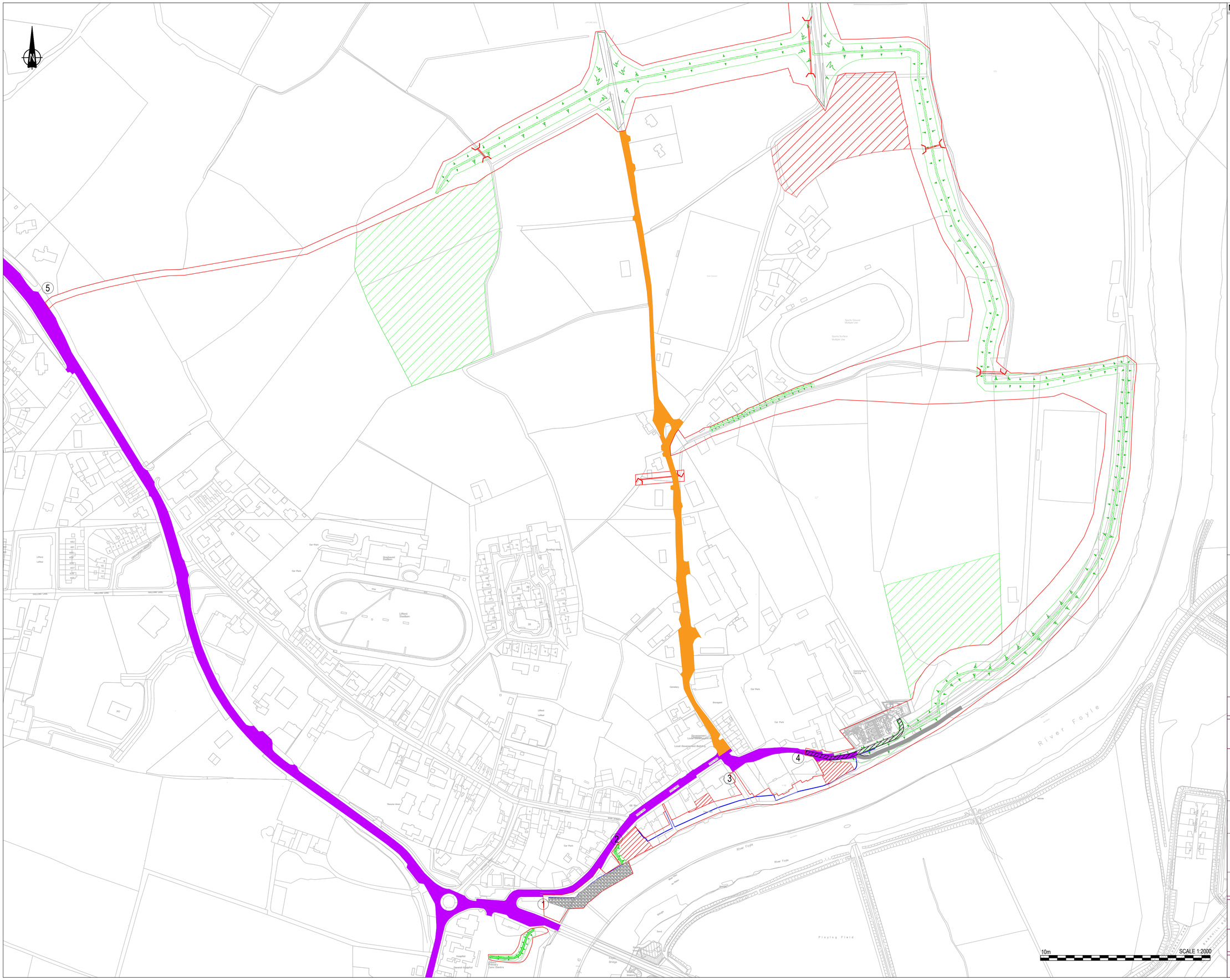

NOTES

1. Verifying Dimensions.
   The contractor shall verify dimensions against such other drawings or site conditions as pertain to this part of the work.

2. Existing Services.
   Any information concerning the location of existing services indicated on this drawing is intended for general guidance only. It shall be the responsibility of the contractor to determine and verify the exact horizontal and vertical alignment of all cables, pipes, etc. (both underground and overhead) before work commences.

3. Issue of Drawings.
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4. Legend

- Flood Embankment
- Extent of Working Area
- Flood Wall
- Permitted Construction Traffic Access and Material Delivery Route
- Permitted Construction Traffic Access Only Route
- Site Compound and Material Storage Area
- Potential Alternative Site Compound Areas
- Station Road Raised
- Stoned Access Road
- (1) Site Access Location

rev	amendments	check	date
A	Amendments made in correlation to OPW's comments	BQ	31/10/24

rps
Elmwood House
74 Boucher Road
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BT12 6RZ
T +44 (0) 28 90 667914
F +44 (0) 28 90 668286
W www.rpsgroup.com/ireland
E ireland@rpsgroup.com

Client
OPW
Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works

Project
Lifford Flood Relief Scheme

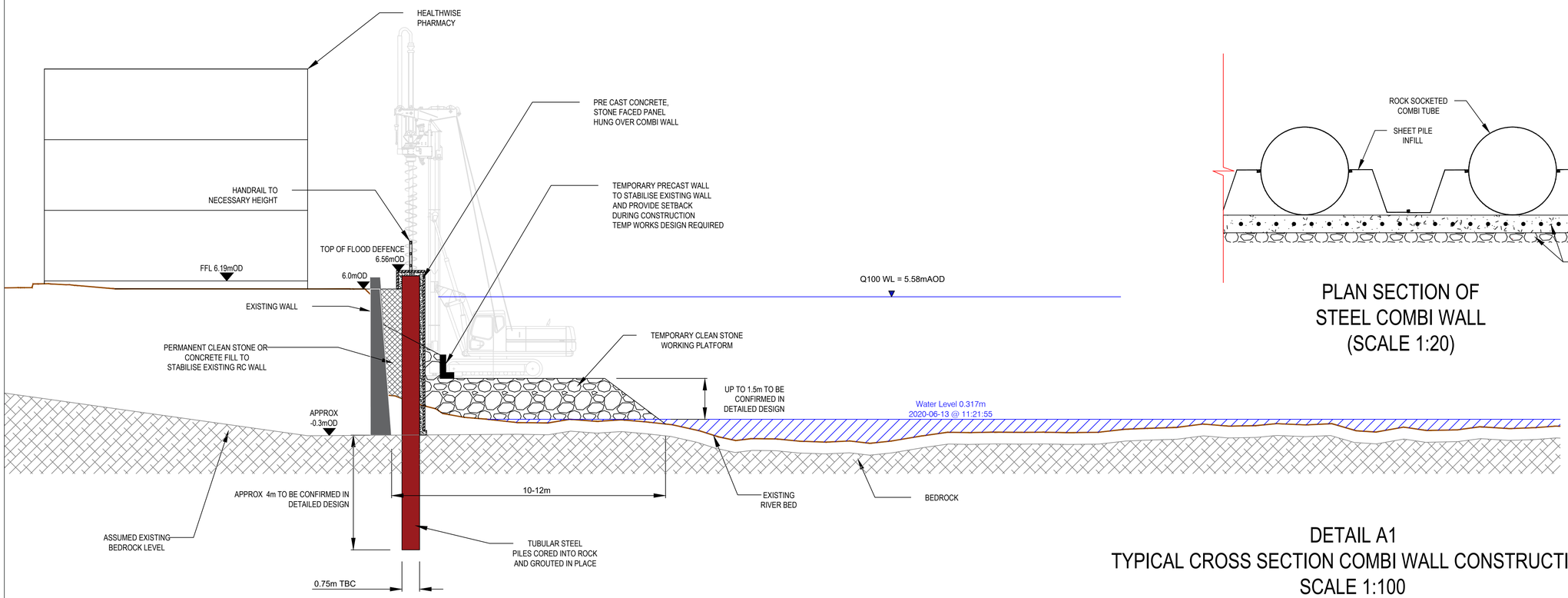
Title
Temporary Works and Construction Traffic

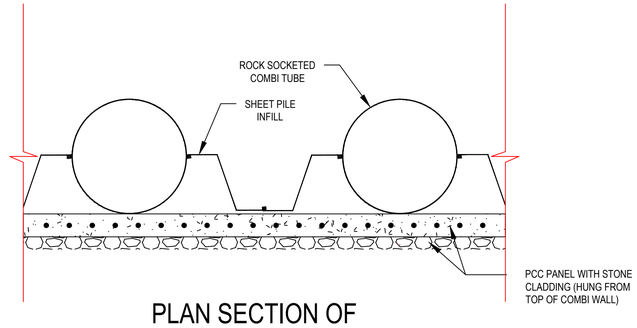
Project Number	Sheet Size	Drawing Scale
IBE1674	A1	1:2000

