

A48 Cross Hands to Pensarn Safety Measures



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Overview of the study

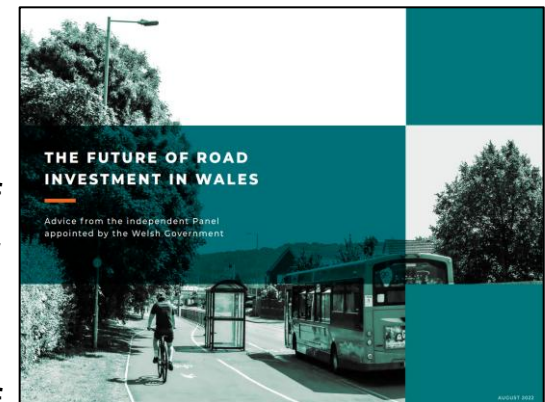
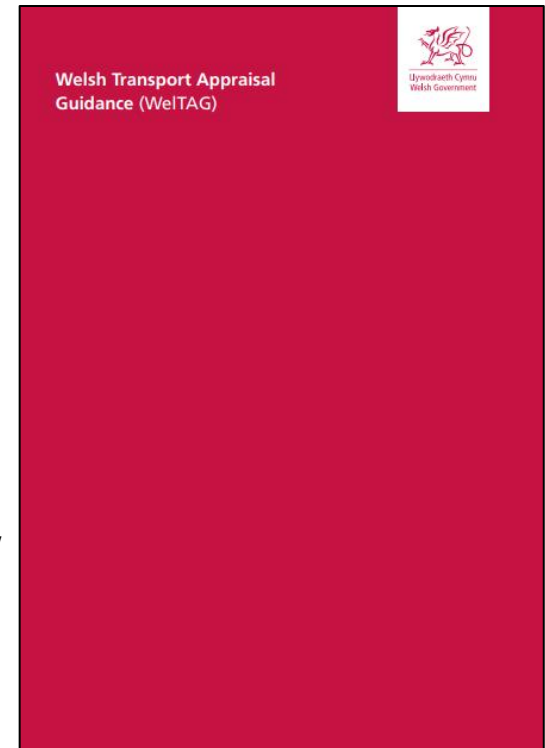
- The A48 corridor between Cross Hands and Pensarn is part of the key link between the M4 and West Wales.
- WelTAG studies have identified a number of unsuitable junction layouts in relation to the high-speed nature of the road which have the potential for collisions.
- In addition, sub-standard public transport infrastructure and poor active travel provision were identified within the study area.
- These problems are concerns for both Welsh Government, the South Wales Trunk Road Agent and Carmarthenshire County Council.
- The extents of the study area is the A48 Cross Hands to Pensarn.



The Appraisal/Design Process

- WelTAG is the name given to the Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance produced by the Welsh Government for use in the development of transport schemes. The study has progressed through WelTAG Stages One and Two, with Stage Three currently on-going for certain measures (e.g. improvements to bus stops, laybys and further junction amendments, as well as a separate Stage Three for a revised junction at Nantycaws and associated gap closures).
- In addition, the study has gone through the Roads Review process. The Roads Review published a report which recommended that new road schemes should only be funded if they were consistent with Welsh Government policy and should only be developed for a certain purpose. The Roads Review acknowledged the safety concerns on the A48 corridor and recommended that the safety elements of the study progress.
- A package of safety measures has been expedited outside of the WelTAG process to mitigate the immediate safety concerns. The designs have been developed in accordance with The Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) which contains current standards relating to the design of motorway and all-purpose trunk roads in the United Kingdom.

