

A85 Connel

Section 6

General Policy 7 - There is potential for visual impacts on the marine landscape/seascape during works. However, the bridge is not located within a National Scenic Area, National Park, or World Heritage Site. Any impacts will be minor and highly temporary as all works are restricted to the maintenance of an existing structure on the A85 trunk road. Following works, visual effects are anticipated to be positive as a result of resurfacing which is intended to improve the condition and structural integrity of the A85 trunk road. Visual effects for other sensitive receptors in proximity, such as residential properties and business premises, will remain unchanged. Works may require the use of a temporary site compound and parking areas. These will be in place temporarily during construction, will be appropriately managed to limit potential visual changes on or from the seascape, and will be removed upon completion of the works.

General Policy 9 – The A85 Connel scheme shares ecological connectivity with Loch Etive Woods Special Area of Conservation (SAC), which is a European Site. The SAC is designated for alder woodland on floodplains; mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes, Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra*) and western acidic oak woodland. A Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) was completed to assess potential impacts of the proposed works on the qualifying features of ecologically connected designated site (refer to supporting document 'F565 HRA Proforma – A85 Connel'). The HRA concluded that the proposed resurfacing works will not result in Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on the qualifying features of Loch Etive Woods SAC.

Additionally, the scheme has received an environmental assessment, and an Ecological Constraints Survey (ECS) was undertaken for a separate works package (A85 Cnoc Aruan scheme), located approximately 80m west of the proposed works, by BEAR Scotland on 12th January 2026. The survey identified suitable habitat for European otter along the banks of Loch Etive; however, no couches, holts, or other resting places were recorded within 200 m of the scheme. An ECS, including camera trapping for European otter, was also undertaken by Jenny Wallace Ecology Ltd. for the A828 Connel Bridge scheme, located approximately 130m west of the proposed works, on 30th January 2026. The surveys recorded several otter sprainting locations along the rocky shoreline on both sides of the A828 Connel bridge. However, no otter holts or resting sites were identified within 200m of the A828 Connel bridge including the scheme extents.

A Site Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) will be produced for the works which will detail good practice and mitigation measures to be implemented during the works.

General Policy 11 – Appropriate containment and other pollution prevention measures will be implemented to prevent pollution or debris from entering the water environment, including relevant General Binding Rules (GBRs) under the Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations (EASR) 2018 and Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPP) ‘Works and maintenance in or near water: GPP 5’. Gullies and drainage points will be banded prior to works and visual checks will be carried out regularly to ensure that containment measures are functioning properly. GBRs, GPP 5 and other measures will be detailed within the SEMP and adhered to on site.

General Policy 13 – Some noise may be generated during works; however, no in-water works will take place and no underwater noise will be produced. The works are temporary and of short duration and will move progressively along the full scheme extent. Residential, commercial and community properties are located either side of the A85 within the scheme extents. Properties nearest to the scheme face onto the A85 and have no screening from the works. However, good practice measures will be incorporated into the SEMP to minimise the effects of noise on nearby receptors.

General Policy 14 – The A85 Connel scheme is situated within the village of Connel with baseline air quality mainly influenced by traffic along the A85 carriageway and the local road network, with secondary contributions from urban activities within Connel. During resurfacing, measures will be in place to fully contain any debris or pollutants created during the works. Any cutting or breaking-out works will be effectively managed to prevent dust creation. Additional good practice measures to reduce air pollution will be detailed in the SEMP and adhered to during works.