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N56 Cloghbolie to Boyoughter

Natura Impact Statement Screening Document

March 2011





N56 CLOGHBOLIE TO BOYUGHTER NATURA IMPACT STATEMENT SCREENING DOCUMENT

DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

Client	Donegal County Council					
Project Title	N56 Cloghbolie to Boyoughter					
Document Title	Natura Impact Statement – Screening Document					
Document No.	NI1263/Reports					
This Document Comprises	DCS	TOC	Text	List of Tables	List of Figures	No. of Appendices
	1	0	5	0	0	0

Rev.	Status	Author(s)	Reviewed By	Approved By	Office of Origin	Issue Date
	Final	J McCrory	M Magee	R Holbeach	Belfast	11/08/2011

The format of this Natura Impact Screening Statement follows UK Design Manual for Roads and Bridges Volume 11, Section 4, Part 1 (HD 44/09) Assessment of Implications (of Highways and/or Roads Projects) on European Sites (Including Appropriate Assessment) (H.A. *et al.* 2009). The content and process followed mirrors NRA and DEHLG guidance.

SCREENING MATRIX

Project Name:		N56 Cloghbolie to Boyoughter																						
Natura 2000 site(s) under consideration:		Gannivegil Bog SAC West of Ardara/Maas Road SAC																						
Date:	Author (Name / Organisation)	Verified (Name / Organisation)																						
25.03.2011	James McCrory CBiol MIEEM MSB RPS Planning & Environment	Mark Magee CSci CEnv MCIWEM RPS Consulting Engineers																						
Description of Project Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the European Site by virtue of:																								
Size and scale (<i>road type and probable traffic volume</i>)		<p>The Cloghbolie to Boyoughter scheme section comprises 3.3 km of Type 3 Single Carriageway on the N56. The area in which the scheme is located is predominantly blanket bog, heathland and wet grasslands overlying granite bedrock, interspersed with areas of moderate agricultural land and small pockets of broadleaf woodland.</p> <p>The scheme commences north of Cloghbolie Bridge and criss-crosses the existing N56 road along the Meenacarn Bends, passing by an inlet of Travenagh Bay at Cloghbolie Bridge, just before Meenacarn Bends. On the approach to the Meenacarn Bends the proposed route goes off line through predominantly wet grassland, heath and some broadleaf woodland before the alignment rejoins the existing N56 after the Lough MacHugh outlet stream (Galwolie Burn). From here, the route traverses an online alignment through cutover bog until the approach to Lough doo and Lettermacaward village. Existing watercourses will be either crossed by new structures or culverted, allowing surface water flow to continue with the scheme in place.</p>																						
Land-take		<p>The landtake required for the scheme is 18.69ha, of which 2.37ha is existing roadway. The table below summarises the broad habitat types crossed.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Type</th> <th>Area (ha)</th> <th>% of Scheme</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Peatland</td> <td>8.94</td> <td>47.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grassland</td> <td>2.80</td> <td>15.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scrub</td> <td>2.69</td> <td>14.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Built Surfaces</td> <td>2.37</td> <td>12.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Woodland</td> <td>1.89</td> <td>10.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>18.69</td> <td>100</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Type	Area (ha)	% of Scheme	Peatland	8.94	47.8	Grassland	2.80	15.0	Scrub	2.69	14.4	Built Surfaces	2.37	12.7	Woodland	1.89	10.1	Total	18.69	100
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Distance from the European Site or key features of the site (<i>from edge of the project assessment corridor</i>)		<p><u>Gannivegil Bog SAC</u> The scheme is located 250m west of the SAC, north of Lough Machugh, at the Meenacarn Bends section of the N56, and 200m west of the closest point to a private dwelling tie-in.</p> <p><u>West of Ardara/Maas Road SAC</u> The scheme is located 900m north of the SAC at the Gweebarra River at Lettermacaward.</p>																						
Resource requirements (<i>from the European Site or from areas in proximity to the site, where of relevance to consideration of impacts</i>)		No resources are required from either SAC.																						