AtkinsRéalis - Baseline / Référence



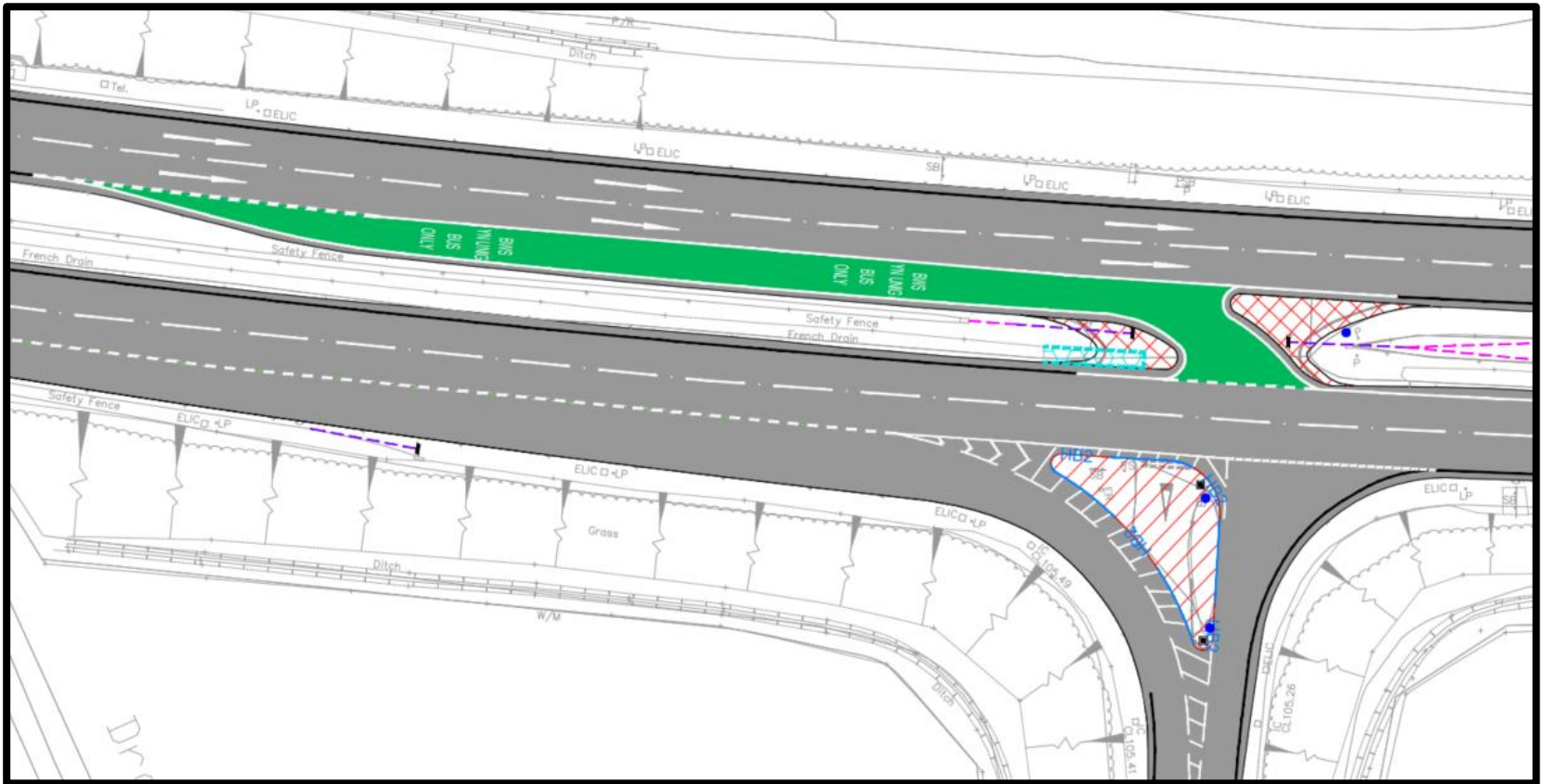
Transport Problems and Wider Goals

- During the early stages of the study several issues have been identified in relation to the A48 corridor including:
 - Collision data and stakeholder feedback has identified a road safety issue associated with cross carriageway manoeuvres.
 - Layout of some existing laybys have been identified to be sub-standard.
 - Layout of some minor road junctions have been identified to benefit from improvements.
 - Limited safe and convenient bus infrastructure
 - Inadequate provision for Public Rights of Way crossings of the A48.
- The wider goals of the scheme are to:
 - Improve safety for motorists using the A48.
 - Minimise safety risk for active travel users within the study areas.
 - Minimise impact of safety measures on access.
 - Increase network resilience along the A48.

