

Number: WG42297



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Welsh Government
Consultation Document

A470 Pontybat safety scheme

Date of issue: 24 February 2021
Action required: Responses by 24 March 2021

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.

Overview	The North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency, on behalf of the Welsh Government is currently investigating safety improvements on the trunk road network within mid Wales
How to respond	<p>The public consultation includes a set of specific questions to which the Welsh Government would welcome your response by 24 March 2021. You can reply in the following ways:</p> <p>Online: Complete the response form on the consultation webpage.</p> <p>Email: Complete the response form at the end of this document and email to enquiries@NMWTRA.org.uk using the subject 'A470 Pontybat Safety Scheme'</p> <p>Post: Complete the response form at the end of this document and post to:</p> <p>A470 Pontybat safety scheme Transport, Welsh Government, Government Buildings, Sarn Mynach, Llandudno Junction, LL31 9RZ</p>
Further information and related documents	<p>Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available on request.</p> <p>Project webpage: https://gov.wales/a470-pontybat</p>
Contact details	<p>For further information:</p> <p>Email: Complete the Response Form at the end of this document and email to enquiries@NMWTRA.org.uk using the subject 'A470 Pontybat safety scheme'</p>

Also available in
Welsh at:

[Cynllun diogelwch A470 Pont-y-bat](#)

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The Welsh Government will be data controller for any personal data you provide as part of your response to the consultation. Welsh Ministers have statutory powers they will rely on to process this personal data which will enable them to make informed decisions about how they exercise their public functions. Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about or planning future consultations. Where the Welsh Government undertakes further analysis of consultation responses then this work may be commissioned to be carried out by an accredited third party (e.g. a research organisation or a consultancy company). Any such work will only be undertaken under contract. Welsh Government's standard terms and conditions for such contracts set out strict requirements for the processing and safekeeping of personal data.

In order to show that the consultation was carried out properly, the Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then redact them before publishing.

You should also be aware of our responsibilities under Freedom of Information legislation

If your details are published as part of the consultation response then these published reports will be retained indefinitely. Any of your data held otherwise by Welsh Government will be kept for no more than three years.

Your rights

Under the data protection legislation, you have the right:

- to be informed of the personal data held about you and to access it
- to require us to rectify inaccuracies in that data
- to (in certain circumstances) object to or restrict processing
- for (in certain circumstances) your data to be 'erased'
- to (in certain circumstances) data portability
- to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) who is our independent regulator for data protection.

For further details about the information the Welsh Government holds and its use, or if you want to exercise your rights under the GDPR, please see contact details below:

Data Protection Officer:
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
CARDIFF
CF10 3NQ

e-mail:

Data.ProtectionOfficer@gov.wales

The contact details for the Information Commissioner's Office are:

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 01625 545 745 or
0303 123 1113

Website: <https://ico.org.uk/>

Welcome

Welsh Government and the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent welcome you to this public consultation. We are holding this consultation to present our proposal for improving the A470/A438 Pontybat crossroad junction which forms part of the Mid Wales Safety Schemes Programme and are seeking your feedback on the proposal.

Introduction and brief overview

The A470 forms part of the trunk road network in Wales, managed by the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent (NMWTRA) on behalf of the Welsh Government. The A470 provides one of the key connecting routes between north and south Wales. This road is a key route for tourists and for freight and provides connections between many communities within mid Wales.



A470/A438 Pontybat crossroad junction

Mid Wales safety schemes programme overview and objectives

Study overview

Welsh Government has identified a need to undertake improvements at pinch points on the Trunk Road network throughout Wales to improve safety, resilience and movement along the transport network. This has led to an initiative to develop a strategy for safety schemes on the mid-Wales Trunk Road network.

The initiative has strong Ministerial support centred around improved connectivity for all north-south trunk road links, with particular focus on sections of the A487, A483, the A470 and the A44 (W).

The overarching strategy is to consider improvements to sections of the network that

experience a high proportion of vehicle collisions and poor journey time reliability with increased levels of driver stress and frustration.

Study objectives

- Improve safety on the network for all users;
- Reduce driver stress / frustration;
- Improve journey time reliability for longer journeys on the strategic road network;
- Improve connectivity between mid-Wales communities;
- Protect and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem resilience;
- Support modal shift to active modes (walking and cycling) for shorter journeys and public or third sector transport for longer journeys;
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through smarter design, construction, operation and maintenance of the road network, including support to Electric Vehicle charging;
- Encourage and support key economic sectors of the Mid Wales economy, such as tourism, by improving links to work, leisure and education;
- Create a more resilient strategic road network, including managing the impact of climate change by future proofing infrastructure.

Why the Pontybat scheme is needed?



A470/A438 Existing junction arrangement

A470 Pontybat Safety Scheme

Pontybat junction has been identified as one of the priority schemes within the programme.

The junction has experienced ten collisions on or near to the junction within the last five years, including several at the junction itself.

Relatively high mainline traffic speeds make it difficult for A470 southbound traffic to enter the junction safely. Queues form on this arm which causes delays to vehicles and reduces journey time reliability on the main north-south route through Wales.