Drawing Number
IBE1674_003

Drawn By	Status	Revision
NE	Preliminary	A

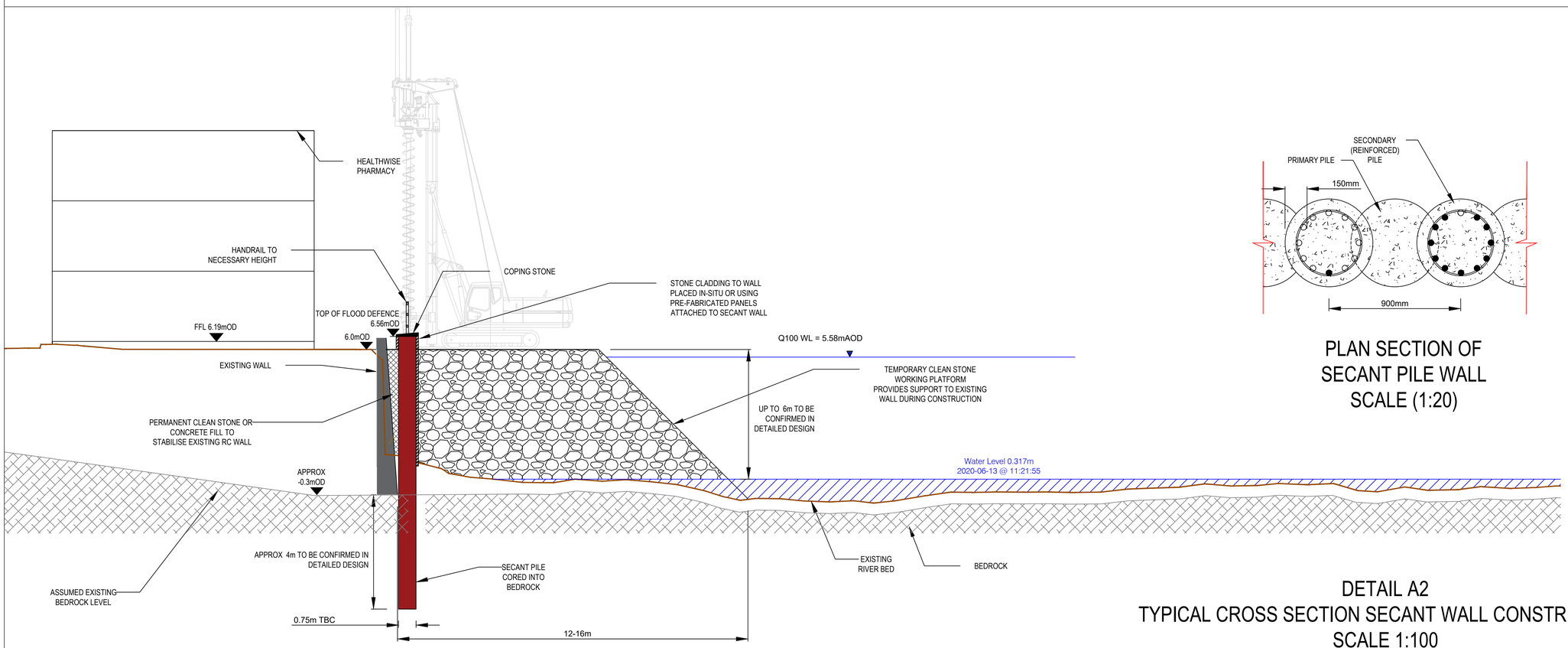
Checked By	Approved By	Date
AJ	BQ	30/10/2024





PLAN SECTION OF
STEEL COMBI WALL
(SCALE 1:20)

DETAIL A1
TYPICAL CROSS SECTION COMBI WALL CONSTRUCTION
SCALE 1:100



PLAN SECTION OF
SECANT PILE WALL
SCALE (1:20)

DETAIL A2
TYPICAL CROSS SECTION SECANT WALL CONSTRUCTION
SCALE 1:100

NOTES

1. Verifying Dimensions.
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rev	amendments	check	date
A	Amendments made in correlation to OPW's comments	BQ	31/10/24

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F +44 (0) 28 90 668286
W www.rpsgroup.com/ireland
E ireland@rpsgroup.com

Client
OPW Oifig na nOibreacha Poibli/ Office of Public Works

Project
Lifford Flood Relief Scheme

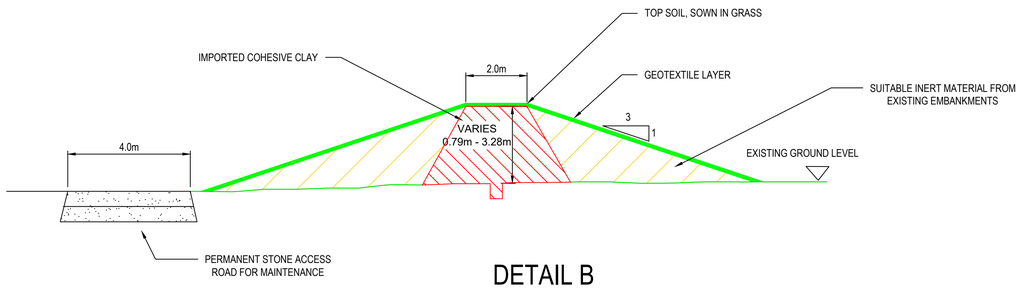
Title
Typical Cross Sections

Project Number	Sheet Size	Drawing Scale
IBE1674	A1	As Shown

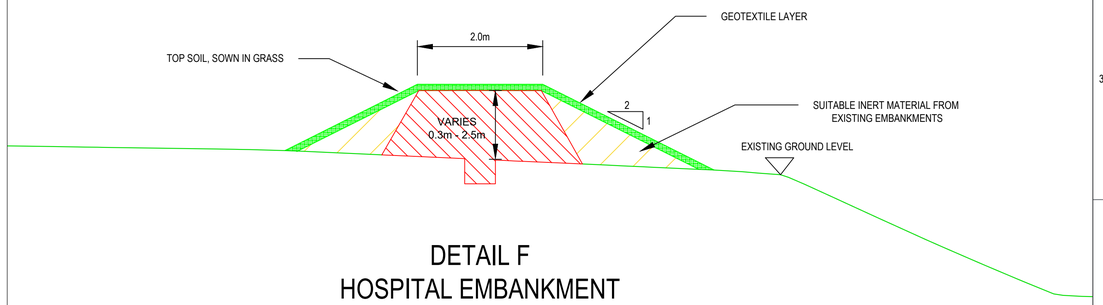
Drawing Number
IBE1674_004

Drawn By	Status	Revision
NE	Preliminary	A

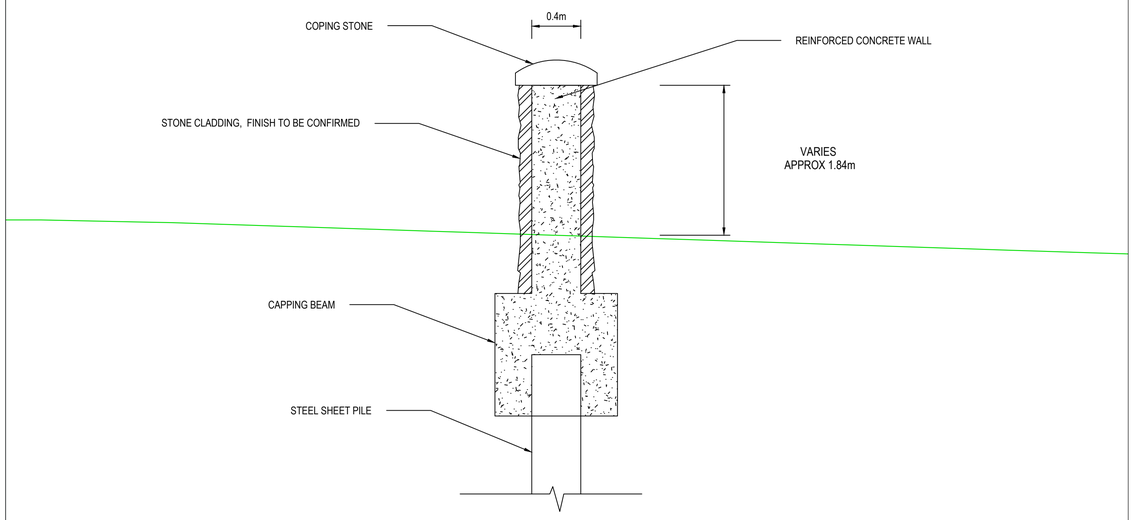
Checked By	Approved By	Date
AJ	BQ	30/10/2024



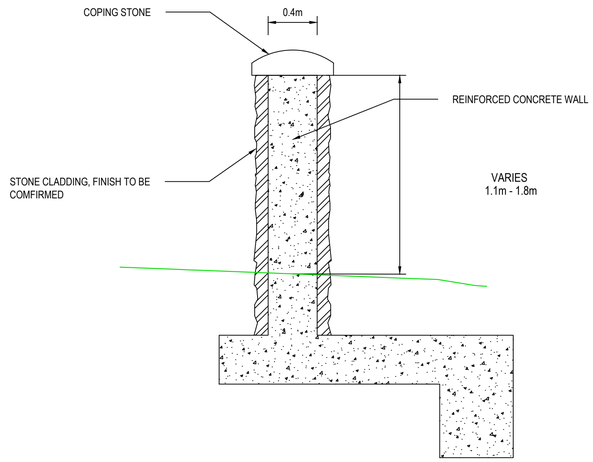
DETAIL B
TYPICAL DETAIL EMBANKMENT
SCALE 1:100



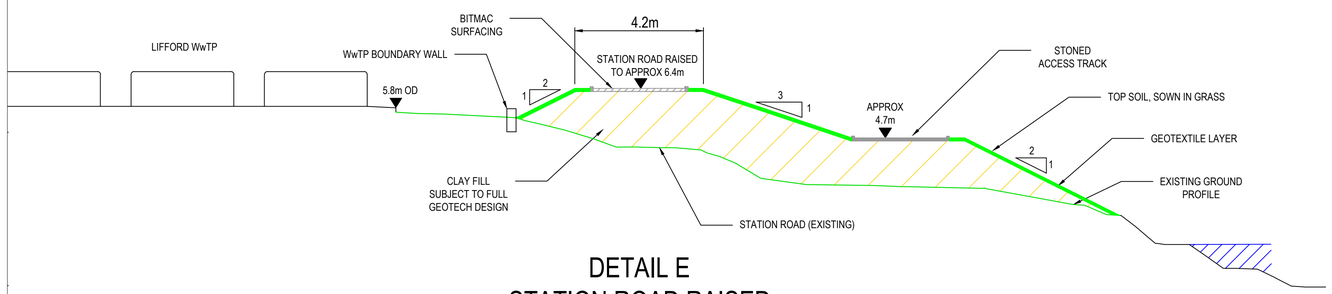
DETAIL F
HOSPITAL EMBANKMENT
SCALE 1:50



DETAIL C
TYPICAL DETAIL SHEET PILE WALL
SCALE 1:25



DETAIL D
TYPICAL DETAIL RC WALL
SCALE 1:25



DETAIL E
STATION ROAD RAISED
SCALE 1:100

NOTES

1. Verifying Dimensions.
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rev	amendments	check	date
A	Amendments made in correlation to OPW's comments	BQ	31/10/24

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Belfast
BT12 6RZ
T +44 (0) 28 90 667914
F +44 (0) 28 90 668286
W www.rpsgroup.com/ireland
E ireland@rpsgroup.com

Client
OPW Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí Office of Public Works

Project
Lifford Flood Relief Scheme

Title
Typical Cross Sections

Project Number	Sheet Size	Drawing Scale
IBE1674	A1	As Shown

Drawing Number
IBE1674_005

Drawn By	Status	Revision
NE	Preliminary	A

Checked By	Approved By	Date
AJ	BQ	30/10/2024

Appendix B
Responses (Post Consultation) of EIA Scoping Report

Response from Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Outlook

EIA Scoping Report for Lifford FRS

From DAERA Planning Response Team <PlanningResponse.Team@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Date Mon 17/02/2025 14:06
To Lifford Flood Relief Scheme <liffordfrs@ryanhanley.ie>

1 attachment (92 KB)
AE1 25 201806 WMU-PC-37302-1 - WTR - Response.pdf;

You don't often get email from planningresponse.team@daera-ni.gov.uk. Learn why this is important

Good afternoon,

Please see attached response from Water Management Unit.

