

Rhodri Jones
Support Officer
North Wales Corporate Joint Committee
c/o Gwynedd County Council
Shirehall Street
Caernarfon
LL55 1SE

27 June 2025

Dear Mr Jones,

The North Wales Regional Transport Strategy

The North Wales Wildlife Trust and STAMP make the following objection to North Wales CJC Strategic Transport Sub-Committee (NWCJCSTSC) in respect of its consideration of the draft North Wales Regional Transport Plan (dNWRTP). Please consider this submission as a supplementary objection to the Jan-Apr 2025 consultation on the dNWRTP.

Please give an oral report on the content of this letter of the Monday 30th June meeting of the NWCJCSTSC, and please circulate copies of it to NWCJCSTSC members and officers at the meeting.

We are firmly of the view that this item should be removed from the agenda of the 30th of June meeting of the NWCJCSTSC and re-tabled at the subsequent meeting.

Our objection is based on the following grounds:

1. The papers for this meeting, which are very voluminous, including the dNWRTP in its entirety proposed for approval and 16 appendices several hundred pages in length, were released on the 25th of June 2025, leaving NWCJCSTSC only four working days to read and absorb them to the level where they are capable of making an informed decision as to whether to approve the dNWRTP. This is clearly an impossibility and contrary to the Welsh Government's 2022 'CJCs: Statutory Guidance' that states at page 3 para 2 that:

'CJC must take informed and transparent decisions' (emphasis added)

In order to be able to enact this duty, NWCJCSTSC members must therefore be able to make an informed decision, which has very far-reaching consequences for North Wales and, indeed, all Wales.

This is not possible, therefore, the item should be removed from the agenda and re-tabled at the next sub-committee meeting.

The NWCJCSTSC is reminded that in a normal committee of a local authority in Wales, members receive papers at least 10 to 14 days prior to a committee



**Ymddiriedolaeth Natur
Gogledd Cymru**
**North Wales
Wildlife Trust**

northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk
info@northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk

Prif Swyddfa:
Llys Garth, Ffordd Garth,
Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2RT
01248 351 541

Swyddfa Dwyrain:
Aberduna, Ffordd Maeshafn,
Maeshafn, Sir Ddinbych,
CH7 5LD
01248 351 541

Head Office:
Llys Garth, Garth Road,
Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2RT
01248 351 541

East Office:
Aberduna, Maeshafn Road,
Maeshafn, Denbighshire,
CH7 5LD
01248 351 541

meeting at which decisions are expected of them. Page 3 para 7 of the above statutory guidance states:

'CJCs will be subject to broadly the same powers and duties as their constituent councils'

We consider that, in the absence of this, any decision made by the NWCJCSTSC could be considered unsound and vulnerable.

2. We object to the absence of Appendix 6 of the agenda, which purports to be a detailed consideration of our objection by Arup. It does not appear amongst the committee papers and we presume that it has been redacted because *inter alia* it questions the legality of some elements of the way in which the dNWRTP has been formulated and is proposed to be approved.

Appendix 6 should not have been redacted because, in the interest of transparency, the ways in which the sub-committee's consultant Arup addresses the grounds for objection, including legal grounds made in our objection, should be in the public domain. This is in order that the public, including NWWT/STAMP, can gain a full appreciation of how such matters are addressed, and in order that we and others may consider whether we wish to take further action, including possible legal action. The redaction unjustifiably denies us and others the opportunity to do so, and should be reversed.

As stated above, the Welsh Government's 2022 'CJCs: Statutory Guidance' states at page 3 para 2 that:

'CJC must take informed and transparent decisions' (emphasis added)

We consider that Appendix 6 should be released into the public domain and tabled with the other agenda items at the subsequent meeting of the NWCJCSTSC.

3. The consultation report contains a factual error. The highway schemes examined as part of the Welsh Government's Roads Review process were not open 'paused'; they were cancelled as can be seen from the screengrab below from <https://www.gov.wales/a55-a494-a548-flintshire-corridor>

Region / County: north east Wales

Last updated: 31 January 2024

Overview

The roads review considered this project

Following the review's recommendations, we will not be going ahead with proposed improvements to the A55/A494 A548 Flintshire corridor.

You can read about our current road investment programme in the [national transport delivery plan](#).

Background


This project was started to look at potential improvements on the A494/A55 between the Shotwick interchange and Northop interchange.

RELATED

Transport planning and strategy

- National transport delivery plan 2022 to 2027
- The future of road investment in Wales

OUTSIDE GOV.WALES

- Traffic alerts and restrictions  on Traffic Wales

northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk
info@northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk

Prif Swyddfa:
Llys Garth, Ffordd Garth,
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01248 351 541

East Office:
Aberduna, Maeshafn Road,
Maeshafn, Denbighshire,
CH7 5LD
01248 351 541

Charity Number: 230772
Company Number: 773995

Rhif Elusen: 230772
Rhif Cwmni: 773995

I would be grateful if you could confirm receipt of this objection via email. Please keep me informed in relation to developments in relation to this matter. We reserve the right to make further representations in respect of this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Adrian Lloyd Jones
Head of Living Landscapes

northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk
info@northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk

Prif Swyddfa:

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Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2RT
01248 351 541

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Maeshafn, Sir Ddinbych,
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