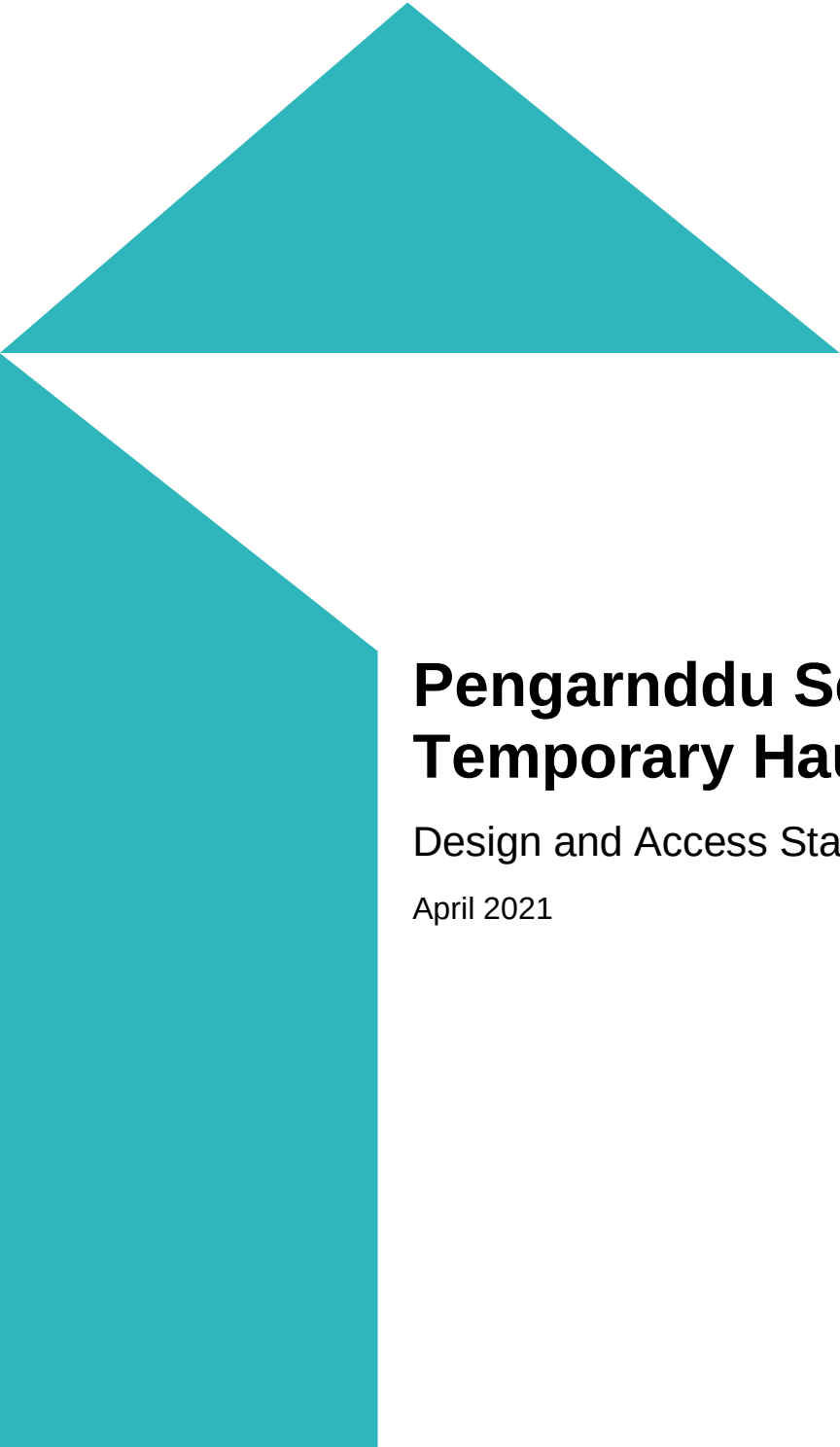




Pengarnddu Service Reservoir Temporary Haul Road

Design and Access Statement

April 2021

Mott MacDonald Bentley
Ty Awen
Spooner Close
Celtic Springs Business
Park
Coedkernew
Newport NP10 8FZ
United Kingdom

mottmacbentley.co.uk

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Contents

1.1	Introduction	1
1.2	The Scheme	1
1.3	Need for the Scheme	1
1.4	Design	2
1.5	Ecological Impacts	2
1.6	Access	3
1.7	Conclusion	3

1.1 Introduction

This Design and Access Statement (DAS) has been prepared on behalf of Welsh Water (WW) to support a temporary haul road at Pengarnddu Service Reservoir. The temporary haul road is required to facilitate construction of the approved planning application for a New Service Reservoir at Pengarnddu Industrial Estate, Dowlais, Merthyr Tydfil (planning application reference P/20/0228) (referred to hereafter as 'the Scheme').

The site is located at Pengarnddu, an area to the north east of Merthyr Tydfil predominantly consisting of industrial land uses, with Pengarnddu Industrial Estate to the east and retail park to the south. The location of the site is displayed on the Site Location Plan (reference B10237-123532-XX-XX-DR-TA-D10204 Site Location Plan) submitted as part of this application.

