

Welcome and introduction

Welcome to this public exhibition.

The purpose of this exhibition is to present the proposals to improve the A737 at The Den, Dalry and highlight the need for the scheme, the scheme objectives and the challenges associated with this improvement scheme.

The proposed road improvement scheme layout is presented, along with information that summarises the potential effects of the proposals. The statutory procedures that must be followed to allow the scheme to be built are also described.

Representatives from Transport Scotland and its consultant Amey are on hand to help you to understand the proposals and answer any questions you may have about the scheme. Please take the time to discuss the scheme with them and make sure you understand how it will affect you.

Leaflets containing further information on the scheme, including details of locations where the draft Statutory Orders, associated plans and the Environmental Statement can be viewed are also available for you to take away.



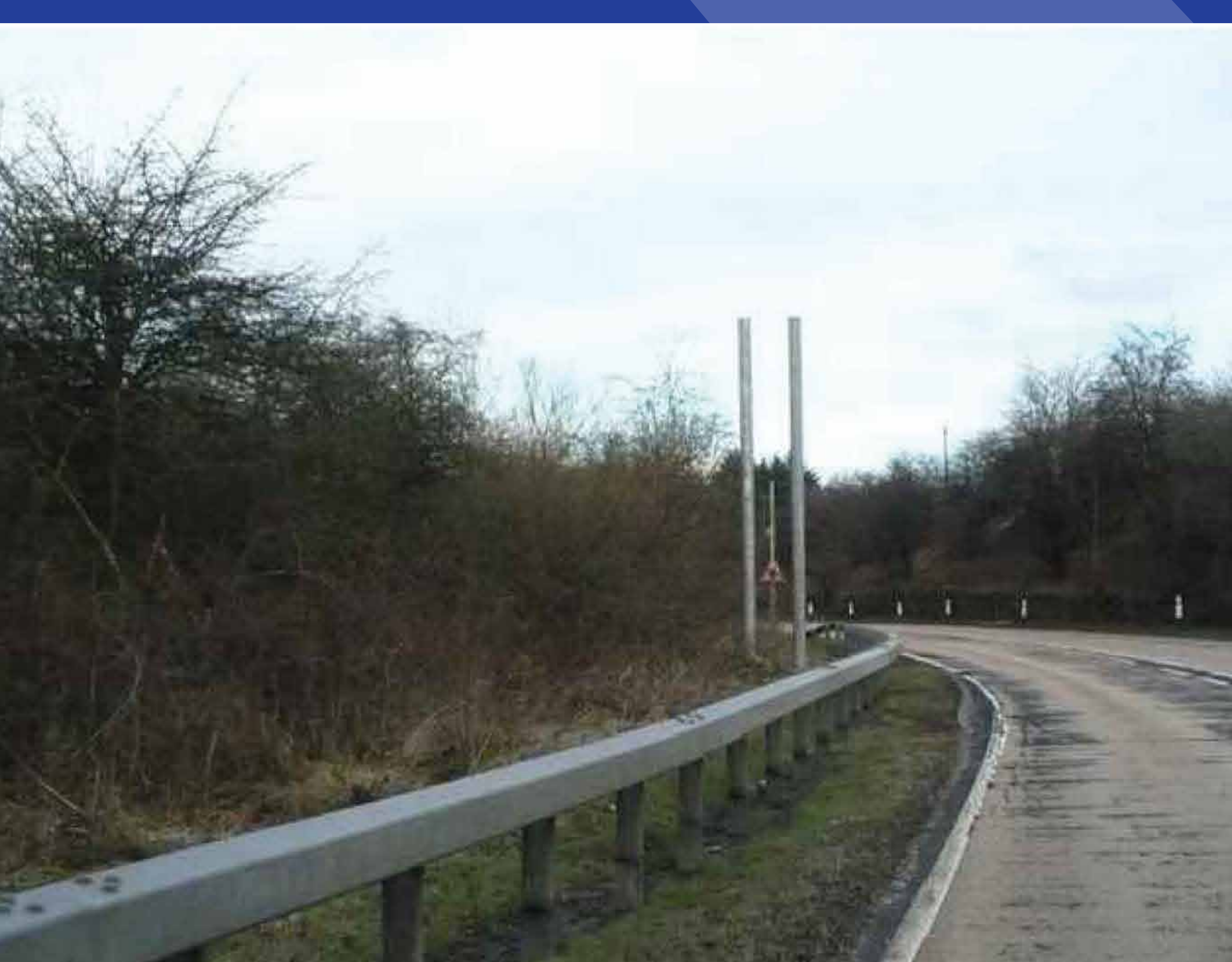
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Existing conditions

The A737 trunk road passes through the small village called The Den which lies midway between Dalry and Beith.

