Nature and Extent of proposed development in accordance with Part 8 requirements of the above Regulations. (Available for public inspection)

Coyles Bridge extension and widening and Regional Road Realignment

Donegal County Council
Road Design Office
County House
Lifford
Co. Donegal

October 2019
1.0 Introduction

Coyles Bridge (Structure ID: DL-R240-011.00) is a single span bridge which carries the R240 between Quigleys Point and Carndonagh in the townland of Meenavanaghan within the Inishowen Municipal District. There is a pinch point which reduces the carriageway width from 6.5m to 5.4m at the bridge. It is proposed to extend the bridge on the downstream side using precast concrete box culverts and to realign the northern and southern approaches to eliminate this pinch point and improve the horizontal alignment of the road in this area.

The report describes the proposed works and it sets out the principle features of the proposed project as required by the Local Government Planning and Development Regulation 2001-2019.

2.0 Nature of the Works

The project will include the following elements; -

a) Extension of the bridge on the downstream side with precast concrete box culverts and precast concrete wing walls.

b) Horizontal road realignment/widening on both northern and southern approaches to the bridge.

c) Demolition of the downstream masonry parapet and construction of verges, new masonry parapet, fences and associated works.

d) All existing services downstream of the bridge structure will relocated within the bridge.

e) Materials excavated on site will be re-used where possible any unsuitable material will be transported to a licensed waste facility.

The site location plan is attached in Appendix A.

3.0 Extent of Works

Coyles Bridge is located on the R-240-9 between Quigleys Point and Carndonagh in the Inishowen Municipal District. The overall extents of the works are shown on drawing number 77-002.
4.0 Principal features

The existing bridge is a single span masonry arch bridge. The initial works will involve the realignment of the stream prior to damming and over-pumping allowing the installation of a box culvert extension. This will involve excavation and placing of a concrete foundation, creation of a temporary crane platform, relocation of existing services, placing the box culvert extension and backfilling of the new structure.

On completion of the widening works the existing downstream masonry parapet will be demolished, fill will be placed for the road widening, verges will be constructed, fencing will be installed, a new downstream parapet will be built and safety barrier installed. Road construction and surface overlays will be carried out as required.

All parapet walls shall be of masonry construction and shall have a castellated coping. All other finishes shall be similar to what exists on site. Post and rail fencing shall be provided to protect the side slopes which shall be finished with grass seed. The road shall be finished with bound bituminous material.

Waste material will be reused on site where appropriate with unsuitable fill being exported to a licensed waste facility.

The details of the proposed Bridge Replacement are shown in drawing numbers 77-000 to 77-007 attached in Appendix C.

5.0 Ecological assessment

A stage 1 Natura Impact Screening Assessment has identified that the Lough Foyle SPA (site code 004087) is located 4.4km downstream of Coyles Bridge. However having considered the qualifying interests of that natura site, the assessment has determined that given the scope and nature of the works and the separation between the works and the qualifying interests, the proposed project is unlikely to have a significant impact on the Lough Foyle SPA. A copy of the Natura Impact Screening Assessment report is attached in Appendix E.

In accordance with Article 120(1)(b)(i) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) Donegal County Council has concluded, based on a preliminary examination of the nature, size and location of the development, that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required. A copy of the EIA prescreening assessment is attached in Appendix F.
### 6.0 List of Drawings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drawing No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Scale (@A3)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>77-000</td>
<td>Series 99 Cover Sheet</td>
<td>NTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-001</td>
<td>Series 100 Site Location</td>
<td>NTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-002</td>
<td>Series 101 Site Extents</td>
<td>NTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-003</td>
<td>Series 500 Existing Bridge Layout</td>
<td>1:100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-004</td>
<td>Series 500 Proposed Bridge Extension</td>
<td>1:100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-005</td>
<td>Series 500 Bridge Long Section</td>
<td>1:100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-006</td>
<td>Series 500 Existing and Proposed</td>
<td>1:100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Downstream Sections</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-007</td>
<td>Series 700 Proposed Horizontal and</td>
<td>1:1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vertical Alignments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 7.0 Appendices

