



**TRANSPORT
SCOTLAND**
CÒMHDHAIL ALBA

Environmental Impact Assessment Record of Determination

M8 Prior to Jct 4A EB
(carriageway resurfacing)

Contents

Project Details	3
Description.....	3
Location	4
Description of local environment.....	4
Air quality	4
Cultural heritage	4
Landscape and visual effects	5
Biodiversity	6
Geology and soils	6
Material assets and waste	7
Noise and vibration	7
Population and human health	7
Road drainage and the water environment.....	8
Climate	9
Policies and plans	9
Description of main environmental impacts and proposed mitigation	10
Air quality	10
Cultural heritage	11
Landscape and visual effects	11
Biodiversity	12
Geology and soils	14
Material assets and waste	14
Noise and vibration	16
Population and human health	18
Road drainage and the water environment.....	19
Climate	20
Vulnerability of the project to Major Accidents and Disasters	21
Assessment of cumulative effects.....	21
Assessments of the environmental effects	22
Statement of case in support of a Determination that a statutory EIA is not required.....	22
Annex A.....	25

Project Details

Description

BEAR Scotland have been commissioned by Transport Scotland to carry out resurfacing works at the M8 prior to junction 4A (eastbound). The works will consist of carriageway resurfacing and reinstatement of road markings for a length of 1.45 km (approximately 1.75 ha).

Construction activities for resurfacing include:

- set up traffic management (TM) and mark out site;
- milling of existing bituminous material by road planer;
- jackhammer and compressor for breaking up surfaces not accessible by planer (e.g., around gullies);
- use of guillotine breaker to undertake Crack & Seat;
- loader/excavator used to collect and move excess material;
- sweeper to collect loose material and provide clean laying surface;
- milled out/excavated materials all taken off site;
- tack/bond coat laid;
- binder material laid and compressed by paver (where required);
- material compacted using a heavy roller;
- new bituminous surface course material laid by paver;
- material compacted using a heavy roller;
- mechanical sweeper to collect loose material;
- HGV for removal and replacement of material;
- road markings and studs applied where necessary (in accordance with Chapter 5);
- remove TM and open road.

The works are currently programmed to be completed within the 2022/2023 financial year (October 2022 to March 2023 inclusive). However, works may be delayed into the first half of the 2023/2024 financial year (April to September 2023 inclusive).

Works are expected to be completed over five nights (20:30 – 06:00). Traffic management (TM) is currently anticipated to consist of full road closures between junction 4 and junction 5, with a 12.4 km diversion in place. As the scheme is located on a motorway, pedestrian routes will not be directly impacted by the scheme.

Location

The scheme is located on the M8 in the West Lothian Council region, north of Whitburn (Figure 1).

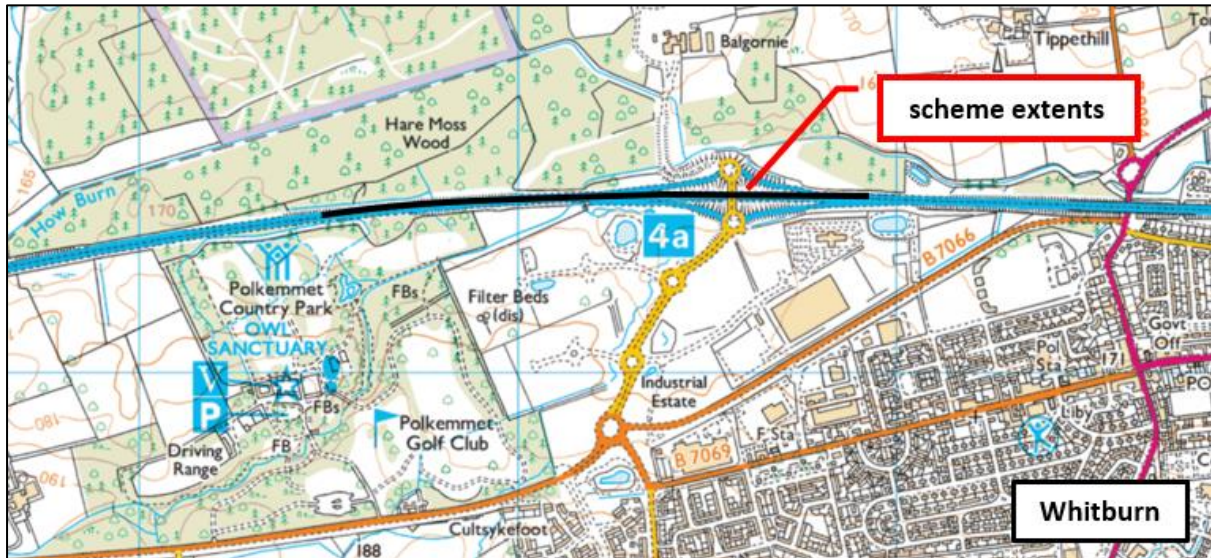


Figure 1. Extent of works. Source: Grid Reference Finder. Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. © Crown Copyright and database right 2022.