Regards

Sarah

Sarah Rea | Planning Response Team (PRT)
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)
Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)

For NIEA Planning Queries; ☎ +4428 90569604 | ✉ planningresponse.team@daera-ni.gov.uk |
NIEA Lisburn | 17 Antrim Road | Lisburn | BT28 3AL | **Web** https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/

Water Management Unit

Planning Reference: EIA Scoping Report for Lifford Flood Relief Scheme

Section Reference: WMU-PC-37302-1

Considerations:

Water Management Unit notes the reason for consultation and would provide the following advice.

Explanatory Note:

All DAERA Standing advice referred to in this response unless otherwise stated can be found at the following link https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/standing-advice-development-may-have-effect-water-environment-including-groundwater-and-fisheries

Water Management Unit notes the location of this proposal. While this site is not within our jurisdiction, the following advice is still applicable, and all potential transboundary issues should be fully considered and addressed.

The applicant must ensure that all necessary environmental permissions required for this proposal are obtained from the appropriate competent authority.

Northern Ireland Baseline Information

Several useful information sources are available that highlight the current state of the environment in Northern Ireland at a regional level which could be referenced including the Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report which can be found at: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/northern-ireland-environmental-statistics-report

Also, with regard to Northern Ireland Baseline Information and Data Sources DAERA have two map viewers in relation to the aquatic environment that may be of use, Water Information Request Web Viewer and NIEA Catchment Data Map Viewer both of which can be found at https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/daera-map-viewers

River Basin Management Plans are the key tools for implementing the Water Framework Directive and to achieving its objectives. If the potential for transboundary impacts to Northern Ireland are identified, then the NI River Basin Management Plans must be considered during the process.

DAERA has published the Draft River Basin Management Plan for the 3rd cycle period which runs from 2021-2027. The draft plan provides an update on the health of Northern Ireland's water environment (the status of water bodies) and sets out our targets (objectives) and

actions (programme of measures) on how we want to improve our water environment in the next six years. The draft plan covers the North Western, Neagh Bann and North Eastern river basin districts (RBD) and includes detailed status updates on each RBD. The document can be downloaded from the consultation webpage: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-draft-3rd-cycle-river-basin-management-plan-2021-2027

It should be noted cross border river basins require special attention as ecological functionality cross jurisdictional boundaries.

Water Management Unit would direct the attention of the applicant to all DAERA Standing Advice guidance documents available at: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/standing-advice-development-may-have-effect-water-environment-including-groundwater-and-fisheries

The following DAERA Standing Advice in relation to the aquatic environment will be particularly relevant to this application:

- DAERA Standing Advice on Pollution Prevention Guidance.
- DAERA Standing Advice on Sustainable Drainage Systems.

The applicant should refer (and Water Management Unit recommends, adhere) to all the relevant precepts contained in DAERA Standing Advice on Pollution Prevention Guidance and ensure best practice and appropriate mitigation is to be applied during the construction, and operational phases of this proposal. The applicant should note the additional information (GPP's) relevant to this proposal including (but not limited to):

- Above ground oil storage tanks: GPP 2
- Use and design of oil separators in surface water drainage systems: GPP 3
- Works and maintenance in or near water: GPP 5
- Working at construction and demolition sites: GPP6
- Pollution incident response planning: GPP 21
- Dealing with spills: GPP 22
- Safe Storage of Drums and Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBCs): GPP 26

GPP's can be viewed at https://www.netregs.org.uk/environmental-topics/guidance-for-pollution-prevention-gpp-documents/

The main risks to a waterway during the project will be from oil, hydrocarbons, fuel, chemicals, paint, suspended solids, concrete, cement, and grout.

While not being the competent environmental authority, Water Management Unit would make the following comments regarding the proposed Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) that the applicant may wish to consider.

Regarding the proposed CEMP, the applicant should note that no CEMP including ‘final’ is definitive but must be considered as a “living” document and should be reviewed throughout the life of the project to reflect conditions on site.

Where adverse impacts on the aquatic environment are identified during the process, and the nature of those potential impacts clearly identified, relevant and appropriate mitigation measures should be proposed. Mitigation measures must be proportionate to those risks identified.

Water Management Unit recommends that monitoring regimes should be identified to ensure both the efficacy of mitigation measures and identify any unforeseen impacts to the aquatic environment that may arise from implementation of scheme.

Water Management Unit recommends the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems to deal with site drainage. No discharge to the aquatic environment should take place unless any required statutory permission from the competent authority is in place.

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) requires us to protect the status of water bodies from deterioration, and where necessary and practicable, to restore water bodies to good status/good ecological potential.

Acute and robust mitigation measures must be in place to protect the water bodies from any discharge into them that may damage ecological status and to ensure that the Water Framework Directive (WFD) objectives for the water bodies are not compromised, nor the WFD objectives in other downstream water bodies in the same and other catchments. Potential threats include increases in sedimentation, pollution from drainage and surface water run-off.

In improving the individual elements monitored under the WFD we aim to eventually achieve Good Status in all water bodies. We would like to ensure that any emissions from the proposal do not cause any deterioration or affect the possibility of achieving Good Status, or High Status for individual elements where appropriate, in the river water bodies and any other receiving water bodies. The applicant must ensure that all activities during those proposals do not add to that risk.

The applicant should ensure that measures are in place to prevent pollution of surface or groundwater as a result of the activities on site, both during construction and thereafter.

Response from Department of Environment, Climate and Communications

Outlook

RE: EIA Scoping Report for Lifford FRS

From DECC Planning Notifications <PlanningNotifications@decc.gov.ie>
Date Fri 17/01/2025 11:39
To Lifford Flood Relief Scheme <liffordfrs@ryanhanley.ie>

1 attachment (311 KB)
2025-01-17 GSI Submission.pdf;

You don't often get email from planningnotifications@decc.gov.ie. Learn why this is important

To whom it may concern,

Please see attached a submission on behalf of Geological Survey Ireland (a division of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications) with regard to the subject entity.

Please send an acknowledgement of receipt to PlanningNotifications@decc.gov.ie at your earliest convenience.

Many thanks,
Luke Thompson

Luke Thompson, Administrative Officer
Planning Advisory Division

An Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide
Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications

Teach Tom Johnson, Bóthar Haddington, Baile Átha Cliath, D04 K7X4
Tom Johnson House, Haddington Road, Dublin, D04 K7X4

PlanningNotifications@decc.gov.ie

From: Lifford Flood Relief Scheme <liffordfrs@ryanhanley.ie>
Sent: Friday, December 20, 2024 12:17 PM
Cc: Nicholas Duff <NicholasD@ryanhanley.ie>; Aidan Fitzpatrick <Aidan.Fitzpatrick@opw.ie>; Quigley, Brendan <Brendan.Quigley1@rps.tetratech.com>; SHANE MCMONAGLE <SMCMONAGLE@Donegalcoco.ie>; Henry Kenny <KennyH@ryanhanley.ie>; Elaine Shields <shieldse@ryanhanley.ie>
Subject: EIA Scoping Report for Lifford FRS

CAUTION: This eMail originated from outside your organisation and the BTS Managed Desktop service. Do not click on any links or open any attachments unless you recognise the sender or are expecting the email and know that the content is safe. If you are in any doubt, please contact the OGCIO IT Service Desk.

Dear Consultee,

Attached is the EIA Scoping Report for the Lifford Flood Relief Scheme and Cover Letter.
Correspondence is by email only and not by standard postal delivery.

Responses should be made to: liffordfrs@ryanhanley.ie no later than 17th February 2025.

Kind regards,

The Project Team.

A grey and white sign with white letters Description automatically generated

Tel: +353 (0) 1 297 3030 /
+353 (0) 91 587 116

Web: www.ryanhanley.ie

An Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide
Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications

Geological Survey
Suirbhéireacht Gheolaíochta
Ireland | Éireann

Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers
1 Galway Business Park
Dangan
Galway, H91A3EF

14 January 2025

Re: EIA Scoping Report for Lifford FRS
Your Ref: n/a
Our Ref: 24/433

Dear Sir/Madam,

Geological Survey Ireland is the national earth science agency and is a division of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. We provide independent geological information and interpretation and gather various data for that purpose. Please see our website for data availability.

With reference to your email received on the 20 December 2024, concerning the EIA Scoping Report for Lifford FRS, we recommend using our various data sets when conducting the EIAR, SEA, planning and scoping processes for developments, plans and policies. For more detailed information on how to access this data please access 'Data and Maps' Data & Maps (gsi.ie) on our 'Geoscience for planning' webpage. Use of our data or maps should be attributed correctly (please refer to each individual dataset's metadata for correct attribution).