- **Appendix A**: Location plan
- **Appendix B**: Planning Notice
- **Appendix C**: Scheme Drawings
- **Appendix D**: Existing Bridge Photos
- **Appendix E**: Screening for appropriate assessment
- **Appendix F**: Pre-screening for EIA
Appendix A

Location Plan
Appendix B

Planning Notice
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000-2019
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001-2019
ARTICLE 81
NOTICE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 81, PART 8 OF THE ABOVE REGULATIONS,
RELATING TO A PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT BY DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

TAKE NOTICE that Donegal County Council propose to extend Coyles Bridge, a single span masonry arch bridge and realign/widen the existing Regional Road in order to improve the horizontal alignment and remove a pinch point at the bridge, in the Townland of Meenavanaghan in the Inishowen Municipal District as scheduled below.

SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED WORK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Road No.</th>
<th>Townlands</th>
<th>Local Roads Office For Viewing Plans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Coyles Bridge extension and widening and Regional Road Realignment</td>
<td>R-240-9</td>
<td>Meenavanaghan</td>
<td>Carndonagh PSC and Road Design Office, Lifford</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Description and Extents

It is proposed to extend Coyles Bridge and realign the Regional Road in order to improve the horizontal alignment and remove a pinch point on the bridge in the Townland of Meenavanaghan, in the Inishowen Municipal District as scheduled below.

The project will include:

a. Localised realignment and widening of the R-240-9 regional road for a distance of 310m providing a 7m carriageway, 0.5m hard strips on both sides. Construction of a 3m verge, 2.1 embankment on the downstream side and the installation safety barrier as required
b. The extension of the existing Coyles Bridge with precast concrete culverts and wing walls on the downstream side
c. Realignment of the existing stream on the downstream side to facilitate extension of the bridge

Coyles Bridge on the R-240-9. Any existing services will be accommodated during the bridge refurbishment and extension works.

Note that in accordance with Article 120(1)(b)(i) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) Donegal County Council has concluded, based on a preliminary examination of the nature, size and location of the development, that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required.

The plans and particulars of this proposed development will be available for inspection or purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the front desk of:

- Carndonagh PSC, Malin Road, Carndonagh, Co. Donegal, F93 YV1N
- The Road Design Office, The Diamond, Lifford, Co. Donegal, F93 Y622

Plans may be inspected between the hours of 9:00am - 12:45pm and 1.15pm - 5.00pm from Mondays to Thursdays and from 9:00am - 12.30pm and 1.00pm - 4.30pm on Fridays. The proposed plans will be available for inspection from Tuesday 8th October 2019 to Thursday 7th November 2019.

Submissions and observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and development of the area in which the development is situated may be made in writing to The County Secretariat, Donegal County Council, County House, Lifford, County Donegal, F93 Y622 before 5.00pm on Friday 22nd November 2019.

Please mark the front of the envelope with the project name as per the above schedule.

John G McLaughlin,
Director of Service, Roads & Housing Capital
Donegal County Council,
County House, Lifford, Co Donegal

Inishowen Indo 23x5 (164)
Appendix C

Scheme Drawings
R-240-9 - Coyles Bridge extension and widening and Regional Road Realignment

PART 8
Book 1 - Drawings
NRA Rural All Purpose Reduced Single Carriageway S2

Notes:

Section based on NRA Volume 6 Section 1 Part 2 NRA TD27/07

Typical 1 in 40 (2.5%) slopes applied, override using superelevation

Typical earthworks applied, to be defined by the engineer

Simple pavement depths applied, to be defined by the engineer

SIDEROAD (2)
JC-CURB_RETURN (2)
Realign Stream
DITCH
Existing Stream

4.190
2.790
0.560
Proposed Downstream View

3.000
2.000
2.000
2.000
1.100
4.500
0.630
97.435
101.761
101.761
1.000
97.941

Existing Bed Level

FLOW

New Bed Level

Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall
Donegal County Council
Roads & Transportation Services
Tel: (074) 9172222 Fax: (074) 9141793 www.donegal.ie
J. McLaughlin Director of Roads & Transportation