Description of local environment

Air quality

The scheme lies within the boundary of West Lothian Council, which has three [Air Quality Management Areas](#) (AQMAs) within its administrative boundary. The nearest AQMA, 'Chapelhall', lies within the North Lanarkshire council administration area 2.6 km northwest of the scheme and is declared for particulate matter <math>< 10 \mu\text{m}</math> (PM_{10}).

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

Baseline air quality is mainly influenced by vehicles travelling along the motorway. Secondary sources are likely derived from day-to-day agricultural land management activities.

Cultural heritage

The [PastMap](#) and [Historic Environment Scotland](#) (HES) online mapping tools records no world heritage sites, scheduled monuments, listed buildings, conservation areas, inventory battlefields or garden and designed landscapes within 300 m of the scheme.

Of lesser cultural heritage value, two undesignated cultural heritage assets (UCHAs) lie within 300 m of the scheme. One of these is depicted as being within the motorway boundary scheme extents but pertains to an archaeological sterile site investigated prior to a road improvement scheme. There is no connectivity between the scheme and the remaining UCHAs e.g., the nearest lies outwith the motorway boundary approx. 30 m south of the scheme.

Landscape and visual effects

The scheme is not situated within a 'sensitive area' designated for landscape features e.g., [National Park](#) (NP), [National Scenic Area](#) (NSA). The scheme lies approx. 1 km northwest of Whitburn, with road space, agricultural land and woodland surrounding the scheme.

Land use within 2 km of the scheme extents is categorised into the following: (i) cultivated farmland, (ii) rough grazing, (iii) urban development, (iv) motorway and major roads, (v) recreation area and country park, and (vi) managed woodland.

The [national scale land capability for agriculture](#) classifies land surrounding the scheme as being (i) 'Class 3.2' – land capable of average production though high yields of barley, oats and grass can be obtained (grass leys are common), and (ii) 'Class 5.2' – land capable of use as improved grassland (few problems with pasture establishment and maintenance and potential high yields).

Agricultural land surrounding the scheme forms a pattern of open and exposed fields containing both arable land and pastoral grazing. Field patterns are an important landscape element, varying in size and shape to fit the local topography. Field boundaries, for example, highlight the landform by accentuating undulating land and flatter areas. Most field boundaries are post-and-wire fencing, with vegetative features further delineating field boundaries e.g., shrub hedgerow, rough grassland, ruderal herb stands, scrub and tree shelterbelt.

Only five business premises lie within 300 m of the scheme. The business premises have no screening from the scheme extents and add little to the quality and character of the wider area.

There are no areas of ancient woodland registered on the [Ancient Woodland Inventory Scotland](#) with connectivity to the scheme extents. Approx. 1.77 ha of native woodland ([Native Woodland Survey of Scotland](#)) borders the EB carriageway.

Biodiversity

The [NatureScot Sitelink](#) online mapping tools identifies that the scheme is not situated within, and does not share connectivity with, a 'sensitive area' designated for biodiversity features e.g., Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA), Ramsar, Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), etc.

The scheme is not situated within a Local Nature Conservation Site (LNCS) or Local Nature Reserve (LNR) designated for biodiversity features.

The [National Biodiversity Network](#) (NBN) online mapping tool records one mammal species (not of conservation importance) within 300 m of the scheme (in last 10-years) within 10 km grid square NS96.

A search of the Asset Management Performance System (AMPS) online mapping tool notes two injurious weeds, as listed under the Weeds Act 1959, within the grassed verge adjacent to the scheme extents, namely; Broad-leaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*) and Spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*). Rosebay willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*), an invasive native perennial as listed in the Trunk Road Inventory Manual, is also recorded within the grassed verge adjacent to the scheme extents. Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), an invasive non-native species (INNS) as listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (WCA), is also recorded within the grassed verge adjacent to the scheme extents.

Geology and soils

The M8 within the scheme extents is not located within a [Geological Conservation Review Site](#) (GCRS) and there are no [Local Geodiversity Sites](#) (LGS) with connectivity to the scheme extents.

The [National Soil Map of Scotland](#) online mapping tool records the Generalised Soil Type in the study area are Peat and Brown Soils, and the Major Soil Groups are Basin peats and Brown soils.

The [British Geological Survey](#) online mapping tool records that the superficial geology underlying the scheme extents is comprised of Till Devensian (diamicton). The bedrock underlying the scheme is comprised of (i) Scottish Lower Coal Measures Formation (sedimentary rock cycles, coal measure type), and (ii) Passage Formation (sedimentary rock cycles, Clackmannan group type).

There is no evidence of historical industrial processes or the storage of hazardous materials that could have given rise to significant land contamination.

Material assets and waste

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

- Asphaltic material
- Road-marking paint
- Bituminous emulsion bond coat
- Milled in and surface mounted road studs
- Traffic loop cabling

The value of the scheme exceeds £350,000 therefore a Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP) is required.

