



**OPW**

**Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination Statement  
Raphoe Drainage Scheme –**

**AA Screening for Geotechnical Investigations**

<b>Geotechnical Investigations 2023</b>					
Description of Works	<p>Advanced ground investigation (GI) works on the proposed Raphoe Drainage Scheme (also known as Raphoe Flood Relief Scheme).</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Location</th> <th>Distance from and hydrological link to European site (S-P-R)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Raphoe, Co. Donegal</td> <td>7.2km upstream of the River Finn SAC (002301) and 8.2km upstream of the River Foyle and Tributaries SAC UK0030320)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Location	Distance from and hydrological link to European site (S-P-R)	Raphoe, Co. Donegal	7.2km upstream of the River Finn SAC (002301) and 8.2km upstream of the River Foyle and Tributaries SAC UK0030320)
	Location	Distance from and hydrological link to European site (S-P-R)			
Raphoe, Co. Donegal	7.2km upstream of the River Finn SAC (002301) and 8.2km upstream of the River Foyle and Tributaries SAC UK0030320)				
<p>The proposed works assessed in the AA Screening Report are programmed to be completed in Q4 2023. No instream works are required.</p> <p>Primary works include 16 boreholes, 31 trial pits, three road cores, in-situ testing, establishment of ground level and exploratory holes, collection and testing of soil samples, groundwater and gas monitoring following completion of works, and factual and interpretative reporting and production of electronic data.</p> <p>Secondary works include 19 boreholes, 14 trial pits, 15 road cores with DCP testing, two hand pits, in-situ testing, establish ground level and location of exploratory holes, collection and testing of soil samples, groundwater and gas monitoring following completion of the works, and factual and interpretative reporting and production of electronic data.</p> <p>The GI locations will be within the proposed Raphoe schemes temporary working area located in the Raphoe Town area.</p>					
European Site within the zone of influence of the proposed works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lough Swilly SAC 002287</li> <li>• Lough Silly SPA 004075</li> <li>• River Finn SAC 002301</li> <li>• River Foyle and Tributaries SAC UK0030320</li> <li>• Moneygal Bog SAC UK0030211</li> </ul>				

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.

Potential significant effects associated with the proposed GI works for Raphoe Drainage Scheme have been considered in the context of the River Finn SAC and River Foyle and Tributaries SAC and their Conservation Objectives. It is determined that, in the absence of mitigation, there will be no potential significant effect on the above listed European Sites in view of the sites' conservation objectives either alone or in combination with other plans and / or projects. This assessment is based on consideration of:

1. Relevant qualifying interests, their sensitivities and Conservation Objectives;
2. Potential source pathways between European Sites identified and the proposed development; and
3. As a result of the temporary nature of the proposed GI works.

This determination is based on information supplied by environmental consultants Ryan Hanley, OPW Environmental Section and Flood Projects Management Section along with information contained within the *Appropriate Assessment Screening Report, Geotechnical Investigations on the proposed Raphoe Drainage Scheme 2023*.

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

Prepared by: Maria O'Shaughnessy, OPW, Environment Section

Reviewed by: Sinead Gavin, OPW, Environment Section

Approved by: Nathy Gilligan, OPW, Head of Environment Section

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023