Filepath:
Q:\Bridges & EIS\Bridges\P1146 - 2019 bridge strengthening\MD1 Riverside Bar(Coyles Bridge)\Drawings

File Name:
Coyles Bridge_Post Donal_rev2

Prepared:

Checked:

Approved:

Date:

File no:

Date:

Date:

File no:

Date:

Purpose of Drawings

Horizontal Scales:
N/A

Vertical Scale:
N/A

Project:

Location:

Proposed Coyles Bridge extension and widening and Regional Road Realignment

77-001
**Purpose of Drawings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Existing Bridge Layout</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Horizontal Scales:** 1:100 @ A3

**Vertical Scale:** N/A

---

**Existing Bridge Parapets**

**Existing Bridge**

**Existing Stream**

---

**Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall**

**Donegal County Council**

Roads & Transportation Services

Tel: (074) 9172222   Fax: (074) 9141793   www.donegal.ie

J. McLaughlin Director of Roads & Transportation

---

**Filepath:** Q:\Bridges & EIS\Bridges\P1146 - 2019 bridge strengthening\MD1 Riverside Bar (Coyles Bridge)\Drawings

**File Name:** Coyles Bridge_Post Donal_rev2

---

**Prepared:**

**Checked:**

**Approved:**

**Date:** January 2019

**Date:** January 2019

**Date:** January 2019

---

**Draw Title:** P1146-2019

**Project:** Proposed Coyles Bridge extension and widening and Regional Road Realignment

**Location:** R240 9 Meenavanaghan

**Series 500: Existing Bridge Layout**
Realign Stream

Existing Bridge Parapet to be retained

2No. - 4.5x3x2m long Culverts

3No. - 2m long precast wingwalls at 1:2 grade to suit bank grading

New Bridge Parapet to be constructed at edge of verge

2No. - 4.5x3x2m to 1m long Skewed Culverts

Existing Bridge

Realign Stream

Existing Bridge

2No. - 4.5x3x2m long Culverts

3No. - 2m long precast wingwalls at 1:2 grade to suit bank grading

New Bridge Parapet to be constructed at edge of verge

2No. - 4.5x3x2m to 1m long Skewed Culverts
Proposed Coyles Bridge extension and widening and Regional Road Realignment

**Purpose of Drawings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Horizontal Scales:** 1:100 @ A3

**Vertical Scale:** 1:100 @ A3

**Prepared:** CM

**Checked:** SMcC

**Approved:** SG

**File no.:** P1146-2019

**Location:** R-240-9 Meenavanaghan

**Purpose:**
- Existing Stone Parapet to be removed
- Existing 4" Service Duct to be diverted
- Existing 4" Service Duct to be diverted
- Existing 4" Service Duct to be diverted

**Note:**
- Surfacing to extend to Parapet Walls
- No Soft Verges

**Existing Downstream View**

- Existing masonry training walls to be removed prior to installing culverts
- Existing Stone Parapet to be removed
- Existing 4" Service Duct to be diverted

**Proposed Downstream View**

- New Stone Parapet as per SCD2404
- Concrete Foundations required each side of the culvert for construction of new parapet

**Class 6N1 Fill**

- 2 No. - 4.5x3x2m long Culverts
- 3 No. - 2m long precast wingwalls at 1:2 grade to suit bank grading

**Project:** Proposed Coyles Bridge extension and widening and Regional Road Realignment

**Drawings:** Series 500 - Existing and Proposed Downstream Sections

**File Path:** Q:\Bridges & EIS\Bridges\P1146-2019 bridge strengthening\MD1 Riverside Bar (Coyles Bridge)\Drawings

**File Name:** Coyles Bridge_Post_Donal_rev2

**Date:** January 2019

**Purpose:**
- Tender Issue
- CPO
- Safety Design
- Acc Works
- Land Reg
- Construction
- Other
Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall
Donegal County Council
Roads & Transportation Services
Tel: (074) 9172222   Fax: (074) 9141793   www.donegal.ie
J. McLaughlin Director of Roads & Transportation

Purpose of Drawings
Information
Part 8
Tender Issue
CPO
Safety Design
Acc Works
Land Reg
Construction
Other

