

Design Manual for Roads and Bridges



General Principles & Scheme Governance
General Information

GG 101

Introduction to the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges

(formerly GG 101 revision 0)

Version 0.1.0

Summary

This document provides information on the use of the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges.

Application by Overseeing Organisations

Any specific requirements for Overseeing Organisations alternative or supplementary to those given in this document are given in National Application Annexes to this document.

Feedback and Enquiries

Users of this document are encouraged to raise any enquiries and/or provide feedback on the content and usage of this document to the dedicated National Highways team. The email address for all enquiries and feedback is: Standards_Enquiries@highwaysengland.co.uk

This is a controlled document.

Contents

Release notes	2
Foreword	3
Publishing information	3
Contractual and legal considerations	3
Introduction	4
Background	4
Assumptions made in the preparation of the DMRB	4
Competence	4
Link with regulation and legislation	4
Link with the MCHW	4
Verbal forms	4
Mutual recognition	4
Abbreviations	6
Terms and definitions	7
1. Scope	8
Aspects covered	8
Implementation	8
Health and safety	9
Equality, diversity and inclusion	9
2. Application of the DMRB	10
National Application Annexes of the Overseeing Organisations	10
Departures from requirements	10
Scope	10
Interactions with local roads	11
Departure applications for aspect not covered by requirements	11
Non-compliance with requirements	11
Relaxations	11
Deviation from recommendations	11
Justification	11
Safety risk assessment	11
3. Informative references	13
Appendix A. Document structure and referencing	14
A1 DMRB structure and coding system	14
Appendix B. Clause numbering system in DMRB documents	18

Latest release notes

Document code	Version number	Date of publication of relevant change	Changes made to	Type of change
GG 101	0.1.0	September 2021	Core document, England NAA, Northern Ireland NAA	Incremental change to requirements

The document has been amended to clarify the scope of the DMRB to include: works and assets not on the network, clarify the verb forms used within the DMRB, add a requirement for the oversight by the Design Panel or Devolved Administration equivalent, and add a requirement for a justification of any decision to not use recommended or good practice. National Application Annexes have been created for England and Northern Ireland. References to Highways England changed to National Highways.

Previous versions

Document code	Version number	Date of publication of relevant change	Changes made to	Type of change
GG 101 (2019)	0	June 2018		

Foreword

Publishing information

This document is published by National Highways.

This document supersedes GG 101 revision 0, which is withdrawn.

Contractual and legal considerations

This document forms part of the works specification. It does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for applying all appropriate documents applicable to their contract.

Introduction

Background

The Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) is a suite of documents which contains requirements and advice relating to works on motorway and all-purpose trunk roads for which one of the Overseeing Organisations is highway or road authority.

The DMRB embodies the collective experience of the Overseeing Organisations, their agents, supply chain members and industry bodies. It provides requirements and advice resulting from research, practical experience of constructing and operating motorway and all-purpose trunk roads, and from delivering compliance to legislative requirements.

Assumptions made in the preparation of the DMRB

Competence

The DMRB has been prepared for use by competent practitioners, typically qualified professionals able to work independently in relevant fields, who are expected to apply their own skill and judgement when making decisions involving the information that the DMRB contains.

Link with regulation and legislation

DMRB documents are not statutory or regulatory documents or training manuals; neither do they cover every point in exhaustive detail.

In general, the DMRB does not duplicate National, UK and European legislative requirements. Anyone engaged in works on or relating to the Overseeing Organisations' motorway and all-purpose trunk roads is assumed to understand and comply with the relevant legislation.

Link with the MCHW

The requirements and advice given in DMRB documents are provided on the basis that the works are constructed in accordance with the Manual of Contract Documents for Highway Works (MCHW).

Verbal forms

The verb 'must' indicates a statutory or legislative requirement.

Note: Requirements with this verb form cannot be varied.

The verb 'shall' indicates a requirement of the Overseeing Organisation.

Note: Requirements with this verb form can only be varied through the use of departures or in limited situations as relaxations.

The verb 'should' indicates advice expressed as a recommendation.

Note: Recommendations with this verb form are good practice and can be varied without recourse to the departures process, but require justification and a safety risk assessment where the recommendation is not followed.

The verb 'may' indicates advice expressed as a permissible approach.

Note: Permissible approaches with this verb form can be varied in accordance with internal review processes without recourse to the Overseeing Organisation.