What has been done so far?

The Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance (WelTAG) has been produced by Welsh Government for use in the development, appraisal and evaluation of transport interventions to ensure that investment in transport is targeted where it can have the greatest impact. To date, a WelTAG Stage 1 and 2 has been completed for the Mid Wales Safety Scheme Programme. A WelTAG Stage 3 Study is ongoing which includes preliminary development of options at sites identified, including the A470 Pontybat Safety Scheme. The below provides a summary of the work that has been completed to date through the WelTAG process.

A WelTAG Stage 1 Study (Outline Strategic Case) was carried out to identify a long list of potential improvement schemes across the Mid Wales trunk roads (A470, A487, A44 and A483). The recommendation of this stage was that schemes were to be taken forward which were in a close geographic area to maximise the benefits of the programme with an initial focus on the A470 and A487, including the A470 section between Pontybat and Caersws.

A WelTAG Stage 3 Study (Full Business Case) is currently being developed which includes preliminary design of the shortlisted schemes, including the A470 Pontybat, and additional impact assessment work and surveys. The conclusion of this stage will be to recommend schemes for detailed design and construction.

A WelTAG Stage 2 Study (Outline Business Case) was undertaken to identify the most deliverable and beneficial schemes within each geographic area. Shortlisted schemes were taken forward to Stage Three, including the A470 Pontybat, with agreed methods to be used at the next stage to provide additional evidence to support the appraisal.

Developing a solution for the A470 Pontybat

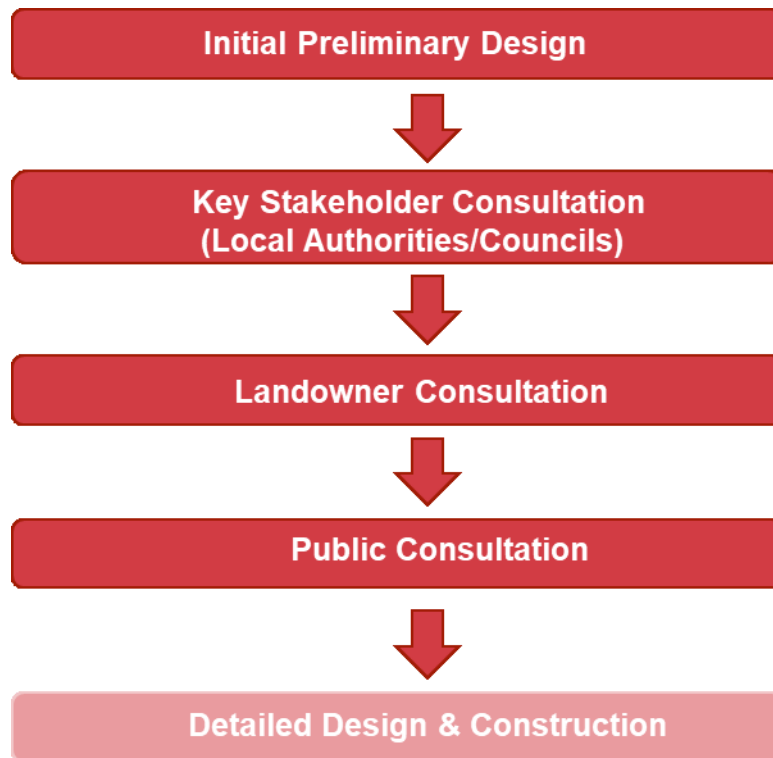
Several initial concept ideas were first considered as a potential solution to the problems identified at the A470 Pontybat. These were evaluated on which would provide the most benefit to all users and best satisfy the Mid Wales Safety Schemes Programme objectives, with the preferred solution taken forward to preliminary design.

In developing a solution and design, it is important to get the input from all stakeholders affected by the scheme.

The figure opposite shows the consultation process that has been followed to get the views and opinions of all interested parties, and at each stage the design has been revisited to address any feedback.

Following this consultation, any feedback will be reviewed and the design amended if necessary. The WelTAG Stage 3 will be finalised and the scheme recommended for

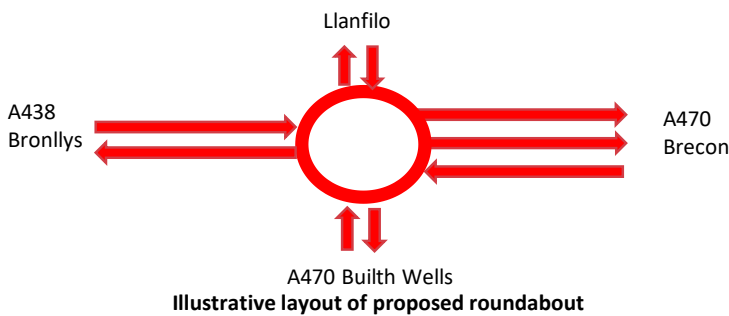
detailed design and construction.



