

4. Ecology & Biodiversity

HIGHLY COMMENDED

A487 Porthmadog Minffordd & Tremadog Bypass

Client: Welsh Government | Designers: Halcrow / Hyder
Contractors: Balfour Beatty / Jones Brothers JV

DESCRIPTION: The popular seaside town of Porthmadog and neighbouring villages of Tremadog and Minffordd have been congested for many years by heavy through traffic using the A487 strategic north/south trunk route. The recently completed 5.3km, £40 million bypass scheme has provided the relief that the local population needed. Porthmadog lies on the edge of the Snowdonia National Park. The route of the A487 Porthmadog bypass potentially affected the Lleyen Peninsula and The Sarnau (SAC), the Meirionnydd Oakwoods and Bat Sites SAC, the Afon Glaslyn and Morfa Harlech SSSIs, the Traeth Glaslyn Wildlife Nature Reserve and various local Conservation Areas. As a consequence, the choice of the bypass route inevitably affected the local flora and fauna. From the outset, the sheer number and magnitude of ecological issues within this 5.3km bypass project was daunting. However, a comprehensive management system enabled the team to achieve outstanding results in protecting and enhancing the ecology and biodiversity.

ACHIEVEMENTS: Spending £750,000 the Project Team designed and installed a green bridge to prevent bats dipping down into the flow of traffic and to enable it to be used as a crossing point for various species which, in time, is expected to become a fully vegetated ecological feature. Disposed of 8,500m³ of Japanese knotweed-infested soil – minimising the risk of spread, avoided taking landfill space, saved 1,700 40 mile HGV journeys, 31,000 litres of diesel and 82 tonnes of CO₂. Constructed 150 refugia in the 3,000m of new stone walling to promote reptile habitats; Approx 670m of new hedgerow was planted along with 3,500m of linear scrub planting.

JUDGES' QUOTE: For the scale of project, the team have demonstrated a very high level of detail across a wide range of species in their ecological mitigation activities.



[Sharon Grafton, CEEQUAL]

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