

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Appendix B: Description of Schemes

Higher Level Intervention	Scheme Name	Local Authority	Description
Improving Strategic Connections	A486 Post Bach to Synod Inn Highway Improvement Phase 2	Ceredigion	Phase 2 of the A486 Post Bach to Synod Inn Transport Improvement scheme will complete the final element of the Ceredigion Link Road Stage 1, which delivers highway enhancements to improve the regional highway network. The A486 is the vital artery between Ceredigion and the M4 corridor as well as an important tourist route to the Cardigan Bay coast.
Improving Strategic Connections	A44/A4120 Llanbadarn Fawr Technical Appraisal WeITAG	Ceredigion	The expansion of Aberystwyth University and recent retail and office developments in the town have generated significant increases in the flow of traffic, leading to significant peak period congestion at Llanbadarn Fawr, where the A44 Trunk Road joins the A4120 – the main link to the A487 trunk road coastal corridor. A Planning Stage WeITAG study of Llanbadarn Fawr has recently been completed and it is proposed to follow on with a Technical Appraisal WeITAG study, to appraise options in detail.
Improving Strategic Connections	Teifi Valley Strategic Signing	Ceredigion	<p>The Teifi Valley Local Growth Zone recommends (R21) giving greater attention to the importance of road transport to the economic development for the Teifi Valley and developing and maintaining the local road infrastructure and the Valley's connections to the main transport networks is a priority. The completion of the North - South Road link between Carmarthen and Ceredigion is sought, as well as highway improvements along the Teifi Valley.</p> <p>There is a need to improve signing from the strategic road network including the M4 and other key routes to the north and south, as identified in Recommendation (R9) in the TVLGZ. The County Council will work with cross border authorities and Welsh Government to improve signing and connectivity to the area.</p>
Improving Strategic Connections	A496 Llandecwyn Roundabout	Gwynedd	The scheme will improve access to the Snowdonia EZ (Llanbedr area) via the A496 in Llandecwyn and from the A487(T) over Pont Briwet from Penrhyndeudraeth by implementing improvements to the roundabout junction at Llandecwyn. The scheme will address accident issues and improve traffic flow and capacity. The A496 is the strategic link between the Snowdonia Enterprise Zone and the trunk road network.

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	A496 Maentwrog to Blaenau Ffestiniog	Gwynedd	The scheme is to improve the standard and safety of transportation along a 7.7km (4.8 mile) section of the A496 County Road between the junction with the A487 near Maentwrog, north to the junction with the A470 in Commercial Square, Blaenau Ffestiniog. The A496 is the strategic link between the Snowdonia Enterprise Zone and the trunk road network.
Improving Strategic Connections	Pont Briwet Bridge Replacement Scheme	Gwynedd	<p>The Pont Briwet project is almost complete following substantial funding from European Regional Development Fund, through the Welsh Government, as well as Network Rail, TraCC and Gwynedd Council. The scheme involves the construction of a replacement rail and road bridge across the Dwyryd River near Penrhyndeudraeth, a new cycle/footpath, widened access roads and improvements to Llandecwyn station. The new improved bridge provides the important economic link to the rural communities of Ardudwy as well as safeguarding the future of the Cambrian Coast railway. There is a need for funding in order to enable the scheme to be completed, following issues that led to delays and the timing of the ERDF programme closure.</p> <p>Following completion of the scheme there is a need to consider the impacts on Penrhyndeudraeth from the changes in infrastructure and implement improvements if necessary.</p>
Improving Strategic Connections	A44 Radnor Forest Bends and East-West Routes	Powys	The A44 Forest bends are a tortuous section of road on this key link from Herefordshire into Powys. Whilst some works have been undertaken, the whole section is in need of upgrading. The scope of the 'scheme' could be widened to include other east/west routes such as A488, A44, A489, A438 and A495 that have similar issues, and allow ranking / prioritisation. Improvements may include measures such as signing, lining, junction improvements, visibility improvements to junctions, re-profiling or retexturing of the surface.
Improving Strategic	Strategic Routes Alleviation of Flood	All Authorities	A large proportion of the region is deeply rural, having dispersed settlements with few centres that offer a wide choice of employment opportunities. Despite