Project: Proposed Coyles Bridge extension and widening and Regional Road Realignment
Location: R-240 @ Meenavanaghan

Existing Road

Horizontal Geometry

R: 1440.000
L: 190.898

L = 115.589

Chainage

0.000
10.000
20.000
30.000
40.000
50.000
60.000
70.000
80.000
90.000
100.000
110.000
120.000
130.000
140.000
150.000
160.000
170.000
180.000
190.000
200.000
210.000
220.000
230.000
240.000
250.000
260.000
270.000
280.000
290.000
300.000
309.923

Existing Levels

Proposed Levels

Filepath: Q:\Bridges & EIS\Bridges\P1146 - 2019 bridge strengthening\MD1 Riverside Bar(Coyles Bridge)\Drawings
File Name: Coyles Bridge_Post Donal_rev2

Prepared: CM
Checked: SMcC
Approved: SG

Series 700 Proposed Horizontal and Vertical Alignments

File no: P1146-2019

January 2019
January 2019
January 2019
Appendix D

Site photos
Image 1: Upstream elevation of the bridge

Image 2: Downstream elevation of the bridge
Image 3: View of overhead services and damaged parapet downstream side of bridge
Image 4: View of damaged upstream parapet

Image 5: View of existing south west downstream wingwall
Image 6: View of bridge surface looking north
Appendix E

Screening for Appropriate Assessment
Habitats Directive Article 6 Screening Assessment for Coyles Bridge extension and widening and Regional Road Realignment

Meenavanaghan
County Donegal
Executive Summary

Article 6 assessments are required under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), and are required where a plan or project may give rise to significant effects upon a Natura 2000 site. Natura 2000 sites are those identified as sites of Community importance designated under the Habitats Directive (Special Areas of Conservation, hereafter referred to as SACs) or the Birds Directive (Special Protection Areas, hereafter referred to as SPAs). In the case of the present assessment, Ramsar sites are also included by way of best practice. It is important to note that the phrase ‘Appropriate Assessment’ is sometimes used more loosely to refer to the whole process set out under Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive (Dodd et al., 2008), and therefore note that for the present assessment the term ‘Article 6 assessment’ will be used, not ‘Appropriate Assessment’ (which refers to Stage 2 in the sequence under Article 6 assessment).

Guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) produced by the EPA (EPA, 2008) provides a useful definition of Article 6 assessments (referred to as appropriate assessment in that document) (EPA, 2008):

“An assessment based on best scientific knowledge, of the potential impacts of the plan on the conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 site (including Natura 2000 sites not situated in the area encompassed by the draft plan or scheme) and the development, where necessary, of mitigation or avoidance measures to preclude negative effects”.

Importantly, an Article 6 assessment has a narrow focus i.e. the maintenance of the integrity of the site and assessing the significance of the effects on designated interest features and the conservation objectives of the site. It is a protection led assessment and is carried out using the precautionary principle.

The assessment of the Coyles Bridge extension and road re-alignment works concluded in the following:

The screening process has first identified that the project will have a direct connector to the following Natura site:

- Lough Foyle SPA 4.4 Km downstream of the works

The screening process then identified the qualifying interests and the potential impacts to those habitats and species arising from the proposed works on each of the Natura 2000 sites. Following this assessment the screening process has concluded that there are no significant impacts likely to arise from the proposed Coyles Bridge extension and road re-alignment works development on any Natura site. It is also unlikely that there will be ‘in combination’ negative effects from any other additional plans or developments at each of the Natura sites identified.
# Contents

**Executive Summary**

**Introduction**

- Part 8 Planning Regulations
- Article 6 Assessment
- Stages of the Article 6 assessment
  - Stage 1 - Screening
  - Stage 2 - Appropriate Assessment (AA)
  - Stage 3 - Assessment of alternative solutions
  - Stage 4 – Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest

**Stage 1 – Screening**

- Step 1: Management of the Site.
- Step 2: Description of Project and European Sites
  - European Natura 2000 Sites
    - 2.1 Lough Foyle SPA (004087)
- Step 3: Conservation Objectives For The Natura 2000 Sites that May Be Impacted
  - 3.1 Lough Foyle SPA (Site Code: 004087)
  - 3.2 Cumulative, Direct, Indirect, Short & Long Term Effects
- Step 4.0 Likely Significance of Impacts
  - 4.1 High level Screening
  - 4.2 Other species
  - 4.3 Other Policies, Plans or Projects
  - 4.4 Conclusion

**Appendix 1 - Location**

**Appendix 2 - References**
Introduction

Article 6 is one of the most important articles of the Habitats Directive in determining the relationship between conservation and site use. Article 6(3) requires that "Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the conservation of a site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives." The purpose of this report is to describe how that Article 6 assessment was carried out, and also to detail the results and conclusions from the assessment.

Part 8 Planning Regulations

Local Authorities are required to carry out an Appropriate Assessment as per article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC (2000)) in relation to any project proposed by the Local Authority within its jurisdiction that may impact on a Natura 2000 site.

Article 6 Assessment

The Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora better known as “The Habitats Directive” provides the framework for legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Articles 3 to 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of Community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network. The Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive and sites designated under them form this network of European protected sites that are better known as the Natura 2000 network. This consists of:

- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for flora, fauna and habitats of Community interest under the EU Habitats Directive;
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for rare, vulnerable or migratory birds under the EU Birds Directive;
- Sites that are being considered for designation as one of the above are referred to as cSAC (candidate) or pSPA (proposed);
- Ramsar sites are wetlands of global importance, listed under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance. Ramsar sites are contained within Natura 2000 sites and for that reason, and in line with best practice, Ramsar sites, if present would have been included in this assessment.

Article 6 sets out provisions, which govern the conservation and management of Natura 2000 sites. Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect Natura 2000 sites. Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment:

“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [Natura 2000] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, shall be subjected to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implication for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public”

This assessment is underpinned by the precautionary principle, especially in the assessment of potential impacts and their resolution. If it is not possible to rule out a risk of harm on the evidence available then it is assumed a risk may exist and it needs to be dealt with in the appropriate assessment process.
Stages of the Article 6 assessment

The stages of an Article 6 assessment are outlined in the European Commission Methodological Guidance on the provision of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the ‘Habitats’ Directive 92/43/EEC (EC 2001) and the European Commission Guidance ‘Managing Natura 2000 Sites’. These are set out below:

Stage 1 - Screening
- Step 1: Management of the site. In the case of the bridge refurbishment and widening project is not connected with, or necessary to the management of a Natura 2000 site
- Step 2: Description of the Project (in this case the Coyles bridge refurbishment, widening and associated works) and identification of European sites that may be affected (including ‘in combination’ effects)
- Step 3: Characteristics of the site identifying areas where the project may impact on European sites.
- Step 4: Assessment of Significance. Assessment of the likelihood of significant effects of the project on European sites, including individual and cumulative impacts. Exclusion of site where it can be objectively concluded that there will be no significant effects and hence no requirement to proceed to further stages.

Stage 2 - Appropriate Assessment (AA)
- Step 1: Information collation of likely effects of project and impacts on European site.
- Step 2: Description of the Natura 2000 sites, including qualifying interests.
- Step 3: Identification of the conservation objectives for of these sites and potential significant impacts likely to occur from the proposal
- Step 4: Identification and assessment of mitigation measures against any likely adverse effects of the Project.

Stage 3 - Assessment of alternative solutions
- Step 1: Identification of alternative solutions
- Step 2: Assessment of alternative solutions

Stage 4 – Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest
Confirm that there are:
- a) Imperative reasons of overriding public interest and
- b) Human health or safety considerations or important environmental benefits. If this is so then compensation measures are required for any remaining adverse effect.
Stage 1 – Screening

Results of Coyles Bridge extension and road re-alignment works assessment

Step 1: Management of the Site.

Coyles Bridge (Structure ID: DL-R240-011.00) is a single span bridge which carries the R240 between Quigleys Point and Carndonagh in the townland of Meenavanaghan within the Inishowen Municipal District.