For specific data available for Environmental Assessment and Planning topics please follow this link [Data by Environmental Assessment and Planning Topic (gsi.ie)], where you will find our data arranged by environmental assessment topic as illustrated below:

Land and soils	Water	Climate Change
Soil • Subsoils (Quaternary Geology) • Tellus Geochemistry • Geotechnical *Geology* • Bedrock • Geophysics • Bedrock & Quaternary 3D	*Groundwater* • Aquifers GW vulnerability, GWPSs (GWPPs) *Surface water* • Tellus Geochemistry *Estuarine & marine waters* • Marine and coastal *Flooding* • GWClimate • Karst	*Carbon accounting / Carbon balance* • Geothermal • Carbon capture and storage *Climate change trends* • National coastal change assessment

Cultural Heritage	Material Assets	The Landscape
Archaeology • Cherish *Underwater Archaeology* • Shipwrecks	*Built Services* • Natural resources (Minerals & Aggregates) • Active quarries	*Landscape Appearance & Character* • Physiographic units *Historical landscapes* • Historic mines

Other Relevant Data		
Natural (Geo) hazards • Landslide Susceptibility Mapping • Groundwater flooding • Coastal vulnerability • Subsidence • Radon	*Natural heritage* • Geoheritage (County Geological Sites) • Dimension Stone/Stone Built Ireland	

Other Comments

Should development go ahead, all other factors considered, Geological Survey Ireland would much appreciate a copy of reports detailing any site investigations carried out. The data would be redacted for confidentiality and added to Geological Survey Ireland's national database of site investigation boreholes, implemented to provide a better service to the civil engineering sector. Data can be sent to the Geological Mapping Unit, at mailto:GeologicalMappingInfo@gsi.ie.

If we can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to contact me Clare Glanville, or my colleague Trish Smullen at GSIPlanning@gsi.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Clare Glanville
Senior Geologist
Geoheritage and Planning Programme
Geological Survey Ireland

Trish Smullen
Geologist
Geoheritage and Planning Programme
Geological Survey Ireland

The publicly available data referenced/presented here, should in no way be construed as Geological Survey Ireland support for or objection to the proposed development or plan. The data are made freely available to all and can be used as independent scientific data in assessments, plans or policies. It should be noted that in many cases these data are a baseline or starting point for further site specific assessments.

Response from Derry Strabane Council

Derry City & Strabane District Council
Comhairle Chathair Dhoire & Cheantar an tSratha Báin
Derry Cittie & Stràbane Destrick Cooncil

Derry/Strabane, Planning Department
Derry City and Strabane District Council
98 Strand Road, Derry, BT48 7NN

Tel +44 (0)2871 253 253
Planning@derrystrabane.com
www.derrystrabane.com

Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers
1 Galway Business Park,
Dangan,
Galway,
H91A3EF

Date:	7 January 2025
Your Ref:	
Our Ref:	LA11/2025/0006/DETEIA (Please quote at all times)
Please Contact:	Planning Department
Contact Number:	02871253253

Dear Sir/Madam

Location: Where the River Finn meets the River, Mourne to form the River Foyle

Proposal: EIA Scoping request

Thank you for your application for Request for EIA Determination received on 3 January 2025 regarding the above proposed development.

Please note that when validated the planning application, plans, maps, drawings and any associated documentation, will appear on the Planning Register and, will also be published on the NI Regional Planning System through the Public Portal: https://planningregister.planningsystemni.gov.uk/. Other information submitted in relation to the planning application during the course of assessing, including consultation responses, objection and supporting letters, will also be published on the Portal in due course.

The Council will process your information in line with the GDPR requirements. A copy of the full Privacy Statement is available at: www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/dfi-privacy alternatively you can contact the relevant Data Protection Officer listed and request a copy of the Statement to be posted directly to you. The Council will take extreme care not to publish signatures, personal telephone numbers, personal email addresses and any sensitive personal data received such as medical or financial evidence.

The viewing of planning applications online is a service aimed at improving overall accessibility of the planning process. You can track the progress of your planning application online by logging onto the Public Portal and entering your planning application reference number. If you do not have access to the Public Portal, you can call into this office during normal office hours and we will make the information available to you. If you wish to view the main planning file you can do so by making an appointment to view during normal office hours. You should note, however, that

the main file is a working document and at certain times of the process will not be immediately available. An appointment is therefore essential.

There are a number of key stages in processing a planning application before it reaches a final decision, therefore the length of the determination process will vary depending on the complexity of the application. You can however keep track of your application by checking the Public Portal or by contacting this office.

Yours faithfully

Lynne Edgar

for Derry City and Strabane District Council
Planning Manager

Response from Department for Infrastructure

Dfl Roads

Department for Infrastructure
An Roinn Bonneagair
www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Consultation Response

Application Ref: LA11/2025/0006/DETEIA*

Date of Response 11th February 2025

In response to consultation dated 14th January 2025, Dfl Roads comments as follows:

The EIA Scoping Report has been reviewed.

Section 6.13 – Indirect and Cumulative Impacts, and the interaction of Effects

This section states:

'The proposed projects that will be considered are those with a sufficient level of detailed information in the public domain, e.g. those which have received planning permission. This will allow accurate potential cumulative impacts to be assessed including projects which are considered 'committed development'.'

The A5WTC is not one of the projects that are listed in 6.13, however the A5WTC should be included given that it satisfies the criteria set out in para 3 of Section 6.13.

In addition, the Environmental Impact Assessment should take account of any transport impact within Derry City and Strabane District Council area.

Issued on behalf of Development Control Section,

Dfl Roads – Western Division

Case Officer: _____

J Roulston

* As a non-statutory application, this consultation is not subject to Council's 21-day response target.

Response from Fáilte Ireland

Fáilte Ireland
Turasóireacht Náisúnta
An tÚdara Eorbartha
National Tourism
Development Authority

EIAR Guidelines for the Consideration of Tourism and Tourism Related Projects

July 2023

An tÚdarás Náisiúnta Forbartha Turasóireachta
Áras Fáilte, 88–95 Sráid Amiens
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 WR86
Éire

National Tourism Development Authority
Áras Fáilte, 88 - 95 Amiens Street
Dublin 1
D01 WR86
Ireland

Phone 1890 525 525
or +353 1 884 7700
Email info@failteireland.ie
www.failteireland.ie

Contents

1. Introduction 1
2. Background to this Document 1
3. Legislation and Statutory Guidance 2
4. Assessing Tourism 5
5. Guiding Principles of EIAR 6
6. Consideration of Competency and Qualifications 6
7. EIAR Requirements 6
   - Population and Human Health 8
   - Biodiversity 8
   - Land, Soils and Geology 9
   - Water 9
   - Air Quality and Climate 9
   - Noise and Vibration 9
   - Material Assets; Traffic and Transport 9
   - Cultural Heritage 10
   - Archaeology 10
   - Material Assets; Waste Management 10
   - Material Assets 10
   - Landscape 10
8. Sources of information on Tourism 12
   - Information available online 12

1. Introduction

Tourism is a growing sector and substantial part of the Irish Economy. It contributes to both urban and rural economies in every part of the country. The impact and interaction of tourism with the environment is complex and the assessment of environmental impacts is of utmost importance to creating a sustainable tourism economy and protecting the natural resources that are so often a tourism attraction.

The purpose of this report is to provide guidance for those conducting Environmental Impact Assessment and compiling an Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR), or those assessing EIARs, where the project involves tourism or may have an impact upon tourism. These guidelines are non-statutory and act as supplementary advice to the EPA EIAR Guidelines outlined in section 2.

This guidance document has been prepared by Fáilte Ireland to update their EIA guidelines in line with changes in legislative and guidance requirements.

2. Background to this Document

Tourism is one of the largest and most important sectors of the economy, providing employment for approximately **260,000 people**, an economic contribution of **€9.5 billion**, and exchequer revenue of **€1.8 billion** in 2019, which helps fund other key public services.

In 2019 Ireland welcomed **9.7 million overseas visitors.**

Fáilte Ireland is the National Tourism Development Authority established by the Irish Government in May 2003. Fáilte Irelands role is to support the tourism industry and work to sustain Ireland as a high-quality and competitive tourism destination. They provide a range of practical business supports to help tourism businesses better manage and market their products and services.

Fáilte Ireland also work with other state agencies and representative bodies, at local and national levels, to implement and champion positive and practical strategies that will benefit Irish tourism and the Irish economy.

Fáilte Ireland promotes Ireland as a holiday destination through a domestic marketing campaign (DiscoverIreland.ie) and manage a network of nationwide tourist information centres that provide help and advice for visitors to Ireland.

Tourism related projects cover a broad range of plans, programmes and developments, from the Wild Atlantic Way to a single hotel conversion. These guidelines apply to projects involving or impacting upon tourism. A tourism plan, strategy or programme where it is part of the statutory plan making process under the Planning and Development Acts (as amended), may be more appropriately assessed by a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as discussed in the next section.

It should be borne in mind that EIA is required where there is anticipated to be a significant impact on the environment, where tourism projects are of a prescribed type or meet thresholds identified below.

Where Natura 2000 Designated Sites are potentially affected by tourism development Appropriate Assessment must be carried out by the appropriate authority in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive.

3. Legislation and Statutory Guidance

Environmental Impact Assessment is a procedure that ensures that the environmental implications of decisions are taken into account before planning based decisions are made. The assessment results in a report, called an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

Legislation

These guidelines are produced under current EIAR legislative requirements, having regard to Directive 2011/92/EU (known as 'Environmental Impact Assessment' – EIA Directive), as amended by Directive EU 2014/52 which came into effect in May of 2017. These requirements were transposed into Irish Law on 1 September 2018 as most of the provisions of the European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 296 of 2018) came into effect. The principle of both Directives is to ensure that plans, programmes and projects likely to have significant effects on the environment are made subject to an environmental assessment, prior to their approval or authorisation.

Statutory Guidance

In response to the changes to the EIAR requirements under Directive EU 2014/52, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports in May 2022. The Guidelines are a statutory document to be regarded by those preparing EIARs and the decision makers considering the EIARs.

Some of the key changes to the EIA Directive introduced by Directive 2014/52/EU are as follows:

- Additional information to be provided in the project description to describe the location of the project, the technologies and substances used, the construction of the project and required demolition;
- The requirement for consideration of alternatives has changed from a requirement to provide ‘An outline of the main alternatives studied by the developer and an indication of the main reasons for this choice, taking into account the environmental effects’ to ‘a description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the developer, which are relevant to the project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the effects of the project on the environment’;
- A refinement of the environmental factors to be considered in the assessment with an increased focus on resource efficiency, climate change, biodiversity and disaster prevention;
- Changes to Prescribed Environmental Factors with ‘Land’ being added, ‘Human Beings’ replaced by ‘Population & Human Health’ and ‘Flora & Fauna’ replaced by ‘Biodiversity’;

- The developer is required to have competent experts to prepare the EIAR and the Board is required to have access to sufficient expertise to assess the EIAR;
- Requirement for the incorporation of mitigation and monitoring measures in consents and ensuring that developers deliver these measures;
- The requirements for the assessment of cumulative effects with existing and/or approved projects, taking into account existing environmental issues to be considered; and
- Reasoned decisions made with regard to the EIA outcomes must be provided.