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Connections	Risk Areas		low average income there are necessarily high levels of car ownership. Where flood events impact on connections to these areas this impacts on access to employment and services. The project will be to address areas where flooding leads to impacts on connections.
Improving Strategic Connections	Pont Rheidol, Rhiwarthen, Capel Bangor	Ceredigion	Construction of a new bridge on the C1082 across the River Rheidol at Capel Bangor, to replace a deteriorated weak structure. The construction of a new bridge would maintain connectivity between rural communities and safeguard the Rheidol Valley Cycleway.
Improving Strategic Connections	Bridge Strengthening (Pinch Points)	Gwynedd	A significant number of bridges have been assessed as having substandard vehicle load capacity and are subject to monitoring regimes in order to minimise disruption to the local communities. 14 sites have been identified where current weight limits or substandard capacities are inhibiting economic growth. The proposed scheme is to re-deck, refurbish or strengthen these bridges in a phased programme according to priority. A significant issue in determining priority will be whether a structure carries an emergency route for use in the event of a Trunk or Principal Road closure.
Improving Strategic Connections	Route Restrictions - Structures height	Powys	There are 28 bridges in Powys where clear headroom is less than the standard required for vehicles complying with the Construction and Use Regulations (minimum 5.03 m); 15 sites have been identified where height restricted county road bridges are currently inhibiting economic growth. The proposed scheme is to carry out an initial feasibility study on all 15 sites to identify those sites where improving headroom to national standards is likely to provide significant economic benefit and to prepare a prioritised list of structures for further study. The second phase of the proposal is to carry out individual studies on the prioritised sites.
Improving Strategic Connections	Route Restrictions - Weight Capacity	Powys	There are structural weight limits on 46 bridges in Powys in addition a significant number of bridges have been assessed as having substandard vehicle load capacity and are subject to monitoring regimes in order to

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			minimise disruption to the local communities. 8 sites have been identified where current weight limits, substandard capacity or aging temporary bridges are inhibiting economic growth. A prioritised list of structures will be used to rank the projects according to impact on economic impact of weight restriction or removal of temporary bridging. A significant issue in determining priority will be whether a structure carries an emergency route for use in the event of a Trunk or Principal Road closure.
Improving Accessibility to Employment and Services	Aberystwyth Area Active Travel Project - Improving Walking and Cycling infrastructure	Ceredigion	A package of improvements to the walking and cycling infrastructure in Aberystwyth is proposed to provide improved access to jobs and services in the town, where there is considerable potential for active travel use. The eight schemes include: a new shared use link between the settlements of Penparcau & Southgate with Aberystwyth Town Centre; improved cycle infrastructure between Penparcau and Rheidol Cycle Trail; upgrade pedestrian controlled crossing on Boulevard St Brieuc and improved cycle provision from Starling Cloud into town; upgrade of Penygraig Lane between Llanbadarn and Waunfawr; enhanced pedestrian and cycling infrastructure between Plascrug Avenue and the Leisure Centre; options for a continuous footway/ cycle link from the University to Coleg Ceredigion; a shared use route adjacent to Hafan y Waun in Waunfawr; and a shared use route fronting Maesceinion Estate, Waunfawr.
Improving Accessibility to Employment and Services	Llanbedr Airfield Access (SEZ)	Gwynedd	To provide a new multi-user access road to connect the Llanbedr Airfield site to the A496. This will improve access to the Snowdonia Enterprise Zone and the connections to the others in the triangle of EZs (Anglesey and Deeside).
Improving Accessibility to Employment and Services	Newtown Active Travel Centre (pre & post bypass) Study and Detailed Design	Powys	These measures are active travel improvements to complement the construction of the Newtown Bypass and thus further the Welsh Government's agenda of promoting economic activity through connectivity and access to employment, training and educational opportunities in this area of the Severn Valley Local Growth Zone. Three sections of interventions are envisaged: i) Pre-bypass activity on the A483 / A489 corridor to be de-trunked; ii) Post-

