



**TRANSPORT
SCOTLAND**
CÒMHDHAIL ALBA

Environmental Impact Assessment Record of Determination

A87 Achnagart

Resurfacing

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Project Details

Description

BEAR Scotland has been commissioned by Transport Scotland to carry out resurfacing works at the A87 Achnagart. The works will consist of carriageway resurfacing and reinstatement of road markings and studs for a length of 433m (approximately 0.28 ha).

The resurfacing procedure is as follows:

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

The works are currently programmed to be completed within the 2022/2023 financial year (January 2023 to March 2023 inclusive). The provisional start date is 16th of January 2023 with works carried out over three nights, between 19:00 and 06:00. However, works may be delayed into the first half of the 2023/2024 financial year (April to September 2023 inclusive). Changes in the programme may result in the need for day works. Traffic management (TM) is currently anticipated to consist of night-time convoy and one-lane closure. However, if the programme changes, this may result in amendments to the exact TM requirements. Where required, alternative pedestrian routes will be included in the TM setup.

Location

The scheme is located on the A87 trunk road in the Highland Council area, south of Shiel Bridge (Figure 1).

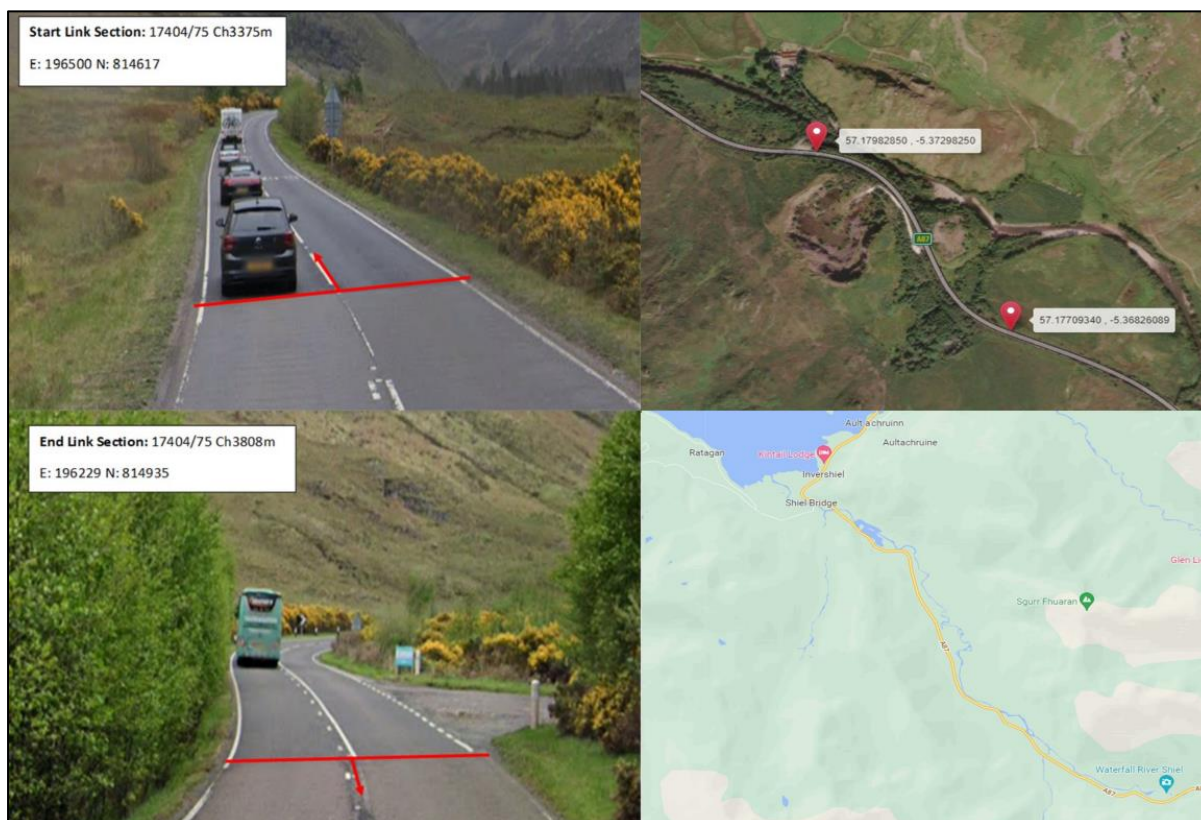


Figure 1. Location and scheme extent of the proposed resurfacing works at A87 Achnagart. Source: BEAR Scotland. F108 – Environmental Assessment Request (Scheme ref: 22-NW-0103-68).

Description of local environment

Air quality

The scheme is not located within any Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and no air quality monitoring stations are located in the vicinity of works ([Air Quality Scotland](#)). The nearest air quality monitoring site to the scheme is located in Fort William, approximately 40km south of the scheme ([Air Quality Scotland](#)). Pollution levels in the general vicinity of works are anticipated to be lower than those at the monitoring station in Fort William due to the remote nature of the scheme location.

There are no sites registered on the Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory (SPRI) ([Scotland's Environment](#)) for air pollutant releases within 1km of the scheme.

Baseline air quality at the scheme location is likely to be primarily influenced by traffic along the A87 trunk road.

Cultural heritage

According to Historic Environment Scotland's PastMap ([PastMap](#)), there are only Historic Environment Records (HER) and records of the Canmore database within 300m of the scheme extent. No record falls within the scheme or has connectivity to it, given the distance to the scheme and the classification of the records. The closest feature notified on HER and Canmore is Achadh Arsgalain Bridge (ID: MHG352470), located in a woody area approximately 40m south of the trunk road.

Construction of the A87 road corridor is likely to have removed any archaeological remains that may have been present. Therefore, the potential for the presence of unknown archaeological remains in the study area has been assessed to be low.

All works are restricted to the trunk road, with only 'like-for-like' replacement of road surface being undertaken. Therefore, the works do not include any alterations that would affect the historic and architectural character of features in the area.

There are no World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Garden and Designed Landscapes, Conservation Areas or Inventory Battlefields identified within 300m of the scheme ([PastMap](#)).

Landscape and visual effects

The scheme is located within the Kintail National Scenic Area (NSA) ([SiteLink](#)) which is designated for the following special qualities:

- Drama epitomising the West Highland scene
- Renowned mountain ranges composed of identifiable, well-known peaks
- Human settlement and activity circumscribed and dwarfed by towering hills
- A remote and wild interior
- The rich heritage of historic sites
- An inland coast
- A natural, theatrical stage

The Landscape Character Type (LCT) within the scheme extent is Interlocking Sweeping Peaks – Skye and Lochalsh (no. 369) ([Scottish Landscape Character Types](#)). The Interlocking Sweeping Peaks – Skye and Lochalsh LCT has the following key characteristics:

- Glaciated mountainous landscapes with pyramidal rock peaks.
- Sweeping, concave slopes with screes plunging directly into deep glens or lochs.

- Mountain peaks and slopes often seen as repetitive elements within a group, appearing to interlock and overlap when viewed along glens and fjords.
- No overall hierarchy of peaks, which tend to be connected by high level ridges aligned either side of central, u-shaped valleys.
- Elegant profile due to the greater vertical to horizontal emphasis.
- Sparse vegetation and few native trees.
- Fragments of broadleaf woodland along water courses and the coast, naturally relating to landscape form.
- Banded landcover of rocky summits and lower slopes of grassland and heather.
- Infrequent but prominent coniferous woodland plantations on accessible foot-slopes.
- Largely uninhabited and few roads or structures.
- Extensive high level views of peaks and ridgelines, and over to opposing sides of glens.
- Expansive views of the vast mountainous interior, and the large scale pattern of glens and summits.
- Low level views are enclosed, directed upwards or along glens and fjords.
- Upward views dominated by the steep slopes and towering summits which reveal the vertical scale of mountains.
- Wild character in the interior due to remoteness from roads and settlements, lack of evidence of modern human use, dominance of natural landforms, and vast scale of the mountain landscape.

A small area of the scheme near Achnagart Farm are located in a different LCT, Farmed and Settled Lowland – Skye and Lochalsh (no. 357) ([Scottish Landscape Character Types](#)). The key characteristics of the LCT include more human altered habitats compared to the Interlocking Sweeping Peaks LCT described above, with settlements, farming and crofting, improved grasslands and pasture present.

