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**URS**

# York Street Interchange



Co-financed by the European Union

Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T)

## Proposed Scheme Report: Part 1 Environmental Statement

### Volume 1: Environmental Assessment

January 2015



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**About Transport NI**

Transport NI, formerly branded as Roads Service, is a business unit within the Department for Regional Development (DRD), playing a significant role in facilitating the safe and convenient movement of people and goods throughout the province and the safety of road users, through the delivery of road maintenance services and the management and development of the transport network. It also informs the Department's policy development process to ensure that measures to encourage safe and sustainable travel are practical and can be delivered.

Transport NI is responsible for the maintenance of over 25,000km of public roads together with about 9,700km of footways, 5,800 bridges, 271,000 street lights and 367 public car parks. It also has responsibility for the development of the transport network and a range of transport projects designed to improve network safety, sustainability and efficiency.

The key objectives of Transport NI are to:

- Manage, maintain and improve the transport network to keep it safe, efficient, reliable and sustainable;
- Promote increased customer satisfaction with the services delivered by Transport NI;
- Work constructively with Transport NI's key stakeholders to support the delivery of high quality services;
- Develop Transport NI's capacity and capability to meet objectives;
- Ensure effective management of Transport NI's budget, assets and corporate governance arrangements; and
- Improve Transport NI's resilience in responding to emergencies.

For the purposes of this report, references to Transport NI shall be read as references to its former Roads Service brand.

Further information about Transport NI is available on the Department for Regional Development website, please visit [www.drdni.gov.uk](http://www.drdni.gov.uk).

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviations	
3D	Three dimensional
AADT	Annual Average Daily Traffic
AAWT	Annual Average Weekday Traffic
AD	Anno Domini
ADEPT	Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport
AEP	Annual Exceedance Probability
AFBI	Agri-Food Biosciences Institute
AIES	Assessment of Implications on European Sites
AMIs	Advanced Motorway Indicators
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AQAP	Air Quality Action Plan
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
AQS	Air Quality Standards
AR	Arterial Route
ASSI	Area of Special Scientific Interest
ATC	Area of Townscape Character
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BC	Before Christ
BCC	Belfast City Council
BELB	Belfast Education and Library Board
BEP	Bad Ecological Potential
BES	Bad Ecological Status
BGS	British Geological Survey
BHA	Belfast Harbour Area
BIP	Biodiversity Implementation Plan
BMA	Belfast Metropolitan Area

Abbreviations	
BMAP	Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan
BMTP	Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan
BMUA	Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area
BNCR	Belfast & Northern Counties Railway
BoCCI	Birds of Conservation Concern Ireland
BRP	Bat Roost Potential
BRT	Belfast Rapid Transit
BS	British Standard
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
CaCO <sub>3</sub>	Calcium Carbonate
CAFE	Clean Air for Europe
CBC	Common Bird Census
CC	City Centre
CDM	Construction Design Management
CEDaR	Centre for Environmental Data and Recording
CEF	Connecting Europe Facility
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
CIRIA	Construction Industry Research and Information Association
CKD	Combined Kerb and Drainage
CLR	Contaminated Land Report
CNCC	Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside
CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon dioxide
CO <sub>2</sub> e	Carbon dioxide equivalent
COBA	Cost Benefit Analysis
CoCP	Code of Construction Practice
COSHH	Control of Substances Hazardous to Health
CPT	Cone Penetration Test

Abbreviations	
CRTN	Calculation of Road Traffic Noise
CS	Characteristic Situation
CSM	Conceptual Site Model
CSO	Combined Sewer Overflow
DARD	Department of Agriculture & Rural Development
DBFO	Design, Build, Finance & Operate
DCAL	Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure
DETI	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
DFP	Department of Finance and Personnel
DfT	Department for Transport
DIN	Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen
DMRB	Design Manual for Road and Bridges
DOE	The Department of the Environment
DRD	Department for Regional Development
DSD	Department for Social Development
DTM	Digital Terrain Model
DVA	Driver & Vehicle Agency
DWD	Drinking Water Directive
DWG	Drinking Water Guideline
DWS	Drinking Water Standards
EC	European Commission / European Community
ECI	Early Contractor Involvement
EclA	Ecological Impact Assessment
ECoW	Ecological Clerk of Works
EEC	European Economic Community
EFT	Emissions Factor Toolkit
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPS	European Protected Species