Scheme Proposals – A48 Safety Measures

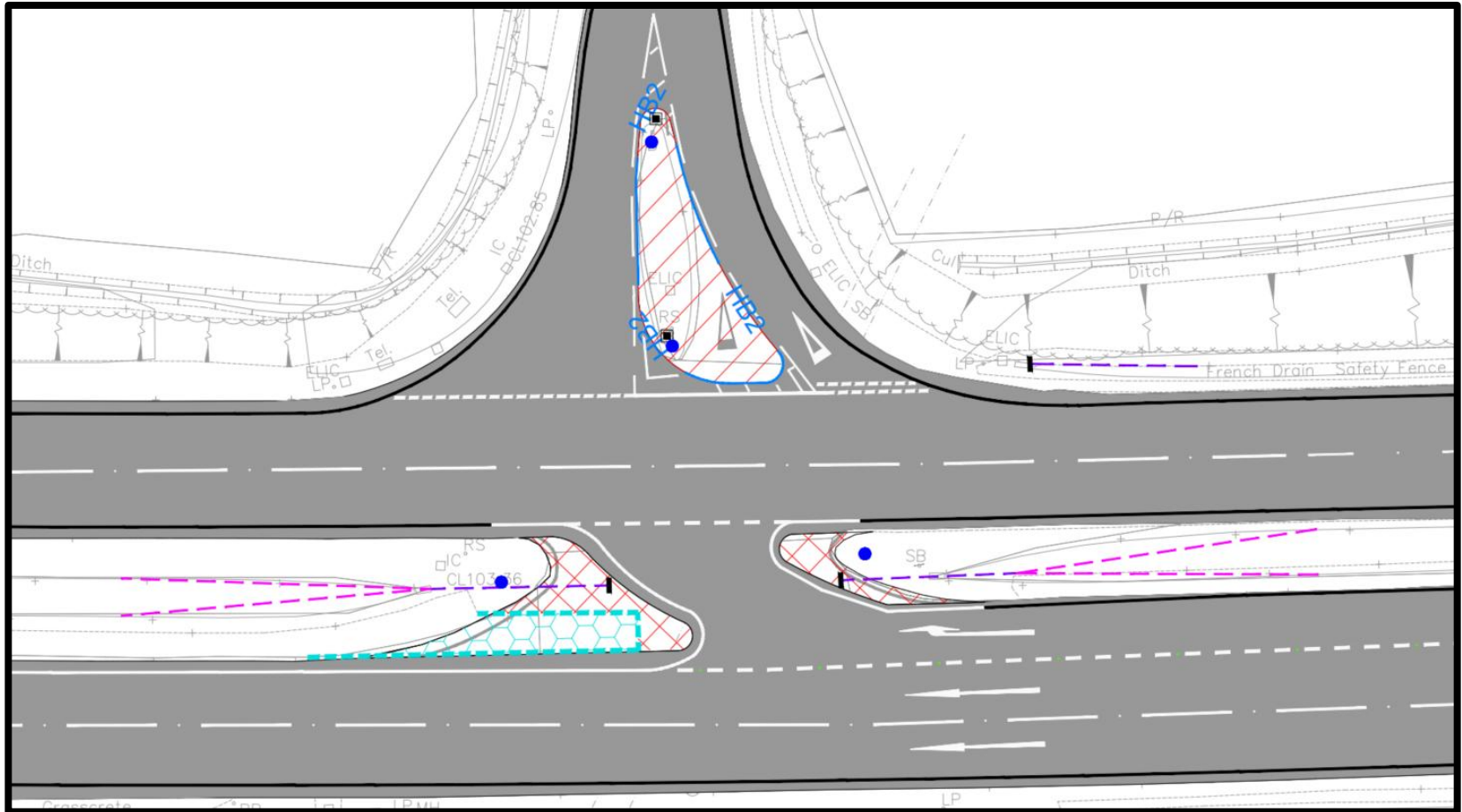
- The scheme proposals will primarily improve safety for road users along the A48 through the closure of gaps in the central reservation and closure of six sub-standard laybys (four eastbound, two westbound) along the A48 Pensarn to Cross Hands corridor to reduce the risk of potential future incidents at the identified locations.
- The junction amendments considered the impacts on road users in terms of diversion distances and journey times with the proposed works involving;
 - Modification of the Llanddarog junction to only permit buses, managed through camera enforcement, to turn right into the junction from the eastbound carriageway and restrict right turn movements out;
 - Modification of Pantyffynnon junction to restrict right turn movements out of the junction;
 - Closure of the central reservation gaps at Llanarthne and Foelgastell junctions to restrict right turn movements in and out of both junctions;
 - Closure of the central reservation gap at Maesybont junction to restrict right turn movements in and out of the junction;
 - Modification of advance direction signage to account for diversions required for central reservation amendments; and
 - Closure of six sub-standard laybys (four eastbound, two westbound)

