Welsh Government

M4 Corridor around Newport

Environmental Statement Supplement Volume 3: Appendix S2.1 Supplementary File Note on Reen Mitigation Strategy

M4CaN-DJV-HDG_GEN-FN-CD-0011

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Supplementary File Note

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Subject	Supplementary File Note on Reen Mitigation Strategy	

Purpose of this File Note

The Welsh Government's draft Orders and Environmental Statement for the M4 Corridor around Newport (M4CaN) were published in March 2016. Supplements and Modifications to the draft Orders have been developed by the Welsh Government to be published in September 2016 for the following reasons:

- Amendments to the details of parties in the Schedules to the Compulsory Purchase Order following receipt of further information on title holders, lessees and interested parties.
- II. Amendments to the project further to matters raised by responses received to the draft Orders.

Supplements to the Environmental Statement and Associated Reporting are also published to consider the changes as well as further information available since preparing the draft Orders, such as further ecological surveys.

The following design changes have been incorporated as part of this supplement:

- 1. Minor revisions to the NMU provision at Church Lane and Lighthouse Road.
- Docks Way Junction: revised horizontal and vertical alignment to lower the slip and link roads, remove the secondary roundabout and change the form of structure of the mainline viaduct (SBR-0885 Docks Way Junction Viaduct). This also reduced the length and height of the retaining wall along Docks Link Road (SRW-0895 Docks Link Retaining Wall).
- 3. Docks Link Road: realignment of Maes Glas Pill Culvert and bridge extension SBR-0925A and retaining wall SRW-0910 added based on outcome of further survey and as-built information provided allowing further design to be undertaken.
- 4. Glan Llyn Junction: providing access from Glan Llyn Link Road to the TATA owned land to the east. In addition, providing a retaining wall along the mainline to minimise impact on the existing pylon (SWR-1520 Pylon SE001 Retaining Wall).
- 5. J23a to J23 Trunk Road: revised vertical alignment at the west tie-in to lower the trunk road, achieved by matching the headroom of the proposed extension to St Bride's Road Bridge to the headroom of the existing St Bride's Road Bridge.
- 6. Magor Interchange (Junction 23) Roundabout: revised vertical alignment to lower part of the roundabout, achieved by realigning Bencroft Lane, removing Bencroft Lane underpasses and providing an overbridge to the east over the M48 (SBR-2340 Windmill Hill Overbridge).
- 7. Magor Interchange (Junction 23) Westbound Free-flow Link: revised vertical alignment to lower the free-flow link and height of the associated retaining wall (SRW-2320 Magor Retaining Wall) by

- introducing a small retaining wall (SRW-2285 Rockfield Lane North Wall) between the link and the J23a to J23 trunk road.
- 8. Magor Interchange (Water Treatment Area 12B): Further site investigation work has concluded that Vurlong Reen would not be sufficient for discharge of this Water Treatment Area (WTA). An alternative discharge point has been identified, which runs alongside Old Court Farm access drive and from where it would tie into existing drainage arrangements.

This supplementary report provides detail of clarification of the Reen Mitigation Strategy.

Content of supplement

The following sections have been amended. The paragraph numbering systems from the original document has been maintained.

2. The Existing Reen Network

Responsibility for reen maintenance lies with the riparian owners. NRW exercise their permissive powers to undertake maintenance works and water management for reens classified as Main Rivers (generally running north to south) and also all other major reens within the Caldicot and Wentlooge Levels Internal Drainage District (IDD). These two types of reen are subject to differing maintenance regimes which are currently under review. Further information on the reen system is provided in "The Caldicot & Wentlooge Levels Drainage Board Its History, Functions and Water Level Management Plan" (July 1995).

The water levels in the reens are divided into Winter Penning Levels (WPL) and Summer Penning Level (SPL). WPL is the water level in the reen during winter, which is kept lower to provide additional storage capacity. SPL is the water level during summer, which is kept higher for a variety of reasons, including nature conservation within the SSSI and active water management. During extreme storm events it is possible for water levels to rise above these levels.

The un-mown ditch banks and rough grassland areas provide habitat for the shrill carder bee, as they contain the flowers preferred by the bee for sources of nectar and pollen, such as red clover, creeping thistle and black knapweed. The presence of shrill carder bee is also a reason for SSSI designation.

3. Scheme Impact on Existing Reens and Field Ditches

The Scheme crosses reens and field ditches at a series of locations (see Appendix A). These reens and field ditches would be infilled as part of the scheme. The estimated length of reens that would be infilled and culverted as part of the Scheme is approximately 2,760m. The estimated length of field ditch crossings that would be infilled as part of the Scheme is approximately 9,370m.

Table 1 (below) breaks down the infilled reens across the scheme.