The scheme is located in a rural area on the A87, approximately 5km south of the settlement Invershiel at Loch Duich. Land use is limited to a small number of agricultural fields and pasture and the whinstone quarry. The Landscape with its hills, mountains and waterfalls, as well as guest accommodations, is likely to attract tourists and outdoor recreationists.

The A87 trunk road connects Invergarry, Kyle of Lochalsh and the Isle of Skye (Portree and Uig). It commences at the A87 / A82 junction at Invergarry leading generally north-westwards for a distance of 160 kilometres to the pier at Uig on the Isle of Skye. The A87 is a single carriageway along its length and is important for commercial, commuter, tourist and local traffic.

Biodiversity

There are no European sites (Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Ramsar sites), Sites of Special Scientific interest (SSSIs), National Nature Reserves (NNRs) or Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) within 300m of the scheme extents ([SiteLink](#)).

No ancient woodland of semi-natural origin is located within 300m of the scheme according to the Ancient Woodland Inventory Scotland. The closest area lies approximately 500m southwest to the trunk road at its closest point ([Map | Scotland's environment web](#)).

The National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas ([NBN Atlas](#)) does not hold any records for protected 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 any records of bird species within 2km over a 10-year period. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, all wild birds and their active nests are protected.

No invasive non-native species (INNS) of plants or injurious weeds were recorded using the same criteria ([NBN Atlas](#)).

Transport Scotland's Asset Management Performance System (AMPS) does not hold any records of INNS or injurious weeds along the A87 throughout the scheme extent. However, one record of the injurious weed common ragwort (*Jacobea vulgaris*) lies approximately 150m along the A87, outside of the scheme extent. All works will be restricted to the A87 carriageway and will not entail any verge working; therefore it is unlikely that any INNS or injurious weeds will be encountered.

Habitats around the scheme are typically dominated by areas of temperate shrub heathland and patches of tall forb stands and woodland fringes, with a limited number of arable and grazing fields near Achnagart Farm. River Shiel is running to the north of the A87 trunk road, with approximately 10m from the scheme as its closest point and provides freshwater and bankside habitat. The only industrial site is a whinstone quarry, next to the scheme extent. Bogs and montane vegetation can be found in the wider area as well as a number of streams.

Geology and soils

The scheme does not lie within a Geological Conservation Review Site (GCRS) or has connectivity to a geological SSSI ([SiteLink](#)).

The bedrock within the scheme extents is comprised of Morar Group (psammite), which is a metamorphic bedrock ([BGS GeolIndex](#)).

There are no records available for superficial deposits for the majority of scheme extent, however the southern extent of the scheme is recorded as peat and nearby deposits along the River Shiel are comprised of Alluvium (clay, silt, sand and gravel), which are sedimentary deposits ([BGS GeolIndex](#)).

The Generalised Soil Type beneath the scheme extent is recorded as Alluvial soils ([Scotland's Soils](#)), which is also the Major Soil Group name.

Material assets and waste

The proposed works are required to resurface the worn carriageway and reinstate road markings and studs. Materials used will consist of:

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

Wastes are anticipated to be planings from the carriageway surface course, which will be fully recovered for re-use in line with BEAR Scotland's Procedure 126: The Production of Fully Recovered Asphalt Road Planings. The Contractor is responsible for the disposal of road planings and this has been registered in accordance with a Paragraph 13(a) waste exemption issued by SEPA, as described in Schedule 3 of the Waste Management Licensing Regulations 2011 (Receipt Number - 01-WMX-2908706209). It is not yet known if the works will encounter coal tar contaminated road surfacing.

Noise and vibration

Works are not located within a Candidate Noise Management Area (CNMA) or Candidate Quiet Area (CQA) ([Scotland's Noise Scotland's Environment](#)).

There is no noise modelled data available for the scheme extent ([Scotland's Noise Scotland's Environment](#)).

Population and human health

The scheme is located in a rural area and as such there is only one residential receptor within 300m of the scheme. This property (Achnagart Farm) lies approximately 150m north of the scheme, near the scheme end, and is heavily

screened by scrub and woodland, and therefore cannot be observed from the A87 within the scheme extent.