In addition to the EPA statutory guidance, the Department of Housing has produced Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment in August 2018.

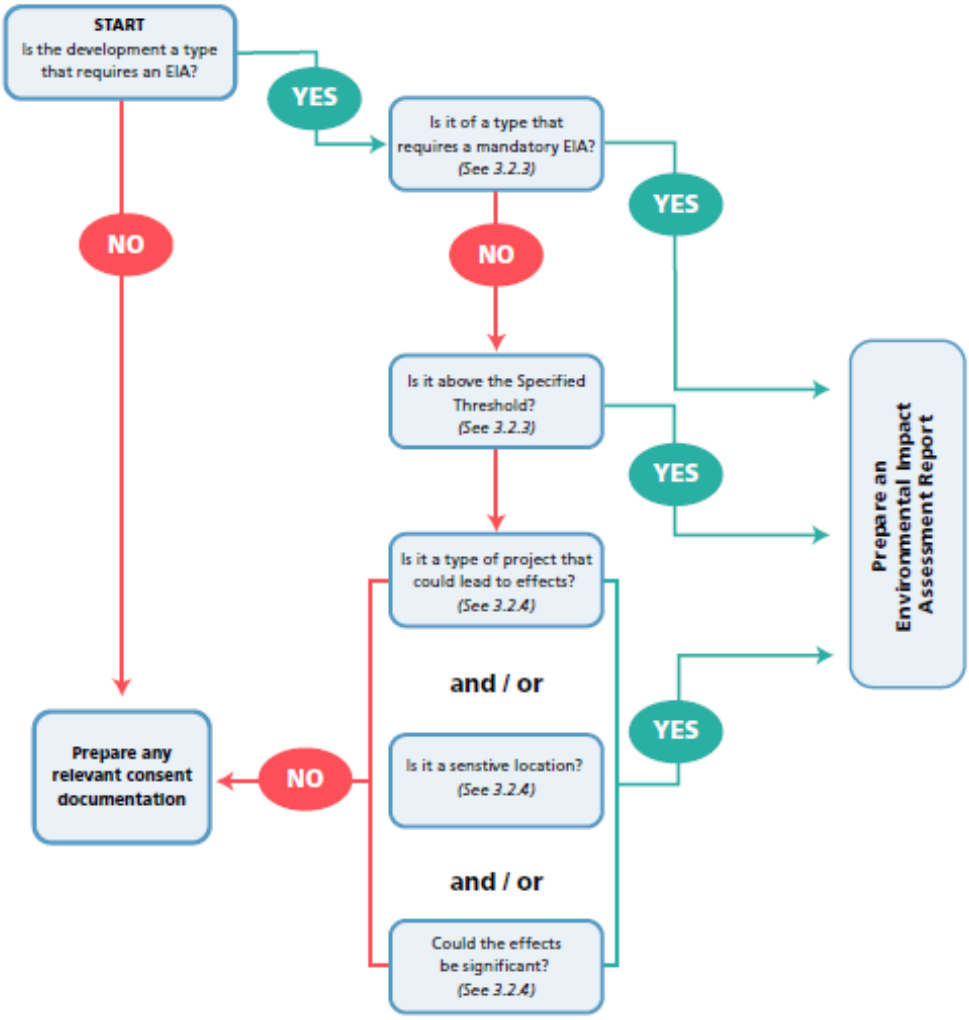
The process of EIA is set out in the EPA EIAR Guidelines, this document should be read in conjunction with and used as supplementary guidance to the EPA EIAR Guidelines. The process for ascertaining whether an EIAR is required is known as 'screening' and the process to determine the breath and scope of an EIAR is known as 'scoping'. Guidance on this can be found in Section 3.2 of the EPA Guidelines.

Screening

Through EIA Screening, developments are either considered as requiring an EIAR due to the project type or because they exceed a threshold level. The screening process begins by establishing whether the proposal is a 'project' as understood by the Directive (as amended).

The prescribed development types and thresholds are set out in Annex I and II of the EIA Directive as transposed into Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2010-2018 (as amended). Development which does not exceed these thresholds but may require an EIAR are called sub threshold. Sub-Threshold considerations are outlined in Schedule 7 of European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 296 of 2018) as transposed from Annex III of the Directive. The Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment Reports note that projects at first glance may not appear to come under the Schedule but on closer examination when the process is further examined, they may do so because of the sensitivity or significance of the receiving environment etc. Sub threshold developments require an EIAR if they are likely to have significant environmental impacts and must undergo assessment for likely significant impacts through an EIAR screening report. The contents of a screening report for subthreshold development are contained in Annex III of the EIA Directive.

Figure 1: EIAR Screening Process



(Taken from Fig 3.2 of the EPA Guidelines)

Tourism locations should be identified as sensitive receptors in screening assessments for particular impacts, depending on scale and sensitivity, as they would in a full EIAR. Section 6 below can act as guidance for Screening Reports as well as for full EIAR.

The screening process for considering where an EIAR is necessary, is summarised above in Figure 1 (excerpted from Figure 3.2 of the EPA Guidelines).

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a more strategic level of environmental assessment that examines plans, policies, objectives and programmes specifically rather than projects. For some tourism developments it may be more appropriate that they be examined through SEA, while individual projects or specific proposals are likely to be more assessed through EIAR. If a project is part of a plan, programme or policy/objective assessed by SEA there may still be a requirement for an EIAR for that development (subject to EIA Screening assessment).

EIAR Scoping

Scoping an EIAR is an opportunity to look at the breadth of issues and ensure that any areas of possible significant impact are assessed. Identifying sensitivities and stakeholders should take account of tourism facilities and consider Fáilte Ireland in scoping requests where necessary.

4. Assessing Tourism

There is no legal definition of 'tourism' in Irish legislation. The UNWTO definition of sustainable tourism is *"Tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities"*. This is widely accepted as a key definition of tourism as we move to a more sustainable future.

Tourism assessments are frequently carried out by economic consultants and by specific tourism consultants. It is always advisable, particular for tourism projects, that suitably qualified and experienced personnel are used to determine the impact of tourism related projects or to assess the impact of more general proposals on a tourism asset identified in a particular location. There is a requirement for EIAR under current legislation to contain a statement of competency within all EIAR documents, including screening and scoping reports.

Projects which involve a tourism element

Tourism projects are wide ranging and diverse. While there are some projects which cater to tourism and are easily identified as such - Hotels, Museums, etc. there are other projects where tourism is a key service or element, but which may not be immediately obvious – walking/cycling/forest trails, greenways, blueways, community facilities and others. EIAR conducted for developments containing tourist elements should be completed in accordance with the current guidance from the EPA.

Projects which include a tourism element can have potential for particular environmental effects which differ from a non-tourism development. These impacts can be intermittent, event related, inconsistent, dependent on weather, temporal, temporary or seasonal. This is considered within the prescribed environmental topics for EIAR outlined in Section 7 below.

Projects which may have an impact upon tourism

While tourism projects may be diverse, the projects which can impact tourism are considerably more wide ranging, from large infrastructural developments to local energy developments. Disruption to or suppression of a tourist resource or amenity can have very local or more strategic impacts, directly or indirectly- for example energy projects in a rural area can have both a negative and positive impact in different regards. There can be temporary, periodic or even seasonal impacts occurring during construction or operational periods.

According to the Fáilte Ireland Tourism Facts 2019 Report, the most important factors in determining the attractiveness of tourism destinations for visitors to Ireland are;

- Beautiful Scenery and Unspoiled Environment
- Hospitality
- Safety
- Nature, Wildlife and Natural Attractions
- History and Culture

- Pace of Life

These factors used for the promotion of tourism in Ireland are also barometers of sensitivity to change in tourism sensitive or dominant locations where development may have an impact upon the tourism asset. The potential for development to impact these sensitivities, and the environmental criteria under which they can be considered, are identified in section 7 of the guidelines.

5. Guiding Principles of EIAR

As outlined in the EPA EIAR Guidelines, the fundamental principles to be followed when preparing an EIAR, including screening and scoping, are:

- Anticipating, avoiding and reducing significant effects
- Assessing and mitigating effects
- Maintaining objectivity
- Ensuring clarity and quality
- Providing relevant information to decision makers
- Facilitating better consultation.

Environmental assessment should be undertaken in accordance with the European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018.

6. Consideration of Competency and Qualifications

As per Section 2.5 of the EPA Guidelines, EIAR is required to be completed by '*competent experts*'.

Contributors to the preparation of environmental impact assessment reports, including screening and scoping assessments, should be qualified and competent. Sufficient expertise, in the relevant field of the project concerned, is required for the purpose of its examination by the competent authorities in order to ensure that the information provided by the developer is complete and of a high level of quality so that a full and proper assessment can be undertaken.

For tourism related projects, or projects likely to affect tourism assets, competent experts in the area of tourism should be utilised in the environmental assessment.

The competency of all involved in the production of an EIAR or any related report (e.g. Screening and scoping) is required to be stated at the beginning of the EIAR report with further details as necessary in each following chapter.

Where tourism projects involve for example heritage or cultural components, input from heritage consultants, conservation architects, or historians may be required.

7. EIAR Requirements

The following are the key requirements for an EIAR under the current guidance. This is not a definitive list and should be read in conjunction with regulations.

- project description;
- assessment of alternatives considered;
- baseline assessment;
- assessment of effects;
- cumulative impact;
- interaction of impacts;
- mitigation & monitoring; and
- residual impacts

Project Description

Project descriptions are required to describe the whole project including site, scale, design and key factors. It is important that the EIAR and design team have a consistent understanding of the development description in full. The key requirements are outlined in section 3.5 of the EPA Guidelines however they identify the following;

- the location of the project
- the physical characteristics of the whole project
- the main characteristics of the operational phase of the project
- an estimate, by type and quantity, of the expected residues and emissions

The location of the project should include identifying key sensitive receptors (including tourism receptors). In the operational phase of the project any tourism based, or potentially tourism related activity, should be identified.

Assessment of Alternatives

The assessment of the various reasonable alternatives is an important requirement of the EIA process.

