



OPW Lifford Flood Relief Scheme, Co. Donegal

Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination Statement

Site Investigation Works

Lifford FRS – Site Investigation Works

Description of Works

As part of the proposed Flood Relief Scheme for Lifford, Site Investigation works are required along the banks of the Rivers Finn and Foyle, and adjacent areas, to carry out an assessment of the ground conditions and to locate underground services. The works will involve trial pits and boreholes along the routing and alignment of potential embankment works.

It is estimated that ground investigation works will involve approximately 22 trial pits and 8 boreholes. The final number and location will be confirmed depending on ground conditions encountered during the works. All exploratory holes shall be excavated and backfilled within 24 hours. The envisioned duration of the works is 7 days. Works will be completed during normal working hours (08:00 – 18:00).



Proposed Site Investigation Locations

	<p>There are no instream works proposed as part of the Site Investigations. The proposed works will take place in Lifford town along the Western banks of the River Finn and the Foyle and Faughan Estuary transitional waterbody, herein referred to as the River Foyle. In addition, site investigation works will also take place in the Roughan, some of which are adjacent to the Roughan Stream and the Gort Stream which both flow into the River Deelee.</p>
<p>European Site within the zone of influence of the proposed works</p>	<p>River Finn SAC (Site Code: 002301 – adjacent and on the boundary) Lough Foyle SPA (Site Code: 04087 – 28km northeast and 33km downstream)</p>

In accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) and Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended, the Office of Public Works (OPW) has undertaken Appropriate Assessment screening to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the European Sites, if the project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site(s).

As required under Regulation 42(7) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended, OPW has made a determination following screening that an Appropriate Assessment is not required. The project is not directly, connected with or necessary to the management of the sites as European sites and as it can be concluded, on the basis, of objective information, that the project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is not likely to have a significant effect on the European sites listed above.

This determination is based, on information supplied by Ryan Hanley Environmental Consultants and RPS Engineering Consultants along with information contained within the *Lifford Flood Relief Scheme, Co. Donegal, Site Investigation Works, Appropriate Assessment Screening Report*.

From this screening exercise it has been determined that no likely significant effects may arise on any European sites as a result of the Site Investigation Works in combination with other plans and projects, through surface water, land and air, and groundwater pathways. This assessment is, undertaken in the absence of mitigation measures. The project screened out for Appropriate Assessment based on the location of the works, the nature and the scale of the works.

Nathy Gilligan

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