

## 6. Consultation and Scoping

### 6.1. Introduction

- 6.1.1. This chapter describes the consultation and scoping process that was undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Consultation is a process that continues throughout the planning, design and construction stages of a project, helping to inform the environmental assessments in terms of scope, methods, type of impacts and identifying mitigation / enhancements.
- 6.1.2. Scoping seeks to agree the relevant information and parameters to be assessed and methodologies adopted as part of the EIA process. The assessments as presented in this EIA Report have utilised the findings of the [Design Manual for Roads and Bridges \(DMRB\) Stage 2](#) environmental assessments and EIA scoping process.
- 6.1.3. [Transport Scotland's approach to community engagement](#) sets out the ways in which the public and stakeholders have the opportunity to input during the design, development and construction phases of the Proposed Scheme.

#### Consultation

- 6.1.4. The purpose of the environmental consultation undertaken for the Proposed Scheme is to:
- ensure that statutory consultees (i.e. those with responsibilities for protecting the environment and regulating any activities which may adversely affect existing environmental conditions), other non-statutory bodies with a particular interest in the environment, and the public are informed of the Proposed Scheme and are provided with an opportunity to comment
  - obtain baseline information regarding existing environmental site conditions
  - help to establish key environmental issues and identify potential impacts to be considered during the environmental assessment
  - inform the scope of the assessments and reporting and

- seek input to the design to minimise impacts and develop appropriate mitigation.

### Scoping

- 6.1.5. A scoping report was prepared for the Proposed Scheme (A83 Access to Argyll and Bute EIA Scoping Report, Transport Scotland, November 2023), which set out a proposed scope for the assessment to be undertaken through the EIA process, based on [DMRB LA 101 – LA120](#) and informed by discussions with statutory consultees who facilitated the agreement on a number of aspects such as the type and extent of the surveys to be undertaken.
- 6.1.6. In alignment with [DMRB LA 103 Scoping projects for environmental assessment](#) the environmental topics scoped into the EIA are as follows:
- Air Quality
  - Cultural Heritage
  - Landscape
  - Visual Effects
  - Biodiversity
  - Geology and Soils
  - Material Assets and Waste
  - Noise and Vibration
  - Population and Human Health
  - Effects on Climate
  - Climate Vulnerability
  - Major Accidents and Disasters
  - Road Drainage and the Water Environment and
  - Cumulative Effects
- 6.1.7. As noted in Chapter 5: Overview of the Assessment Process, Heat and radiation has been scoped out of the EIA process.

- 6.1.8. A more detailed scope of works for each of the technical assessments is set out in the relevant chapters of this EIA Report. Where any deviations to the scope of works contained within the Scoping Report has been identified these are referenced within technical chapters 7 to 20.
- 6.1.9. The key issues raised during the consultation process and AWJV's responses are set out in Volume 4, Appendix 6.1 Summary of Scoping Consultation Responses. This includes details of comments received and where these have been taken into account in the EIA. Information and comments received have been taken into account during development of the Proposed Scheme and have helped to inform the design and assessment processes.

## 6.2. Approach and Methods

- 6.2.1. The consultation process on the scope and methods of assessment for the EIA involved engaging with the A83 Environmental Steering Group (ESG).
- 6.2.2. Wider consultees and key stakeholders were identified through review of previous studies relating to the Proposed Scheme (and other major roads projects), input from the technical specialists involved in the EIA and the consideration of communities and landowners within the influence of the Proposed Scheme.

### ESG Consultation

- 6.2.3. Engagement with statutory and non-statutory stakeholders is facilitated through the ESG that meets at regular intervals.
- 6.2.4. The purpose of this group is to facilitate consultation between Transport Scotland, AWJV and members of the ESG; to provide an opportunity to discuss requirements relating to statutory responsibilities and other issues; and to provide regular updates on, and an opportunity for, organisations to review and contribute to emerging design and assessment work (avoiding and mitigating impacts through design development wherever possible).
- 6.2.5. The ESG comprises the following statutory and non-statutory stakeholders:
- Transport Scotland

- Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority (LLTNPA)
- Argyll and Bute Council
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
- NatureScot
- Scottish Forestry and
- Historic Environment Scotland.

### Stakeholder Specific Consultation

- 6.2.6. Additional, focussed stakeholder consultations regarding the Proposed Scheme have also been undertaken with statutory organisations, landowners and other non-statutory bodies between 2020 and 2024 throughout the DMRB Stage 1, Stage 2 and Stage 3 processes.
- 6.2.7. As well as providing an update on the developing Proposed Scheme design, these consultations focussed on specific aspects where the project team sought feedback from stakeholders on the emerging design proposals.

### Landowner Consultation

- 6.2.8. Landowner identification and engagement commenced during DMRB Stage 1 for the Proposed Scheme and continued following the appointment of AWJV in 2022 for the DMRB Stage 2 and Stage 3 assessments. This has involved written enquiries and meetings with landowners and their agents.
- 6.2.9. Landowners were also provided updates on the development of the Proposed Scheme and provided with the opportunity to comment on particular aspects of design potentially interfacing with their interests.
- 6.2.10. Information was recorded in meeting notes, and the information gathered during the landowner identification and consultation process used to inform the Proposed Scheme development.

## Public Exhibitions and Public Engagement Events

- 6.2.11. A series of virtual and in-person public exhibitions and public engagement events have been held during the DMRB Stage 1, Stage 2 and Stage 3 assessment work. Consultation was as follows:
- virtual consultation in September 2020 on the eleven route corridor options considered as part of the [Strategic Environmental Assessment \(SEA\)](#) and [Preliminary Engineering Support Services \(PES\)](#)
  - online and virtual consultation in March 2021 on the five possible route options under consideration within the preferred corridor of Glen Croe
  - public exhibitions (both in-person and virtual) to present the Preferred Route Option were held between Monday 12 June and Thursday 15 June 2023 at Arrochar and Lochgilphead and
  - public engagement events (both in-person and virtual) presenting an update to the Proposed Scheme design were held between Monday 18 March and Thursday 21 March 2024 at Campbelltown, Lochgilphead, Lochgoilhead and Arrochar.
- 6.2.12. The in-person exhibitions / public engagement events provided the general public with information on the Proposed Scheme and were attended by key Transport Scotland and AWJV representatives from the project team (including members of the environmental team). The events also provided the opportunity for public comment on the developing Proposed Scheme design, verbally at the event and/or via a feedback form.
- 6.2.13. In addition to the exhibitions / public engagement events Transport Scotland hosted virtual exhibitions through their website and updates on the Proposed Scheme were made available to the public via the [A83 Rest and Be Thankful Story Map](#).
- 6.2.14. All comments received on the proposals during the public engagement events were reviewed and considered by during the development of the design for the Proposed Scheme.