

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) for the Proposed Scheme. 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 presented in this EIA Report have utilised the findings of the EIA scoping process which has been summarised in Volume 4, Appendix 6.1 Summary of EIA Scoping and Volume 4, Appendix 6.2 Summary of Scoping Consultation Responses.
- 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.

Screening/Scoping

- 6.1.5. To reflect the geographical extents and nature of the interventions required for the Proposed Scheme a proportionate approach was taken to the EIA Screening and Scoping process and a combined Screening/Scoping Report was prepared. This report was issued to the A83 Environmental Steering Group (ESG) for consultation and set out a proposed scope for the assessment to be undertaken through the EIA process. The Screening/Scoping Report was based on the [Design Manual for Roads and Bridges](#) (DMRB) and a summary of those topics scoped in / out of the EIA is set out in Volume 4, Appendix 6.1 Summary of EIA Scoping.
- 6.1.6. The final scope of the EIA has been informed by consultation with the statutory consultees as documented in Volume 4, Appendix 6.2 Summary of Consultation Responses.
- 6.1.7. A more detailed scope of works for relevant technical assessments is set out in the relevant chapters of this EIA Report.
- 6.1.8. Where any deviations to the scope of works contained within the Scoping Report has been identified these are referenced within technical chapters 7 – 11. In alignment with [DMRB LA 103 Scoping projects for environmental assessment](#) the environmental topics scoped into the EIA are as follows:
- Population and Human Health
 - Geology, Soils and Groundwater
 - Landscape
 - Visual Effects and
 - Cumulative Effects

- 6.1.9. The remaining environmental topics as set out in Volume 4, Appendix 6.1 Summary of EIA Scoping which have been scoped out of the EIA are as follows:
- Air Quality
 - Cultural Heritage
 - Biodiversity
 - Material Assets and Waste
 - Noise and Vibration
 - Effects on Climate
 - Climate Vulnerability
 - Road Drainage and the Water Environment and
 - Major Accidents and Disasters.
- 6.1.10. The key issues raised during the scoping consultation process and AWJV's responses are set out in Volume 4, Appendix 6.2 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 considered 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 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 A83 ESG that meet at bi-monthly 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.
- 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 2020 and continued following the appointment of AWJV in 2022. This has involved written enquiries and meeting 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 development of the Proposed Scheme. Consultation was as follows:
- public consultation in March 2021 relating to the Preferred Route Corridor for the Long-Term Solution (LTS) which included engagement with community councils in the area who were invited to attend project update meetings. As part of these meetings information was provided on work being undertaken as part of the Medium Term Solution (MTS)
 - public exhibitions were held between 12th and 15th June 2023 at Arrochar and Lochgilphead. The purpose of this exhibition was to give the opportunity to see and comment on the permanent LTS and
 - public engagement events were held between 18th and 21st March 2024 at Campbelltown, Lochgilphead, Lochgoilhead and Arrochar. The purpose of these events was to provide an update on the design development for the LTS and on the progress towards delivering the MTS.
- 6.2.12. The in-person exhibitions/public engagement events provided the local community, road users and stakeholders 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 also hosted a virtual exhibition 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 exhibitions and engagement events were reviewed and considered by during the development of the design for the Proposed Scheme.