The existing bridge forms a pinch point within the road and given that this route is the main arterial road between Inishowen and the city of Derry, it is proposed to extend the bridge on the downstream side using precast concrete box culverts and realign the northern and southern approaches to eliminate this pinch point and improve the horizontal alignment of the road in this area.

The proposed works will also refurbish the existing road bridge where the parapets have been damaged due to vehicle impact. These works are not required for the management of any Natura 2000 site.

Step 2: Description of Project and European Sites

The bridge is a single span masonry structure which has been in operation for decades. The bridge itself is in good condition requiring minor repair works to its parapets and some repointing. The bridge is a regional road river crossing providing main distributor road access within Donegal within an area that is frequently used by tourists.

It is proposed first to extend the bridge with precast concrete box culverts. This will be done by the realigning the stream prior to damming and over-pumping allowing the installation of the box culvert extension. A temporary platform will be created in the adjacent field for the crane, the downstream services will be relocated and the culverts lifted into place. The culverts will then be backfilled.

On completion of the widening works the existing downstream masonry parapet will be demolished, fill will be placed for the road widening, verges will be constructed, fencing will be installed, a new downstream parapet will be built and safety barrier installed. Road construction and surface overlays will be carried out as required.

All verges and side slopes will be sown in grass. All other lands will be restored to a pre-construction state. Some placement of fill may be undertaken as advance works to suit operational needs.

All proposed work is considered to be road improvement works required to protect the travelling public. The works were designed having considered the needs of the structure, the health and safety of the construction workers and environmental considerations. These factors have dictated both the works strategy and the choice of materials used. All methods used are tried and trusted technologies and have been implemented on other similar sites without adversely affecting the integrity of any watercourses or Natura sites. The works will be Delivery by Donegal County Council’s direct labour force with assistance from Donegal County Council’s road design team. Donegal County Council has many years of experience successfully delivering similar works in environmentally sensitive locations without affecting Natura sites.
2.1 European Natura 2000 Sites

County Donegal has 72 Natura sites and together they cover a large area of the county. In particular, watercourses are frequently included within the Natura sites and contribute significantly to the environmental diversity throughout the county. Where a particular watercourse is not directly included within a Natura site then it may often discharge into a Natura site and thus has a direct connector to that site. The following is a list of the Natura sites connected to the proposed development.

- **Lough Foyle SPA** 4.4km downstream of the works

2.1.1 **Lough Foyle SPA (004087)**

The site comprises a section of the western shore of Lough Foyle from Muff to north of Vances Point in Co. Donegal. The site is part of the larger cross-border Lough Foyle complex which regularly supports in excess of 20,000 wintering waterbirds. The majority of the wintering waterbirds that utilise this site occur along the southern and eastern shoreline of Lough Foyle in Derry, which is also designated as an SPA in Northern Ireland.

The site is selected as a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, as it is part of an internationally important wetland site that regularly supports in excess of 20,000 wintering waterbirds. The assemblage of birds that utilise Lough Foyle includes internationally important populations of Whooper Swan (917), Light-bellied Brent Goose (3,765) and Bar-tailed Godwit (2,059), and nationally important populations of a further 20 species: Red-throated Diver (28), Great Crested Grebe (148), Bewick’s Swan (43), Greylag Goose (391), Shelduck (468), Wigeon (9,011), Teal (660), Mallard (1,635), Eider (143), Red-breasted Merganser (82), Oystercatcher (3,101), Golden Plover (4,562), Lapwing (4,024), Knot (499), Dunlin (4,991), Curlew (2,265), Redshank (988), Black-headed Gull (2,212), Common Gull (2,846) and Herring Gull (1,261) – all counts are five year mean peaks for the entire Lough Foyle complex during the period 1995/96 to 1999/2000. The E.U. Birds Directive pays particular attention to wetlands and, as these form part of this SPA, the site and its associated waterbirds are of special conservation interest for Wetland & Waterbirds.