The verb 'can' or verbs expressed in the present tense other than 'must', 'shall', 'should' and 'may' are used to introduce notes, which provide a short clarification of a concept or statement of fact.

Appendix A provides information about the document referencing used within DMRB documents.

Appendix B provides information about the clause numbering system used within DMRB documents.

Mutual recognition

Where there is a requirement in the DMRB for compliance with any part of a British Standard or other technical specification, that requirement may be met by compliance with:

- 1) a standard or code of practice of a national standards body or equivalent body of any EEA state or Turkey;
- 2) any international standard recognised for use as a standard or code of practice by any EEA state or Turkey;
- 3) a technical specification recognised for use as a standard by a public authority of any EEA state or Turkey; or
- 4) a European Technical Assessment issued in accordance with the procedure set out in regulation (EU) No. 305/2011;

provided that the relevant standard enables an equivalent level of performance and safety to be achieved to that provided for by the stated British Standard or technical specification.

Abbreviations

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
DMRB	Design Manual for Roads and Bridges
EEA	European Economic Area
MCHW	Manual of Contract Documents for Highway Works
NAA	National Application Annex

Terms and definitions

Terms

Term	Definition
British Standards	Any standard published by the British Standards Institution including adopted European or other international standards.
Bulk departure	Departure where the same non-standard method or material is proposed for use at more than one location in certain clearly defined circumstances.
Departure	Variation or waiving of a requirement carried out in accordance with the Overseeing Organisation's procedures.
Motorway and all-purpose trunk roads	Collective term to indicate those parts of the UK highway and road network for which one of the Overseeing Organisations is highway or road authority.
Overseeing Organisation	<p>The following organisations (or their successors):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Highways; 2. Transport Scotland; 3. The Welsh Government; 4. Department for Infrastructure (Northern Ireland). <p>NOTE 1: Where any document within the DMRB refers to any of the above organisations, this can be taken to mean the named organisation or its successors.</p> <p>NOTE 2: Where a local highway/road authority decides to use the DMRB in whole or part for development of its own highway/road network, the Overseeing Organisation is defined in accordance with their own procedures.</p> <p>NOTE 3: This can also be another organisation that assumes the roles, responsibilities and duties of the Overseeing Organisation through delegation by the Overseeing Organisation.</p>
Roads	The term "roads" is used in Northern Ireland and Scotland as an alternative term for "highways".

All standard terms and definitions are in accordance with BS 6100 [Ref 1.] Building and civil engineering - vocabulary. Where the term is not provided in BS 6100 [Ref 1.], it is defined in the document-specific terms and definitions section of the specific document.

All International System of Units, their derivatives and their notation are in accordance with BS EN ISO 80000-1 [Ref 4.].

1. Scope

Aspects covered

1.1 The requirements in this document shall be used in conjunction with all appropriate DMRB documents.

NOTE The requirements in this document cover the following aspects:

- 1) *defining the scope of the DMRB;*
- 2) *provision of general requirements for all DMRB documents;*
- 3) *provision of requirements relating to the application of the DMRB.*

1.2 The requirements of this document shall be used for:

- 1) the appraisal, design, construction, maintenance and operation, inspection and assessment, demolition and disposal of motorway and all-purpose trunk roads for which the Overseeing Organisations is highway or road authority;
- 2) all assets located on Overseeing Organisation land, within the highway boundary;
- 3) all assets located on Overseeing Organisation land, not within the highway boundary; and,
- 4) where appropriate, assets on land leased by the Overseeing Organisation for which the Overseeing Organisation is responsible.

NOTE 1 Overseeing Organisation land can be near to the motorway or all-purpose trunk road network, for example, land containing a maintenance vehicle access roads (which are not public highway), service and rest areas, or drainage balancing ponds remote from the highway.

NOTE 2 Overseeing Organisation assets remote from the motorway or all-purpose trunk road network, can include depots, warehouse buildings, or office buildings.

1.2.1 Requirements may be applied to other roads with the approval of the specific highway or local authority acting as the Overseeing Organisation.

1.2.2 Where these requirements are applied to other roads, the specific highway or local road authority acting as the Overseeing Organisation should decide on the extent to which the requirements are appropriate in any given situation.

Implementation

1.3 Individual documents shall be implemented in accordance with any implementation requirements in a particular DMRB document.

NOTE Failure to implement a document that addresses statutory or legislative obligations can place the Overseeing Organisation at risk of legal action or consequence.