The 1.45 km scheme involves removal of the surface course and localised areas of base and binder course. In total, 524 tonnes of bituminous material (European Waste Catalogue Code: 17 03 02) will be removed from site. The scheme extents also include areas of binder course i.e., bituminous material with European Waste Catalogue Code: 17-03-01* (bituminous mixtures containing coal tar (Hazardous)) (19 tonnes).

Noise and vibration

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

The night-time modelled noise level (L_{night}) for the scheme extent ranges between 70 and 75 decibels, dropping to between 60 and 65 decibels at the nearest Noise Sensitive Receptor (NSR) ([Scotland's Noise Scotland's Environment](#)).

Baseline noise levels are mainly influenced by vehicles travelling along the trunk road. Communication with the Design Engineer confirmed that the road surface is in a poor condition, with a series of defects, which have the potential to elevate ambient noise levels. Secondary sources are likely derived from day-to-day agricultural land management activities.

Population and human health

The scheme lies approx. 1 km northwest of Whitburn, with only five business premises within 300 m of the scheme. One business premise lies 90 m south of the scheme, two lie between 100 m and 150 m from the scheme, one lies 180 m south, and one lies 250 m south. The business premises have no screening from the

scheme extents. There are no sensitive receptors/land uses within 300 m of the scheme.

There are no National Cycle Network Routes ([OS Maps](#)), Core Paths ([Scotland's Environment](#)), Public Rights of Way ([PRoW](#)) or local footpaths within the scheme extents. Street lighting is absent across the scheme extents.

The M8 at the scheme location is a two-lane motorway with a continual hard-shoulder and the national speed limit applying throughout. The Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) flow is 42,953 (ID: 80501) (2020 data) ([Road traffic statistics](#)) and is comprised of:

- 79 two wheeled motor vehicles,
- 27,765 cars and taxis,
- 340 bus and coaches,
- 7,414 Light Goods Vehicles (LGVs), and
- 7,355 Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs).

The AADT flow recorded for pedal cycles is 0 (2020 data).

There are no congestion issues noted on the M8 within the scheme extents during the proposed working hours.

Road drainage and the water environment

A search of the Scotland's Environment Protection Agency ([SEPA](#)) River Basin Management Plan online mapping tool records that the River Almond (source to Foulshiels Burn confluence), a classified surface waterbody (ID: 3003), is spanned by the scheme extents. The River Almond (source to Foulshiels Burn confluence) is a river in the River Almond catchment of the Scotland river basin district and has a main stem approx. 18.4 km in length. The waterbody has been designated as a heavily modified waterbody on account of physical alterations that cannot be addressed without a significant impact on the drainage of agricultural land. The River Almond (source to Foulshiels Burn confluence) has been assigned a Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC (WFD) overall classification of 'Poor', overall ecological classification of 'Bad', and a classification of 'Good' for fish migration. The river is separated from the EB carriageway by VRS, filter drain and timber fencing (to TD19 specification).

One unclassified surface waterbody, considered to be a drainage channel and herein referred to as Drain1, is culverted beneath the scheme extents. The culvert of Drain1 extends approx. 10 m north beyond the EB carriageway and is separated from the

scheme by a grassed verge. Drain1 is too small (in terms of catchment area) to be classified as a main stem waterbody by SEPA under the WFD.

A search of the Scotland's Environment (SE) online mapping tool determined that the works lie on the 'Armadale' [groundwater](#), which has been classified as 'Poor'.

The SEPA indicative surface water online [flood mapping](#) tool records that the motorway, within the scheme extents, is not at risk of surface water flooding.

The scheme is not located within a [Drinking Water Protected Area](#) (ground or surface).

Climate

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 creates mandatory climate change targets to reduce Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions. The Scottish Government has since published its indicative Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to set out how it will reach Net Zero by 2045. A 2030 target, for example, has been set to reduce emissions of all major greenhouse gases by at least 75%, compared to a 1990/1995 baseline. Scotland's statutory framework also includes a net-zero emissions target date of 2045 and a further interim target for reduction of at least 90% by 2040, relative to the 1990/95 baseline.

BEAR Scotland, working on behalf of Transport Scotland, have a Carbon Management Policy in place with the core aim of reducing the carbon footprint that the company measures and reports annually.

Fuel will be required for transport to and from the scheme, which will lead to greenhouse gas emissions. Any release of greenhouse gas emissions can contribute to climate change.

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

During the construction phase, activities undertaken on site could potentially have some minor localised and short-term air quality impacts in proximity to the works. The construction phase will, for example, require a range of ancillary plant, vehicles, and non-road mobile machinery (NRMM) which will contribute to local dust and air pollutants. The main sources are likely to be dust generated by cold milling in preparation of carriageway resurfacing, as well as exhaust emissions from ancillary plant and vehicles. As a result, there is potential for DPMEE to be emitted to the atmosphere.

However, DPMEE associated with the construction phase will be localised to the works footprint and of a short duration. Moreover, considering the nature, size, and scale of the scheme, and with implementation of mitigation detailed below, the proposed works impacts on local air quality levels during the construction period are assessed to be temporary negligible adverse in magnitude.

