

Wessex Area Support Team
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Name Highways England
Email only: Donald.Edokpa@amey.co.uk

Our Ref: 2809231049CB
Date: 08/11/2023

Dear Highways England (c/o Amey Consulting)

**Severn Estuary SSSI
ASSENT OF NATURAL ENGLAND UNDER SECTION 28H OF THE WILDLIFE
AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 (AS AMENDED)**

Natural England assents to the operations specified in your notice of 27/09/23 under S28H of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) as attached.

In summary:

Bridge repair- Removal of the existing central reservation barrier and replacement with a rigid concrete safety barrier along the full length of the M4 Prince of Wales Bridge

This assent covers a 21-week period from 1st April 2024 to 30th September 2024 inclusive.

Please note the important information about this assent below.

I draw your attention to your duty, under section 28G of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as inserted by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to take reasonable steps, consistent with the proper exercise of your functions, to further the conservation and enhancement of the SSSI.

Please contact the Wessex Area Support Team mailbox (wessexareateam@naturalengland.org.uk) to notify us of any changes to your planned operations.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Lowe
Adviser- Natural England

Date: 08/11/2023

Important information about this assent

If you wish to change the proposed operations or their location or to carry out additional operations for which assent has not yet been given, or if a time period set out above has expired, you must give further written notice to Natural England. Before doing so, you can seek advice from Natural England.

You may face enforcement action if you undertake unauthorised operations which destroy, damage or disturb the notified features of special scientific interest.

Before undertaking the operations specified in this assent, you may also need to get additional permissions from other authorities. For example, the assented operations might also require planning permission from the Local Planning Authority, a permit from the Environment Agency or a licence from the Forestry Commission. It is your responsibility, as the grantee of this assent, to ensure that no other permissions or consents, whether of a public or a private nature, are needed and, if any are needed, to acquire them before you exercise this assent.

This is Natural England's assent only, and it does not allow you to undertake the specified operations without first having obtained all of the necessary permissions needed to undertake the operation lawfully. If you do not obtain all of the permissions you require, and carry out the work anyway, you may face enforcement action from other authorities or parties.

As the grantee of this assent, you are responsible for carrying out the assented operation(s) safely and in all ways according to the law.

Notice of proposal to carry out an operation affecting a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Name of site of special scientific interest (SSSI): Severn Estuary SSSI.

The site is also a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site.

Name and address of public body or statutory undertaker: Highways England Company Ltd, Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ.

Project Manager: Patrick Madden

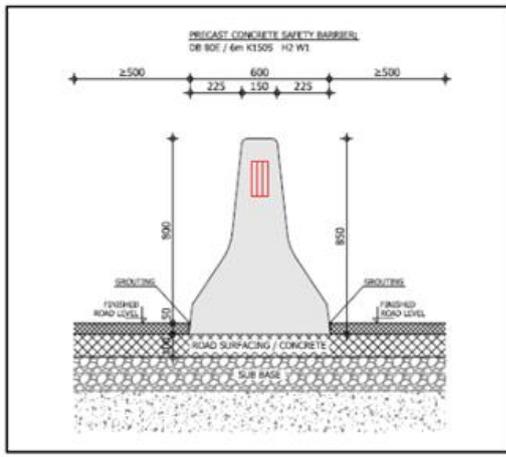
Email address: patrick.madden@amey.co.uk

[I/We] give notice to Natural England under Section 28H(1) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended and inserted by section 75 and Schedule 9 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) of [my/our] proposal to carry out the operations specified below in the exercise of [my/our] functions and on the land as specified below.

Operation and land details

Specified operations (summary of proposal):

1. Removal of the existing central reservation barrier (Left image) and replacement with a rigid concrete safety barrier (Right image) along the full length of the M4 Prince of Wales Bridge.



2. Replacement of bridge waterproofing.

3. Maintenance, removal and resurfacing of road asphalt, and concrete repairs.

Details of proposed operations:

The proposed works is on the full length of the Prince of Wales Bridge, a long cable stayed bridge which carries the M4 motorway between England and Wales. The existing rectangular hollow section (RHS) central reservation barrier will be replaced by a rigid precast concrete safety barrier along the full length of the bridge structure. The barrier replacement works will be combined with the carriageway resurfacing to minimise impact on the public and traffic management requirements. The bridge is over the Severn Estuary between grid reference ST 54236 85829 and ST 48584 87312.