Chainage	Reen Name	Length infilled (m)	Reason infilled
5+100-5+300	Nant-y-moor Reen	194	Existing reen runs parallel and underneath mainline footprint
5+500-5+750	Percoed Reen and SDR reen	274	Existing reen runs underneath mainline footprint, with junction with SDR reen
6+820-6+900	Morfa Gronw Reen	116	Existing reen runs perpendicular to mainline footprint
7+750	Old Dairy Reen	79	Existing reen runs perpendicular to mainline footprint

Chainage	Reen Name	Length infilled (m)	Reason infilled	
7+980	Pont-y-Cwcw	74	Existing reen runs perpendicular to mainline footprint	
8+050	Pont-y-Cwcw	140	Existing reen runs under footprint of New Dairy Access.	
8+400	Sea Wall Reen	190	Existing reen diverted away from Sea Wall to allow construction of bridge abutment over River Ebbw	
12+350	Lakes Reen	53	Existing reen runs perpendicular to mainline footprint	
12+400	Julians Reen	89	Existing reen runs parallel to existing side road	
13+000	Julians Reen	55	Existing reen runs perpendicular to mainline footprint	
14+280 – 14+360	Ellen Reen	210	Existing reen runs perpendicular to mainline and slip road footprint	
14+650-14+750	Middle Reen	163	Existing reen runs perpendicular to mainline and slip road footprint	
14+850	Black Wall Reen	23	Existing reen runs underneath Tata land access	
14+880	Black Wall Reen	112	Existing reen runs perpendicular to mainline and slip road footprint	
14+880	Monks Ditch	20	Existing reen runs underneath Tata land access	
14+900	Monks Ditch	103	Existing reen runs perpendicular to mainline and slip road footprint	
16+600	Elver Pill Reen	65	Existing reen runs perpendicular to mainline footprint	
17+750	Middle Road Reen Diversion	41	Existing reen runs underneath North Row side road at skew	
17+900	Middle Road Reen Diversion	63 Existing reen runs perpendicular to mair footprint		
18+480	Cock Street Reen	60 Existing reen runs perpendicular to main footprint		
19+250 – 19+410	Petty Reen	198	Existing reen runs perpendicular to mainline footprint	
19+600-19+650	Stutwall Reen	81	Existing reen runs perpendicular to mainline footprint	
19+650 – 19+750	Stutwall Reen	142	Existing reen runs perpendicular to mainline footprint	
19+850 – 20+050	Bareland Street Reen	210 Existing reen runs perpendicular to mainline footprint		
Total	2,755m			

Table 2 (below) breaks down the infilled field ditches across the Scheme.

Chainage	Length infilled (m)	Reason infilled		
4+420-4+430	64	Existing field ditch under mainline footprint		
5+630 – 5+950	376	Existing field ditch under mainline footprint and Percoed NMU bridge approach embankment		
5+950 – 6+050	109	Existing field ditch under footprint of WTA 4b		
6+050 – 6+100	383	Two existing field ditches under footprint of WTA 4b and mainline		
6+120 – 6+280	170	Existing field ditch under mainline footprint		
6+250 – 6+350	150	Existing field ditch under mainline footprint		
6+400 – 6+550	419	Existing field ditch under mainline and structural embankment footprint		
6+550 – 6+650	101	Existing field ditch under mainline footprint		
6+900	66	Existing field ditch under mainline footprint connecting to Morfa Gronw Reen		
6+930 – 7+400	718	Existing field ditches parallel to mainline footprint and WTA 5.		
7+340	20	Existing field ditch under Lighthouse Road South		
7+350	26	Existing field ditch under Lighthouse Road North		
7+380	106	Existing field ditch parallel to Lighthouse Road Side Road		
7+410	61	Existing field ditch under mainline footprint		
7+500	99	Existing field ditches under mainline footprint		
7+520 – 7+670	184	Existing field ditch parallel to mainline footprint		
7+670	18	Existing field ditch under mainline footprint		
7+730	68	Existing field ditch perpendicular to mainline footprint		
7+880	74	Existing field ditch perpendicular to mainline footprint		
7+990	81	Existing field ditch perpendicular to mainline footprint		
8+010 – 8+050	46	Existing field ditch under New Dairy Access embankment north		
8+010 – 8+050	42	Existing field ditch under New Dairy Access embankment south		
8+100 – 8+350	421	Existing field ditches under embankment approach to River Ebbw Crossing		
8+060 – 8+100	24	Existing field ditch to be infilled for diversion of Heol Pont-y-Cwcw		
11+550	67	Existing field ditches under embankment from main bridge crossing		
11+640 – 11+760	165	Existing field ditch parallel to mainline footprint		
11+800 – 12+000	313	Existing field ditches under mainline footprint		
12+070	174	Existing field ditch perpendicular to mainline footprint		
12+150 – 12+350	191	Existing field ditch through WTA 6		
12+460 – 12+620	245	Existing field ditches under mainline footprint		
12+700	80	Existing field ditch under mainline footprint		
12+850 – 12+970	271	Existing field ditches under mainline footprint		
13+000	60	Existing field ditch perpendicular to mainline footprint		
13+000 – 13+100	216	Existing field ditches perpendicular to mainline footprint		
13+130 – 13+210	142	Existing field ditches perpendicular to mainline footprint		