Emissions (e.g. polluted surface water runoff – both soluble and insoluble pollutants, atmospheric pollution)	<p>Gannivegil Bog SAC is entirely upstream of the scheme.</p> <p>West of Ardara/Maas Road SAC is entirely contained within a different catchment to the scheme.</p> <p>Pollution from construction stage and road drainage from operational stage of the project cannot enter the Natura 2000 sites via surface waters.</p>
Excavation requirements (e.g. impacts of local hydrogeology)	<p>Unsuitable peat material will be excavated from under the new roadbed and sidecast in areas of cutover blanket bog and heathland. Runoff from this excavated peat will be managed within the scheme landtake, and silt-laden water will not enter the existing watercourses beyond the scheme as a result of erosion control and sediment control measures.</p>
Transportation requirements	<p>The contractor appointed to undertake the proposed works, as part of the contractual working restraints that will be imposed, will be required to develop and implement an approved Traffic Management Plan (TMP) for the duration of the works that will complement the proposed methodology for construction and associated programme for the works. The TMP will have to be approved by the appropriate authorities including Donegal County Council and An Garda Síochána.</p>
Duration of construction, operation, etc	12 months
Other	N/A

Description of avoidance and/or mitigation measures

Describe any assumed (plainly established and uncontroversial) mitigation measures, including information on:

Nature of proposals	<p><u>Construction Mitigation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimisation of in-stream works and timing of such works so as to avoid seasonal fish runs and spawning periods; • interception, channelling and/or discharge of surface water from sumps, excavations and exposed soil surfaces to silt traps or settlement lagoons; • construction of silt traps, settlement lagoons / ponds, wetlands or hydrocarbon interceptors (either temporary or permanent) at sensitive outfalls at an early stage in the construction programme; • construction of cut-off ditches to prevent surface water run-off from entering excavations; • placing of granular materials over bare soil in the vicinity of watercourses in order to prevent erosion of fines and/or rutting by site traffic; • Side casting of excavated peat will be performed in areas where the existing topography is relatively flat, predominantly cutaway bog and therefore sloping areas will be avoided. • Establish vegetation as soon as practical on all areas where soil has been exposed e.g. cut and fill embankments and side casting. In particular stabilisation of the side casting areas should be carried out in order to reduce any run-off or erosion from the excavated peat; • storage of fuel, oils and chemicals will be on an impermeable base, a minimum of 10 metres away from drains and watercourses. Fuel storage areas should be bunded to provide adequate retention capacity (providing 110% capacity of the largest stored unit) in the event of a leak or spillage occurring; • provision of spill kits will be required at high risk and/or sensitive sites; • installation of wheelwash and plant washing facilities will be considered and will have no overflow where effluents are retained pending treatment and disposal; • implementation of measures to minimise waste and ensure correct handling, storage and disposal of waste will be required (most notably wet concrete and asphalt); • regular monitoring of surface waters during the construction period will be required to ensure no deterioration in water quality. • Contractors shall establish contact with the Inland Fisheries Ireland, Ballyshannon before works commence, with ongoing liaison throughout the construction.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contractors shall be familiar with the requirements of "Control of Water Pollution from Construction Sites: Guidance for Consultants and Contractors" (CIRIA, 2001). <p><u>Operational Mitigation</u> The drainage design for the proposed scheme will employ filter drains and oil interceptors, predominantly in areas of cutting slopes, whilst over the edge drainage will be employed in the remaining areas. Both will discharge to unlined ditches at the toe of the road embankments prior to discharging via outfalls to the water courses adjacent to the scheme. The provision of unlined ditches to accept drainage from the filter drains and over the edge drainage will provide an opportunity for attenuation of pollutants and flow prior to discharge to the existing natural drainage network.</p>
<i>Location</i>	Along the scheme length.
<i>Evidence for effectiveness</i>	These are accepted methods of protecting the water environment at construction stage, and managing road run-off at operational stage, and have been widely used by all regional administrative National Roads Design Offices throughout Ireland and Highways Agency projects in the UK.
<i>Mechanism for delivery (legal conditions, restrictions or other legally enforceable obligations)</i>	<p>Legal obligation to comply with environmental mitigation listed in the scheme Environmental Impact Report and Natura Impact Statement.</p> <p>Contractual obligation of the Main Contractor, through a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Management Plan Construction Environmental Management Plan; Sedimentation and Erosion Control Plan.
<p>Characteristics of European Site(s) A brief description of the European Site should be produced, including information on:</p>	
Name of European Site and its EU code	Gannivegil Bog SAC (Site Code IE0000142) West of Ardara/Maas Road SAC (Site Code IE0000197)
Location and distance of the European Site from the proposed works	<p><u>Gannivegil Bog SAC</u> The scheme is located 250m west of the SAC, north of Lough Machugh, at the Meenacarn Bends section of the N56, and 200m west of the closest point to a private dwelling tie-in.</p> <p><u>West of Ardara/Maas Road SAC</u> The scheme is located 900m north of the SAC at the Gweebarra River at Lettermacaward.</p>
European Site size	2171ha - Gannivegil Bog SAC 6739ha - West of Ardara/Maas Road SAC
Key features of the European Site including the primary reasons for selection and any other qualifying interests	<p>IE0000142 comprises peatland habitats, chiefly lowland and upland blanket bog, an Annex I priority habitat. On higher ground the Annex I habitat wet heath forms mosaic with blanket bog, which grades into dry heath on the steeper slopes and hill summits. A number of oligotrophic lakes occur throughout the site, the largest of which is Gannivegil Lough. Greenland White-fronted Goose, Golden Plover, Red Grouse, Otter, Badger and Irish Hare are known to use the site.</p> <p>IE0000197 has at least twenty-three habitats which are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The site is a SAC selected for blanket bog, machair, fixed grey dunes, decalcified dune heath, decalcified <i>Empetrum</i> dunes, and Orchid-rich calcareous grassland, all priority habitats on Annex I of the E.U.</p>