There are no National Cycle Network (NCN) routes ([OS Maps](#)), walking routes listed on WalkHighlands ([WalkHighlands](#)), or Core Paths ([Scotland's Environment](#)) within the scheme extent. There are also no paved footpaths, bus stops or other pedestrian facilities, along the A87 within the scheme extent. One roadside parking area is located approximately 280m from the southern scheme extent, which is also a start point for multiple walking routes ([WalkHighlands](#)).

The A87 trunk road connects Invergarry, Kyle of Lochalsh and the Isle of Skye (Portree and Uig). It commences at the A87 / A82 junction at Invergarry leading generally north-westwards for a distance of 160 kilometres to the pier at Uig on the Isle of Skye. The A87 is a single carriageway along its length and is important for commercial, commuter, tourist and local traffic. The national speed limit applies throughout the scheme.

The nearest traffic count point (ID 50772) on the A87 is located approximately 11km north of the scheme ([Road traffic statistics](#)). Vehicle count data taken from this point in 2021 shows an Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) count of 3,119 motor vehicles, of which 344 were heavy goods vehicles ([Road traffic statistics - Manual count point: 50772 \(dft.gov.uk\)](#)).

Road drainage and the water environment

River Shiel (ID: 20430) is flowing parallel to the north of the A87 trunk road within the scheme extent. As a surface waterbody, River Shiel was assessed to be of 'Good' overall condition in 2020 by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) under the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC (WFD) ([SEPA water environment hub](#)).

There is one unnamed waterbody which is culverted beneath the A87 within the scheme extent, near the southern end of the works. The stream has not been classified by SEPA and discharges into River Shiel. One pond is located within a woodland area, approximately 50m from the trunk road, which has not been classified either.

The scheme falls within the 'Wester Ross, Assynt and Kintail' groundwater body (ID: 150700) which was classified by SEPA in 2020 as having an overall status of 'Good' ([SEPA water classification hub](#)).

The southern extent of the scheme has medium risk of river flooding associated with River Shiel, and also has a medium risk of surface water flooding. This means that

each year, these areas have a 0.5% chance (medium risk) of flooding ([SEPA Flood Map](#)).

Climate

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 sets out the target and vision set by the Scottish Government for tackling and responding to climate change ([The Climate Change \(Scotland\) Act 2009](#)). The Act includes a target of reducing CO2 emissions by 80% before 2050 (from the baseline year 1990). The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 amended the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 to bring the target of reaching net-zero emissions in Scotland forward to 2045 ([Climate Change \(Emissions Reduction Targets\) \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#)).

The Scottish Government has since published its indicative Nationally Determined Contribution (iNDC) to set out how it will reach net-zero emissions by 2045, working to reduce emissions of all major greenhouse gases by at least 75% by 2030 ([Scotland's contribution to the Paris Agreement: indicative Nationally Determined Contribution - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)). By 2040, the Scottish Government is committed to reducing emissions by 90%, with the aim of reaching net-zero by 2045 at the latest.

Transport Scotland is committed to reducing carbon across Scotland's transport network and this commitment is being enacted through the Mission Zero for Transport ([Mission Zero for transport | Transport Scotland](#)). Transport is the largest contributor to harmful climate emissions in Scotland. In response to the climate emergency, Transport Scotland are committed to reducing their emissions by 75% by 2030 and to a legally binding target of net-zero by 2045.

Policies and plans

This Record of Determination has been undertaken in accordance with all relevant regulations, guidance, policies and plans, notably including the Environment and Sustainability Discipline of the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges ([Design Manual for Roads and Bridges \(DMRB\)](#)) and Transport Scotland's Environmental Impact Assessment Guidance ([Guidance - Environmental Impact Assessments for road projects \(transport.gov.scot\)](#)).

Description of main environmental impacts and proposed mitigation

Air quality

Construction activities associated with the proposed works have the potential to temporarily cause local air quality impacts. 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 are considered to be low.

- All plant, machinery and vehicles associated with the scheme must be maintained to the appropriate standards and must be switched 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.
- Material stockpiles will be reduced as much as reasonably practicable by using a 'just in time' delivery system. All material will also be stored on made ground.
- Any stockpiled material on site will be monitored daily to ensure no risks of dust emissions exists.
- Materials should be removed from site as soon as is practicable.
- Good housekeeping will be employed throughout the work.