Chainage	Length infilled (m)	Reason infilled		
13+240 – 13+330	150	Existing field ditches perpendicular to mainline footprint		
13+500 – 13+730	361	Existing field ditch parallel to mainline footprint		
13+900	59	Existing field ditch perpendicular to mainline footprint		
14+120 – 14+160	80	Existing field ditch perpendicular to mainline footprint		
14+280 – 14+360	100	Existing field ditches perpendicular to mainline and Garn Llyn Slip lanes		
14+400 – 14+550	296	Existing field ditches perpendicular to mainline and Garn Llyn Slip lanes		
16+390	53	Steelworks dedicated reen perpendicular to mainline footprint		
16+400 – 16+460	74	Existing field ditch skewed to mainline footprint		
16+850 – 17+100	540	Existing field ditches skewed to mainline footprint		
17+150	60	Existing field ditch perpendicular to mainline footprint		
17+200	59	Existing field ditch perpendicular to mainline footprint		
17+500	59	Existing field ditch perpendicular to mainline footprint		
17+520 – 17+880	799	Existing field ditches under mainline and WTA 9		
17+900	134	Existing field ditches perpendicular to mainline footprint		
18+000	69	Existing field ditch perpendicular to mainline footprint		
18+150	67	Existing field ditch perpendicular to mainline footprint		
18+980	63	Existing field ditch perpendicular to mainline footprint		
19+080	67	Existing field ditch perpendicular to mainline footprint		
19+130	66	Existing field ditch perpendicular to mainline footprint		
19+400	120	Existing field ditch perpendicular to mainline footprint		
19+700 – 19+850	347	Existing field ditch parallel to mainline		
Total	9,373m			

4. Mitigation Proposals for Reens and Field Ditches

NRW have advised that once a new reen is excavated, natural habitat will rapidly establish. This is reflected with the reen maintenance programme, which dredges the reen to clear vegetation and allows it to reestablish. An example of vegetation establishment on the reen system on Sea Wall Reen is shown in Figure 1 below, which shows a newly excavated reen, and the same reen 8 months later.





Figure 1 – Sea Wall Reen diversion – during construction and after 8 months.

Replacement reens and field ditches will run parallel to the highway. This will improve the connectivity of the existing reen system, and therefore provides additional flexibility for the management of the reen system. The reens and field ditches, where present, will also intercept some water from the highway embankment. This water will not include highway runoff, and will be a small area, as highway embankments will typically be 5m width. The ditches provided are larger than the typical dimensions for a highway cut off ditch (1.8m width), as they will have wider benefits to the surrounding system.

Based on consultation with NRW, and to ensure that there are no adverse effects on the hydrology of the Levels, for the replacement reens and field ditches, an approximately equal length of replacement is provided for the amount lost. This allows for effective water management as there is not a loss of storage within the levels. It also provides an equal amount of new habitat to replace the habitat lost.

Culvert crossings will be provided for each main reen, in order to maintain connectivity within the reen system. For culverts which have no discernible catchment from FEH analysis, these are currently proposed to be 1800 x 1800 concrete box culverts. The invert of these will be installed 150mm below the existing reen bed level to allow a natural bed to form, and then will be partially submerged to allow the water level to be maintained at SPL and WPL. There will be penstock sluices installed at each end, with the facility to completely close the sluice between the culvert and reen in order to allow access for maintenance. There will also be tilting sluices installed along the length of new reens where considered necessary to maintain the extended reen network. Tilting sluices are currently widely used across the Gwent Levels by NRW currently, and have been proposed by NRW. Culverts with a catchment are currently proposed to be 1800mm height. This will be confirmed through further surveys at detailed design.

Drawings M4CaN-DJV-HDG-ZG-GEB-DR-CD-0001 to 0016 in Appendix A show the current proposals for the reen mitigation across the Scheme. Table 3 (below) shows the approximate length of replacement reens provided.