1.4 Where there are no specific implementation requirements in a particular DMRB document, the document shall be implemented immediately after publication except:

- 1) where the contract has reached a stage that, in the opinion of the Overseeing Organisation, use of a new or revised document would result in significant additional expense or delay; or,
- 2) where an existing contract has terms which apply specifically to the implementation of new requirements.

1.5 Where the contract has reached a stage that, in the opinion of the Overseeing Organisation, use of a new or revised document would result in significant additional expense or delay, the decision whether to use a new or revised document shall be recorded in accordance with the Overseeing Organisation's procedure.

1.6 Where the role of Overseeing Organisation has been delegated, the delegated authority shall assume the risks, responsibilities and duties of the Overseeing Organisation to the extent defined by the contract and permitted under National, UK and EU Legislation.

NOTE *Delegated authorities can include contractual vehicles such as DBFO (Design, Build, Finance and Operate) and NRTS (National Roads Telecommunications Services) contracts.*

Health and safety

1.7 Where undertaking any activity that does or can have an impact on safety, either directly or indirectly, for any affected populations, risk assessment and management shall be carried out in accordance with legislation and the procedures set out by the Overseeing Organisations.

Equality, diversity and inclusion

1.8 Where undertaking any activity that can have an impact, either directly or indirectly, on people with protected characteristics, an equality impact assessment (EqIA) screening shall be carried out to determine the applicability of a full EqIA.

1.9 Where the EqIA screening indicates that a full EqIA is needed, an EqIA shall be carried out.

1.10 Where EqIA indicates that people with protected characteristics can be disadvantaged or put at additional risk, solutions to mitigate that impact shall be proposed.

1.10.1 Consultation and engagement with affected people and groups should be carried out to identify solutions or mitigation.

2. Application of the DMRB

2.1 All works, including inspections on motorway and all-purpose trunk roads, on land owned, leased or managed by the Overseeing Organisation shall be undertaken in accordance with DMRB requirements appropriate to the intended use of the asset or road.

NOTE The requirements appropriate to the new use or status of an asset or road are applied where there is a change in use or status. For example, the change in use or status can be improving a road to remove lower mandatory speed limits, or the upgrading of an all-purpose trunk road to motorway.

2.1.1 Where the road is to be reduced in status, e.g. de-trunked or where the works are to be carried out on roads that are not part of the trunk road network and the use of the DMRB could result in significant over-specification, alternative documents such as the Manual for Streets [Ref 3.I] or Designing Streets 2010 [Ref 2.I] may be used with the approval of the Overseeing Organisation.

National Application Annexes of the Overseeing Organisations

2.2 National Application Annexes (NAA) shall be used where they exist.

NOTE 1 NAAs allow Overseeing Organisations to complement, supplement or replace the requirements and advice contained in the main DMRB document.

NOTE 2 Other highway authorities or local authorities can develop their own application annexes to complement, supplement or replace the requirements and advice contained in the main DMRB document.

Departures from requirements

Scope

2.3 Statutory and legislative requirements must always be followed.

NOTE Departures are not applicable to statutory and legislative requirements.

2.4 Where requirements of the Overseeing Organisation are not met, a departure application shall be submitted in accordance with the procedures required by the relevant Overseeing Organisation and approved:

- 1) before the design is finalised; and,
- 2) prior to their incorporation into the works.

2.4.1 Where requirements of the Overseeing Organisation are not met, departures should be submitted where:

- 1) it can be justified that a requirement is inappropriate in a particular situation;
- 2) the application of a requirement would have unintended adverse consequences;
- 3) innovative methods or materials are to be proposed;
- 4) a requirement not in the DMRB, NAA or MCHW is adopted as more appropriate in a particular situation; or,
- 5) an aspect not covered by requirements is identified.

NOTE Departure applications are approved on a location-specific basis and relate to the particular circumstances identified in each submission; however, an approved departure can be quoted to support a new and similar submission.

2.4.2 Bulk departure applications should be submitted in preference to a number of individual departures, where the individual departures share common methods or materials.

2.5 Each departure application shall be approved in accordance with the Overseeing Organisation's procedures before the design is finalised and prior to its incorporation into the works.

NOTE *An approved departure is deemed to meet the Overseeing Organisation's requirements for that element of the works, provided that any mitigation measures proposed or conditional to that approval are also incorporated into the design and works.*

Interactions with local roads

2.6 Where works that will subsequently be adopted by a local highway/road authority are to be carried out by an Overseeing Organisation, any departure applications shall be submitted in accordance with the Overseeing Organisation's requirements for departures.

