

## October 2017 Environmental Statement Supplement Non-Technical Summary

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1. Draft Orders for the proposed M4 Corridor around Newport (M4CaN) were published by Welsh Government in March 2016, together with an Environmental Statement (ES) and associated reports. Since then supplements to the ES have been published initially to correct a number of factual errors, inconsistencies and omissions primarily related to baseline information, then to provide further information with regard to ongoing and new, principally ecological, surveys and to provide assessments of changes to the scheme design.
2. This ES Supplement, the October 2017 ESS, is concerned with three matters:
  - a) proposed minor design changes of the bridge protection works at Junction Cut, and minor changes to the proposed layout of relocated premises in Newport Docks;
  - b) the environmental implications of the UK Government's decision to abolish tolls on the Severn Crossings by the end of 2018; and
  - c) the reporting of further ecological surveys undertaken during the summer of 2017 within Newport Docks in support of the proposed relocation works.
3. This supplement and the previous Environmental Statement Supplements should be read together and alongside the published March 2016 ES. None of the additional data provided in the October 2017 ESS materially alters the assessment and conclusions of the March 2016 ES.
4. In July 2017, the Secretary of State for Wales announced that the Severn Crossing tolls would be abolished by the end of 2018. Consequently, the Do Minimum and predicted future traffic flows in 2022 and 2037 on the highway network are predicted to change.
5. A qualitative assessment of the traffic changes with respect to noise has identified a noise change of no more than 0.8 dB (in addition to the changes predicted for the published Scheme). Consequently, a small noise change reported may slightly alter the overall assessment of Noise Sensitive Receptors with a greater significant effect, or introduce or remove properties from having a significant effect. Such changes however would not alter any identified significant effect by more than one level of significance (e.g. from moderate to slight or vice-versa).
6. A qualitative assessment of the traffic changes with respect to air quality has identified the greatest increase of predicted NO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations for human health receptors to be for the new M4 section (up to 5 %). These concentrations are predicted to be well below their respective air quality standards. In terms of ecological receptors a moderate beneficial impact would likely remain unchanged at the Langstone-Llanmartin Meadows SSSI albeit the decrease in NO<sub>x</sub> concentrations would likely increase slightly. Predicted increases of NO<sub>x</sub> at the St Brides SSSI would result in a small increase in the predicted exceedance of the standard for protection of vegetation over a very small proportion of the designated site. However, the associated rate of nutrient nitrogen deposition at the SSSI boundary would be lower than the lower critical load for the site such that the assessment of the effect would remain as 'not significant'.
7. A qualitative assessment of the traffic changes with respect to carbon has been undertaken which has identified a greater benefit in carbon reduction terms than

originally reported in the March 2016 ES. A qualitative assessment is also given to the likely increase in the uptake of Electric Vehicles with the eradication of sales of internal combustion engine cars in 2040. Although, when considered in isolation, a greater uptake of Electric Vehicles will postpone the date for carbon neutrality that must be seen in the context of the overall benefit to the wider transport network. Notwithstanding this, it is considered the date for carbon neutrality originally reported remains conservative.

8. Ecological surveys for the presence of badger, otter, water vole, reptile and invertebrates have been undertaken on land proposed to accommodate the relocated premises within Newport Docks. No evidence of badger, otter or water vole was found.
9. A good population of reptiles (grass snakes) was found in the south-west of the survey area.
10. The invertebrate survey demonstrated that the invertebrate composition present was commensurate with many post-industrial brownfield sites with considerable potential to support a broad invertebrate fauna. This is in agreement with the overall assessment of the scheme impact on invertebrates on industrial land due to habitat loss, which concluded that the impact would be moderate to large adverse in the medium term, which is significant in EIA terms. It should be noted however that these habitat types are relatively transient in nature, having a lifespan of approximately 15-20 years before coarse grasses and scrub dominate and the invertebrate interest of the site diminishes.
11. Copies of the modified Orders, this ES Supplement and Summary, and supporting information are available to view during normal office hours at the locations below.
  - Orders Branch, Transport, Department for Economy and Infrastructure, Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ.
  - Newport City Council, Civic Centre, Godfrey Road, Newport, NP20 4UR.
  - Monmouthshire County Council, County Hall, Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA.
  - Monmouthshire County Council, Innovation House, Wales 1 Business Park, Magor, Monmouthshire, NP26 3DG.
  - Newport Central Library, John Frost Square, Newport, NP20 1PA.
12. Further copies of the ES Supplement Summary can be obtained free of charge from the Welsh Government in Cardiff at the following address.

Orders Branch  
Transport  
Department for Economy and Infrastructure  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park, Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ.
13. The ES Supplement and Summary (together with the full March 2016 ES, the September 2016 ESS, the December 2016 ESS, the March 2017 ESS, the April 2017 ESS and the August 2017 ESS) are available to view and download from the Welsh Government website:

<http://www.wales.gov.uk/m4newport>

14. Electronic copies of the March 2016 ES and its supplements (on DVD) can be purchased from the above Welsh Government address at a cost of £20 (including postage and packaging).
15. Paper copies of the March 2016 ES and its Supplements are also available from the above address, although an administrative charge will be made to cover the cost of copying (price on application).