Timing of proposed operations (including avoidance of certain weather conditions):

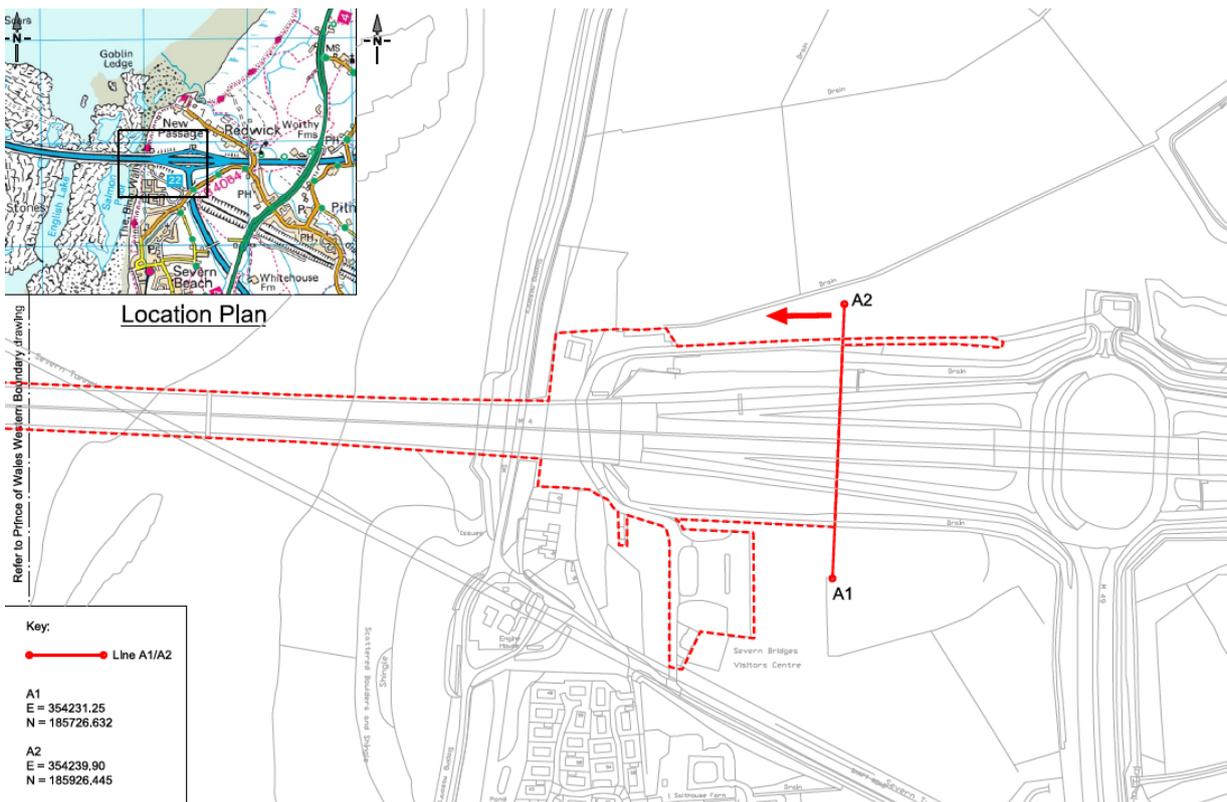
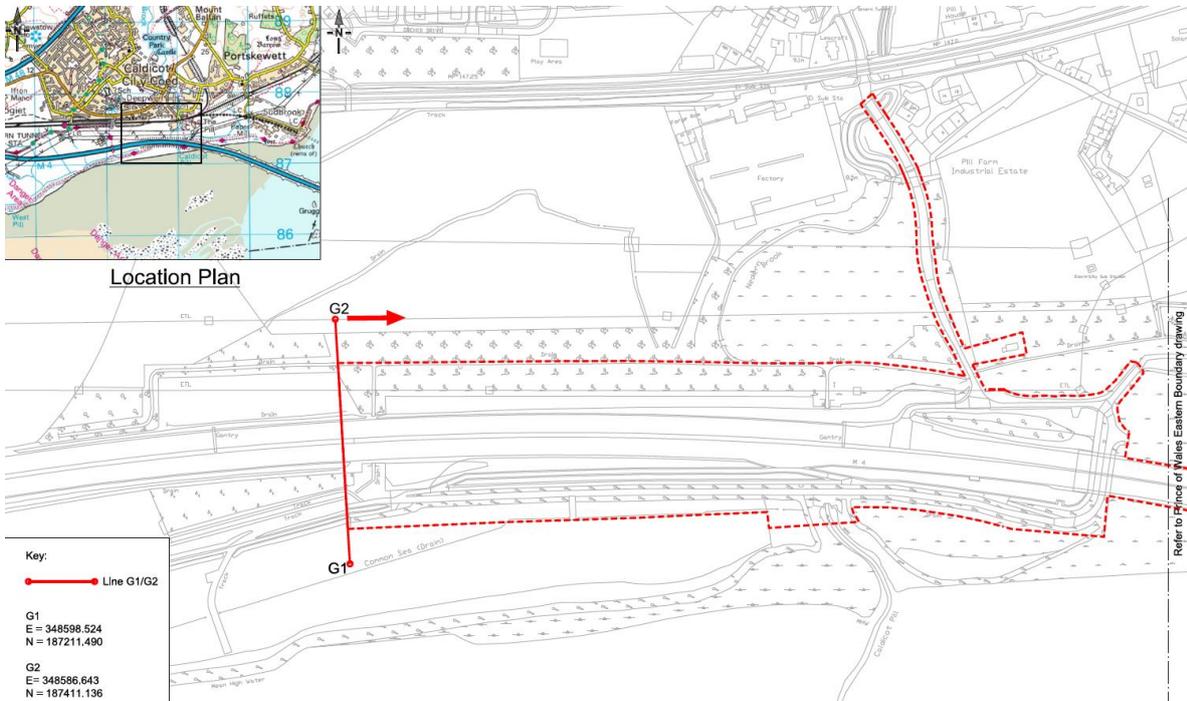
The scheme works will be done during the night and day over a 21-week period, with partial carriageway closure (contraflow traffic) during the week and full closures at weekends.