With the above mitigation measures in place, it is anticipated that any air quality effects associated with the proposed works are unlikely to be significant. This receptor is not considered further in this Record of Determination (RoD).

Cultural heritage

Although there are features of cultural heritage interest within 300m of the scheme, no feature is located within the footprint of the works and construction of the A87 road corridor is likely to have removed any archaeological remains that may have been present. Therefore, the potential for the presence of unknown archaeological remains in the study area has been assessed to be low. Moreover, all works are restricted to the trunk road, with only 'like-for-like' replacement of road surface material. The following good practice measures will be in place to reduce the risk of impacts to undiscovered features of cultural heritage interest:

- Should any unexpected archaeological evidence be discovered, works will stop temporarily in the vicinity and the BEAR Scotland Environment Team contacted for advice.

- People, plant, and materials should, as much as is reasonably practicable, only be present on areas of made / engineered ground. Where access outwith 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. There should be no storage of vehicles, plant, or materials against any buildings, walls or fences.

With the above mitigation measures in place, it is anticipated that any cultural heritage effects associated with the proposed works are unlikely to be significant. This receptor is not considered further in this RoD.

Landscape and visual effects

The proposed scheme lies within the Kintail NSA. However, as the proposed works are restricted to the A87 carriageway and consist of the like-for-like replacement of the road surface, consultation with NatureScot was not deemed necessary. Proposed works will be carried out over 3 nights, and land use will not change as a result of the works. Therefore, the works will not create any significant change to the local landscape and no significant impacts to the NSA are expected. In addition, the following mitigation measures will be put in place during works:

- 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.
- The working area and site compound location will be appropriately reinstated following works.
- 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.
- Where applicable, upon completion of the works, any damage to the local landscape should be reinstated as much as is practicable.
- The site will be left clean and tidy following construction.

With the above mitigation measures in place, it is anticipated that any landscape and visual effects associated with the proposed works are unlikely to be significant. This receptor is not considered further in this RoD.

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.

There are no European sites (SPAs, SACs, Ramsar sites), SSSIs, NNRs or LNRs within 300m of the scheme extents.

Although Common ragwort is known to be present along the A87 and may occur on road verges within the scheme extent, there are no records of these within the scheme extent and all works are restricted to made ground within the carriageway boundary. Works will entail like-for-like replacement of road surfacing material and will not include earthworks or vegetation removal. The scheme does not require permanent or temporary land-take, accommodation works, site clearance, or locally-gained resources, and there is no requirement to import topsoil. As such there is limited potential to spread or introduce INNS, invasive native perennials, or injurious weeds.

Pollution controls and good practice measures to reduce impacts of works on the local environment 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 A87 and the scheme is of short duration. Therefore, with the following mitigation measures in place, the risk of significant impacts on biodiversity are considered to be low:

- Works are to be strictly limited to areas required for access and resurfacing works. Unnecessary encroachment onto terrestrial or aquatic areas will not be tolerated.
- No tree felling or in-stream works are permitted.
- All construction operatives are to be briefed through toolbox talks prior to works commencing. The toolbox talks will provide information on the legislation, general ecology, and best practice measures for relevant protected species and INNS.
- Site personnel should remain vigilant for the presence of any protected species throughout the works period. Should a protected species be noted during construction, works should temporarily halt until the species has sufficiently moved on. Any sightings of protected species should be reported to the BEAR Scotland Environmental Team.
- Artificial lighting should be directed away from road verges, woodland, and waterbodies as far as is safe and reasonably practicable.
- A 'soft start' will be implemented on site each day. This will involve switching on vehicles and checking under/around vehicles and the immediate work area for mammals prior to works commencing to ensure none are present and that there is a gradual increase in noise.
- Any excavations, exposed pipes/drains, or areas where an animal could become trapped (e.g. storage containers) will be covered over when not in use, at the end of each shift, and following completion of the works to avoid animals falling in and becoming trapped.
- If fencing is utilised at any point during the works, a gap of 200mm from ground level must be provided, allowing free passage for mammals and preventing entrapment.