Departure applications for aspect not covered by requirements

2.7 Where an aspect of the works is not covered by existing requirements, a departure application for an aspect not covered by requirements shall be submitted.

2.7.1 Where an aspect of the works is not covered by existing requirements, the principles of current and relevant guidance should be followed.

Non-compliance with requirements

2.8 Where it is discovered that works have been undertaken that are not in accordance with the requirements of the DMRB or the requirements of a departure, the party responsible for undertaking such works shall amend the works to rectify the non-compliance.

Relaxations

2.9 Relaxations shall only be applied where they are explicitly permitted in a DMRB, NAA or MCHW document and in accordance with the instructions in that document.

2.10 Adoption of a relaxation and its reasoning shall be recorded by the design organisation.

2.11 A departure application shall be submitted for any proposed variation beyond the limits permitted by a relaxation.

Deviation from recommendations

Justification

2.12 A justification shall be developed to support any decision where a recommendation (verb form - should) contained in the DMRB and related NAAs is not followed.

2.13 Justifications to support all design decisions shall be recorded by the design organisation as part of the project record.

2.13.1 The justification should include a comparison of costs / time / resources of the proposed solution to the recommended approach.

2.13.2 Where the decision is made for non-commercial or non-programme (i.e. sustainability, environmental, historical, cultural or aesthetic) reasons, the reasons and their justification should be included.

2.13.3 The justification for deviating from a recommendation may be produced for a single project or alternatively for multiple projects on a scheme, where relevant.

2.13.4 Where the justification for deviating from a recommendation is covered within documents already required by other standards/processes, a reference to the relevant, alternative source may be included in lieu of a detailed description.

NOTE *Examples of other relevant formal procedures are the technical approval process and environmental assessments.*

2.14 Any deviation from a recommendation along with the supporting justification shall be available to the Overseeing Organisation as required.

Safety risk assessment

- 2.15 The justification for deviating from a recommendation shall include a safety risk assessment undertaken in accordance with legislation.

3. Informative references

The following documents are informative references for this document and provide supporting information.

Ref 1.I	BSI. BS 6100, 'Building and civil engineering vocabulary [All Parts]'
Ref 2.I	Scottish Government (2010). Designing Streets 2010, 'Designing Streets'
Ref 3.I	Thomas Telford Publishing for Department for Transport. Manual for Streets, 'Manual for Streets'
Ref 4.I	BSI. BS EN ISO 80000-1, 'Quantities and units. General'

Appendix A. Document structure and referencing

A1 DMRB structure and coding system

The DMRB documents are referenced as follows:

- 1) Discipline / technical area:
 - a) G - General principles & scheme governance;
 - b) L - Sustainability & environment;
 - c) C - Civil engineering (comprising road layout, pavements, highway structures and bridges, geotechnical engineering and drainage);
 - d) T - Technology (comprising control and communications technology and road lighting).
- 2) Life-cycle of asset
 - a) G - General information;
 - b) A - Appraisal;
 - c) D - Design;
 - d) C - Construction;
 - e) M - Maintenance and operation;
 - f) S - Inspection and assessment;
 - g) Z - Disposal.

The document reference comprises five characters, of which the first two are based on a combination of discipline, then life-cycle designation letters, and the final three are a number allocated by the policy group responsible for the document.

Table A.1 shows the asset life-cycle structure.

Table A.1 Asset lifecycle structure

		Part (discipline)								
		G	L	C (Civil engineering)				T (Technology)		
		General Principles and Scheme Governance	Sustainability and Environment	Road Layout	Pavement	Highway Structures and Bridges	Drainage	Geotechnics	Control and Communications Technology	Road Lighting
Volume (life-cycle stages)		100-999	100-999	100-199	200-299	300-499	500-599	600-699	100-499	500-999
General information	G									
Appraisal	A									
Design	D									
Construction	C									
Maintenance and Operation	M									
Inspection and Assessment	S									
Disposal	Z									

Table A.2 gives guidance regarding the likely deliverables / outcome from each lifecycle stage.