Scheme Proposals – Llanddarog



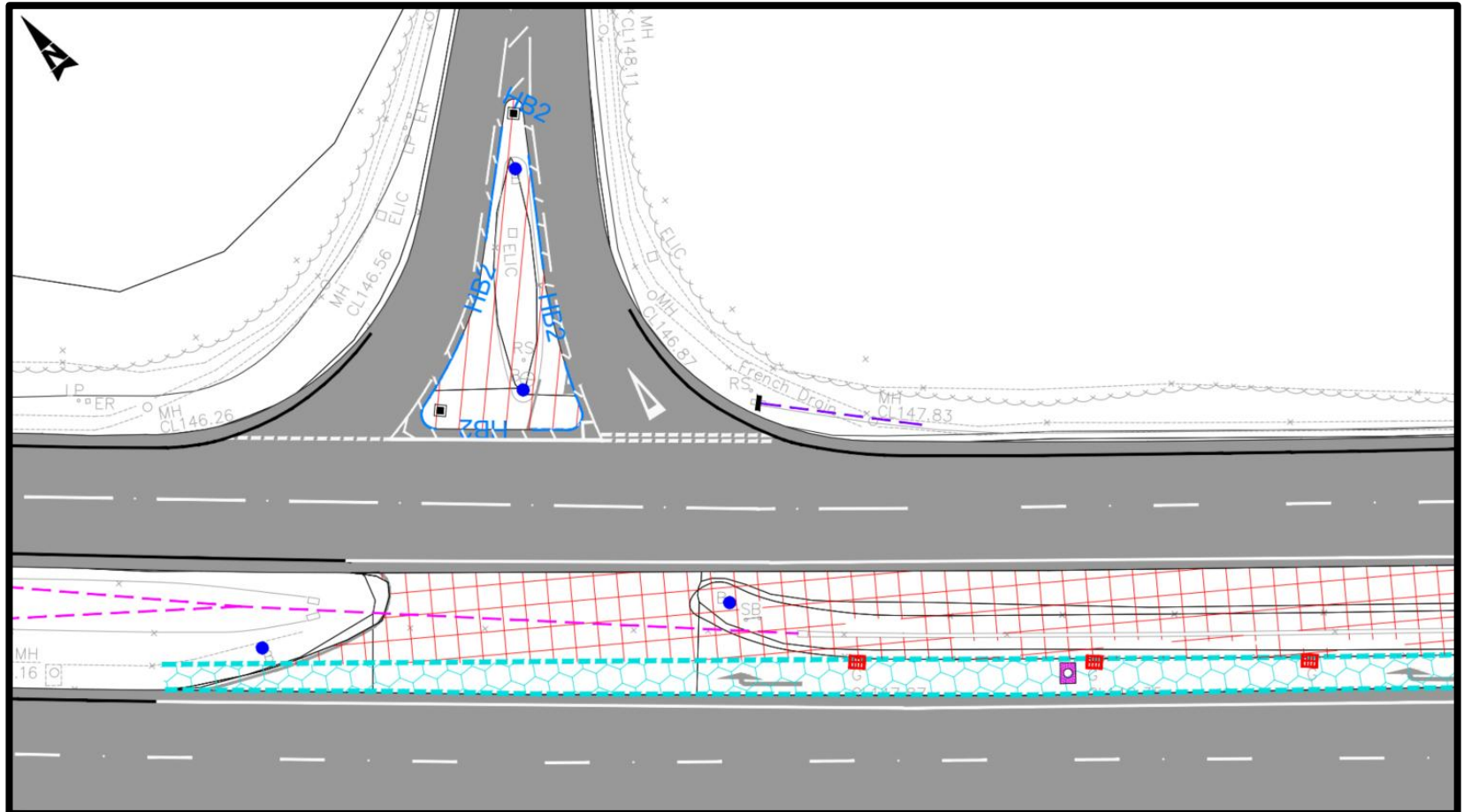
Scheme Proposals – Pantyffynnon

- The scheme proposal at the Pantyffynnon junction involves restricting the right turn movement out of the junction through traffic island and central reservation modifications.