This document explains the need for the Scheme and how the objectives of good design and subsequent restoration of the site have been considered in the development process.

1.2 The Scheme

The proposed Scheme is for a temporary haul road to facilitate the construction of a new service reservoir. The area of land within the red line boundary as shown on the Site Location Plan (reference B1023123532-XX-XX-DR-TA-D10204 Site Location Plan) is 0.69ha. The area of land required for the temporary haul road is 0.15ha.

The proposed Scheme is expected to be required until Summer 2022, from which it will then be removed, and the land reinstated to its former condition.

Due to its temporary nature and purpose to serve an existing planning permission, the Scheme is considered to conform with the planning policy framework of the Merthyr Tydfil Replacement Local Development Plan 2016-2031.

1.3 Need for the Scheme

There is a requirement to install a temporary haul road at Pengarnddu Water Reservoir to facilitate construction of the new service reservoir under planning application (reference P/20/0228) approved on 14 January 2021.

Whilst undertaking detailed design for the approved works, it was found that a number of existing water mains and chambers with minimal ground cover under the existing access road could be significantly affected by heavy plant, resulting in damage to these assets and potential disruption to water supplies during the construction phase.

Additionally, the existing reservoir is stone built with a clay liner and for reservoir safety reasons, heavy plant and lorries are required to be kept away from this structure to avoid undermining it. These restrictions have been advised by WW following discussions regarding our proposed methods of construction.

Other construction access routes have been explored by the team within the existing operational site however the same constraints discussed above are present.

Therefore, an alternative temporary haul road is proposed in this location to keep heavy plant away from the operational site to avoid disruption to the existing reservoir and underground assets whilst facilitating construction of the new service reservoir.

1.4 Design

The temporary haul road will be formed of well compacted hardcore of suitable thickness designed to withstand all construction vehicle movements throughout the duration of the construction works.

The width of the temporary haul road will be 5m, with a 10m easement on either side to allow sufficient working room for construction of the road.

It is proposed to place 2 no. 500mm diameter pipes into the existing bed of the watercourse which the access road will cross. (reference B10237-123532-XX-XX-DR-TA-D10206 Watercourse Crossing). An ordinary water course consent has been submitted for these works.

Silt netting will then run along the length of the southern side of the road to prevent any silt run off.

At the end of the construction period, the temporary haul road will be removed and the site reinstated to its previous condition. Please refer to the Landscaping Plan that accompanies this application. (Reference B10237-123532-XX-XX-DR-LA-D19003 Landscaping and Planting General Arrangement)

1.5 Ecological Impacts

An Ecological Technical Note (B10237-123532-XX-XX-ME-NB-PN0210) has been produced to support the application for the temporary haul road.

The Ecological Technical Note is an addendum to the Ecological Impact Assessment submitted as part of the planning application for the New Service Reservoir approved in January 2021.

0.15ha of grassland habitat will be temporarily lost for the new haul road, however, this is not all additional loss as some is covered by the existing planning application. The area to be impacted comprises only of acid grassland, with no other habitats impacted.

The grassland also supports a number of fungi species and is of particular importance for waxcaps. A survey which recorded the species present as well as the areas of higher and lower ecological value is shown in relation to the temporary haul road route on the Site Plan (reference B10237-123532-XX-XX-DR-TA-DI0205 Site Plan).

Therefore, the turf in the high value fungi area will be carefully lifted and stored on wooden pallets in an area of ephemeral vegetation to the north of the existing service reservoir with appropriate management of the transported turf undertaken as set out in the Ecological Technical Note.

The low value fungi area will be protected outside of the working area using herras fencing to ensure no extra habitat is lost as a result of the works.

Additionally, construction in the low and high value fungi areas has been minimised by locating the site compound, car park and material storage areas away from the edges of temporary haul road; which was the construction team's preferred location and the standard way to layout a construction site.

It is concluded that waxcap mitigation and reinstatement is difficult to achieve, however it is not possible to complete the works safely without crossing the grassland to the south of the existing site. The design of the temporary haul road is such that the footprint has been reduced as much as possible in the waxcap areas.

Additional mitigation and control measures are set out in the Ecological Technical Note and Construction Management Plan submitted as part of this planning application.

1.6 Access

The haul road is temporary in nature to facilitate the construction of the new service reservoir at Pengarnddu. The haul road is to be utilised by construction traffic only and will be removed and the site reinstated upon completion of the proposed works.

1.7 Conclusion

To conclude, the proposed Scheme will facilitate the construction of a new service reservoir without disrupting existing underground assets and compromising the structure of the existing stone reservoir.

The design of the Scheme has strived to eliminate and minimise impacts where possible. Where this has not been possible, appropriate mitigation measures will be in place to ensure the sufficient reinstatement of the land after the construction phase is complete and the reservoir is in operation.

The proposal is considered to be policy compliant and this document addresses the requirements of a Design and Access Statement.