- Site personnel should remain vigilant for the presence of INNS in road verges throughout the works period. Should any INNS be identified in working areas, no works may take place within 7m of these areas until the BEAR Scotland Environmental Team can provide further advice.

With the above mitigation measures in place, it is anticipated that any biodiversity effects associated with the proposed works are unlikely to be significant. This receptor is not considered further in this RoD.

Geology and soils

Although resurfacing works include milling of the existing carriageway surface, construction activities are restricted to made ground within the carriageway boundary and are not anticipated to have an adverse impact on geology and soils. With the following mitigation measures in place, the likelihood of significant impacts on geology and soils is low.

- The parking of machinery/personnel and storage of equipment on road 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.
- Mitigation measures to prevent contamination of soils through loss of containment will be strictly adhered to.

With the above mitigation measures in place, it is anticipated that any geology and soils effects associated with the proposed works are unlikely to be significant. This receptor is not considered further in this RoD.

Material assets and waste

There is potential for impacts as a result of resource depletion through use and transportation of new materials. However, materials will be sourced locally where possible and the following mitigation measures will be put in place:

- Materials will be sourced from recycled origins as far as reasonably practicable within design specifications.
- Care will be taken to order the correct quantity of required materials to prevent the disposal of unused materials.
- Where possible, minimal packaging should be requested on required deliveries to reduce unnecessary waste and production of packaging materials.

There is potential for impacts during works as a result of the improper storage or disposal of waste. The following mitigation measures will be put in place:

- The waste hierarchy (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Dispose) will be employed throughout the construction works.

- The subcontractor will adhere to waste management legislation and ensure they comply with their Duty of Care.
- Containment measures will be in place to prevent debris or pollutants from entering the surrounding environment.
- 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.
- All wastes and unused materials must be removed from site in a safe and legal manner by a licensed waste carrier upon completion of the works. The appointed waste carrier must have a valid SEPA waste carrier registration, a copy of which will be provided to and retained by BEAR Scotland as early as possible.
- All appropriate waste documentation must be present on site and be available for inspection. A copy of the Duty of Care paperwork should be provided and filed appropriately in accordance with the Code of Practice (as made under Section 34 of Environmental Protection Act 1990 as amended).
- Re-use and recycling of waste will be encouraged and the subcontractor will be required to fully outline their plans and provide documentary evidence for waste arising from the works (e.g., waste carrier's licence, transfer notes, and waste exemption certificates).
- Staff will be informed that littering will not be tolerated. Staff will be encouraged to collect any litter seen on site.
- Where applicable, all temporary signage will be removed from site on completion of the works.
- If the works encounter coal tar, then this will be appropriately processed in line with Transport Scotland's Guidance Note on Dealing with Coal Tar Bound Arisings ([Coal Tar Guidance](#)). This will include:
 - Coal tar contaminated road planings will be classified as a Special Waste.
 - All waste will be appropriately segregated, with coal tar contaminated planing being kept separate from uncontaminated planings.
 - Coal tar contaminated road planings must be transported by a registered waste carrier and be accompanied by a SEPA-issued consignment note or code. SEPA must be notified, at least 72 hours before and no longer than one month before, prior to Special Waste leaving site. It must be sent to a facility that holds suitable pollution prevention and control permits and waste management licences. Copies of consignment notes must be retained for a period of three years.
 - Waste must be transported in a safe and secure manner to prevent the release of contaminated material en-route.

With the above mitigation measures in place, it is anticipated that any material assets and waste effects associated with the proposed works are unlikely to be significant. This receptor is not considered further in this RoD.