Lough Foyle SPA is of high ornithological importance as it is part of an internationally important wetland site (Ramsar Site) that regularly supports internationally important populations of Whooper Swan, Light-bellied Brent Goose and Bar-tailed Godwit, and nationally important populations of a further 20 species. Of note is that five of the species which occur regularly, i.e. Red-throated Diver, Bewick’s Swan, Whooper Swan, Golden Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive.
Step 3: Conservation Objectives For The Natura 2000 Sites that May Be Impacted

Conservation objectives for the various SPA's and SAC's have been set by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. These objectives are generally to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status for habitats and species of community interest within the Natura sites.

3.1 Lough Foyle SPA (Site Code: 004087)

To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of internationally important wetland (Ramsar site) and of the Annex I species for which the SPA has been selected:

- A001 Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*
- A005 Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*
- A037 Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*
- A038 Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*
- A043 Greylag Goose *Anser anser*
- A046 Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota*
- A048 Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*
- A050 Wigeon *Anas penelope*
- A052 Teal *Anas crecca*
- A053 Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*
- A063 Eider *Somateria mollissima*
- A069 Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*
- A130 Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*
- A140 Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*
- A142 Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*
- A143 Knot *Calidris canutus*
- A149 Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*
- A157 Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*
- A160 Curlew *Numenius arquata*
- A162 Redshank *Tringa totanus*
- A179 Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*
- A182 Common Gull *Larus canus*
- A184 Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*
- A999 Wetlands

3.2 Cumulative, Direct, Indirect, Short & Long Term Effects

The proposed bridge is a direct refurbishment and widening of an existing structure. This is effectively an improvement project that has been enhanced to provide essential infrastructure of an arterial road. There are no other plans or proposals for this area. The adjacent lands are agricultural and there are no proposed changes to this. The project involves the refurbishment of an existing structure so there shall be no change to the general operation of the road in the locale, therefore it is considered extremely unlikely that there shall be any negative cumulative, direct or indirect effects on the Natura site in either short term or long term effects caused by the implementation of this project. The bridge is not located within a Natura site but does have a direct connector to the Lough Foyle SPA. The potential affects of the construction phase on the connected Natura site is considered in detail in section 4.
Step 4.0 Likely Significance of Impacts

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when its natural range, and area it covers within that range, is stable or increasing, and 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. The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when population data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself, and 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.

4.1 High level Screening

The proposed works have been given an initial screening to consider relevant factors and determine if there may be potential for Natura impact. This bridge is located on a minor watercourse which empties into the Lough Foyle Estuary. This part of the estuary has been designated for wildfowl and is also a Ramsar site. For this scheme it has been determined that the Natura impact is unlikely as the bridge as it is located 4.4km from the estuary having a potential for dilution while also containing no qualifying fish species.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bridge</th>
<th>River</th>
<th>Receiving Environment</th>
<th>Considerations</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coyle Bridge</td>
<td>Small tributary</td>
<td>Coastal outfall</td>
<td>High degree of separation, Potential for dilution, No qualifying fish species</td>
<td>Unlikely to impact, No further action</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.2 Other species

The bridge works have been developed in the knowledge that there may be other species residing in and around the bridge that are not associated with the Natura site but also require consideration. One concern is with fish which may be present within the watercourse. Full consultations shall be held with Inland fisheries in advance of the works and care shall be taken to minimise fish disturbance during the work. In addition prior to the construction phase Donegal County Council shall prepare a method statement which forwarded to Loughs Agency for their input to ensure that any risk to fish within the watercourse is minimised.

Another concern is the presence of birds or bats. Whilst there is no obvious nests present under the bridge the utility crossings could be used as ledges for nesting birds whilst crevices present could be used by bats as roosts. Prior to construction the bridge shall be checked by an ecologist for these species and if found appropriate action taken.

4.3 Other Policies, Plans or Projects

There are no other maintenance works, policies, plans or projects known that would impact on the Natura 2000 site. The site is rural and the surrounding lands are zoned for agricultural use. As the works are scheduled for construction during the summer months and located a significant distance away from the Natura site it is unlikely that the project will have any effect on the integrity Lough Foyle SPA either in construction, operation or in combination with other proposals.

4.4 Conclusion

The screening process has been undertaken to identify the qualifying interests of Natura 2000 sites and potential impacts arising from implementation of the refurbishment and widening of Coyle Bridge. The site is located 4.4km upstream of the Lough Foyle SPA and the works will be undertaken using good site management and practices.