Table A.2 Likely outputs and outcomes related to asset life-cycle structure

Code	General description	Definition	Likely Outputs / Outcome
G	General information	Overarching requirements defining overarching supply chain processes / procedures. Overarching requirements that affect the project / scheme delivery. Overarching policy requirements.	Technical Compliance Quality Control Production Control Construction Control
A	Appraisal	Procedures that inform the initial conditions that govern the development of the design. Asset inventory / database survey requirements.	Asset condition data Environmental survey data Site survey data Topographic Survey data
D	Design	Design requirements of the Overseeing Organisation.	Bridge Design Pavement Design Contract specific appendices to MCHW Working and fabrication drawings
C	Construction	Construction requirements of the Overseeing Organisation. Limitations / parameters which control the delivery of the construction.	Constructed asset As-built drawings
M	Maintenance and Operation	Operation and maintenance requirements that inform design. Techniques and processes associated with maintenance.	Asset Delivery & Asset Maintenance
S	Inspection and Assessment	Procedures and requirements that inform the provision of information regarding the in-service condition of assets.	Asset condition survey data Bridge Inspections - condition data Pavement Surveys - condition data
Z	Disposal	Disposal requirements that inform the design Disposal requirements of end of life assets.	Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulation

Appendix B. Clause numbering system in DMRB documents

The numbering system presented in Table B.1 is used in DMRB documents to make a clear distinction between requirements and advice.

Table B.1 Clause numbering system in DMRB documents

Format	Number format	Example
X. Section	1-level number	6. Key Stage 1: Initial review of project
Sub-headings(s)	No number	General features
X.X Requirement	2-level number	6.1 The format of the statement of intent given in Appendix B shall be used.
NOTE: Clarification of concept or statement of fact	No number but associated with requirement	NOTE: The statement of intent is typically a brief document.
X.X.X Advice (recommended or permissible method for fulfilling requirement)	3-level number	6.1.1. The statement of intent should form part of any commissioning report. 6.1.1 The statement of intent may form part of any commissioning report.
NOTE: Clarification of concept or statement of fact	No number but associated with advice	NOTE For many projects the statement of intent takes the form of a letter.

Sections are the highest level of subdivision and have a numbered heading, i.e. 1-level number.

Sub-headings are provided to group linked requirements under a specific section and are not numbered.

Requirements are numbered sequentially with a primary 2-level system of numbering, i.e. 5.2, 7.3, etc.

Advice is always associated to a specific requirement and is numbered sequentially with a secondary 3-level system of numbering e.g. 5.2.1, 7.3.1 etc.

Notes provide information assisting users in understanding and contextualising a specific requirement or advice. They are placed immediately after the requirement or advice which they refer to and do not require numbering, unless more than one note applies to the same clause. In such a case, the numbering is NOTE 1, NOTE 2 etc.

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General Principles & Scheme Governance
General Information

GG 101

England National Application Annex to GG 101 Introduction to the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges

Version 0.1.0

Summary

This National Application Annex gives the National Highways specific requirements to supplement the requirements in GG 101.

Feedback and Enquiries

Users of this document are encouraged to raise any enquiries and/or provide feedback on the content and usage of this document to the dedicated National Highways team. The email address for all enquiries and feedback is: Standards_Enquiries@highwaysengland.co.uk

This is a controlled document.

Contents

Release notes	2
Foreword	3
Publishing information	3
Contractual and legal considerations	3
Introduction	4
Background	4
Assumptions made in the preparation of this document	4
E/1. Application of the DMRB	5
Departures and non-compliance with requirements (GG 101, 2.7)	5
E/2. Normative references	6

Latest release notes

Document code	Version number	Date of publication of relevant change	Changes made to	Type of change
GG 101	0.1.0	September 2021	Core document, England NAA, Northern Ireland NAA	Incremental change to requirements

National Highways National Application Annex to GG 101. This revision provides for the use of retrospective departures by National Highways.

Previous versions

Document code	Version number	Date of publication of relevant change	Changes made to	Type of change
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Foreword

Publishing information

This document is published by National Highways.

This document supplements GG 101 Introduction to the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges.

Contractual and legal considerations

This document forms part of the works specification. It does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for applying all appropriate documents applicable to their contract.

Introduction

Background

The Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) is a suite of documents which contains requirements and advice relating to works on motorway and all-purpose trunk roads for which one of the Overseeing Organisations is highway or road authority.

Assumptions made in the preparation of this document

The assumptions made in GG 101 [Ref 1.N] apply to this document.

E/1. Application of the DMRB

Departures and non-compliance with requirements (GG 101, 2.7)

E/1.1 Where it is discovered that works have been undertaken that are not in accordance with the requirements of the DMRB, the Overseeing Organisation shall be informed of the non-compliance at the earliest opportunity.