Upon completion of the works, no residual air quality impacts are anticipated.

Proposed air quality mitigation measures:

- A water-assisted dust sweeper will sweep the carriageway after dust-generating activities, and waste will be contained and removed from site as soon as is practicable.
- Vehicles that remove cold-milled material from site will have sheeted covers.
- Ancillary plant, vehicles and NRMM will have been regularly maintained, paying attention to the integrity of exhaust systems. If any emissions of dark smoke should occur (except at start up), the ancillary plant, vehicles or NRMM involved will be taken out of service immediately and any defect rectified before use.
- Ancillary plant, vehicles and NRMM will be switched off when stationary to prevent exhaust emissions (e.g., there will be no idling vehicles).
- If powered generators are required, the use of diesel or petrol will be avoided and mains electricity or battery powered ancillary plant used, where practicable.
- Cutting, grinding, and sawing equipment (if required) will be fitted or used in conjunction with suitable dust suppression techniques e.g., local exhaust ventilation system that fits directly onto tools.
- Materials that have a potential to produce dust will be removed from site as soon as possible.

- Regular monitoring (e.g., by engineer or Clerk of Works) will take place when dust, particulate matter, and exhaust emissions (DPMEE) generating activities are occurring. In the unlikely event that unacceptable DPMEE are emanating from the site, the operation will, where practicable, be modified and re-checked to verify that the corrective action has been effective. Actions to be considered include: (a) minimizing cutting and grinding on-site, (b) reducing the operating hours, (c) changing the method of working, etc.

Cultural heritage

Construction of the M8 road corridor is likely to have removed any archaeological remains that may have been present. The potential for the presence of unknown archaeological remains in the study area has therefore been assessed to be low. Moreover, the works do not entail any earthworks or vegetation clearance, and people, ancillary plant, vehicles, NRMM and materials are restricted to areas of made-ground on the M8 carriageway surface. As such, there is negligible risk of disturbing or damaging previously undiscovered or unrecorded items of cultural interest.

Given there are no features of cultural heritage significance that require planning permission or consent within 300 m of the scheme extents, and with implementation of mitigation detailed below, the proposed works impacts on cultural heritage during the construction period are assessed to be negligible in magnitude.

Upon completion of the works, no residual impacts on cultural heritage are anticipated.

Proposed cultural heritage mitigation measures:

- People, ancillary plant, vehicles, NRMM and materials will be restricted to the made/engineered ground on the M8 carriageway (as much as is reasonably practicable).

Landscape and visual effects

There will be a short-term impact on the landscape character and visual amenity of the site as a result of the presence of construction plant, vehicles, and TM.

However, people, ancillary plant, vehicles, NRMM and materials are restricted to areas of made-ground on the M8 carriageway surface, and construction works are programmed to be undertaken at night (5-nights) on a rolling programme. As such, the visual impact of the works will be somewhat reduced.

Considering the nature, size, and scale of the scheme, and with implementation of mitigation detailed below, impacts on landscape are assessed as temporary negligible adverse in magnitude.

Upon completion of the works, no residual impacts are anticipated e.g., the works involve only like-for-like replacement of the road surface.

Proposed landscape and visual effects mitigation measures:

- Construction vehicles will not be left in places where soil or vegetation can be damaged. If damage to road verge occurs this will be lightly cultivated or graded (upon completion of the works) to allow natural recolonization by local species and promote integration with existing landscape character.
- The site will be monitored regularly for signs of litter and other potential contaminants and litter will be removed before and after works take place.
- The site will be left clean and tidy following construction.

Biodiversity

The scheme is not situated within, and does not share connectivity with, a 'sensitive area' designated for biodiversity features e.g., Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA), Ramsar, Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), etc.

There is no requirement for earthworks, destruction or removal of vegetation, permanent (or temporary) land-take, accommodation works, site clearance or locally gained resources. As such, the works do not involve any physical altering or removal of habitat or result in habitat fragmentation.

A temporary short-term increase in noise levels may cause disturbance to local wildlife. The works will, for example, require a range of ancillary plant, vehicles and NRMM which will emit noise and create potential disturbance. The works will also require delivery of materials and the presence of personnel to facilitate the improvements to the carriageway surface. However, the number of construction vehicles and construction operatives required onsite is also low given the scale and scope of works. In addition, any species in the area are likely to be accustomed to road noise on the M8 and the scheme is of short duration (5-nights) and will be undertaken on a rolling programme. The potential for significant species disturbance within the area of likely construction disturbance is therefore somewhat diminished.

All injurious weed, invasive native perennial and INNS records pertain to species present within the grassed verge adjacent to the EB carriageway. However, all works are restricted to a 1.45 km stretch of made-ground on the M8 carriageway surface, with only 'like-for-like' replacement of road surface being undertaken. In addition, there is no requirement to import topsoil. As such, there is limited potential to spread or introduce INNS, invasive native perennials, or injurious flowering plant species.