A470 Pontybat scheme description

It is proposed to introduce a new four-arm roundabout replacing the existing crossroads junction arrangement of the A470/A438. As well as the new roundabout, a Differential Acceleration Lane (DAL) is proposed in the southbound direction along the A470 towards Brecon. This would provide 250 metres of formal overtaking opportunity for southbound drivers to pass slower moving vehicles safely.

The roundabout is intended to ease a pinch-point on the A470 where queuing traffic can form as right turning A470 southbound traffic tries to find gaps within the A470/A438 mainline traffic.



The scheme would require the acquisition of third party land due to the proposed design falling outside of the existing highway boundary.

Design standards require existing private accesses to the highway be stopped up within a Differential Acceleration Lane scheme, therefore alternative private access arrangements have been provided.

Due to the remote location of the junction there are minimal pedestrian movements at this location. The scheme does however include the replacement of the two existing bus stops and the construction of new footway linking them.



Image of existing junction

Existing junction layout

Aerial view of existing junction looking south west



Proposed scheme

Artist impression aerial view of scheme looking south west



Proposed scheme

Artist impression aerial view of scheme looking south west



Proposed scheme

Artist impression aerial view of scheme looking west



Proposed scheme

Artist impression aerial view of scheme looking east



Proposed scheme

Artist impression approaching A470 Pontybat Roundabout



Summary of scheme benefits

The proposed scheme was tested against the overarching Programme objectives and the following four WeITAG appraisal areas to ensure the proposal addresses the problems identified and positively contributes to.

- Economy
- Environment
- Social and cultural
- Value for money

The scheme has the following benefits:

- ✓ The safety of the junction will be improved as 6 of the accidents within the last 5 years were caused due to either overtaking manoeuvres, navigating the existing junction, or poor visibility.
- ✓ Reduction in driver stress/frustration in the southbound direction as the Differential Acceleration Lane allows the opportunity for drivers to safely overtake slow moving vehicles.
- ✓ Improved journey time reliability for vehicles in the southbound direction due to the removal of delay caused by the current priority junction, improving connectivity between Builth Wells and Brecon. Potential for short term delays during construction, however impacts will be minimised.
- ✓ Improved public transport infrastructure with new bus stops on the A438 with new localised footways connecting them.
- ✓ Reduced greenhouse emissions due to improved performance of the junction.
- ✓ Improved surface water drainage reduces the impact of localised flooding following heavy rainfall and improves network resilience.
- ✓ Renewal of highway assets such as drainage and surfacing reducing the need for maintenance over the next 10 years.
- ✓ Planting and landscaping to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem resilience. Short term landscape and visual impact as mitigation planting becomes established.

Conclusion and next steps

Conclusion

The A470 Pontybat Safety Scheme addresses the problems identified at the junction and provides several additional benefits addressing the objectives of the Mid Wales Safety Scheme Programme.

Next steps

Following this consultation exercise, feedback provided will be considered in the next stage of detailed design development.

Detailed design will be progressed during 2021, with construction planned to start winter 2021/22.

How can I comment?

We want to hear what you think about our proposed scheme. We can then consider your views and comments in shaping the final design. There are several ways you can comment:

- Complete the response form on the website: <https://gov.wales/a470-pontybat-safety-scheme>
- Email the North and Mid-Wales Trunk Road Agent: enquiries@NMWTRA.org.uk using the subject 'A470 Pontybat safety scheme'
- Discussion of the consultation information using Microsoft Teams can also be requested. Email enquiries@NMWTRA.org.uk using the subject 'A470 Pontybat safety scheme'
- Write to: A470 Pontybat safety scheme, Transport, Welsh Government, Government Buildings, Sarn Mynach, Llandudno Junction, LL31 9RZ

To help shape our final design, please submit your response by 24 March 2021.

Next Steps

We will review all comments and suggestions once the consultation feedback window is closed. These will be analysed and considered as part of the design process. We will also produce a report to summarise the feedback responses.

Updates on the scheme's progress will be provided on the project website: [A470: Pontybat.](#)

Consultation Response Form

Your name:

Organisation (if applicable):

E-mail / telephone number:

Your address:

Q1: Which of the following best describes the reason for your interest in this consultation)
(please select one only)

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Local resident | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Local business owner | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Employed locally | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Visitor to the area | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Not local but interested in the scheme | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Other (please specify):

Q2: Do you believe that the A470/A438 Pontybat junction should be improved?

- | | |
|-----|--------------------------|
| Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| No | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q3: Please tell us what you like about the proposed scheme. (Please tick those that apply)

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| a) Junction arrangement | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Increased overtaking opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Public transport infrastructure | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Improved safety | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Improved journey time reliability | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Landscaping and planting | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g) renewal of highways assets including drainage and surfacing | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h) reduced greenhouse gas emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Other (please specify below):

Comments:

Q4: Do you have any further comments that you would like to make about the proposed scheme?

Question A: We are under a duty to consider the effects of our policy decisions on the Welsh language, under the requirements of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

We would like to know your views on the effects that the proposals would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favorably than English.

What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

Question B: Please also explain how you believe the proposals could be formulated or changed so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favorably than the English language, and no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favorably than the English language.

Question C: We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:

Please enter here:

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here: