

ESHIELS TUNNEL

UPDATE –MARCH 2022

UPDATE FOR TWEEDDALE AREA PARTNERSHIP 29 MARCH 2022

BACKGROUND

- Previous reports have been made to the Tweeddale Area Partnership to discuss the Eshiels Tunnel and a lighting parameter study was completed. A bat licence is also in place. The proposed lighting was of high cost - estimated at above £125K including a new power supply. There would also be ongoing maintenance and energy costs. Importantly the Assistant Lighting Engineer has noted concerns on the effectiveness of this proposed lighting scheme in preventing accidents.

UPDATE

- A site visit was held on Friday 11th February 2022 attended by Neil Malone Sustrans Infrastructure Officer, Rueben Singleton Tweed Ecology, Denise Brydon SBC.
- The history of the issues at the tunnel and the concerns on the effectiveness of the daylight lighting proposals noted by the Assistant Lighting Engineer from SBC were discussed.
- It was also noted that the bat licence for works had been extended by NatureScot and the bat boxes have been installed by Tweed Ecology as part of the licence mitigating conditions.
- Sustrans Officer advised that we should consider a graded option list of other mitigation works given the concerns on the daylight lighting provision effectiveness, cost and sustainability.

- The types of works to be considered include

WORKS	LOCATION	PRIORITY	ESTIMATED COST
Clear leaves and debris	All through tunnel	High- Now and annually.	Within budgets
Repaint SLOW signage	Both ends of tunnel	High	Approx £500.
Replace Warning sign	East end of tunnel	High	£170.Funded and completed by Access Team now.
Increase warning signage (share with care)	Both ends and on approach to the tunnel	High	£600.
Barriers with suitable design for Sustrans approval	West end of the tunnel. Note Sustrans advice in red -barrier would only be required at this end. The other entrance is flat so there are no issues with speed here.	Medium	Approx. £2400 SBContracts – similar to Eildon Sustrans approved barriers.
Solar studs to be added to the existing white path edges.	All through the tunnel. Note Sustrans advice in red. These would need to be connected externally to a solar panel or power source as there isn't enough light in the tunnel for them to work. As this is only for during the day, if a chicane is constructed this would address most issues and potentially obviate the need for lights.	Medium	TBC If still needed after barriers are installed.
Solar Slow signage –suggested by the Assistant Lighting Engineer	At both ends of the Tunnel.	Medium	TBC If still needed after barriers are installed.

Review lower walls to be painted with reflective paint.	All through the tunnel	Low – Note Advice to be sought from SBC Roads Officers	TBC. If still needed after barriers are installed.
NOTE	All Works will be subject to review by the Ecologist to ensure that they meet the conditions for the bat licence		

- **NEXT STEPS**

Consultation is now complete with Sustrans Infrastructure Officer and the suggested measures are detailed above.

Tweeddale Area Partnership meeting on 29th March 2022 will have this updated report and are asked to approve the measures. If agreed the Access Team will work with Sustrans to seek funding and implement.

EASTERN APPROACH TUNNEL



WESTERN APPROACH TUNNEL