Considering the nature, size, and scale of the scheme, and with implementation of mitigation detailed below, the proposed work impacts on biodiversity throughout the

construction period are therefore assessed to be temporary minor adverse in magnitude.

Upon completion of the works, no residual impacts are anticipated in relation to biodiversity.

Proposed biodiversity mitigation measures:

- The Contractor will employ 'soft-start' techniques for all noisy activity to avoid sudden and unexpected disturbance during works. Each time the activity is started up after a period of inactivity, the noise levels must be gradually increased over a period of 30 minutes to permit animals (and birds) to move away from the disturbance.
- Where possible, artificial lighting used during night works will be sufficiently screened and aligned so as to ensure that there is no direct illumination of neighbouring habitat (e.g., locations adjacent to tree shelterbelt, woodland, surface waterbodies etc.) to ensure minimal impact on nocturnal species.
- All equipment stored onsite will be checked at the start of each workday to ensure protected species, and any or other mammal species, are not present. Any storage containers/plant within the compound will also be secured overnight to prevent exploration by protected species (and any or other mammal species). Any areas where an animal could become trapped (e.g., storage containers) will also be covered at the end of each working day, to avoid mammals falling in and becoming trapped.
- Toolbox Talk TTN-009 Working with Injurious Weeds & Invasive Plants will be briefed prior to works commencing.
- Site personnel will be briefed on the location of the broad-leaved dock, spear thistle, rosebay willowherb and Japanese knotweed that is recorded onsite and will remain vigilant for the presence of any other potentially unrecorded instances of invasive non-native species (INNS) or injurious weeds in road verges throughout the works period. Should any INNS be identified in working areas, no works will take place within 7 m of these areas until the BEAR Scotland Environmental Team can provide further advice on additional mitigation measures.
- People, ancillary plant, vehicles, NRMM and materials will be restricted to areas of made/engineered ground (as much as is reasonably practicable). If during works unforeseen access to the surrounding environment is required, works will cease in this area and BEAR Scotland's Environmental Team will be contacted to allow consideration of potential environmental effects BEAR Scotland's Environmental Team will be contacted to allow consideration of potential environmental effects if: (i) unforeseen site clearance is required, (ii) unplanned works must be undertaken outwith the carriageway boundary, (iii) there is any deviation from the agreed plan, programme and/or method of working, (iv) nesting birds are found onsite.

Geology and soils

Road schemes have the potential to impact upon the geology and soils through direct and indirect impacts on sensitive sites, loss or sterilisation of mineral deposits or soil resources, disturbance of contaminated land, or surcharging of ground which may accelerate erosion and subsidence.

However, works are minor in nature and are restricted to like-for-like replacement of worn road surface, with all works restricted to made-ground on the M8 carriageway surface. The work corridor is also not located within a GCRS, geological SSSI or LGS.

Considering the nature of the scheme, and with implementation of the mitigation detailed below, the potential for impact on geology and soils within the area of likely construction disturbance is somewhat diminished. The proposed works impacts on geology and soils throughout the construction period are therefore assessed to be negligible in magnitude.

Upon completion of the works, no residual impacts are anticipated in relation to geology and soils.

Proposed mitigation measures:

- If any contaminated land requiring remediation were encountered (outwith the carriageway boundary), it will be contained and/or removed in a safe and controlled manner to the standards required by SEPA. Any removal of potentially hazardous material is likely to constitute a net positive impact as this will remove the risk of any future contamination.

Material assets and waste

Minimising impacts arising from construction materials are focussed upon making the most efficient use of materials onsite to reduce the need for imported primary materials and minimise the creation and disposal of waste through (i) reduction, (ii) re-use, and (iii) recycling. Potential impacts have been assessed for both the construction and operational phases of this scheme. It is anticipated that most material impacts are likely to arise during construction, though long-term residual impacts could occur post construction during the operational phase e.g., during the disposal of materials arising from routine maintenance operations.

However, the detailed design will reduce the requirements for primary materials Crack & Seat extends the life of the existing lower cement bound layers of the pavement by introducing a series of hairline cracks, which more evenly distribute the strain. Crack & Seat is therefore a more sustainable solution than traditional methods as it reuses the existing cement bound layers and gives a more stable base to the carriageway, giving it an increased lifespan. By using Crack & Seat, 340 tonnes of

material is saved compared with traditional reconstruction (this is based on the assumption that without Crack & Seal all defective lean mix would be removed from the motorway throughout the site and replaced with an AC base course).

Considering the nature, duration, size and scale of the scheme, and with implementation of the mitigation detailed below, the proposed works impacts on material assets and waste throughout the construction period are therefore assessed to be temporary negligible adverse in magnitude.

Upon completion of the works, no residual impacts are anticipated on materials or waste.

