the scheme extent. There is potential for short-term impacts on vehicle travellers as a result of delays due to traffic management for multiple or consecutive schemes. However, due to the localised nature of the potential impacts and the short duration of any proposed works and with the following mitigation measures in place, it is unlikely that the works will have a significant cumulative impact.

- Network restrictions as set out in Appendix 1/17 Restrictions – North West Unit of the 4G North West Term Contract will be adhered to.

Assessments of the Environmental Effects

This assessment has not identified any significant effects on any environmental receptors as a result of the proposed works. No further assessment of environmental effects or consultation with statutory bodies is required.

Statement of case in support of a Determination that a statutory EIA is not required

This is a relevant project in terms of section 55A(16) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 as it is a project for the improvement of a road and the completed works (together with any area occupied by apparatus, equipment, machinery, materials, plant, spoil heaps, or other such facilities or stores required during the period of construction)—

are situated in a sensitive area within the meaning of regulation 2(1) of the Environmental Impact Assessment (Scotland) Regulations 1999.

The project has been subject to screening using the Annex III criteria to determine whether a formal Environmental Impact Assessment is required under the Roads (Scotland) ACT 1984 (as amended by The Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017). Screening using Annex III criteria, reference to consultations undertaken and review of available information has not identified the need for a statutory EIA.

The project will not have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as:

Characteristics of the scheme:

- The works comprise like-for-like replacement of the road surfacing material.
- The works are temporary, localised, and short-term and will be completed over five nights.
- Pollution controls will be in place to contain debris and wastes produced during works.

Location of the scheme:

- Although the works are within a 'sensitive area', the high-level HRA assessment and consultation with NatureScot have confirmed that there will be no LSE on the qualifying feature of Moidart and Ardgour SPA as a result of resurfacing works.
- Resurfacing works will be restricted to made ground within the A830 carriageway boundary and no land take will be required.
- There are no residential properties or pedestrian facilities (e.g. footways) within the scheme extent.

Characteristics of potential impacts of the scheme:

- The potential for impacts as a result of the scheme are minor, temporary and not significant.
- The high-level HRA assessment and consultation with NatureScot has confirmed that there will be no LSE on the qualifying feature of Moidart and Ardgour SPA as a result of resurfacing works.
- Measures will be in place to ensure appropriate removal and disposal of waste. Road planings will be re-used or recycled under a SEPA Paragraph 13(a) waste exemption and in line with BEAR Scotland's Procedure 126: The Production of Fully Recovered Asphalt Road Planings.
- The SEMP will include plans to address environmental incidents.
- Mitigation measures detailed above and in the SEMP will ensure no significant negative impacts on sensitive receptors.

Annex A

“sensitive area” means any of the following:

- land notified under sections 3(1) or 5(1) (sites of special scientific interest) of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004
- land in respect of which an order has been made under section 23 (nature conservation orders) of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004
- a European site within the meaning of regulation 10 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994
- a property appearing in the World Heritage List kept under article 11(2) of the 1972 UNESCO Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage
- a scheduled monument within the meaning of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979
- a National Scenic Area as designated by a direction made by the Scottish Ministers under section 263A of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997
- an area designated as a National Park by a designation order made by the Scottish Ministers under section 6(1) of the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000.



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