

## Environmental Statement

---

### 16. SUMMARY

Scott Wilson was commissioned by Transport Scotland to prepare an Environmental Statement to provide supporting information for the publication of statutory orders and to comply with the Scottish Ministers' determination that the Scheme should be the subject of an EIA.

Scoping studies have been carried out, leading to the preparation of this Environmental Statement.

Key issues that have been examined in detail as part of this ES included:

- Conformance with current policy;
- Community effects;
- Landscape and visual effects;
- Cultural heritage;
- Noise and vibration;
- Air quality effects;
- Ecology and nature conservation;
- Water quality and drainage; and
- Effects during construction.

Many of the potential temporary effects of the Scheme will arise as a result of construction. Applying best management practices as recognised through industry standards will mitigate the majority of construction disturbance. In assessing the environmental effects of construction, it has been assumed that best practice methods will be adopted and adhered to, therefore reducing the temporary negative impacts of construction vehicle activity, noise and vibration and impacts on air quality.

The permanent acquisition and use of land required for the Scheme will have isolated effects on the environment and some small areas of agricultural land.

In recent years there have been a number of serious road traffic accidents on this section of the A77, and as a result of the Scheme there will be significant benefits to both road users and the local community. The Scheme will improve safety levels by reducing the number of crossing points within the central reservation.

The Scheme will have landscape and visual effects along the A77. The views of those travelling on the route and views from the adjacent residential properties will be changed as a result of the realignment of the road and the new bridge crossing. However, sensitive landscape treatment of the embankments at the new junctions together with some tree planting in appropriate areas to break up and soften the profile of the proposed works will improve the appearance of the Scheme.

## ***Environmental Statement***

---

Without mitigation, the Scheme may have effects during construction on protected species such as otter, bats, and badgers, though appropriate mitigation, including timing of construction, will allow management of these potential effects.

During the operational stage of the Scheme the impact assessment has shown that there is unlikely to be any significant effects on water resources, geology and soils, noise and air quality. There will also be permanent beneficial impacts as a result of the shared footway and cycleway that is to be constructed adjacent to the A77.

In overall terms, it is considered that the proposed Scheme will not have any major adverse effects on the environmental features in the area and will have a major positive benefit by increasing safety aspects along this section of the A77 for road users and the local community.