Proposed material and waste mitigation measures:

- A SWMP will be completed by the Designer and Contractor as required.
- Good materials management methods (e.g., 'just-in-time' delivery) will be implemented wherever possible.
- The Contractor will comply with all 'Duty of Care' requirements, ensuring that any surplus materials or waste are stored, transported, treated, used, and disposed of safely without endangering human health or harming the environment. Material transfer notes and/or waste exemption certificates (if required) will also be completed and retained.
- The Contractor is responsible for the reuse / disposal of non-hazardous 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 (exemption number WML/XS/2004304).
- The base and binder course containing hazardous coal tar will be removed from site by the Contractor in separate wagons and taken to a landfill site licensed to take hazardous waste ([Coal Tar Guidance](#)).
 - 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
- Designated areas will be identified within which all materials and personnel, including construction compounds, will be contained to limit environmental disturbance during construction works. This will include a designated area (if required) for segregation and reuse of waste materials.
- The selection of areas for materials stockpiling will avoid sensitive locations such as road drainage and surface waterbodies. Stockpiled materials with leachate potential, for example, will be stored away from road drainage to prevent cross-contamination with other materials, wastes, or groundwater.
- Materials will be stored with the appropriate security to prevent loss, theft, or vandalism.
- All temporary road signs and traffic cones will be removed from site on completion of works.
- Wastewater from welfare facilities (if required) will be subject to effluent treatment followed by tanker removal.
- If hazardous substances are used onsite, each substance will be subject to assessment under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2002. Hazardous substances will also be clearly labelled, and disposed of, in line with COSHH safety data sheets and the Special Waste Regulations 1996. Special waste will also not be mixed with general waste and/or other recyclables.

Noise and vibration

Activities undertaken on site could potentially have some localised and short-term noise impacts in proximity to the works. The road works will, for example, require a range of ancillary plant, vehicles and NRMM for cold milling in preparation for carriageway resurfacing. Noise will also be generated by using guillotine breakers (Crack & Seat), paving breakers (jackhammers), chipping hammers, use of rollers, etc. As a result, there is potential for noise and vibration effects.

However, the works are not located within a CNMA or CQA, and the proximity of road space suggests that users of the business premises will have a degree of tolerance to noise and disturbance. Works will also be completed over 5-nights on a rolling programme, with the aim being to complete the noisiest works by 23:00. Works with the potential to induce worst-case scenario noise and vibration (using guillotine breakers for Crack & Seat, cold milling in preparation for carriageway resurfacing, using breakers (jackhammers), chipping hammers, use of rollers, etc.) will also be intermittent, transient, temporary, and short-lived. The potential for disturbance will therefore be somewhat diminished.

Considering the likely sources of noise and vibration, the distance from the point of generation to NSRs, the nature, duration, size and scale of the scheme, and with implementation of the mitigation detailed below, it is unlikely that noise and vibration associated with the works will lead to significant impacts, disruption and/or complaints. The proposed scheme is therefore anticipated to result in temporary minor adverse noise impacts.

The road surface is in a poor condition, with a series of defects. Replacing the life-expired surface course with TS2010 road surfacing affords the benefits of a reduction in mid-to-high frequency traffic noise and a reduction in ground vibrations. As a result, upon completion of the work noise associated with the movement of vehicles on the motorway should decrease post construction.

Proposed noise mitigation measures:

- Where possible, the noisiest work operations (e.g., Crack & Seat, cold milling, using breakers (jackhammers), chipping hammers, use of rollers, etc.) will be completed before 23:00.
- If unacceptable noise is emanating from the site the operation will, where possible, be modified and re-checked to verify that the corrective action has been effective. Actions to be considered include (a) minimizing cutting and grinding on-site, (b) reducing the operating hours, (c) repositioning equipment, (d) changing the method of working etc. Corrective actions will be actioned through the non-conformance reporting procedure, which ensures a root-cause analysis is carried out on each incident. The non-conformance procedure also ensures that appropriate corrective and preventative action measures are agreed and implemented in a timely fashion with all parties, and are recorded and actioned through to closeout, and fully auditable and traceable.
- Ancillary plant, vehicles and NRMM with directional noise characteristic will (where practical) be shut down in intervening periods between site operations.
- The use of paving breakers (jackhammers), chipping hammers, etc. must be avoided (except where there is an overriding justification), and if used must be fitted with mufflers or silencers of the type recommended by the manufacturer.
- Drop heights from vehicles and NRMM will be kept to a minimum to minimise noise when unloading.
- All ancillary plant, vehicles and NRMM used onsite will have been regularly maintained, paying attention to the integrity of silencers and acoustic enclosures.
- All compressors will be 'sound-reduced' models fitted with properly lined and sealed acoustic covers which will be kept closed when in use.
- HGV, site vehicles and NRMM will be switched to the minimum setting required by HSE and, where possible, will utilise 'broadband non-tonal' or 'directional sound reversing' alarms. Speed limits will also be reduced through the works.

Population and human health

During construction, activities undertaken on site have the potential to have temporary adverse impacts on local residents, vehicle travellers, and non-motorised road users (NMUs). However, the scheme does not require permanent (or temporary) land-take, accommodation works, site clearance or locally gained resources, and there is no requirement for a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO). There are also no NMU facilities, or other community assets, with connectivity to the scheme extents. A TM Plan, which will include measures to avoid or reduce road traffic disruption, will be produced in accordance with the Traffic Signs Manual (Department of Transport 2009). Moreover, TM will only be in place for 5-nights (when traffic flows will be at a minimum), and no congestion issues are noted during the proposed construction hours.