Where tourism projects are location dependent the assessment of reasonable alternatives should consider alternative methods, layouts, technologies and mitigations, detail the key considerations culminating in the selection of the option/design, the reasoning for these and the environmental effect of these decisions. This is particularly important for tourism projects which are often location tied. The EPA EIAR Guidelines indicate that it is generally sufficient to provide a broad description of each main alternatives and the key issues associated with each, showing how environmental considerations were taken into account in deciding on the selected option.

Baseline Assessment

Baseline descriptions are evidence based, current descriptions of environmental characteristics with consideration of likely changes to the baseline environment evidenced in planning histories, unimplemented permissions, and applications pending determination. Baseline assessments should identify any tourism sensitivities in the zone of influence of a development. This zone of influence of a development is highly dependent on its **Context, Character, Significance,** and **Sensitivity**, as outlined in the EPA EIAR Guidelines. These characteristics apply to both the development and the environment.

For example, in a tourism context;

The location of sensitive tourism resources that are likely to be directly affected should be highlighted, and other premises which although located elsewhere, may be the subject of in combination impacts such as alteration of traffic flows or increased urban development.

The character of an area from a tourism perspective should be described and the principal types of tourism in the area. Where relevant, the specific environmental resources or attributes in the existing environment which each group uses or values should be stated and where relevant, indicate the time, duration or seasonality of any of those activities.

The significance of the tourism assets or activities likely to be affected should be highlighted. Reference to any existing formal or published designation or recognition of such significance should be included. Where possible the value of the contribution of such tourism assets and activities to the local economy should also be provided.

If there are any significant concerns or opposition to the development known to exist among tourism stakeholders and interest groups, this should be highlighted. Identify, where possible, the particular aspect of the development which is of concern, together with the part of the existing tourism resource which may be threatened or impacted.

In addition, the baseline should include any methodologies employed in the study to obtain information, if particular databases are used to locate sensitive receptors they should be acknowledged. In relation to tourism information, the suggested information sources at the end of this document are a non-exhaustive list which may be of assistance in identifying tourism receptors.

Impact Assessment

The topics for consideration of impact are prescribed in the EIA Directive and transcribed into Irish law by the European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 296 of 2018). Impact assessment should contain the likely significant effects of a development arising from both construction and operation of a development. Advice on describing the effects is contained within the EPA EIAR Guidelines and includes the **quality, significance, extent, probability, type** and **duration** of the effect, with particular descriptors for each. In describing effects upon tourism receptors these descriptors should take account of the particular aspects and sensitivities of tourism, for example a temporary annual effect from a development may have different impacts upon tourism if it falls at peak season rather than off-peak.

Impact assessment should be carried out as per EPA guidelines and the best practice for that prescribed topic. It may be considered appropriate to consider impact on tourism under the 'Population and Human Health' and / or 'Landscape' topics as suggested below.

Population and Human Health

The consideration of tourism projects within the Population and Human Health is extensive, with impacts ranging from rural employment population impacts of seasonal tourism, to the health impact of air pollution from increased traffic in urban areas.

The impact upon tourism can be considered within this section through the sensitivities of Hospitality, Safety and Pace of Life. Changes in population can impact the perception of pace of life or safety in a particular location. Impacts upon these issues in areas which rely heavily on tourism or have a particular sensitive tourism generator should be considered in this section. The EPA guidelines makes reference to amenity *"..which may be relevant under 'Population and Human Health' and 'Landscape'"*.

Biodiversity

Particular tourist activities can have a significant impact upon biodiversity. Landscapes which are 'unspoiled' can be attractors of tourism. However, the disturbance to ecology must be managed to minimise impacts.

Biodiversity is also a tourism asset and should be protected as such from other development and should be provided for in proposals where possible.

The assessment should also consider current Government policy on nature conservation as outlined in the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 (NBAP) (and subsequent iterations (Including draft NBAP recently open for public consultation, to cover 2023 to 2027) which also includes Ireland's vision for biodiversity below.

'That biodiversity and ecosystems in Ireland are conserved and restored, delivering benefits essential for all sectors of society and that Ireland contributes to efforts to halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems in the EU and globally.'

Land, Soils and Geology

A link between tourism and this prescribed environmental factor, beyond the normal development impacts, is rare, however particular activities or facilities which use geological features may have an impact upon soils and geology, such as mountain biking trails, recreational uses of old quarries etc.

The impact upon Geotourism related to geoheritage within the natural environment, e.g., any impacts on UNESCO Global Geoparks, of which we currently have three on the island of Ireland; Copper Coast in Co. Waterford, Burren and Cliffs of Moher in Co. Clare, and Cuilcagh Lakelands in Cavan and Fermanagh should be considered (where applicable) in this section.

Indirect impacts such as material use for extensive landscaping and public realm should also be considered.

Water

Tourism uses can be water intense, depending on development type. Recreational use of a surface water feature, water-based leisure centres etc have different impacts to standard development.

Air Quality and Climate

Tourism impact upon air quality is dependent on the activity proposed and sensitivity of the location. If the tourism project includes a large increase in transportation services, collection of baseline air emission data is advised. Transportation emissions affect not only air quality, but also greenhouse gases. Changing climatic patterns due to climate change should be factored into this analysis.

Noise and Vibration

A link between tourism and this prescribed environmental factor, beyond the normal development impacts, is rare, however the impact upon tourism of issues of noise and vibration can be significant. Construction adjoining hotels for example should consider the sensitivity of the development and ensure mitigation is in place.

Material Assets; Traffic and Transport

The different transport patterns associated with tourism activities is a key impact of tourism and should be considered especially for tourism projects. These produce temporal and seasonal changes on the norm and specialist consideration and interpretation should be given. Tourism proposals should, where possible, be well served by public transport and should be accessible by modes other than the car. The impact of traffic on tourism assets can be substantial and can vary in severity according to season, the weather, etc. The impact of construction traffic can be a particular concern in tourism sensitive areas in terms of noise pollution and visual impact. The construction programme of developments should work to

avoid peak tourism periods in tourism areas and should consider planned or anticipated tourism events and festivals.

Cultural Heritage

Cultural heritage can be a key component of tourism projects and the impact of tourism on the maintenance of cultural heritage should be given the utmost consideration, whether positive or negative. As a tourism attraction, cultural heritage should be strongly considered in non-tourism developments and the impact upon tourism considered as a potential impact.

Archaeology

Archaeology can be of tourism interest and can be an attractive or key component of tourism projects. Archaeology can be a tourism attractor and given that national policy emphasis on the non-renewable nature of the archaeology and archaeological heritage, focus should be a presumption in favour of its preservation in-situ or where preservation in-situ is not the option chosen, there must be preservation by record (i.e. archaeological excavation and recording must take place) in line with statutory requirements.

Material Assets; Waste Management

Tourism is a resource heavy activity and can impact waste streams and waste segregation. Impacts here should be considered strongly and with knowledge of the variation that arises from the particular tourist activity. Waste and Waste disposal issues can also impact the perception of an unspoiled environment, effecting tourism, which should be considered.

Material Assets

Material assets outside of the material assets already referenced that should be considered are built services (utilities) and infrastructure. Tourism development should include impact assessment on built services (utilities) and infrastructure while non tourism related development should consider the effect on tourism, which should be considered.

Landscape

The visual impact of a tourism development, especially in locations which are visually sensitive or renowned for their scenic or landscape beauty, should be considered carefully. A development intended to utilise or enjoy a particular vista or environment should minimise impact upon that environment.

Major Accident and Natural Disaster

There is a requirement for tourist developments to describe expected significant effects on the environment of the proposed development's vulnerability to major accidents and/or natural disasters relevant to it. Where appropriate measures should be identified to prevent or mitigate the significant adverse effects of such accidents or disasters, including resulting from climate change, on the environment and detail the preparedness for the proposed response.

Interaction of Impacts

Where two or more environmental impacts combine or interact they should be considered under the prescribed topics. It is best practice to provide a table of interactions within an EIAR or EIA Screening Report.

Cumulative Impact

The cumulative impact is that of the project combined with any known likely project which will interact or compound an environmental impact.

Transboundary Impact

Transboundary impacts should be included in EIAR. In the case of tourism, especially international travel, the transboundary impacts may not be proximate to the EIAR site.

Mitigation & Monitoring

Mitigation should follow the hierarchy of minimisation in descending order of preference- Avoid, Reduce, Remedy.

Avoid sensitive tourism resources- such as views, access and amenity areas including habitats as well as historical or cultural sites and structures.

Reduce the exposure of sensitive resources to excessive environmental impact.

Reduce the adverse effects to tourism land uses and patterns of activities, especially through interactions arising from significant changes in the intensity of use or contrasts of character or appearance.

Remedy any unavoidable significant residual adverse effects on tourism resources or activities.

Mitigation measures must be measurable and achievable within the bounds of the project.

With regard to Monitoring, Article 8a of the EIA Directive requires that:

1. 'The decision to grant development consent shall incorporate at least the following information …
(b) any environmental conditions attached to the decision, a description of any features of the project and/or measures envisaged to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset significant adverse effects on the environment as well as, where appropriate, monitoring measures. … 4 Member States shall ensure that the features of the project and/or measures envisaged to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset significant adverse effects on the environment are implemented by the developer, and shall determine the procedures regarding the monitoring of significant adverse effects on the environment. The type of parameters to be monitored and the duration of the monitoring shall be proportionate to the nature, location and size of the project and the significance of its effects on the environment. Existing monitoring arrangements resulting from Union legislation other than this Directive and from national legislation may be used if appropriate, with a view to avoiding duplication of monitoring.'

Residual Impacts

The residual impacts are the final predicted or intended impacts which occur after the proposed mitigation measures have been implemented.

8. Sources of information on Tourism

Information available online

Fáilte Ireland

Fáilte Ireland offers detailed research analysis and insights into the Irish Tourism Industry. The National Tourism Development Authority has a portfolio of research across a number of areas including facts and figures, Environmental Surveying and Monitoring, briefing papers and reports and visitor feedback. The Fáilte Ireland website has a dedicated research library which can be accessed here

Fáilte Ireland also manages an environmental surveying and monitoring database as part of the Wild Atlantic Way Operational Programme which can be accessed here. The purpose of this is to work with and demonstrate to our stakeholders and partners that we are committed to the sustainable development of the Wild Atlantic Way, and to be able to pre-empt and avoid environmental effects in the future should they occur.