There are a series of bends as the road winds its way through the former mining village and as a result there are a number of properties located very close to the current carriageway.

The existing bends in the road reduce the drivers' line of sight which is substandard for a route of this importance. A number of road accidents have occurred near The Den in recent times.



Substandard Bends



Close Proximity of Properties to the Edge of Carriageway of the Trunk Road



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Scheme objectives

The A737 The Den, Dalry improvement was considered as part of the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) assessment process.

The recommendation from the assessment of A737 scheme options determined a preferred route for a 0.95km alignment lying to the north of The Den.

Following initial design by North Ayrshire Council, Amey was commissioned by Transport Scotland to progress the A737 improvement through further detailed assessment of the scheme towards the preparation and publication of scheme draft Orders and the Environmental Statement. This is the stage where the scheme is at present.

The overarching objective is to remove the substandard bends in the road on the A737 and provide a new alignment that introduces improved safety benefits.

The road improvement design aims to satisfy the scheme's objectives, which include:

- **To improve the level of service and safety on the A737 by reducing the effects of driver stress and journey times**
- **To eradicate conflicts between long distance road users and local traffic**
- **To improve the safety and the environment within the village**
- **To mitigate the environmental impact of the new works where possible**
- **To achieve good value for money.**



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Environmental and engineering challenges

Environmental

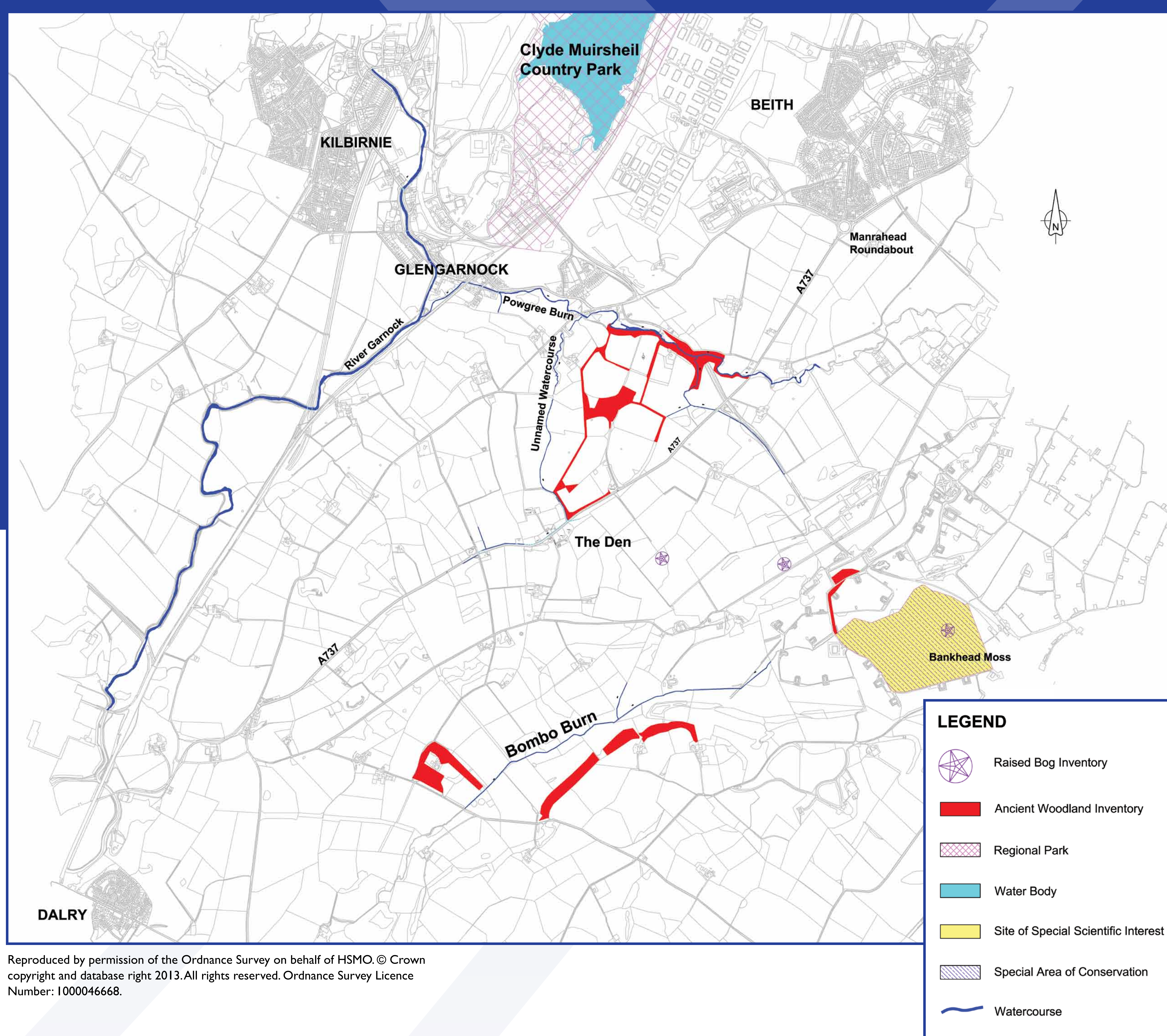
The following features of nature conservation, landscape, local heritage and recreational interest are located close to the proposed A737 The Den, Dalry scheme:

