



OPW Lifford Flood Relief Scheme, Co. Donegal Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination Statement River Wall - Vegetation Removal Works

Lifford FRS – River Wall Vegetation Removal Works

As part of the proposed Flood Relief Scheme for Lifford, the removal of vegetation from the river wall on the left bank of the River Foyle, just downstream of Lifford Bridge, is required to facilitate a structural assessment and appraisal of the existing masonry wall. The works will involve the removal of ivy and other vegetation from the wall and pruning back vegetation along the river bank to facilitate access for inspection. All works are to be completed by hand using small hand and power tools. Some larger wood logs are to be left on site, but most small debris and litter is being removed from site to a waste disposal facility.

The works are planned to commence on the 14th February 2022 and be completed by the 28th February 2022, outside of the bird nesting season. There is no instream work proposed at this location. The works are to be completed by a Forestry Contractor in accordance with an agreed method statement, with a site induction and periodic inspection of works by an appointed ECoW. The envisioned duration of the works is 10 days. Works will be completed during normal working hours (09:00 – 18:00).

Description of Works



European Site within the zone of influence of the proposed works	River Finn SAC (Site Code: 002301 – adjacent and on the boundary) Lough Foyle SPA (Site Code: 04087 – 28km northeast and 34km downstream)
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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, Vegetation Removal 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 Vegetation Removal 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

Head of Environment Section
Office of Public Works

Date: 11th February 2022