Discover Ireland:

Operated by Fáilte Ireland, the Discover Ireland website includes comprehensive information on tourist attractions in destinations all around Ireland, including listings for activities, accommodation, events and experiences for every county, major town and region in Ireland. The website features elements from the four destination brands – Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland's Ancient East, Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and Visit Dublin and can be accessed here.

Tourism Ireland

Tourism Ireland is responsible for marketing the island of Ireland overseas as a holiday and business tourism destination. Tourism Ireland publishes a range of research documents including; visitor facts and figures, seasonal updates and industry insights which are accessible here

Local Authorities

Local Authorities are an invaluable source of information. They produce tourism strategies and audits of tourism assets within their jurisdiction. Local authorities will also produce landscape and seascape studies. Protected views and prospects as well as the record of protected structures and other designated protected buildings are contained within the Statutory Development Plans.

Regional Assemblies

Regional Assemblies can also be consulted on high level strategic tourism and potential Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSESs) should be consulted.

Central Statistics Office

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) is Ireland's national statistical office and their purpose is to impartially collect, analyse and make available statistics about Ireland's people, society and economy. The Tourism and Travel Section of the Central Statistics Office is the major source for tourism statistics in Ireland and is updated regularly.

Response from HSA

Outlook

EIA Scoping Report for Lifford FRS HSA:0340065

From Geoff Hynes <Geoff_Hynes@hsa.ie>
Date Mon 20/01/2025 16:28
To Lifford Flood Relief Scheme <liffordfrs@ryanhanley.ie>

1 attachment (261 KB)
EIA Scoping Report for Lifford FRS 20.01.2025.pdf;

You don't often get email from geoff_hynes@hsa.ie. Learn why this is important

To whom it may concern,

Please see attached in relation to the above.

Regards,

Geoff Hynes
Inspector | CCPS Unit | Health & Safety Authority
Mobile: 087-6002298
Email: geoff_hynes@hsa.ie
Web: www.hsa.ie

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An tÚdarás Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta,
An Foirgneamh Uirbeach,
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An tÚdarás Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta
Health and Safety Authority
0818 289 389 landuseplanning@hsa.ie www.hsa.ie

EIA Scoping Report for Lifford FRS
Donegal County council

Our Ref: CAS-18370-D8W1

Reply sent to liffordfrs@ryanhanley.ie

20/01/2025

Re: EIA Scoping Report for Lifford FRS

To whom it may concern,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence dated 16/01/2025 regarding the above which has been noted.

If you have any queries please contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely

G.Hynes

Geoff Hynes
Inspector,
COMAH, Chemical Production & Storage (CCPS)

Response from Inland Fisheries Ireland

From: Eoghan Cross <Eoghan.Cross@fisheriesireland.ie>
Sent on: Monday, December 23, 2024 11:02:33 AM
To: Lifford Flood Relief Scheme <liffordfrs@ryanhanley.ie>
CC: Milton Matthews <milton.matthews@fisheriesireland.ie>; Sean Gallanagh <Sean.Gallanagh@fisheriesireland.ie>; IFI Communications Team <communications@fisheriesireland.ie>
Subject: RE: EIA Scoping Report for Lifford FRS

> You don't often get email from eoghan.cross@fisheriesireland.ie. Learn why this is important

Good morning,

Thank you for your email. The referred Lifford flood relief scheme is not within Inland Fisheries Ireland's jurisdiction; Loughs Agency is the prescribed body which should be consulted for relevant projects in the Foyle and Carlingford catchments- see interactive map: Loughs Agency Catchments.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email.

Kind regards,
Eoghan Cross

Eoghan Cross
Fisheries Environmental Officer

Response from Loughs Agency

Outlook

EIA Scoping comments

From Riain McLaughlin <riain.McLaughlin@loughs-agency.org>
Date Mon 17/02/2025 16:18
To Lifford Flood Relief Scheme <liffordfrs@ryanhanley.ie>

1 attachment (244 KB)
LFRS (R).pdf;

Hi,

Please find attached Loughs Agency comments.

Thanks,

Riain

Riain Mc Laughlin
Environmental Consultation & Policy Officer
Loughs Agency / Ghníomhaireacht na Lochanna /Factrie fur Loughs
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insta

Ar mhaithe le cleachtas na gcáipéisí leictreonacha a chur chun cinn agus le bheith níos boige ar an chomhshaol, iarrtar ort a mheas an gá duit an r-phost seo a chló amach. Tá an r-phost seo faoi rún agus tá a úsáid beartaithe don duine ar cuireadh chuige é amháin. Is leis an údar amháin aon dearcthaí nó barúlacha atá léirithe ann agus ní gá gurb ionann iad agus dearcthaí de chuid Ghníomhaireacht na Lochanna. Más amhlaidh nach tú an faighteoir atá beartaithe, bí ar an eolas go bhfuair tú an r-phost seo de bhotún agus go bhfuil dianchosc ar aon úsáid, craobhscaoileadh, seoladh ar aghaidh, cló amach, nó cóipeáil a dhéanamh ar an r-phost seo. Má tá an r-phost seo faighte agat de bhotún, iarrtar ort dul i dteagmháil leis an tseoltóir. D'fhéadfadh ábhar an r-phoist seo agus aon cheangailteáin nó freagraí a bheith faoi réir nochtadh poiblí faoi Shaoráil Faisnéise (Cód Cleachtais) nó faoi na Rialacháin um Fhaisnéise ar an Chomhshaol, ach amháin i gcás díolúine.

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Loughs Agency
Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna
Factrie fur Loughs

Project Team

Ryan Hanley

17th February 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

EIA Scoping Request Lifford Flood Relief Scheme

Thank you for your recent correspondence dated 3rd January in relation to the above-mentioned proposed development. Loughs Agency is the statutory body charged with the conservation, protection and development of inland fisheries within the Foyle and Carlingford systems, the promotion of development of Loughs Foyle and Carlingford, and catchments for commercial and recreational purposes in respect of marine, fisheries and aquaculture issues and the development of marine tourism.

Loughs Agency has considered the information provided and would have no objection in principle to the proposed development in principle, however Loughs Agency hold concerns regarding the cumulative impact of a number of developments on the River Foyle and tributaries SAC in the Strabane Lifford area. The proposed Flood

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Social

Relief Scheme, A5 Western Transport Corridor, Riverine Project and Donegal Ten-T project are all within the area of the flood relief scheme. This level of significant development has the potential to impact the SAC, in particular the site selection feature Atlantic salmon. This area of the Mourne and Finn is a vital area for salmonids migrating upstream. There are a number of areas which must be considered as part of this Environmental Impact Assessment.

Loughs Agency are content with the proposed chapters of the Environmental Impact Assessment and will provide comments as necessary upon its release to consultees. Loughs Agency will work with the applicant to ensure all appropriate mitigation measures are in place to protect the aquatic environment. It is also essential that a Natura Impact Statement/Habitat Regulation Assessment is prepared as part of the Environmental Statement process. The NIS/HRA should outline appropriate mitigation measures which will form part of the Construction Environmental Management Plan for the proposed development.

It is an offence to remove or disturb any material, including sand or gravel from the bed of any freshwater river within the Foyle and Carlingford Areas without the consent of the Loughs Agency contrary to Section 46 of the Foyle Fisheries Act (NI) 1952, as amended by Article 18(3) of the Foyle and Carlingford Fisheries (NI) Order 2007.

It is an offence to remove or disturb any material, including sand or gravel from the bed of any freshwater river within the Foyle and Carlingford Areas

without the consent of the Loughs Agency contrary to Section 47 of the Foyle Fisheries Act 1952, as amended by Article 18(3) of the Foyle and Carlingford Fisheries Act 2007.

The applicant should also be aware that it is an offence under section 41 of the Foyle Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1952 to cause pollution which is detrimental to fisheries interests.

The applicant should also be aware that it is an offence under section 171(1) of the Fisheries (Consolidation) Act 1959, as extended by Section 10 of the Foyle Fisheries (Amendment) Act, 1961 and as amended, to cause pollution which is detrimental to fisheries interests.

Environmental Consultation Officer
On behalf of Loughs Agency

Response from Transport Infrastructure Ireland

From: INFO <Information@tii.ie>
Sent: 23 December 2024 10:36
To: Lifford Flood Relief Scheme <liffordfrs@ryanhanley.ie>
Subject: TII Ref: TII24-129866 - EIA Scoping Report for the Lifford Flood Relief Scheme

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A chairde,

Thank you for your correspondence of 20 December 2024 regarding the above. Transport Infrastructure Ireland's (TII's) position in relation to your enquiry is as follows.

TII wishes to advise that it is not in a position to engage directly with planning applicants in respect to proposed developments. TII will endeavour to consider and respond to planning applications referred to it, given its status and duties as a statutory consultee under the Planning Acts. The approach to be adopted by TII in making such submissions or comments will seek to uphold official policy and guidelines, as outlined in the Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DoECLG, 2012). Regard should also be had to other relevant guidance available at www.TII.ie.

The issuing of this correspondence is provided as best practice guidance only and does not prejudice TII's statutory right to make any observations, requests for further information, objections or appeals, following the examination of any valid planning application referred.

With respect to EIAR/Environmental Constraints Scoping issues, the recommendations indicated below provide only general guidance for the preparation of an EIAR, which may affect the national road network.

The developer should have regard, inter alia, to the following:

- Consultations should be had with the relevant Local Authority/National Roads Design Office, with regard to the locations of existing and future national road schemes in the area, for example, the Donegal TEN-T Schemes, the N14/N15 to A5 Link, the N14 Letterkenny to Lifford.

- TII would be specifically concerned as to potential significant impacts the development would have on the national road network (and junctions with national roads) in the proximity of the proposed development, N14 and N15 national roads.

- The developer should assess visual impacts from existing national roads.

- The developer should have regard to any EIAR/EIS and all conditions and/or modifications imposed by An Bord Pleanála regarding road schemes in the area. The developer should, in particular, have regard to any potential cumulative impacts.

- The developer, in preparing EIAR, should have regard to TII Publications (formerly DMRB and the Manual of Contract Documents for Road Works).