Abbreviations	
EQS	Environmental Quality Standards
ES	Environment Statement
ESCR	Earth Science Conservation Review
EU	European Union
FAB	Forum for Alternative Belfast
FSA	Food Standards Agency
GAC	Generic Assessment Criteria
GEP	Good Ecological Potential
GES	Good Ecological Status
GIR	Ground Investigation Report
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GLVIA	Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
GOMMS	Guidance on the Methodology for Multi-Modal Studies
GPS	Global Positioning System
GQRA	Generic Quantitative Risk Assessment
GSNI	Geological Survey of Northern Ireland
GSV	Gas Screening Value
GWB	General Watching Brief
ha	hectare
HA	Highways Agency
HAWRAT	Highways Agency Water Risk Assessment Tool
HDV	Heavy Duty Vehicle
HES	High Ecological Status
HFS	High Friction Surfacing
HGV	Heavy Goods Vehicle
HPGD	Historic Park, Garden and Demesne
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
HRA	Hot Rolled Asphalt

Abbreviations	
HSENI	Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland
IAN	Interim Advice Note
IAQM	Institute of Air Quality Management
IDP	Investment Delivery Plan
IEEM	Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
INSTAR	Irish National Strategic Archaeological Research Programme
IROPI	Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest
ISNI	Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland
ITS	Intelligent Transport Systems
IV	Intermittent View
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
JR	Judicial Review
KTC	Key Transport Corridor
LAQM	Local Air Quality Management
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LCT	Lagan Canal Trust
LDV	Light Duty Vehicle
LI	Landscape Institute
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
LLPA	Local Landscape Policy Area
LMA	Local Management Area
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LoLo	Lift-on / Lift-off
LPS	Land & Property Services
LTN	Local Transport Note

Abbreviations	
LVIA	Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment
LVRP	Lagan Valley Regional Park
MAC	Metropolitan Arts Centre
MBR	Monuments & Buildings Record
MEP	Moderate Ecological Potential
MES	Moderate Ecological Status
MPA	Mineral Products Association
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
MUGA	Multi-use Games Area
NATA	New Approach To Appraisal
NB	North Belfast
NCN	National Cycle Network
NIAF	Northern Ireland Archaeology Forum
NIBG	Northern Ireland Bat Group
NIBS	Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy
NIEA	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
NIHE	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
NILCA	Northern Ireland Landscape Character Area
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NO <sub>2</sub>	Nitrogen dioxide
NO <sub>x</sub>	Oxides of Nitrogen
NRTF	National Road Traffic Forecast
NV	No View
OS	Ordnance Survey
OSNI	Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland
OV	Open View
PAH	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons
PAW	Programme of Archaeological Works

Abbreviations	
PEP	Poor Ecological Potential
PES	Poor Ecological Status
PfG	Programme for Government
PI	Petrol Interceptor
PM	Particulate Matter
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PPS	Planning Policy Statement
PPV	Peak Particle Velocity
PRONI	Public Record Office of Northern Ireland
PRoW	Public Right of Way
PSNI	Police Service of Northern Ireland
PSSR	Preliminary Sources Study Report
PTZ	Pan Tilt and Zoom
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
RDS	Regional Development Strategy
REAC	Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments
RG	Regional Guidance
RMSE	Root Mean Square Error
RoRo	Roll-on / Roll-off
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
RSPPG	Roads Service Policy and Procedure Guide
RSTN	Regional Strategic Transport Network
RSTN-TP	Regional Strategic Transport Network – Transport Plan
RTM	Remedial Targets Methodology
RTS	Regional Transportation Strategy
RV	Restricted View
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SAM	Scheduled Archaeological Monument