Because of the nature of the qualifying interests which are mainly coastal habitats and species and the separation between the SPA and the development there will be no direct interaction with the qualifying interests of the Lough Foyle SPA and so it is considered extremely unlikely that the proposed development will affect the Natura site in any way. Therefore there is no
reason why this development cannot proceed, as it will not adversely impact on the integrity of any the Lough Foyle SPA Natura site.

The process has shown that it is extremely unlikely that there will be any significant negative effects on any Natura 2000 sites arising from the refurbishment, widening and associated works at Coyles Bridge. It is also unlikely that there will be 'in combination' negative effects from any other plans or known developments.

In conclusion the Stage 1 screening for Appropriate Assessment has determined that Coyles Bridge extension and road re-alignment works will not adversely impact in any significant manner on any Natura 2000 site and the qualifying interests or conservation objectives associated with them.
Report Acceptance Sheet

The Habitats Directive Article 6 screening report has determined that the proposed Coyles Bridge extension and road re-alignment works is unlikely to have a significant effect on any Natura site.

Screening report prepared and recommended by:

Stephen Glackin
Executive Engineer, Road Design

Screening report approved by:

Cahal Moss
Senior Executive Engineer, CTS Division
Appendix 1 - Location
Appendix 2 - References
References


European Communities. 2002. Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites. Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Luxembourg.

Environmental Protection Agency. 2008. Strategic Environmental Assessment – SEA Pack. 08/05/08


National Parks and Wildlife Service. Site synopsis’s and Conservation objectives reports for each of the Natura sites listed.

2016 Foyle Area and Tributaries Catchment Status Report – Loughs Agency 2017

Guidelines for Fisheries Protection during development works (Foyle and Carlingford areas) Environmental guidelines series 1 - Loughs Agency 2011

Requirements for the protection of fisheries habitat during construction and development works at river sites – Eastern Regional Fisheries Board.

www.ramsar.org
www.wetlands.org
www.birdlife.org
www.antaisce.org
www.npws.ie
www.birdwatchireland.ie
www.fisheriesireland.ie
www.wfdireland.ie
www.plantlife.org.uk
Appendix F

Pre-Screening for EIA
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001
(as amended)

Environmental Impact Assessment
Preliminary Examination

in accordance Article 120 of the above Regulations.
(available for inspection)

Coyles Bridge Extension and Widening
and Regional Road Realignment

Donegal County Council,
Road Design Office,
County House,
Lifford,
Co.Donegal.

October 2019
STAGE 1.a – EIA PRE-SCREENING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case Ref:</th>
<th>P1146 – 2019 – MD1 Coyles Bridge Extension and Widening and Regional Road Realignment.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Development Summary**

Coyles Bridge (Structure ID: DL-R240-011.00) is a single span bridge which carries the R240 between Quigleys Point and Carndonagh in the townland of Meenavanaghan within the Inishowen Municipal District.

The existing bridge forms a pinch point within the road and given that this route is the main arterial road between Inishowen and the city of Derry, it is proposed to extend the bridge on the downstream side using precast concrete box culverts and realign the northern and southern approaches to eliminate this pinch point and improve the horizontal alignment of the road in this area.

The proposed works will also refurbish the existing road bridge where the parapets have been damaged due to vehicle impact.

**Does the proposed development constitute an EIA project as defined by the planning and development regulations?**

- Yes
- No [X]

**If YES, Does the proposed development fall within a class of development set out in Part 1 or Part 2, Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended)?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tick</th>
<th>Threshold</th>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CONCLUSION**

Development is not within Part 1 or Part 2, Schedule 5. No EIA/Screening is required. The proposed development is not of the type, size or nature of development listed in Schedule 5 Of the Planning and Development regulations, therefore an EIA is not required in this instance.

Development is within Part 1 or Part 2 and is greater than, equal to, or there is no threshold. EIAR is required.

Development is within Part 1 or Part 2 but is less than threshold. EIA Screening is Required.

**EIA Pre-screening prepared by:**  Stephen Glackin,  
Road Design Office, Donegal County

**Council Date:**  01st October 2019