

(A) Project Details	
N4 Cooleeny (Shroid) Safety Scheme	
Project Ref. No.	
Applicant name	Longford County Council
Development Location	Cooleeny, Co Longford
Site size	1.067 Ha
Application accompanied by an EIS (Yes/NO)	No
Distance from nearest Natura 2000 site(s) in km	Lough Forbes SAC – 9.0 km Ballykenny-Fisherstown SPA – 9.0 km Brown Bog SAC – 7.3 km Mount Jessop SAC – 5.4 km
<p>Description of the project/proposed development</p> <p>The purpose of the scheme is safety improvement works on the N4 in an existing area of commercial development on a rural (100KpH speed limit) section of the N4. The proposed scheme will remove 3 direct access points to the N4 and redirect the turning movements to an improved junction between the N4 and local road L5167.</p> <p>The scheme includes the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of an access road 250m in length between the N4 and the existing 3 commercial units. Access road to be constructed on existing hard surfaced areas which currently form the hard shoulder of the N4 the surfaced carparking areas of the three premises and the materials storage yard of the builders providers. • Realignment of a section of local road L5167, approx. 100m in length. The existing jn of this local road with the N4 will be reconstructed. • Construction of new boundary walls and fences between the commercial properties and the new access road. <p>Also included will be;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage works including the provision of road gullies • Pavement construction works • Access and accommodation works • Traffic Management <p>Overall site area of the proposed scheme is 1.067 Ha</p>	

(B) Identification of Natura 2000 sites which may be impacted by the proposed development		
		Yes/No If answer is yes, identify list name of Natura 2000 site likely to be impacted.
1	Impacts on sites designated for freshwater habitats or species. <u>Sites to consider (but not limited to):</u> Lough Ree SAC; Fortwilliam Turlough SAC; Lough Forbes Complex SAC;	<i>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include freshwater habitats and/or species, or in the catchment (upstream or downstream) of same?</i> Lough Forbes SAC - No Ballykenny-Fisherstown SPA - No Brown Bog SAC - NO Mount Jessop SAC - NO
2	Impacts on sites designated for wetland habitats - bogs, fens, marshes and heath. <u>Sites to consider (but not limited to):</u> Ardagullion Bog SAC; Brown Bog SAC; Clooneen Bog SAC; Derragh Bog SAC; Mount Jessop Bog SAC; Lough Ree SAC; Mount Jessop Bog SAC.	<i>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include wetland habitats (bog, marsh, fen or heath), or within 1 km of same?</i> NO Brown Bog SAC - 7.3 km Mount Jessop SAC - 5.4 km Lough Forbes SAC - 9.0 km
3	Impacts on designated terrestrial habitats. <u>Sites to consider (but not limited to):</u> Clooneen Bog SAC; Derragh Bog SAC; Lough Forbes Complex SAC; Lough Ree SAC; Mount Jessop Bog SAC.	<i>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include woodlands, dunes or grasslands, or within 100m of same?</i> NO Brown Bog SAC - 7.3 km Mount Jessop SAC - 5.4 km Lough Forbes SAC - 9.0 km
4	Impacts on birds in SPAs <u>Sites to consider (but not limited to):</u> Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA; Glen Lough SPA; Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough SPA; Lough Ree SPA	<i>Is the development within a Special Protection Area, or within 5 km of same?</i> NO Ballykenny-Fisherstown SPA - 9.0 km
(C) Identification of Potential Impacts on Habitats and Birds		
1	Impacts on designated rivers, streams, lakes and freshwater dependant habitats and species If 'Yes' is recorded in answer to question 1 in Table B, please answer the following.	