	Habitats Directive. The site is also selected as a SAC for lowland dunes with creeping willow, dune slack, marram dunes, large shallow inlets and bays, tidal mudflats, estuaries, Atlantic salt meadows, Mediterranean salt meadows, oligotrophic lakes, alpine heath, dry heath, wet heath, <i>Molinia</i> meadows, lowland hay meadows, alkaline fens, <i>Rhynchosporion</i> , and Juniper scrub, all habitats listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The site is also selected for the following species listed on Annex II of the same directive – Slender Naiad, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Marsh Fritillary, Petalwort, Atlantic Salmon, Common Seal, whorl snail and Otter.
Vulnerability of the European Site – any information available from the standard data forms on potential effect pathways	The main threats to IE0000142 include over-grazing, burning, further turbary activity, drainage and pollution. The main threats to IE0000197 include coastal erosion, coastal users, grazing, drainage
European Site conservation objectives – where these are readily available	Conservation Objectives will seek to maintain favourable conservation status of the habitats and species for which the site has been so designated to protect. Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> its natural range, and area it covers within that range, is stable or increasing; the ecological factors that are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future; and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable as defined below. Favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> population data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself; the natural range of the species is neither being reduced or likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.
Assessment Criteria Describe the individual elements of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on the European Site.	
No known impacts are likely which may give rise to a threat of significant effects.	
Initial Assessment The key characteristics of the site and the details of the European Site should be considered in identifying potential impacts. Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of:	
Reduction of habitat area	No reduction in SAC habitat area will occur.
Disturbance to key species	Disturbance to key species will not occur.
Habitat or species fragmentation	The proposed works will not fragment the SACs
Reduction in species density	No significant risk to key species is predicted.
Changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality, etc)	The Natura 2000 sites are either upstream or in different river catchments to the project. No pathway for effect has been established.
Climate change	N/A
<i>Describe any likely impacts on the European Site as a whole in terms of:</i>	
Interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site	None
Interference with key relationships that define the	None.

function of the site	
<i>Indicate the significance as a result of the identification of impacts set out above in terms of:</i>	
Reduction of habitat area	No reduction in SPA habitat area will occur.
Disturbance to key species	Disturbance to key species will not occur.
Habitat or species fragmentation	The proposed works will not fragment the SACs.
Loss	No habitat or species loss is predicted.
Fragmentation	No fragmentation is predicted
Disruption	No disruption is predicted
Disturbance	No disturbance is predicted
Change to key elements of the site (e.g. water quality, hydrological regime etc)	No change to key elements of the site is predicted.
Describe from the above those elements of the project, or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale or magnitude of impacts is not known.	
No identified impacts are likely to be significant. No uncertainty is attached to any impact magnitude.	
Outcome of screening stage (delete as appropriate).	Significant Effects are Likely/ Sufficient Uncertainty Remains/ Not Likely to be Significant Effects
Are the appropriate statutory environmental bodies in agreement with this conclusion (delete as appropriate and attach relevant correspondence).	YES/NO