Abbreviations	
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEPA	Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
SFG	Spatial Framework Guidance
SHW	Specification for Highway Works
SLNCI	Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
SO <sub>2</sub>	Sulphur dioxide
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPPS	Strategic Planning Policy Statement
SPR	Source – Pathway – Receptor
SRI	Strategic Road Improvements
SS	Suspended Solids
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
SVOC	Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds
SWMP	Site Waste Management Plan
TAG	Transport Analysis Guidance
TENs	Trans-European Network
TEN-T	Trans-European Network in Transport
TG	Technical Guidance
THC	Total Hydrocarbons
TICC	Traffic Information and Control Centre
TP	Trial Pit
TPH	Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons
TPO	Tree Preservation Order
TSCS	Thin Surface Course Systems
TTM	Temporary Traffic Management
TWB	Targeted Watching Brief
UCL	Upper Confidence Level
UK	United Kingdom

Abbreviations	
UKBAP	United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan
UKTAG	United Kingdom Technical Advisory Group
UTC	Urban Traffic Control
UV	Ultra violet
UWWT	Urban Waste Water Treatment
v/v	volume/volume
VCB	Vertical Concrete Barrier
VCSB	Variable Concrete Step Barrier
VES	Visual Effects Schedule
VOC	Volatile Organic Compounds
WAC	Waste Acceptance Criteria
WANE	Wildlife and Natural Environment Act
WEL	Workplace Exposure Limits
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WHO	World Health Organisation
WMU	Water Management Unit
WTV	Water Target Values
ZVI	Zone of Visual Influence

# York Street Interchange



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## Volume 1

## Part IV

## References & Glossary of Terms

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**20. GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

**20.1 Glossary of Terms**

**Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)**

An area declared by a local authority where set air quality objectives are unlikely to be met.

**Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT)**

Total volume of daily traffic for a particular section of road over the course of a year.

**Annual Average Weekday Traffic (AAWT)**

The AAWT traffic flow is the arithmetical mean of the days from Monday to Friday during the counting period. The flows are modified with a correction factor for the month of counting to obtain annual average values.

**Aquifer**

A body or rock through which appreciable amounts of water can flow.

**Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)**

An area of countryside considered to have significant landscape value.

**Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI)**

Sites of national importance designated under The Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 by DOE EHS (now NIEA). Sites may be designated to protect wildlife, geology or landforms.

**Area Plan**

Area Plan is a type of development plan that covers one or more council areas and are the main type of Development Plan.

**Assumed Year of Opening**

Year in which the scheme is expected to be completed and opened to traffic.

**At-Grade Junction**

Form of junction where roads connect on the same level.

**Base Year**

The reference year used for proposed scheme assessment.

**Belfast Metropolitan Area (BMA)**

The Belfast Metropolitan Area is a grouping of council areas which include commuter towns and overspill from Belfast.

**Benzene**

A colourless flammable liquid found in car exhaust fumes.

**Biodiversity**

Biological diversity, the variety of life, or richness of living organisms present in representative communities and populations.

**Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)**

An agreed plan for a habitat or species, which forms part of the UK's commitment to conserving and enhancing biodiversity.

**Biodiversity Implementation Plan (BIP)**

Plan which implements the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy (NIBS).

**Birds Directive**

EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds; (79/409/EEC), updated with a codified version in 2009, Council Directive 2009/147/EC.

**British Standards**

BSI Standards is the UK's National Standards Body (NSB) and was the world's first. It represents UK economic and social interests across all of the European and international standards organisations and through the development of business information solutions for British organisations of all sizes and sectors. BSI Standards works with manufacturing and service industries, businesses, governments and consumers to facilitate the production of British, European and international standards.

**CADNA**

A computer software package, used in the modelling and mapping of noise level distribution.

**Calculation of Road Traffic Noise (CRTN)**

A Department for Transport Document which provides a method of determining noise levels from road by calculation (prediction method) or by measurement (survey method).

**Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)**

Document containing prescriptive measures and processes to be followed to ensure compliance with environmental legislation, policy and minimise harm to the environment.

**Cost Benefit Analysis Guidance Manual (COBA)**

Method/software for calculating transport efficiency figures.

**Cross fall**

The difference in vertical height between the highest and lowest points on the cross-section of a road surface.