- The EIAR should have regard to TII's Environmental Assessment and Construction Guidelines, including the Good Practice Guidance for the Treatment of Noise during the Planning of National Road Schemes (National Road Authority (NRA), 2014).

- The EIAR should consider the 'European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations, 2018, (S.I. no. 549 of 2018)', and, in particular, how the development will affect future action plans by the relevant competent authority. The developer may need to consider the incorporation of noise barriers to reduce noise impacts (see 'Good Practice Guidance for the Treatment of Noise during the Planning of National Road Schemes (NRA, 2014)').

- Where new structures may be proposed on national roads, the developer is reminded of the requirements of TII Publications DN-STR-03001 - Technical Acceptance of Road Structures on Motorways and Other National Roads. This Standard specifies the procedures to be followed in order to obtain Technical Acceptance for structures on motorway and other national road schemes and for the submission of as built records. The procedures cover the design of all road structures, including bridges, tunnels, subways, culverts, buried corrugated steel structures, retaining walls, reinforced earth structures, gantries, environmental noise barriers and temporary structures under or over motorways or other roads carrying public traffic.

- The developer should also be aware that there is Technical Acceptance requirements relating to the assessment, alteration, modification, strengthening and repair of all existing road structures (national roads) and same shall be agreed with the Bridge Management Section of TII. In that regard, TII has identified the following national road structures on the N14 and N15, national roads, within the Flood Relief Scheme Study Area:

  - Structure ID: DL-N15-001.00 (Lifford Bridge)
  - Structure ID: DL-N14-011.50 (Cavan Bridge)

- A hydraulic analysis should be undertaken to identify the impact of proposed flood alleviation works on the hydraulic capacity of any TII Structures impacted and the potential for scour at the structure.

- An assessment of scour and other hydraulic actions on national road structures in accordance with UK BD 97/12 should be undertaken where necessary. Scour prevention measures will be required if the assessment illustrates the potential for scour beneath the foundations.

- It would be important that, where appropriate, subject to meeting the appropriate thresholds and criteria and having regard to best practice, a Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA) be carried out in accordance with relevant guidelines, noting traffic volumes attending the site and traffic routes to/from the site, with reference to impacts on the national road network and junctions of lower category roads with national roads.

In relation to national roads, TII's 'Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines' (2014) should be referred to in relation to proposed development with potential impacts on the national road network. The scheme promoter is also advised to have regard to Section 2.2 of TII's TTA Guidelines, which addresses requirements for sub-threshold TTA.

- The designers are asked to consult TII Publications to determine whether a Road Safety Audit is required.

- In the interests of maintaining the safety and standard of the national road network, the EIAR should identify the methods/techniques proposed for any works traversing/in proximity to the national road network.

- In relation to haul route identification, TII recommends that the applicant/developer should clearly identify haul routes proposed and fully assess the network to be traversed. Where abnormal 'weight' loads are a feature of the development, e.g., turbine or substation components, separate structure approvals/permits and other licences may be required in connection with the proposed haul route. All national road structures on the haul route through all the relevant County Council administrative areas should be checked by the applicant/developer to confirm their capacity to accommodate any abnormal load.

Notwithstanding any of the above, the developer should be aware that this list is non-exhaustive, thus site and development specific issues should be addressed in accordance with best practice.

I hope that this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Suzanne Cahill

Regulatory & Administration Executiv

Response from Uisce Éireann

Uisce Éireann
Bosca OP 448
Oifig Sheachadta na
Cathrach Theas
Cathair Chorcaí

Uisce Éireann
PO Box 448
South City
Delivery Office
Cork City

www.water.ie

Uisce Éireanns Ref: PN25000017409

Planning Authority: Donegal County Council

Issue Date: 13 March 2025

Development Location:
Lifford, County Donegal.

Development Description:

Flood relief proposal for Lifford town, County Donegal.

A Chara,

Uisce Éireann has received your Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) scoping request and has the following comments.

An initial review of the proposal indicates that it is unlikely to have an adverse impact on Uisce Éireann water sources or its abstraction regimes, with no proximate infrastructure downstream of works. This estimate should however be fully confirmed in a final EIAR assessment, which should consider all direct, indirect and cumulative effects on water sources and points of abstraction.

Uisce Éireann has assets in the immediate area of works that may be impacted by the proposed works. Of primary concern is the Lifford wastewater treatment plant, which appears to be in significant interaction with each of the likely design proposals outlined. Please note that Uisce Éireann cannot permit build over of its assets and separation distances from public infrastructure, as per Uisce Éireann's Standards, Codes and Practices must be achieved. It is the applicant's responsibility to submit a diversion enquiry to Uisce Éireann Diversions Section (diversions@water.ie) prior to construction, where a potential build over of public assets is in question and/or where the applicants proposals cannot achieve separation distances from public infrastructure as per UÉ Standards & Codes of Practice.

In addition to the specific items outlined above please note the following aspects of water & wastewater services which should be considered in the scope of an EIAR where relevant.

a) Where the development proposal has the potential to impact an Uisce Éireann Drinking Water Source(s), the applicant shall provide details of measures to be taken to ensure that there will be no negative impact to Uisce Éireann's Drinking Water Source(s) during the construction and operational phases of the development. Hydrological / hydrogeological pathways between the applicant's site and receiving waters should be identified as part of the report.

Stiúrthóirí / Directors: Jerry Grant (Cathaoirleach / Chairperson), Niall Gleeson (POF / CEO), Gerard Britchfield, Douglas Millican, Michael Nolan, Patricia King, Eileen Maher, Cathy Mannion, Paul Reid, Michael Walsh.
Oifig Chláraithe / Registered Office: Teach Colvill, 24-26 Sráid Thalbóid, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 NP86 / Colvill House, 24-26 Talbot Street, Dublin, Ireland D01NP86
Is cuideachta ghníomhaíochta ainmnithe atá faoi theorainn scaireanna é Uisce Éireann / Uisce Éireann is a designated activity company, limited by shares.
Cláraithe in Éirinn Uimh.: 530363 / Registered in Ireland No.: 530363.

b) Where the development proposes the backfilling of materials, the applicant is required to include a waste sampling strategy to ensure the material is inert.

c) Mitigations should be proposed for any potential negative impacts on any water source(s) which may be in proximity to your site. These mitigations should be included in the environmental management plan and incident response plan.

d) Development proposals shall not impact public drinking water sources and/or abstraction point(s). It is a requirement of the Water Framework Directive that waters used for the abstraction of drinking water are protected to avoid deterioration in quality. Protection of drinking water source(s) from potentially adverse impacts is a priority for Uisce Éireann. It is Uisce Éireanns current policy to maintain safe and secure drinking water supplies and ensure that development will not give rise to any deterioration in water quality.

e) Impacts of the development on the capacity of water services (*i.e. do existing water services have the capacity to cater for the new development*). This is confirmed by Uisce Éireann in the form of a Confirmation of Feasibility (COF). If a development requires a connection to either a public water supply or sewage collection system, the developer is advised to submit a Pre-Connection Enquiry (PCE) enquiry to Uisce Éireann to determine the feasibility of connection to the Uisce Éireann network. The PCE should be submitted to Uisce Éireann well in advance of lodging your application. Lodging a COF with your planning application helps avoids delays in the consenting process.

f) The applicant shall identify any upgrading of water & wastewater services infrastructure that would be required to accommodate the proposed development.

g) In relation to a development that would discharge trade effluent – any upstream treatment or attenuation of discharges required prior to discharging to an Uisce Éireann collection network.

h) In relation to the management of surface water; the potential impact of surface water discharges to combined sewer networks and potential measures to stop surface waters from combined sewers. Uisce Éireann does not permit surface waters into our sewer network.

i) Any physical impact on Uisce Éireann assets – reservoir, drinking water source, treatment works, pipes, pumping stations, discharges outfalls etc. including any relocation of assets.

j) When considering a development proposal, the applicant is advised to determine the location of public water services assets, possible connection points from the applicant's site / lands to the public network and any drinking water abstraction catchments to ensure these are included and fully assessed in any pre-planning proposals. Details, where

known, can be obtained by emailing an Ordnance Survey map identifying the proposed location of the applicant's intended development to datarequests@water.ie

k) Other indicators or methodologies for identifying infrastructure located within the applicant's lands are the presence of registered wayleave agreements, visible manholes, vent stacks, valve chambers, marker posts etc. within the proposed site.

l) Any potential impacts on the assimilative capacity of receiving waters in relation to Uisce Éireann discharge outfalls including changes in dispersion / circulation characterises. Hydrological / hydrogeological pathways between the applicant's site and receiving waters should be identified within the report.

m) Any potential impact on the contributing catchment of water sources either in terms of water abstraction for the development (*and resultant potential impact on the capacity of the source*) or the potential of the development to influence / present a risk to the quality of the water abstracted by Uisce Éireann for public supply should be identified within the report.

n) Where a development proposes to connect to an Uisce Éireann network and that network either abstracts water from or discharges wastewater to a "protected"/ sensitive area, consideration as to whether the integrity of the site / conservation objectives of the site would be compromised should be identified within the report.

o) Uisce Éireann does not permit build over of its assets. Separation distances from public infrastructure, as per Uisce Éireann's Standards, Codes and Practices must be achieved. It is the applicant's responsibility to submit a diversion enquiry to Uisce Éireann Diversions Section (diversions@water.ie) prior to construction, where a potential build over of public assets is in question and/or where the applicants proposals cannot achieve separation distances from public infrastructure as per UÉ Standards & Codes of Practice. As an applicant you are required to;

- survey the site to determine the exact location of the public assets. Any trial investigations should be carried out with the agreement and in the presence of Uisce Éireann. All queries relating to in situ public infrastructure should be directed to diversions@water.ie
- Provide evidence of separation distances between the existing Uisce Éireann assets and proposed structures, other services, trees, etc. have to be in accordance with UÉ Standards & Codes of Practice

p) Where an existing connection is on place, the applicant or developer may be required to enter into a new or revised water and/or wastewater connection agreement(s) with Uisce Éireann prior to the commencement of this development.

q) Where new connection(s) are sought, the applicant shall enter into water and/or wastewater connection agreement(s) with Uisce Éireann prior to the commencement of this development.

Queries relating to this EIAR scoping request should be directed to planning@water.ie

Dermot Phelan,

Connections Delivery Manager