	Does the development involve any of the following:	
1.1	Works within the boundary of a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) excluding small extensions/alterations to existing buildings.	No
1.2	Discharge to surface water or groundwater within 5km of SAC.	No
1.3	Abstraction from surface water or groundwater within 5km of SAC	No
1.4	Removal of topsoil within 500m of watercourses.	No
1.5	Infilling or raising of ground levels within 100m of watercourses.	No
1.6	Construction of drainage ditches within 1km of SAC.	No
1.7	Installation of wastewater treatment systems; percolation areas; septic tanks within 500m of watercourses.	No
1.8	Construction within a floodplain or within an area liable to flood.	No
1.9	Crossing or culverting of rivers or streams within 5km of SAC.	No
1.10	Storage of chemicals, hydrocarbons or organic wastes within 1km of a watercourse.	No
1.11	Development of a large-scale which involves the production of an EIAR.	No
1.12	Development of quarries/mines.	No
1.13	Development of windfarms.	No
1.14	Development of pumped hydro-electric stations.	No
1.15	Construction of roads or other infrastructure on peat habitats within 1km of rivers, streams, lakes and freshwater-dependant habitats.	No
2	Impacts on designated wetlands – bogs, fens, marshes and heath If 'Yes' is recorded in answer to question 2 in Table B, please answer the following. Does the development involve any of the following:	
2.1	Works within the boundary of a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), excluding small extensions/alterations to existing buildings.	No
2.2	Construction of roads or other infrastructure on peat habitats within 1km of bog, marsh, fen or heath habitat within a Natura 2000 site.	No
2.3	Development of a large scale within 1km of bog, marsh, fen or heath habitat within a Natura 2000 site which involves the production of an EIS.	No
3	Impacts on other designated terrestrial habits (woodland, grasslands) If 'Yes' is recorded in answer to question 3 in Table B, please answer the following. Does the development involve any of the following:	
3.1	Works within the boundary of a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).	No
3.2	Development within 200m of Natura 2000 site with woodland, grassland or coastal habitats.	No
3.3	Development of a large scale within 1km of Natura 2000 site with woodland, grassland or coastal habitats which involves the production of an EIS.	No
4	Impacts on birds in SPAs If 'Yes' is recorded in answer to question 4 in Table B, please answer the following. Does the development involve any of the following:	

4.1	Works within the boundary of a Special Protection Area (SPA) excluding small extensions/alterations to existing buildings.	
4.2	Erection of wind turbines within 5km of a SPA.	No
4.3	Proposed discharges directly to SPA.	No
4.4	Development of cycleways or walking routes within 100m of SPA.	No

Conclusion:

If the answer to all of the above is **No**, significant impacts on habitats within Natura 2000 sites can be ruled out.

No further assessment is required in relation to habitats.

If the answer is **Yes**, you will require further information, which should be provided in the form of a Natura Impact Statement which should address the particular issues of concern as identified through the above.

Consideration of potential impacts on protected species within SACs

Currently, one of our Special Areas of Conservation is designated for species as well as for habitats, namely Lough Ree SAC, which includes habitat for otters *Lutra lutra*. Activities could have an impact on this protect species. Please tick if you are concerned that the proposed development could have an impact on these species.

Species	Relevant Site(s)	Activities which could have impacts on species	Possible Impacts Identified Yes/No
Otter	Lough Ree	Activities that interfere with river banks.	No (Site approx. 17km distant from Lough Ree, or approx. 26Km via flow path)

Conclusion:

If the answer to all of the above is **No**, significant impacts on species can be ruled out.

If the answer is **Yes**, then further information is likely to be required in relation to potential for impact on that particular species.

(D) Summary of Impacts	
Natura 2000 Sites within impact zone	
Qualifying features of Natura 2000 Site (attach site synopsis from National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS))	
(E) Assessment of Likely Significant Effects (from Tables above)	
Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) could affect the Natura 2000 site(s).	
If there are potential impacts, explain whether you consider if these are likely to be significant.	

(F) Relevant Advice Received		
Documentation reviewed for making this statement.		
Persons/Bodies consulted with for the making of this statement.		
(G) SCREENING CONCLUSION STATEMENT		
<i>Selected relevant category for project assessed by ticking box.</i>		
1	AA is not required because the project is directly connected with/necessary to the conservation management of the site	
2	No potential significant affects/AA is not required	✓
3	Significant effects are certain, likely or uncertain. Seek a Natura Impact Statement Reject proposal. (Reject if potentially damaging/inappropriate)	
Justify why it falls into relevant category above (based on information in above tables)		
Name:	Con Diffley	
Position:	Senior Executive Engineer, Roads	
Date:	17 January 2020	

Concluding Statement

The proposed scheme consists primarily of the upgrade of an existing section of the N4 and L5167, for the purpose of reducing collision potential, enhance the quality and safety of the existing road network at this location.

The work will involve a slight increase in paved area from 6900m² to 7500m². The proposed work will include the upgrade of the existing storm water drainage network. The drainage network will continue to outfall at its existing location to the north of the N4 opposite B Fallon's hardware premises.

The works will not result in direct or indirect effects on any European sites and there are no hydrological linkages to Natura 2000 sites.

It is noted that;

- The Proposed Scheme are localised and minor in scale.
- The Proposed Scheme will be undertaken using best design practices and construction methodologies, which will include Environmental Management Plans, Spill Response Plans as standard requirements within the construction contract documents.
- The Proposed Scheme is situated approximately 12.5Km upstream of the European site and is considered sufficiently remote so as not to present any significant effects.

Both in the construction and operational phase of the proposed scheme, it is considered extremely unlikely that an accident or spill event within the boundary of the proposed works would be of sufficient magnitude, duration or extent so as to cause significant adverse effects on these European sites.

Consequently it is concluded that the Proposed Scheme will not give rise to significant effects, and thus does not require a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.