Considering the nature, duration, size and scale of the scheme, and with implementation of the mitigation described below, impacts on population and human health are assessed as temporary minor adverse in magnitude.

Upon completion of the works, no residual impacts are anticipated in relation to population and human health:

Proposed population and human health mitigation measures:

- Construction lighting will take into account the need to avoid illuminating surrounding properties to avoid a nuisance at night, and non-essential lighting will be switched off at night.
- Where appropriate, a communication strategy (e.g., social media, consultation with local authority and other stakeholders, letter drop (for night-time works), etc.) will be initiated to keep local residents and/or businesses informed of the proposed working schedule, particularly the times and durations of noisy construction activities. The communication strategy will also provide a 24-hour contact number for the BEAR Scotland Control Room.
- 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 BEARs social media platforms.
- Advanced signage will be strategically placed on the motorway to notify stakeholders of the road closure and diversion. Signage will be installed at least 7 days in advance of the road closure.
- A Traffic Management Plan (TMP), which includes measures to avoid or reduce disruption to road traffic, will be produced in accordance with the Traffic Signs Manual (Department of Transport 2009). The TMP will ensure that there is no severance of community assets, access routes or residential development.

Road drainage and the water environment

During resurfacing works, there is potential for temporary adverse impacts on the water environment. Potential changes in water quality e.g., from pollution events (either by accidental spillage of sediments, particulate matter, chemicals, fuels or by mobilisation of these in surface water caused by rain) during works have the potential to have a direct or indirect effect on the River Almond (source to Foulshiels Burn confluence), Drain1, and surrounding waterbodies.

However, no 'in-water' works are required, therefore there will be no change in the hydrological regime or water quality within the River Almond (source to Foulshiels Burn confluence) or Drain1. All land outwith the motorway boundary is also considered out-of-bounds to all construction staff during the works and there is no requirement for land take, site clearance or resources from within a waterbody. There is also no requirement for the abstraction or transfers of water from a waterbody. The potential for a direct pollution incident within a waterbody is also unlikely e.g., experience gained from BEAR maintenance schemes elsewhere on the network has shown that where standard best working practice is adopted (e.g., adherence to SEPA GPPs or PPGs, utilisation of drain covers or similar, etc.), water quality is protected.

Considering the nature, duration, size and scale of the scheme, and with implementation of the mitigation detailed below, the proposed works impacts on the road drainage and water environment are assessed as temporary negligible adverse in magnitude.

Upon completion of the works, no residual impacts are anticipated in relation to the road drainage and water environment.

Proposed road drainage and water environment mitigation measures:

- No works are permitted to take place within River Almond (source to Foulshiels Burn confluence) or Drain1.
- The abstraction or transfers of water, or the washing of tools in River Almond (source to Foulshiels Burn confluence) or Drain1 is not permitted.
- The Contractor will implement measures to minimise the risk of sediment or accidental spillages entering the road drainage system e.g., prior to works commencing any roadside gullies within 10 m of work activities will be bunded (e.g., utilisation of drain covers or similar) to ensure full segregation of the works from the road drainage system. The Contractor will inspect bunds periodically to ensure that they have not been removed, damaged, or interfered with and they will be cleaned of silt and debris as necessary. If it is identified that bunds are not up to standard, the works will not commence until they have been reinstated to the condition, they were originally in.

- All site personnel will be made aware of site spillage response procedures and in the event of a spill, all works associated with the spill will stop, and the incident reported to the Site Supervisor. Small spills that did not leave the site boundary and are cleaned up without material environmental harm or residual environmental impact would most likely not be required to be notified to SEPA or other authorities. However, all such incidents must be recorded and reported to BEAR Scotland's Environmental Team. In the event of a 'serious incident', SEPA will be notified without delay. Such notification will include: (i) the time and duration of the incident, (ii) a description of the cause of the incident, (iii) any effect on the environment as a result of the incident, and (iv) any measures taken to minimise or mitigate the effect and prevent a recurrence.
- All waste, vehicles, ancillary plant, NRMM and fuels will be stored in the compound(s) or laydown area and will be secured and located, if space is available, at least 10 m from drainage entry points, River Almond (source to Foulshiels Burn confluence) and Drain1, in order to comply with GPP 5 'works and maintenance in or near water'. Refuelling will only be undertaken at designated refuelling areas (e.g., on hardstanding, with spill kits available, and >10 m from drainage entry points, River Almond (source to Foulshiels Burn confluence) and Drain1, where practicable). Spill kits will also be available within all site vehicles and spill kits will be replenished onsite when required. Only designated trained and competent operatives will be authorised to refuel plant. Generators, and other ancillary plant and NRMM, where there is a risk of leakage of oil or fuel, will have internal bunding or must have a secondary containment system placed beneath them that meets 110% capacity requirements. Containment systems will also be emptied regularly. All waste, vehicles, ancillary plant, NRMM and fuels will also be stored in a manner that ensures they are protected from damage by collision or extremes of weather.
- Regular visual pollution inspections of the designated laydown area and work site (particularly near road drainage entry points, River Almond (source to Foulshiels Burn confluence) and Drain1) will be conducted (e.g., site walkover by engineer or Site Supervisor), especially during periods of heavy rain.
- All vehicles and NRMM onsite will have been regularly maintained, paying attention to the integrity of oil tanks, coolant systems, gaskets etc. A checklist must be present to make sure that the checks have been carried out.