**Culvert**

A conduit through which surface water can flow under or across a road.

**Curtilage**

The enclosed area of land around a dwelling.

**dB(A)**

The term used to express a level of sound. The (A) denotes that levels are “A” weighted. Several different weightings have been proposed but the “A” weighting has been found to give one of the best correlations with the perceived noisiness of vehicles.

**Decibel (dB)**

The term used to express a level of sound.

**Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure (DCAL)**

One of twelve Northern Ireland Departments whose work is divided into five core divisions: Culture, Strategic Delivery, Corporate Services, PRONI, and Sport, Museums & Recreation. It is the Government Department responsible for arts and creativity, museums, libraries, sport, inland waterways and inland fisheries, linguistic diversity, archives, and for advising on National Lottery distribution.

**Department for Regional Development (DRD)**

One of twelve Northern Ireland Departments whose main responsibilities are: strategic planning, transportation strategy, ports and public transport, roads and water policy. The department has two Core Groups; Governance, Policy and Resources, and Transport NI. Transport NI has a key responsibility in ensuring that measures are taken to implement the roads aspects of both the New Approach to Regional Transportation and the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2011-21.

**Department of the Environment (DOE)**

The Department of the Environment is organised into three Business Groups: Environment and Marine Group, Planning Group and Local Government, Road Safety & Corporate Services Group. The main functions of the department include; Protection, conservation and promotion of the natural environment and built heritage; Planning development and control; Driver, operator and vehicle licensing and testing; Planning and environmental policy and legislation; Local government policy; and Road safety policy.

**Design Manual for Roads & Bridges (DMRB)**

A comprehensive manual system which accommodates all current standards, advice notes and other published documents relating to the design, assessment and operation of trunk roads.

**Design Year**

Year to which a proposed scheme is designed, normally 15 years after the Year of Opening.

**Development Plans**

Development Plans set out a local framework for the development of land. In Northern Ireland, they are prepared by the Department of the Environment in consultation with local councils. Development Plans usually cover a 15 year period but can be reviewed and amended as necessary during this time. Their aim is to make sure that there is enough land available for the expected needs for the area in terms of housing, employment and community facilities et cetera, while at the same time protecting significant landscape and environmental features.

**Direction Order (DO)**

Where DRD Transport NI considers it expedient for the purpose of extending, improving or reorganising the trunk road system that any road should be designated as a trunk road; the Department may direct that (a) any existing Road (b) any road in the course of construction or (c) any road proposed to be constructed shall become a trunk road and the trunk road system should be modified accordingly.

**Do-Minimum**

An assessment scenario, which assumes that the proposed scheme is not implemented, and only minor/minimal improvements are made to the existing road infrastructure.

**Do-Something**

An assessment scenario, which assumes that the proposed scheme is implemented, and thus the existing road network is modified.

**Earthworks**

Works created through the moving of quantities of soil or unformed rock.

**EC Directive**

Legislation issued by the European Commission, which requires a Member State to implement its requirements, for example to achieve specified environmental standards.

**Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW)**

The ECoW or ecological specialists are employed during the construction phase to brief site workers on the ecological sensitivities of the site restricted areas, protected species and what to do if protected species are encountered. They will liaise with relevant specialists and NIEA to provide mitigation as necessary.

**Ecology**

The scientific study of the interrelations between living organisms and their environment including the study of the distribution and abundance of living organisms.

**Ecosystem**

A biological community of organisms interacting with one another and their physical environment.

**Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**

A statutory process by which certain planned projects must be assessed (EIA) before a formal decision to proceed can be made. Involves the collection and consideration of environmental information, which fulfills the assessment requirements of Directive 85/337/EEC (as amended), including the publication of an Environmental Statement.

**Environmental Quality Standards (EQS)**

General water quality standards for chemical pollutants which are derived according to methods set out in the WFD.

**Environmental Statement (ES)**

Document containing environmental information required under Article 5 of Directive 85/337/EEC (as amended).