Land on which operations are to be carried out (include map):

Work will take place at grid reference:

Start point: 348584, 187312

End Point: 354236, 185829



Storage and disposal of materials:

Materials – precast concrete barrier will be temporarily stored on site prior to use. All other materials including asphalts will be stored off site and transported to site on the day of use.

Location of Works

It is not expected that direct works will infringe on the Severn Estuary SSSI/SAC/SPA/ Ramsar site as works will be confined to the carriageway blacktop on highways land only.

Precise routing of operations and vehicles:

Access to the site will be from the M4 carriageway from the English or Welsh side of the Prince of Wales Bridge, following traffic management measures.

Frequency of access:

The works will take place over a 21-week period commencing in April 2024. Works will be undertaken Monday to Sunday during the night and day, with partial carriageway closure (contraflow traffic) during the week (Monday to Friday) and full closures at weekends (Saturday and Sunday).

The provenance and chemical nature of imported materials:

Recycled material options will be used where available, otherwise it is anticipated that new (locally sourced) materials will be required for the works.

Type and ground-pressure of vehicles to be deployed:

The specifications of machinery to be used on site can be confirmed closer to planned construction activities, however the type of machinery/vehicles will generally include cleaners, road surfacing vehicles, trucks, and Hiab cranes.

Mitigation measures:

A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be put in place prior to the commencement of works to set out all environmental requirements of the project including risks and appropriate control measures to be taken, site waste management, biosecurity, pollution prevention and incident response plans. All works and specific site activities will follow this detailed CEMP.

Further information:

N/A

Signed by on behalf of public body / statutory undertaker:

Date: 27/09/2023

Using and sharing your information

The Data Controller is Natural England. For further information on how we process your personal information please see the sites of special scientific interest (SSSI) privacy notice at www.gov.uk/government/publications/natural-england-privacy-notice.