Chainage	North or south of carriageway	Length provided (m)	Reason of provision
5+100 – 5+520	North	426	Connect Nant-y-Moor reen to SDR reen to improve water management
5+100 – 5+300	South	194	Diversion of Nant-y-Moor reen
5+520 – 5+760	South	246	Diversion of Percoed reen and connection of SDR reen to Percoed reen
6+000 – 6+700	North	775	Connection of Percoed reen to Morfa Gronw reen to improve water management
6+820 – 6+900	North	91	Diversion of Morfa Gronw reen
7+750 – 7-980	North	259	Connect Old Dairy Reen to Pont-y-Cwcw
8+000	North	142	Divert Pont-y-Cwcw Reen
8+050 – 8+400	North	365	Connect Pont-y-Cwcw reen to Sea Wall reen.
8+400	North	58	Divert Sea Wall Reen
8+400	South	27	Divert Sea Wall Reen
19+120 – 19+300	North	145	Water flows diverted to Cock Street Reen
19+120	South	98	Existing ditch widened to outfall to Rush Wall Reen
То	Total		

Table 4 (below) shows the length of proposed replacement field ditches across the scheme.

Chainage	North or south of carriageway	Length provided (m)	Reason of provision
4+320 – 4+520	North	209	Intercept ditches and transfer flow to culverts
4+420 – 5+100	South	658	Interception and diversion of flows to connect to Nant-y-Moor Reen, including flowing through Church Lane overbridge
5+510 – 5+760	North	219	Intercept ditches and transfer flows to Percoed Reen
5+760 – 6+130	South	472	Field ditch diversion around Water Treatment Area 4b
6+120 - 6+330	South	160	Ditch to intercept flows from drain
6+530 - 6+680	South	122	Intercept highway embankment runoff and direct to existing drains
6+680 -6+880	South	209	Intercept highway embankment runoff and direct to existing drains
6+900-7+150	North	240	Divert field ditch around Water Treatment Area
6+880 – 7+110	South	247	Intercept highway embankment runoff and direct to existing drains
7+400 – 7+750	North	302	Intercept flows from existing ditches and redirect towards culverts
7+400 7+500	South	90	Intercept highway embankment runoff and direct to existing

Chainage	North or south of carriageway	Length provided (m)	Reason of provision	
			drains	
7+500 – 7+750	South	233	Intercept highway embankment runoff and direct to existing drains	
7+760 – 8+380	South	580	Intercept highway embankment runoff and direct to existing drains	
8+080	North	216	Diversion of ditch along Heol Pont-y-Cwcw	
11+550 – 11+820	North	254	Intercept flows from existing ditches and redirect towards culverts	
11+640 – 11+960	South	323	Intercept highway embankment runoff and direct to existing drains	
11+810 – 12+350	North	591	Intercept flows from existing ditches and redirect towards Lakes Reen around Water Treatment Area 6	
11+960 – 12+090	South	122	Intercept highway embankment runoff and direct to existing drains	
12+350 – 12+470	North	97	Intercept flows from existing ditches and redirect towards Lakes Reen	
12+670 – 12+910	North	327	Intercept flows from existing ditches and redirect towards Lakes Reen	
12+850 – 13+000	South	158	Intercept highway embankment runoff and direct to existing drains	
13+000 – 13+310	North	12	Connect existing ditch to Julians Reen	
13+000 – 13+050	South	43	Connect existing ditch to Julians Reen	
13+050 – 13+580	South	455	Redistribute flows across existing ditches	
13+000 – 13+900	North	865	Intercept flows from existing ditches and redirect towards culverts	
13+900 – 13+960	South	161	Widen existing ditch to allow flows under new section of motorway	
16+600 – 17+230	South	633	Intercept highway embankment runoff and direct to existing drains	
17+880 – 17+900	South	33	Intercept highway embankment runoff and direct to existing drains	
17+880 – 19+130	North	1217	Intercept flows from existing ditches and redirect towards culverts	
18+010 – 18+480	South	462	Intercept highway embankment runoff and direct to existing drains	
18+980 – 19+130	South	150	Intercept highway embankment runoff and direct to existing drains	
19+300 - 19+800	South	620	Intercept highway embankment runoff and direct to existing drains	
19+830 – 19+950	South	114	Intercept highway embankment runoff and direct to existing drains	

Chainage	North or south of carriageway	Length provided (m)	Reason of provision
Total		10,594m	

Table 5 (below) summarises the reen and field ditch lengths lost and new lengths provided.

Туре	Length infilled (m)	New length provided (m)
Reens	2,755	2,826
Field ditches	9,373	10,594

5. Conclusion

This note outlines the mitigation for the reens and field ditches for the Scheme. Reen connectivity will be retained with the construction of culverts, and replacement reens will maintain the overall lengths infilled by the scheme.

Field ditches will also be constructed along the edge of the Scheme, maintaining the current length of field ditches infilled by the Scheme.

Side roads design will ensure that maintenance routes currently used by NRW to maintain reens will still be available.

Revised drawings are included in Appendix A.

Appendix A





