**Earth Science Conservation Review (ESCR)**

The Earth Science Conservation Review (ESCR) is the means whereby geological sites in Northern Ireland are assessed to determine their importance to science and hence to earth science conservation.

**European Site**

A site qualifying for protection under the terms of the Habitats Regulations (i.e. SAC or SPA).

**Eutrophic**

A description of water which is of rich nutrient status and high biological productivity.

**Eutrophication**

The process of nutrient enrichment of water together with the biological changes it causes.

**Fauna**

All members of the animal kingdom; vertebrates (e.g. birds, mammals and fish), and invertebrates (e.g. insects).

**Flood Compensation Area (FCA)**

An area which provides additional storage to temporarily retain flood waters in times of heavy storms and during periods of prolonged rainfall.

**Flood Risk Assessment (FRA)**

Assessment that is undertaken to ascertain whether a scheme or development would encroach into a floodplain area and cause associated afflux impacts.

**Floodplain**

The low relief area of valley floor adjacent to a river that is periodically inundated by floodwaters.

**Flora**

All members of the plant kingdom, higher plants, ferns and fern allies, mosses and liverworts, algae and phytoplankton. This grouping is often also said to include the fungi and lichens.

**Fish Directive (FD)**

EC Directive (2006/44/EC) concerned with the protection and improvement of fresh waters in order to support fish life.

**Geographical Information Systems (GIS)**

A computer system which integrates hardware, software, and data for capturing, managing, analysing, and displaying geographically referenced information.

**Geologically Important Site (GIS)**

Non-statutory designated geological site of regional importance.

**Grade-separated junction**

Form of junction with the connecting roads at different levels. A structure is required to allow the main road to pass over or under the connecting road. Slip roads or link roads are used to connect the main carriageways.

**Groundwater**

Water occurring below ground in natural formations (typically rocks, gravels and sands).

**GSNI Geoindex Map Viewer**

A tool allowing access to Geological Survey of Northern Ireland data collections

**Hectare (ha)**

A unit of measurement of area, (10,000m<sup>2</sup> or 100m x 100m).

**Habitat**

Term most accurately meaning the place where a species lives, but also used to describe plant communities or agglomerations of plant communities, as used, for example in a Phase 1 Habitat Survey.

**Habitats Directive**

EU Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC).

**Habitats Regulations**

The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995.

**Heavy Duty Vehicle (HDV)**

Heavy Duty Vehicle (gross weight greater than 3.5t), class of vehicle comprising commercial freight and public/private buses.

**Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV)**

Same as HDV, however does not include public/private buses.

**Highways Agency Water Risk Assessment Tool (HAWRAT)**

Used to investigate the effects of routine runoff on receiving waters and their ecology.

**Hydrocarbons**

Chemical compounds that contain only carbon and hydrogen. Many hundreds of these compounds exist. Approximately 30% of UK hydrocarbon emissions result from road transport. Frequently, the term is used to include other organic compounds that are not strictly hydrocarbons because they contain other elements.

**Hydrology**

The study of water on and below the earth's surface.

**Improved grassland**

Grassland (as well as other habitats) that has been subject to the application of fertilisers or herbicides, by drainage or by ploughing and reseeded.

**Inscribed Circle Diameter (ICD)**

The Inscribed Circle Diameter (D) of a roundabout is the diameter of the largest circle that can be fitted into a junction outline. It is the basic parameter used to define the size of a roundabout.

**Invertebrates**

Animals without backbones, such as species of butterfly, snail, spider and insect.

**Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland (ISNI)**

Framework for the Northern Ireland Executive to create a sustainable 21st Century infrastructure, through priority areas for investment.

**Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)**

UK Government's wildlife advisor, undertaking national and international conservation work on behalf of the nature conservation agencies of the UK.

**Key Transport Corridor (KTC)**

Defined by the RTS, the KTCs are those strategic long distance routes which connect a number of towns and provide links to the major regional gateways, including linkages to the transport corridors within the Belfast Metropolitan Area.

**L<sub>A</sub>**

A-weighted sound pressure level (in decibels, dB). The measured sound level incorporating a logarithmic base and weighting system to approximate the manner in which humans

perceive sound. An increase in the 10 dB is approximately equivalent to a perceived doubling of loudness.