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			<p>bypass activity on the A483 / A489 corridor to be de-trunked; and iii) Local network.</p> <p>The proposed interventions will be designed to break-down active travel barriers to north – south movement in the town which result from the River Severn and the current A483 / A489 corridor; improve active travel access on the main east – west corridor; and thus maximise connectivity by active travel to the main employment areas (i.e. the industrial estates, the town centre, the eastern retail area), the railway and bus stations, the further education college and other educational establishments.</p>
Improving Accessibility to Employment and Services	Park & Ride Hubs	All Authorities	<p>The scheme is to provide park and ride hubs at strategic locations. There are large employment areas situated outside the County boundaries within reach of residents which offer more diverse employment opportunities than can be found locally. The Park & Ride Hub Scheme aims to open up these employment markets to residents by reducing costs of travel.</p> <p>There are opportunities to create a number of park and share facilities on main routes to allow people to park safely and share vehicles to their ultimate destinations and to develop passenger transport interchange at these hubs. Initially 5 key strategic sites to be identified, with the intention to increase the number up to 12 depending on the relative success of the initial sites.</p>
Improving Accessibility to Employment and Services	Devils Bridge Footway Scheme Phase 3 Safe Routes in Communities Scheme	Ceredigion	<p>Provision of a footway in Devils Bridge to complete the link to the Vale of Rheidol train station to and from the centre of the community and its tourist attractions. Two earlier phases are completed. Phase 3 requires a retaining structure and thus is more difficult, however it is this section that is most heavily used by pedestrians.</p>
Improving Accessibility to Employment and Services	Central Wales Sustainable Distribution Project	Ceredigion	<p>Project to bring together potential partners from the public and private sectors to identify opportunities to develop one or more multi-modal freight transport facilities to enable the transfer of goods from road to rail and to enable more environmentally sustainable local goods distribution and to conduct a study</p>

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			into current distribution patterns. The Council is seeking to encourage rail freight as a means of reducing heavy goods vehicle movements on the regional road network.
Improving Accessibility to Employment and Services	Aberystwyth Park & Ride	Ceredigion	The scheme will develop and implement two proposed new Park & Ride schemes at Rhydyfelin, adjacent to the A487 Trunk Road, 2.5 miles south of Aberystwyth and at Bow Street – adjacent to the A487 Trunk Road, 3.5 miles north of Aberystwyth. Both sites are located in a strategic position to serve/ intercept local commuters into Aberystwyth thus reducing congestion on the trunk road and improving access to jobs and services. The Bow Street scheme will complement the proposal to construct a Railway Station at that location.
Improving Accessibility to Employment and Services	Active Travel for Growth Zones	Powys	The proposed schemes that meet the requirements of the new Active Travel Act in Local Growth Zones will cover 3 of the “designated localities” in Powys: Newtown, Llandrindod Wells and Brecon. There are many journeys with these Powys Local Growth Zones that are less than 5km. These journeys are being made to access employment or local services and are one of the main reasons for localised congestion at peak times. A programme of improvements to Active Travel infrastructure supported by other “soft measures” would assist localised congestion and promote modal shift.
Improving Accessibility to Employment and Services	Local Growth Zones - Congestion & Parking	Powys	The scheme aims to improve access to employment sites by looking to reduce congestion and improving existing parking facilities. The scheme will focus on the 3 Local Growth Zones in Powys. The scheme will include a study of congestion in the towns, to identify trends, peak time issues and offer recommendations to reduce congestion and recommendations. A review of the parking facilities on offer in the three towns and suggested improvements would also be undertaken.
Encouraging Walking	Active Travel for	All Authorities	The proposed scheme will aim to meet the requirements of the new Active Travel Act in each of the Local Authority areas by funding improvements to