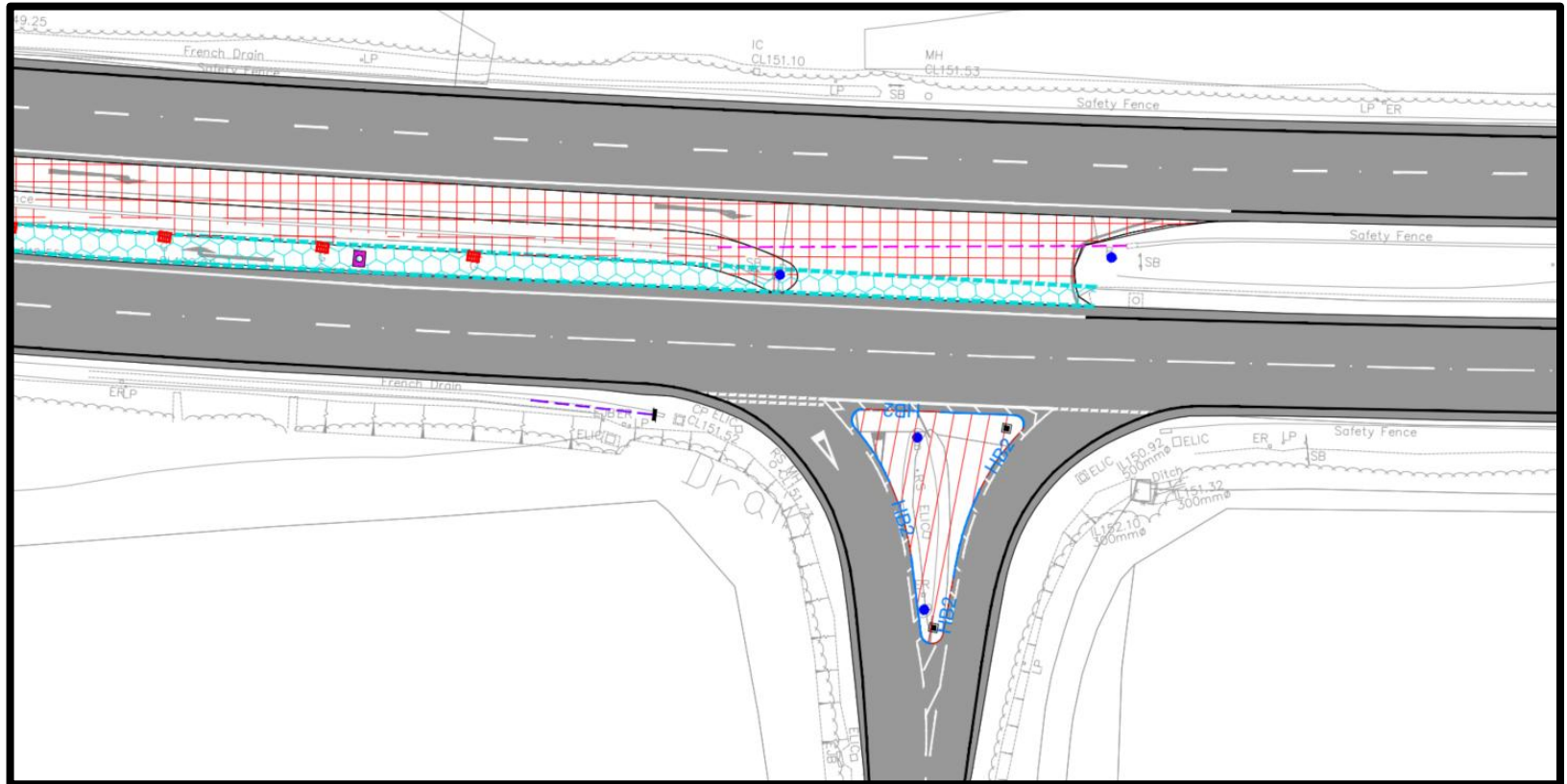


Scheme Proposals – Llanarthne

- The scheme proposal at the Llanarthne junction involves closure of the central reserve and modification of the side road traffic island to restrict right turn movements in and out of the junction.

