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Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

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During exchanges in Plenary on 20 February I promised to write to you about local concerns regarding the construction of the proposed drainage attenuation pond in the Twmpath Fields, Rhiwbina, in connection with the M4 widening between Castleton and Coryton.

When draft Orders for the scheme were published in Spring 2006 the Twmpath Fields Preservation Campaign (TFPC) objected to proposals to locate an attenuation pond in the Twmpath Fields. This objection was debated at the Public Local Inquiry later that year and the Inspector concluded that the pond at this location was justified. He did however recognise there was scope to lessen the impact of the pond.

Since early 2007 the design of the pond has advanced and its size reduced. Furthermore, the associated landscaping has been developed to help lessen the impact. Officials in Transport Wales have throughout this period been in correspondence and discussion with TFPC. Unfortunately, they have been unable to reach agreement with them to accommodate their wishes whilst maintaining the integrity of the scheme design.

The point has now been reached in the M4 construction programme where the works need to be carried out as delays would result in unnecessary, additional costs. Officials are satisfied they have met the Inspector's requirements to liaise with the TFPC and to determine a more agreeable solution and have written to TFPC explaining this.