



19th May 2025

RW 11 of 2025

Guidelines on the Rehabilitation of Roads Over Peat 2nd Edition April 2025

Dear Director of Services/Senior Engineer

A guidelines document on the Rehabilitation of Roads Over Peat was published by the Department of the Environment and Local Government in May 2000 to provide guidance to Local Authorities and other relevant bodies.

Circular RW 07 of 2022 gave notice of the Department's intention to revise and & update the guidelines and its contents in respect of current best practice or innovative techniques being employed by Local Authorities or other relevant bodies.

The Department has completed the revision of the guidance document and is now issuing the revised Guidelines for the Rehabilitation of Roads Over Peat 2nd Edition April 2025.

This circular outlines and summarises some of the main points of the revised guidelines and it should be noted that the 2nd edition represents a significant update of the 1st edition. The purpose of the document is to provide guidance to those involved in the design, maintenance, and rehabilitation of roads over peat. The document is not intended to be a design standard, rather aims to provide guidance to the user to help inform their decisions when dealing with roads over peat.

The objective of the “**Guidelines on the Rehabilitation of Roads Over Peat – April 2025**” is to:

- Provide guidance for the process and issues that should be addressed when dealing with the maintenance and rehabilitation of roads over peat.
- Provide guidance on the issues that need to be considered for the construction of roads over peat.
- Provide guidance on intervention strategies.
- Provide case studies to inform practitioners of previous experiences in dealing with the maintenance and rehabilitation of roads over peat.

This 2nd edition includes information on the following main aspects when dealing with the rehabilitation of roads over peat:

- Details of items to be considered as part of any design process when considering an intervention on a road over peat. Items for consideration include desktop study, visual inspection, pavement investigation, drainage considerations, ground investigation and environmental considerations.
- Provides guidance on how a road authority may prioritise their network of roads over peat for intervention.
- Provides guidance on intervention types that can be considered when rehabilitating a road over peat.



- Provides guidance on the type and use of geosynthetics and examples carried out on roads over peat on the regional road network.
- Provides high level guidance for scenarios where maintenance of an existing road over peat is not applicable such as minor realignments or new-build schemes where a more significant intervention may be required.
- Provides background information on ground investigation techniques available.
- Provides guidance on low-cost probing ground investigation technique to establish preliminary estimate of the peat depth, undrained shear strength values and the retrieval of samples for determination of water content and von post classification of the in-situ peat.
- Provides guidance on the purpose & approach of various scheme level surveys that can be carried out.
- Provides a sample template for carrying out a visual survey inspection of a road.

Please bring this circular to the attention of all Engineering staff, particularly District/Area Engineers within your Local Authority responsible for dealing with the maintenance and rehabilitation of roads over peat.

Yours sincerely,

Larry Kelly
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