Climate

BEAR Scotland, working on behalf of Transport Scotland, undertake carbon monitoring of major projects and operational activities. Emissions from activities are recorded using Transport Scotland's Carbon Management System. BEAR Scotland also undertakes resource efficiency activities to manage and reduce emissions contributing to climate change. The carriageway resurfacing works will also extend the maintenance intervals required for future works. In doing so, the service life of the motorway is also extended.

During works there is potential for impacts as a result of the emission of greenhouse gases through the use of equipment, vehicles, and NRMM, material use and production, and transportation of material/waste. However, considering the nature, duration, size and scale of the scheme, and the mitigation detailed below, the risk of significant impacts to climate are considered to be negligible adverse in magnitude.

Upon completion of the proposed scheme no residual impacts are anticipated on the climate.

Proposed climate mitigation measures:

- Local contractors and suppliers will be used as far as practicable to reduce fuel use and greenhouse gas emitted as part of the works.
- BEAR Scotland will adhere to its Carbon Management Policy.
- Where possible, waste will be disposed of at local waste management facilities.

Vulnerability of the project to Major Accidents and Disasters

The motorway, within the scheme extents, is not at risk of surface water flooding.

Works are restricted to areas of made-ground on the M8 carriageway surface, with access to the scheme gained via the M8. TM will employ road closure with signed diversion (the diversion will add 12.4 km onto existing journeys). There are no NMU facilities, or other community assets, with connectivity to the scheme extents. As such, the proposed works impacts on road traffic accidents is assessed to be of negligible magnitude.

A SEMP will be produced by BEAR Scotland which sets out a framework to reduce the risk of adverse impacts from construction activities on sensitive environmental receptors. The Contractor will comply with all conditions of the SEMP during works and may be subject to audit throughout the contract.

Considering the above, 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. Any future BEAR Scotland schemes will be programmed to take into account already-programmed works and as such, any cumulative effect will be limited.

A search of the West Lothian Council Portal ([Map Search](#)) confirmed three planning applications within 300 m of the scheme:

- Erection of a restaurant (class 3) with drive thru, associated parking, landscaping and access (awaiting decision)
- Erection of employment units for Class 4 (Business), Class 5 (General Industry) & Class 6 (Storage & Distribution) uses, associated parking, landscaping and access (awaiting decision)
- Proposal of application notice for a recycling station for processing of inert material such as building materials to form aggregate for use on construction sites (decided)

Due to the nature and scale of the works being undertaken by BEAR, and the timing of the three proposed planning applications, works are not anticipated to have a significant cumulative effect.

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 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) exceed 1 ha.

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:

- Works are restricted to like-for-like replacement of worn road surface, with all works restricted to made-ground on the M8 carriageway surface.
- Works are programmed to only take 5-nights to complete on a rolling programme, with the aim being to complete the noisiest works by 23:00.
- No works are required within River Almond (source to Foulshiels Burn confluence) or Drain1, which are spanned/culverted by the M8 within the scheme extents, therefore there will be no change in the hydrological regime or water quality within the River Almond (source to Foulshiels Burn confluence) or Drain1.
- Works are not expected to result in significant disturbance to protected species that may be present in the wider area.
- No in-combination effects have been identified.
- The risk of major accidents or disasters is considered to be low.
- By removing the carriageway defects this will provide this part of the M8 carriageway with another life cycle, and significantly improve the ride quality, which will result in safer conditions for road users.

Location of the scheme:

- The scheme is not located wholly or in part in a 'sensitive area' as defined in the EIA (Scotland) Regulations 1999 (as amended).
- The scheme does not lie within any sites of historical, cultural, or archaeological significance.
- The scheme is not located within any areas designated for landscape interests.
- Land use will not change as a result of the works.
- The works do not require any private land acquisition.
- The scheme does not lie within any sites designated for geology or soils.
- The scheme is not located within a densely populated area.

Characteristics of potential impacts of the scheme:

- Any potential impacts of the works are expected to be temporary, short-term, not significant, and limited to the construction phase.

- With good practice pollution prevention measures implemented onsite, there is a negligible risk of a pollution event e.g., compliance with the SEMP.
- As the works are restricted to the like-for-like replacement of worn road surface, there is no change to the vulnerability of the road to the risk or severity of major accidents/disasters that would impact on the environment.
- No impacts on the environment are expected during the operational phase as a result of the works.

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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