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and Cycling	"designated" localities		<p>walking and cycling links.</p> <p>In Southern Gwynedd this will cover the four designated localities of Blaenau Ffestiniog, Tywyn, Dolgellau & Barmouth.</p> <p>In Powys it is proposed that Phase 1 implementation will cover 3 of the Powys designated Active Travel Act settlements areas. These are - Welshpool, Ystradgynlais, and Presteigne.</p> <p>In Ceredigion, there will be a project for Cardigan and Lampeter. A scheme to identify areas for improvement in Cardigan and Lampeter will be developed which could include provision of new cycleway and improved signage. This will enhance active travel routes including the signing of National Cycle Network Route 82 known as Lôn Teifi which is a 98 mile route from Aberystwyth to Fishguard. This includes Tregaron, Lampeter, Newcastle Emlyn, Llandysul and Cardigan which are located within the Teifi Valley Local Growth Zone.</p>
Encouraging Walking and Cycling	Bow Street to Aberystwyth & C1010 links to Penrhyncoch (Phases 1 to 2) Cycle Route	Ceredigion	This scheme proposes to build a new segregated, shared use route to link Aberystwyth to Bow Street and Aberystwyth University's IBERS facility. The route is proposed in three phases, Phases 1 and 2 of which can be delivered in the short term: Phase 1 links from Bow Street to IBERS and Phase 2 - a route along the C1010 to link the IBERS facility with Penrhyncoch.
Encouraging Walking and Cycling	Ystwyth Trail Extension - Cors Caron to Tregaron and Tynygraig Section	Ceredigion	The Ystwyth Trail is a 21 mile multi-user trail which is predominantly off road, providing safe traffic free cycling on these sections and forms part of the National Cycle Network route number 82 known as Lôn Teifi between Aberystwyth and Fishguard. The proposed scheme has two phases. The Cors Caron section will complete the off road route between Cors Caron and Tregaron with provision of a new car parking area at the destination /starting point in Tregaron. The proposed extension on the Tynygraig section will

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			provide an off road route which avoids the steep on-road section.
Encouraging Walking and Cycling	Rheidol Cycle Trail - Off road options at Capel Bangor	Ceredigion	The Rheidol Cycle Trail is a Ceredigion Tourism promoted cycle route between Aberystwyth and Devils Bridge. The route currently follows the C1028 road from Glanyrafon Industrial Estate to Capel Bangor where the route then joins the TRA44 for several hundred metres before turning off onto the minor road leading to Cwm Rheidol. This proposal will explore potential off road options to avoid the need for cyclists to join the busy TRA44.
Encouraging Walking and Cycling	Lon Tryweryn Multi User Path	Gwynedd	The scheme would create a multi-user path between Bala via Fron Goch to the National White Water Rafting Centre, Tryweryn. The proposed route largely follows part of the former Great Western Railway branch line from Bala to Blaenau Ffestiniog and is 6.8km long.
Encouraging Walking and Cycling	Tywyn to Aberdyfi Multi User Path	Gwynedd	Construction of a cycle path alongside the A493, which is continues the route between the coastal communities of Tywyn and Aberdyfi. The route has both a tourism and community function, and could form part of the Wales Coastal Path.
Integrated Public Transport Networks	Strategic Bus Corridor Infrastructure Improvements	All Authorities	The Local Authorities are seeking to improve local bus service infrastructure along key strategic routes by providing a high quality, consistent waiting facilities in line with Statutory Quality Bus Partnership Standards. The provision will include as a minimum standard, raised kerbs, consistent bus stop information (co-ordinated through Traveline Cymru) and where possible a lit bus stop sign and bus shelter.
Integrated Public Transport Networks	Capital Enhancements for Public, Fleet and Community Transport	All Authorities	The scheme package will seek to provide a capital funding stream for public transport, County Council and partner fleet and community transport/ voluntary sector to purchase new or replacement vehicles and to support central journey management and scheduling systems to improve efficiency of operations and to increase capacity.