Noise and vibration

Construction activities associated with the proposed scheme works have the potential to cause noise and vibration impacts through the use of equipment and construction vehicles for the proposed activities. The works are anticipated to take place overnight. The proposed scheme is anticipated to result in temporary minor adverse noise impacts. The following mitigation measures will be put in place:

- The Best Practice Means, as defined in Section 72 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974, will be employed at all times to reduce noise to a minimum.
- For any night works, the Environmental Health Officer (EHO) and local residents will be notified of works and provided with a 24-hour contact number for the BEAR Scotland Control Room.
- On-site construction tasks should be programmed to be as efficient as possible, with a view to limiting noise disruption to local sensitive receptors.
- For any night works within 300m of residential properties, the noisiest works should be programmed to be completed before 23:00 each night where possible.
- All site personnel will be fully briefed in advance of works regarding the need to minimise noise during works and of the site-specific sensitivities.
- All plant, machinery and vehicles will be switched off when not in use.
- All plant will be operated in such a way that minimises noise emissions and will have been maintained regularly to the appropriate standards.
- Where fitted, and where permitted under Health and Safety requirements, white noise reversing alarms should be utilised during construction.
- Where ancillary plant such as generators are required, they will be positioned so as to cause minimum noise disturbance. Where deemed necessary, acoustic screens will be utilised.

With the above mitigation measures in place, it is anticipated that any noise and vibration effects associated with the proposed works are unlikely to be significant. This receptor is not considered further in this RoD.

Population and human health

During construction, activities undertaken on site may have temporary adverse impacts on local residents, vehicle travellers, and non-motorised road users (NMUs) as a result of vehicle noise and delays due to traffic management measures. Local residents will be notified of works via letter drop and road users will be informed of

works through a media release, which will provide details of construction dates and times. The works will be of short duration and will move progressively along the full scheme extent. With the following mitigation measures in place, the risk of significant impacts on population and human health is considered to be low:

- Local residents will be notified of the impending works and the diversion route. Information will provide contact details (office phone number and e-mail address) for the Project Engineer as well as a 24-hour contact number for the BEAR Scotland Control Room.
- Appropriate provisions / measures should be implemented within the traffic management to allow the safe passage of NMUs of all abilities through the site.
- Journey planning information will be available for drivers online at the trafficscotland.org website. Journey planning information will also be available for drivers online through BEAR's social media platforms.
- Local access to nearby properties will be maintained during construction.

With the above mitigation measures in place, it is anticipated that any population and human health effects associated with the proposed works are unlikely to be significant. This receptor is not considered further in this RoD.

Road drainage and the water environment

During resurfacing works, there is potential for temporary impacts on the water environment. Potential changes in water quality from pollution events (either by accidental spillage of sediments, particulate matter, chemicals, fuels or by mobilisation of these in surface water caused by rain or tidal movements) during works have the potential to have a direct or indirect effect on the surrounding waterbodies. The following mitigation measures will be put in place to reduce the risk of pollution incidents as a result of works:

- The scheme will not entail any in-stream works.
- Standard working practices to comply with The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (as amended) for works in or near water will be detailed in the SEMP and adhered to on site.
- No discharges into any watercourses or drainage systems are permitted. Appropriate containment measures must be in place to prevent any loss of construction materials into the water environment.
- An incident response (contingency) plan will be put in place to reduce the risk from pollution incidents or accidental spillages. All necessary containment equipment, including suitable spill kits (for oil and chemicals) will be available on site, quickly accessible if needed, and staff trained in their use.
- All spills must be logged and reported. In the event of any spills into the water environment, all works must stop and the incident must be reported to the project

manager and the BEAR Scotland Environmental Team. SEPA must be informed of any such incident as soon as possible using the SEPA Pollution Hotline.

- All plant and equipment must be regularly inspected for any signs of damage and leaks. A checklist must be present to make sure that the checks have been carried out.
- Storage of COSHH material, oil and fuel containers should be distanced more than 10m away from any watercourses.
- If required, a designated refuelling area must be identified. Fuel bowsers should be stored on an impermeable area and be fully bunded. This should be distanced more than 10m from any watercourses.
- During refuelling of smaller mobile plant, a funnel must be used, and drip trays must be in place. Care must be taken to reduce the chance of spillages. Spill kits must be quickly accessible to capture any spills should they occur. The ground / stone around the site of a spill must be removed, double bagged and taken off site as special contaminated waste.
- Generators and static plant may have the potential to leak fuel and / or other hydrocarbons and must have bunding with a capacity of 110%. If these are not bunded then drip trays should also be supplied beneath the equipment with a capacity of 110%.

With the above mitigation measures in place, it is anticipated that any road drainage and the water environment effects associated with the proposed works are unlikely to be significant. This receptor is not considered further in this RoD.

