

A828 South of Creagan

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 A828 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 A828 trunk road. Visual effects for other sensitive receptors in proximity, such as residential properties, 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 A828 South of Creagan scheme shares connectivity with several designated European Sites, including Loch Creran Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Loch Creran Marine Protected Area for Nature Conservation (MPA NC), which are adjacent to the scheme, and Glen Creran Woods SAC and Glen Creran Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which are located approximately 70m south of the scheme. The marine sites are designated for reefs, flame shell beds, and Quaternary of Scotland geology. Glen Creran Woods SAC and its associated SSSI are designated for woodland habitats, otter (*Lutra lutra*), vascular plants, and invertebrates. A Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) was completed to assess potential impacts of the proposed works on the qualifying features of nearby designated sites (refer to supporting document 'F565 HRA Proforma – A828 South of Creagan'). The HRA concluded that the proposed resurfacing works will not result in Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on the qualifying features of Loch Creran SAC and MPA NC, nor on the qualifying habitats of Glen Creran Woods SAC. LSE could not be ruled out for otter in Glen Creran Woods SAC; however, due to the localised nature of the works, the ample alternative foraging and resting area in the wider area for otter, the robust containment measures and specific mitigation to limit disturbance, it has been concluded that the proposed activities are not likely to result in Adverse Effects on Site Activity (AESI) for this feature.

Additionally, the scheme has received an environmental assessment, and a site visit was carried out in September 2025. The bridge was previously identified as a bat roost during both the bat active season and hibernation season. Therefore, updated bat surveys will be carried out prior to works and a derogation licence from NatureScot will be sought to permit disturbance to a bat roost if required. No works will commence until all relevant licencing and mitigation measures are in place. 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. Gullies and drainage points will be bunded prior to works and visual checks will be carried out regularly to ensure that containment measures are functioning properly. GBRs 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. Two residential homes are located within 300m of the scheme (nearest being 25m east of the scheme); however good practice measures will be incorporated into the SEMP to minimise the effects of noise on nearby receptors.

General Policy 14 – The A828 South of Creagan scheme is situated in a semi-rural location on the A828 where vehicular traffic travelling along the carriageway is anticipated to be the dominant impact to local air quality, alongside agricultural activities. 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.