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Integrated Public Transport Networks	Rail Hub Improvements	All Authorities	The scheme comprises improvements to access to rail stations. In Powys this includes Scheme A - Machynlleth Railway Station Interchange: rail/bus interchange and enhanced car park and Scheme B) Welshpool Railway Station Additional Car Parking.
Integrated Public Transport Networks	Public Transport Information	All Authorities	This scheme will seek to deliver the following in the region: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Real Time Bus Information – fixed information displays at key interchange locations – such as at Aberystwyth Passenger Transport ‘Gateway’ • Wi-Fi at strategic public transport interchanges and hubs where there is little or no mobile telephone coverage to enable public transport users to access existing/ new web and app--based travel information • Associated improvements to the general presentation, accessibility and availability of travel information.
Integrated Public Transport Networks	Actual Time 'Passenger Transport Information via Smart Mobile App	All Authorities	The project is to roll out a mobile app on bus routes that can deliver ‘actual time’ passenger information by communicating via a device on the service bus with smart phones. It has the potential to provide better than ‘real time’ passenger information, as it ‘learns’ the route and the time it takes to travel between stops and can then relay this information to waiting passengers. The data source will be Traveline Cymru. The app has been trialled successfully on one route in mid Wales. It also has the potential (with further development) to become an integrated public transport information & prepaid ticket ‘portal’ all in one place.
Integrated Public Transport Networks	Bwcabus Capital Investment Programme	Ceredigion	The scheme package will seek to support the continued operation and possible extension of the highly successful Bwcabus scheme within Ceredigion. Whilst Bwcabus is primarily a revenue scheme, there is a requirement for capital funding of associated infrastructure and for dedicated new or replacement vehicles.

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Integrated Public Transport Networks	Ceredigion Passenger Transport Infrastructure	Ceredigion	Package of key passenger transport corridor infrastructure improvements to be implemented across Ceredigion. To include purchase and installation of new bus shelters, poles and flags, timetable cases/ information displays, raised kerbs (where required), cycle parking provision, improved and safer pedestrian access, lighting (where required) and the extension of Real Time Information to Aberystwyth (Passenger Transport 'Gateway') with associated improvements to the presentation and availability of travel information.
Improving Safety and Security	Motorcycle Safety	All Authorities	The Local Authorities Road Safety Officers work in Partnership with the Emergency services and the Police initiatives to improve motorcyclist safety which is a significant issue in the region. The scheme is to analyse collision reports and implement improvements to enhance safety such as motorcycle safety barriers, signage, road markings and minor physical works.
Improving Safety and Security	Interactive Traffic Speed Signing	All Local Authorities	The scheme provides for the replacement or installation of interactive speed signs to reduce speeding through the region's towns and villages.
Improving Safety and Security	Energy Efficiency/Safety - Street Lighting Renewal	All Authorities	Many street lighting columns across the region are more than 40 years old and are currently fitted with inefficient lanterns/lamps. In Ceredigion as an example, the Council has recently converted thousands of streetlights across Ceredigion to the latest energy efficient LED technology. The old columns, however, are unsuitable for LED conversion. Renewing them would allow the Councils to complete the LED conversion programme. Unless the columns are replaced soon, the Councils will be forced to remove them.
Improving Safety and Security	Junction Safety Enhancements	All Authorities	The scheme involves improvements to locations, particularly at junctions, where there have been significant problems with road traffic collisions. The schemes will involve the following types of improvement: removal of acceleration de-acceleration lanes; signing and lining enhancement; realignment; surface re-grade and surface construction design and improved sight lines (low maintenance visibility lines). As an example the Innovation Campus development at IBERS, Plas Gogerddan with £40m investment requires highway junction improvements on the A4159 to facilitate jobs and growth on the campus. In addition, pedestrian road safety and access improvements will be required on the highway

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			adjacent to the Campus. These works will complement further proposed active and sustainable travel interventions connecting the site with neighbouring communities and proposed improvements to public transport infrastructure and services.