NOTE An application for a retrospective departure is one solution that can be permitted, once all other alternative options have been exhausted.

E/2. Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normative references for this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

Ref 1.N	National Highways. GG 101, 'Introduction to the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges'
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Design Manual for Roads and Bridges



General Principles & Scheme Governance
General Information

GG 101

Northern Ireland National Application Annex to GG 101 Introduction to the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges

Version 0.1.0

Summary

This National Application Annex sets out (further specific or supplementary) information on the use of the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges in Northern Ireland.

Feedback and Enquiries

Users of this document are encouraged to raise any enquiries and/or provide feedback on the content and usage of this document to the dedicated team in the Department for Infrastructure, Northern Ireland. The email address for all enquiries and feedback is: dcu@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

This is a controlled document.

Contents

Release notes	2
Foreword	3
Publishing information	3
Contractual and legal considerations	3
Introduction	4
Background	4
Assumptions made in the preparation of this document	4
Abbreviations	5
NI/1. Application of the DMRB in Northern Ireland	6
Aspects covered.	6
NI/2. Normative references	7

Latest release notes

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GG 101	0.1.0	September 2021	Core document, England NAA, Northern Ireland NAA	Incremental change to requirements
Department for Infrastructure Northern Ireland National Application Annex to GG 101.				

Previous versions

Document code	Version number	Date of publication of relevant change	Changes made to	Type of change
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Foreword

Publishing information

This document is published by National Highways on behalf of the Department for Infrastructure, Northern Ireland.

This document supplements GG 101 Introduction to the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges.

Contractual and legal considerations

This document forms part of the works specification. It does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for applying all appropriate documents applicable to their contract.

Introduction

Background

This National Application Annex confirms the applicability of the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges in Northern Ireland.

Assumptions made in the preparation of this document

The assumptions made in GG 101 [Ref 1.N] apply to this document.

Abbreviations

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
DMRB	Design Manual for Roads and Bridges

NI/1. Application of the DMRB in Northern Ireland

Aspects covered.

NI/1.1 GG 101, clause 1.2 shall not apply in Northern Ireland.

NI/1.2 The requirements contained in the DMRB shall apply to all roads in Northern Ireland which are maintained by the Department for Infrastructure, or are likely to become maintained by the Department for Infrastructure, unless stated otherwise in either the relevant Northern Ireland National Application Annex or the relevant Department for Infrastructure policy document, or so deemed otherwise by Department for Infrastructure.

NI/2. Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normative references for this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

Ref 1.N	National Highways. GG 101, 'Introduction to the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges'
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General Principles & Scheme Governance
General Information

GG 101

Scotland National Application Annex to GG 101 Introduction to the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges

Version 0.1.0

Summary

There are no specific requirements for Transport Scotland supplementary or alternative to those given in GG 101.

Feedback and Enquiries

Users of this document are encouraged to raise any enquiries and/or provide feedback on the content and usage of this document to the dedicated Transport Scotland team. The email address for all enquiries and feedback is: TSSStandardsBranch@transport.gov.scot

This is a controlled document.

Contents

Release notes	2
---------------	---

Latest release notes

Document code	Version number	Date of publication of relevant change	Changes made to	Type of change
GG 101	0.1.0	September 2021	Core document, England NAA, Northern Ireland NAA	Incremental change to requirements

Transport Scotland National Application Annex to GG 101.

Previous versions

Document code	Version number	Date of publication of relevant change	Changes made to	Type of change
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General Principles & Scheme Governance
General Information

GG 101

Wales National Application Annex to GG 101 Introduction to the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges

Version 0.1.0

Summary

There are no specific requirements for Welsh Government supplementary or alternative to those given in GG 101.

Feedback and Enquiries

Users of this document are encouraged to raise any enquiries and/or provide feedback on the content and usage of this document to the dedicated Welsh Government team. The email address for all enquiries and feedback is: Standards_Feedback_and_Enquiries@gov.wales

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Contents

Release notes

2

Latest release notes

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GG 101	0.1.0	September 2021	Core document, England NAA, Northern Ireland NAA	Incremental change to requirements

Welsh Government National Application Annex to GG 101.

Previous versions

Document code	Version number	Date of publication of relevant change	Changes made to	Type of change
---------------	----------------	--	-----------------	----------------

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