

Abertillery to Brynmawr Active Travel Phase One

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the aims of the scheme?

The main aim of the scheme is to provide the first phase of a strategic walking and cycling route along the Abertillery and Brynmawr Valley. This first phase will link Brynmawr and Blaina, with connections to Nantyglo and key destinations along the route.

Who is paying for the design and construction of this scheme?

The scheme is being funded by Welsh Government, supported by Transport for Wales, through the Active Travel Fund.

Will the scheme be safe for all road users?

The scheme has been designed in line with the latest guidance, including the Active Travel Act Guidance and the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges. It will also be independently assessed for any safety problems through a Road Safety Audit.

Will the scheme impact traffic flow on the A467?

We recognise the importance of the A467 as a strategic route for traffic. Initial traffic modelling of the design proposals has found that the general operation of the key junctions on the A467 will be unaffected by the scheme.

Why does the proposed scheme go along the A467 instead of quieter routes such as Queen Street, Nantyglo, or the Trevor Rowson Wildlife & Heritage Park?

We want the route to benefit everyone at all times of the day throughout the year. It therefore needs to be designed to a high standard, lit, and well overlooked.

A route through the Trevor Rowson Wildlife & Heritage Park could have negative impacts on wildlife if it was lit, and it would not be overlooked by other road users. Other quieter roads, such as Queen Street, are much more constrained, with limited available width and on-street parking.

Will there be any impacts on businesses at the Rising Sun Industrial Estate?

The Rising Sun Industrial Estate is home to successful local employers and the scheme will make it easier for people to travel to work. The scheme will require a slight narrowing of the industrial estate access road however this will not impede access by lorries. We are refining the proposals for the Rising Sun Industrial Estate to minimise impacts on adjoining land.

Will the scheme improve access to Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg?

Yes, the new walking and cycling route along the Rising Sun Industrial Estate access road will make it easier and safer to walk and cycle to Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg from Blaina. The Coal Brook Vale improvements will also directly connect with the northern path from Nantyglo.

Will the scheme impact on biodiversity and wildlife?

To minimise impacts on biodiversity and wildlife, we have designed the scheme to broadly follow existing roads, such as the A467. Where vegetation and/or tree removal will be required, the impacts will be assessed in accordance with planning policy and guidance. It is expected that the scheme will provide a net benefit for biodiversity, with planting of trees and vegetation to provide a better environment for wildlife.

Will the scheme have any impacts on the Trevor Rowson Wildlife & Heritage Park?

The proposed route along the A467 runs along the western boundary of the Trevor Rowson Wildlife & Heritage Park. We will seek to minimise any impacts, including tree or vegetation removal, and will work to achieve a net benefit for biodiversity in the park. The scheme will enable people to walk and cycle to the Trevor Rowson Wildlife & Heritage Park, allowing people to leave their cars at home and minimise their impacts on the local environment.

How will the scheme work at the Central Garage (Gulf Filling Station), Blaina?

The proposed design routes the scheme alongside the Central Garage on the A467. It is not proposed to direct pedestrians or cyclists through the Central Garage. The proposed crossing will allow pedestrians or cyclists to continue their journeys along National Cycle Network Route 465 via Pilgrims Park and Duffryn Park. We are also considering an alternative route via Station Road and the subway next to the Blaina Institute.

Will private land be required for the delivery of the scheme?

We are assessing any requirements for private land and will be directly contacting any affected landowners. We are working to minimise any impacts on private land and will work collaboratively with landowners to deliver the scheme.

Will there be any changes to speed limits because of this scheme?

In general, no changes to existing speed limits are proposed. If traffic lights are installed at the junction of the A467 and the Rising Sun Industrial Estate, a reduced speed limit of 50mph on the approaches to the junction would be required for safety reasons.

Will you be carrying out any further consultation?

Following this public consultation, the designs will be revised to take account of feedback received. We will continue to work with stakeholders, including Transport for Wales and landowners, to refine the scheme as it is developed through the detailed design stage.