- **Local community**
- **Raised bog inventory**
- **Ancient woodland**
- **Regional park**
- **Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)**
- **Special Area of Conservation (SAC)**
- **Birds –red and amber species**
- **Various bat species**
- **Water body**
- **Various watercourses.**

Engineering

Engineering challenges of the scheme include:

- **Presence of underlying peat at ends of scheme**
- **Presence of material from old mine workings**
- **Maintaining a traffic flow during excavation of peat under the existing road**
- **Maintain flow of water in culvert/ditch through village**
- **Not exceeding the existing maximum water flow in the ditch alongside Auchengree Road.**



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The proposed route

The new road alignment shall consist of a single carriageway with hard strips and grassed verges.

The alignment will start west of The Graze Restaurant and then continue to the north of the properties at The Den, before connecting back to the existing A737 west of Maulside Lodge.

A new junction with the realigned A737 will be constructed at the east end of the village to provide access to The Den.

A new access to Fernside Cottage will be created from a section of the existing A737. This existing section of the A737 will de-trunked, becoming a local road under the responsibility of North

Ayrshire Council, after the new alignment has been completed.

The junction between Auchengree Road and the A737 will be closed to vehicular traffic. Footways will be provided to ensure pedestrian access from the village to Auchengree Road is retained.

The current access road to Meadowhead Farm will be removed by the new alignment. A new access route will be constructed to ensure direct access is maintained from the realigned trunk road.

Access to No 27 The Den will remain at the existing location on the de-trunked section of the existing A737.

Plan of A737



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What happens next?

Future progress depends in part on the successful completion of the statutory process. Subject to confirmation of the Statutory Orders, construction could commence in 2014, with an anticipated construction period of nine months.

However, depending on the nature of public comments received on the draft Statutory Orders, a Public Local Inquiry may need to be held before an independent Reporter, as well as the hearing of any opinions that may be expressed by members of the public on the Environmental Statement.

If a Public Local Inquiry is required, everyone who has supported, objected to, or made other representations about the draft Statutory Orders or the

Environmental Statement will be informed about the date and venue.

Please ensure that you take a copy of the scheme leaflet and if you have any questions on any particular aspects of the scheme please feel free to talk to one of the exhibition staff before you leave.

If you wish to support, comment on or object to the draft Statutory Orders, or comment on the Environmental Statement, you should write, no later than 5th July 2013 to Transport Scotland at the address below:

Director of MTRIPS, Transport Scotland Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, GLASGOW, G4 0HF

Further information on the scheme is available at www.transportscotland.gov.uk/road/projects/a737-the-den-realignment where the draft Order material and Environmental Statement can also be viewed.



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