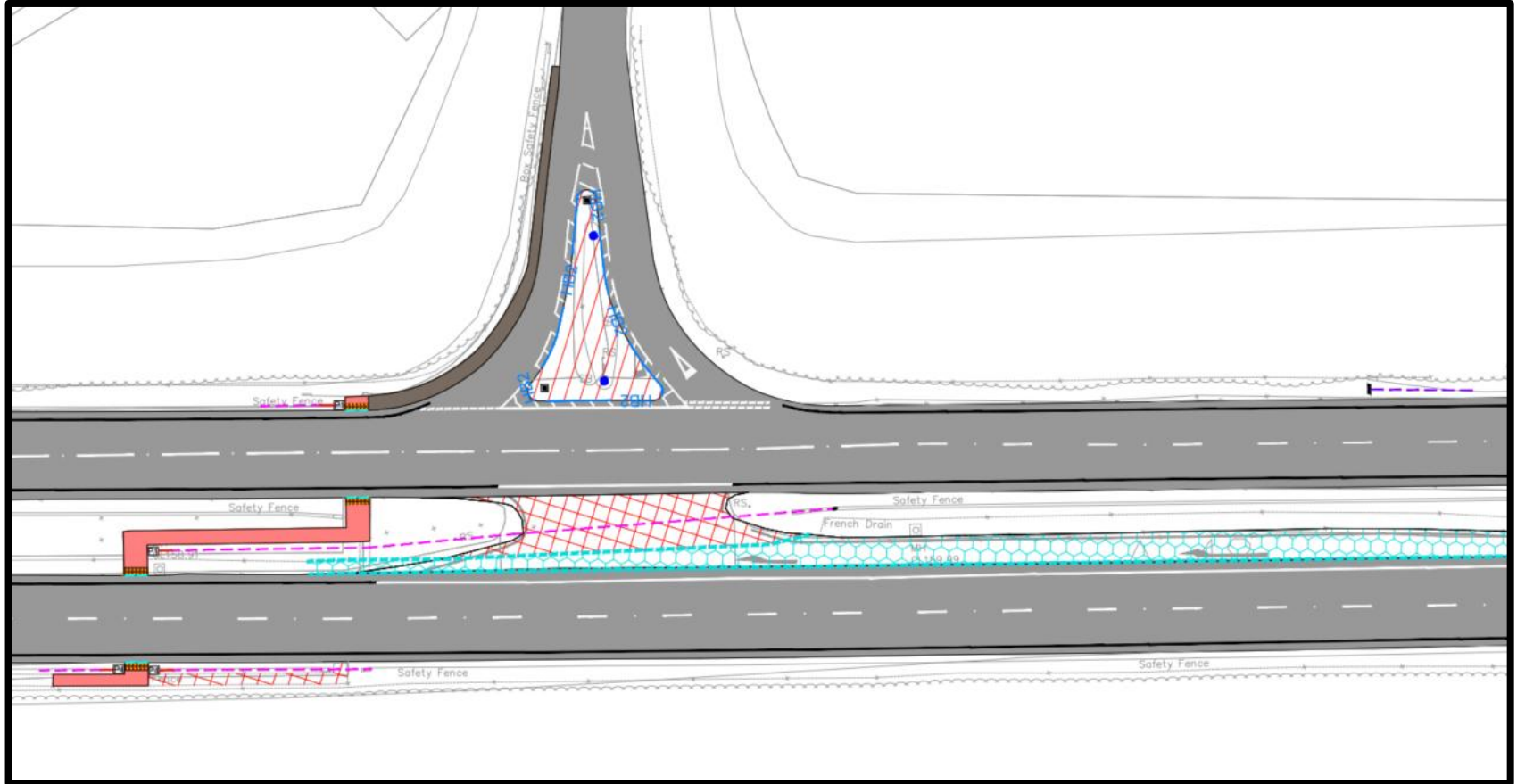


Scheme Proposals – Foelgastell



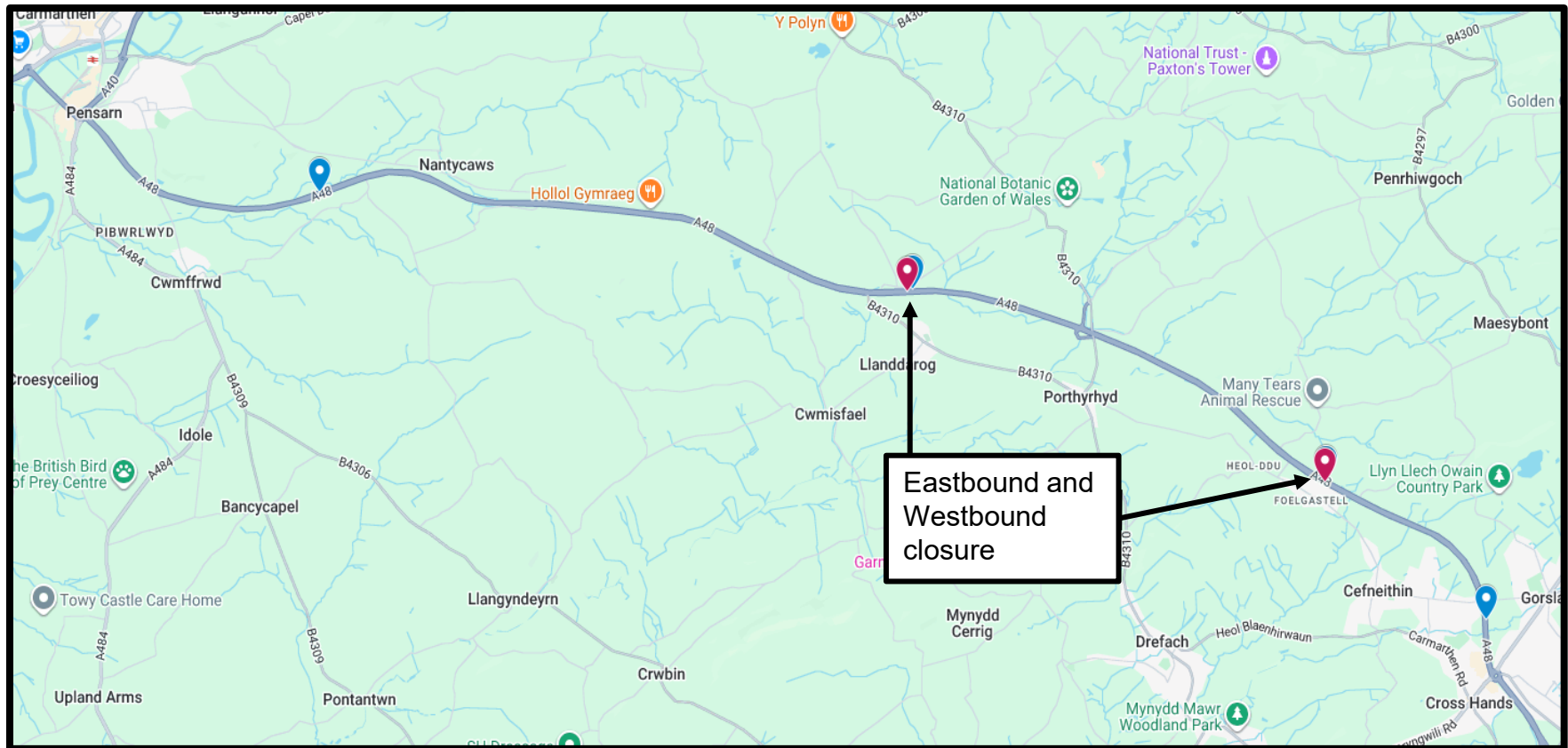
Scheme Proposals – Maesybont

- The scheme proposal at the Maesybont junction involves closure of the central reserve and modification of the side road traffic island to restrict right turn movements in and out of the junction, as well as amendments to the existing PRow crossing.



Scheme Proposals – Layby Closures

- As part of this scheme it is also proposed to close six laybys along the A48 due to being sub-standard (four eastbound, two westbound). Eastbound laybys are shown by the blue pin, with westbound labys shown in red.
- Consideration was given to layby spacing along the corridor as well as proximity to junctions during this rationalisation exercise.



Construction Programme

- Construction Timeline
 - Anticipated start date of Autumn/Winter 2026.
 - 4 month anticipated timeline for construction of all works (weather dependent).
- Temporary lane closures
 - Anticipated for certain aspects of the work, particularly in the central reserve to ensure safety is maintained.
 - Advanced notice of works will be provided on site.
- Ongoing public consultation
 - Contact phone number and email will be provided for any queries.
 - <https://traffic.wales/road-traffic-alerts>

Travel Disruption Mitigation

- Whilst the primary reason for the schemes is to improve safety along the corridors, it is acknowledged there may be travel disruption during the construction phase.
- It is anticipated that there will be some disruption during construction due to the site constraints and the volume of traffic using the A48.
- Lane closures will be required to enable the works to be safely constructed.
- Offline works will be undertaken where possible to reduce disruption to the travelling public.
- Information will be provided on <https://traffic.wales/road-traffic-alerts>.



Next Steps – A48 Safety Measures

- The next steps for A48 Safety Measures includes preparing the traffic orders for the junction and layby amendments.
- Engage a Contractor to deliver the works.
- Develop a post-construction monitoring strategy.





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