Climate

Construction activities associated with the proposed scheme works have the potential to cause local air quality impacts as a result of the emission of greenhouse gases through the use of vehicles and machinery, material use and production, and transportation of materials to and from site. The following mitigation measures will be put in place:

- BEAR Scotland will adhere to their Carbon Management Policy.
- Where possible, the works will be undertaken utilising a daytime work pattern to reduce the requirement for additional lighting.
- Local contractors and suppliers will be used as far as practicable to reduce fuel use and greenhouse gas emitted as part of the works.
- Where possible, materials will be sourced locally to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with materials movement, and waste will be disposed at local landfill.
- BEAR Scotland participate in CEEQUAL.

With the above mitigation measures in place, it is anticipated that any climate effects associated with the proposed works are unlikely to be significant. This receptor is not considered further in this RoD.

Major Accidents and Disasters

The southern extent A87 within the scheme extent has a medium risk of flooding.

Works are restricted to the made ground of the A87 carriageway and traffic management will be designed in line with existing guidance. The proposed works are anticipated to last 3 nights. Traffic management (TM) is currently anticipated to consist of one-lane road closure with convoy in opposite lane. Where required, alternative pedestrian routes will be included in the traffic management setup, to minimise impact of the works on NMUs.

These measures, along with mitigation measures and standard working practices, will be detailed in the SEMP and adhered to on site. The vulnerability of the project to risks of major accidents and disasters is considered to be low.

Assessment of cumulative effects

The proposed works are not anticipated to result in significant environmental effects. Due to the nature of the proposed works, no cumulative effects are anticipated with any other developments in the vicinity. A search of the Highland Council Planning Portal ([Map Search](#)) confirmed that there are no planning applications within 300m of the scheme. A search of the Scottish Roads Works Commissioner website ([Map Search](#)) has identified that no other roadworks are currently ongoing, or noted as being planned, on the trunk road at the same time as this scheme. There are also no local authority road networks in proximity to the scheme. Due to the nature of the proposed works, no cumulative effects are anticipated with any other developments in the vicinity.

BEAR Scotland programme all of their proposed works in line with appropriate guidance and contractual requirements. All schemes are programmed to take into account existing and future planned works, with a view of limiting any cumulative effects relating to traffic management. As a result of this exercise, where a potential for cumulative impacts is identified, BEAR will reprogramme schemes to avoid / limit any cumulative effects or will utilise existing traffic management to complete multiple schemes at once. This approach allows BEAR Scotland to effectively manage the potential cumulative effects as a result of traffic management, resulting in minimal disruption to users of the Scottish trunk road network. Overall, it is unlikely that the proposed works will have a significant cumulative effect with any other future works in the area.

Assessments of the environmental effects

As detailed in the Description of Main Environmental Impacts and Proposed Mitigation section, there are no significant effects anticipated on any environmental receptors as a result of the proposed works.

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 whole in the Kintail NSA which is 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 (EIA) 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 total working area is less than 1 ha.
- The works will be temporary, localised, and completed during night-time hours, when the traffic count is at its lowest levels.
- Containment measures of the working area will be in place to prevent debris or pollutants from entering the surrounding environment.
- Works are not expected to result in significant disturbance to protected species that may be present in the wider area.
- In the event that INNS are found on site, measures to prevent potential INNS spread will be implemented.

- No in-combination effects have been identified.
- The risk of major accidents or disasters is considered to be low.

Location of the scheme:

- Works will not have a significant impact on the Kintail NSA.
- Any impacts to the local landscape during the construction phase will be minor, temporary and not considered significant. In addition, no operational impacts are anticipated.
- The site compound will be located on made ground.

Characteristics of potential impacts of the scheme:

- Any potential impacts of the works are expected to be temporary, short-term, non-significant, and limited to the construction phase.
- Measures will be in place to ensure appropriate removal and disposal of waste.
- The SEMP will include plans to address environmental incidents.
- No impacts on the environment are expected during the operational phase as a result of works. The works are expected to result in positive impacts on road users during the operational phase.
- Mitigation measures detailed above and in the SEMP are put in place with the objective to prevent and, if required, subsequently control any potential 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.



**TRANSPORT
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