**$L_{Aeq, T}$**

Equivalent continuous A-weighted sound pressure level (in decibels, dB) over a given time interval. An average of the energy associated with the noise at a location over a given time interval. Where a time interval is not given, it is typically considered as a continuous level. Indicates the activity noise level of a source. Typical source descriptions include “ambient noise”, “specific noise” and “residual noise” as defined in BS4142.

**$L_{A10, T}$**

A-weighted sound pressure level (in decibels, dB) obtained using “Fast” time-weighting that is exceeded for 10% of the given time interval. Indicates the upper limit of a fluctuating noise source such as that from road traffic. For road traffic, it is typically expressed for peak hour, or as the arithmetic average of hourly  $L_{A10}$  values over an 18-hour day (06:00-24:00).

**$L_{A90, T}$**

A-weighted sound pressure level (in decibels, dB) obtained using “Fast” time-weighting that is exceeded for 90% of the given time interval. Defined as the background noise level at a location in BS4142.

**$L_{A \max}$**

The highest A-weighted sound pressure level (in decibels, dB) recorded during a measurement event.

**Land take**

Area of land required for a specific project.

**Landscape character**

A distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse.

**Landscape Character Area (LCA)**

A geographic area with a distinctive landscape character.

**Link**

A section of road, with relative uniformity in traffic conditions (vehicle numbers, speed and percentage of HGV). They usually represent stretches of road between consecutive road junctions. For traffic modelling purposes, each link is assigned a consecutive number which is then used for reference purposes in all traffic modelling scenarios.

**Listed building/structure**

Building or structure included on a list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest, compiled and maintained by NIEA Built Heritage. The purpose of the list is to inform the work of safeguarding the built heritage and promoting its understanding.

**Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)**

A document usually published by a local council, to detail the biodiversity which occurs in a geographically defined area e.g. within a council boundary. The document focuses on a

number of Priority Species and Habitats at a local, national or international level occurring in the area. These will be singled out for special attention and the document will include a list of actions to be undertaken by stakeholders to conserve these important ecological features.

**Local Authority**

A local administrative body such as a district, borough or city council.

**Local Authority Development Plans**

These statutory land development plans generally cover a 10-year period from the date of their adoption. However, the local authorities currently review these plans on a 5-yearly basis. District Councils produce Local Plans. City Councils and Metropolitan Boroughs produce Unitary Development Plans.

**Local Plan**

Local Plan is a type of development plan that covers a smaller area such as a town centre.

**Macrophyte**

Any plant large enough to be seen with the unaided eye, including all higher water plants, together with some algal species.

**Monuments and Building Record (MBR)**

Holds data on all elements of the built environment in the form of databases, written, photographic and drawn material. MBR makes available information in archaeological, industrial and maritime sites, as well as historic gardens and designed landscapes and the statutory lists of scheduled monuments and listed buildings.

**National Air Quality Strategy (NAQS)**

Sets out a framework of standards and objectives for the air pollutants of most concern.

**National Cycle Network (NCN)**

Network comprising traffic free, traffic calmed or lightly trafficked routes for cyclists and pedestrians. The NCN currently provides over 12,000 miles of cycling and walking throughout the UK.

**Natura 2000**

Collective name for SACs and SPAs.

**Nature Conservation**

The conservation of habitats and species which are endangered and/or declining. Usually includes the protection through legislation or designation of species, habitats and sites of nature conservation importance.

**NH<sub>3</sub> (Ammonia)**

Ammonia is a compound of nitrogen and hydrogen. It is a colourless gas with a pungent odour.

**Non-Motorised User (NMU)**

NMUs are considered to be pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians. Users of electrically assisted pedal cycles or powered wheelchairs that conform with current Department for Transport regulations, and may legally be used on pedestrian or cycle facilities, are also considered to be NMUs.

**Non-Statutory Designated Site**

Non-statutory designations do not have legal protection, but there may be policies seeking to protect them from development and they may attract grant aid for sympathetic management e.g. through Countryside Stewardship. Non-statutory designations do not confer any public right of access.

**Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy (NIBS)**

Strategic plan to safeguard and conserve Northern Ireland's biodiversity.

**Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)**

NIEA takes the lead in advising on, and implementing, the Government's environmental policy and strategy in Northern Ireland. The Agency carries out a range of activities, which promote the Government's key themes of sustainable development, biodiversity and climate change. Overall aims are to protect and conserve Northern Ireland's natural heritage and built environment, to control and regulate pollution, and to promote the wider appreciation of the environment and best environmental practices.

**Offline Workings**

Construction of a carriageway which does not follow the exact line of the existing road.

**Online Widening**

Widening of a carriageway which follows closely the line of the existing road. It usually entails widening the existing road to one side or the other.

**Open space**

Any land laid out as a public park or used for public recreation, or land that is a disused burial ground.

**Opening Year**

The assumed year that the proposed scheme will open to traffic.

**P(acc)**

Probability of serious accidental spillage of pollutants.

**Palaeoecology**

The study of fossil organisms in terms of their mode of life, their interrelations, their environment, their manner of death and their eventual burial.

**Planning Policy Statement (PPS)**

Contain policies on land use and other planning matters, setting out the main planning considerations that DOE Planning take into account when assessing proposals and apply to the whole of Northern Ireland.

**Pollution Prevention Guidelines (PPG)**

Notes provided by the Department of Environment and Northern Ireland Environment Agency to provide guidance on pollution prevention and control.

**PM<sub>10</sub>**

Particulate Matter, measuring less than 10 micrometres in diameter.

**PM<sub>2.5</sub>**

Fine Particulate Matter, measuring less than 2.5 micrometres in diameter.

**Precautionary principle**

The principle that when there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing action. The distinction between precautionary and preventative action is that action is precautionary if scientific certainty is lacking.

**Preferred Option**

The route announced as the Preferred Option on which further design and assessment will take place.

**Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI)**

The official place of deposit for public records in Northern Ireland, with the aim to collect, catalogue and preserve any documents that provide a legal or historical record of the past. The majority of these records are available to the public for consultation and research.

**Public Rights of Way (PRoW)**

A way where the public has a right to walk, and in some cases ride horses, bicycles, motorcycles or drive motor vehicles, which will be designated either as a footpath, a bridleway, a road used as a public path (RUPP) or a byway.

**Q<sub>5</sub>**

5 Percentile Flow.

**Q<sub>100</sub>**

Flow that is expected once in a hundred years.

**Ramsar Convention**

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat (1971).

**Ramsar Site**

A site placed on the list of sites which contracting parties signify will be protected under the terms of the Ramsar Convention.

**Ratios of Flow to Capacity (RFC)**

The RFC is an indicator of the likely performance of a junction under a future year traffic loading.

### **Receptors**

The people, properties, and natural environments that are affected by both negative and positive environmental impacts.

### **‘Red Line’ data**

Indicates the outermost boundary of a planning application.

### **Regional Development Strategy (RDS)**

Offers a strategic and long-term perspective on the future development of Northern Ireland up to the year 2035. It is the spatial strategy of the Northern Ireland Executive. Its purpose is to deliver the spatial aspects of the Programme for Government. It complements the Sustainable Development Strategy and informs the spatial aspects of the strategies of all Government Departments.

### **Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS)**

Identifies strategic transportation investment priorities in Northern Ireland and considers potential funding sources and affordability of planned initiatives over the strategy period.

### **Regional Strategic Transport Network (RSTN)**

The Regional Strategic Transport Network of Northern Ireland comprises the complete rail network, five Key Transport Corridors (KTCs), four Link Corridors, The Belfast Metropolitan Transport Corridors and the remainder of the trunk road network.

### **Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan 2015 (RSTNTP)**

The Plan is based on the guidance set out in the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) and the Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS). It presents a range of multi-modal transport initiatives to manage, maintain and develop Northern Ireland's Strategic Transport Network.

### **Return Period**

A measure of the rarity of an event: the longer the return period, the rarer the event.

### **River Basin District (RBD)**

The area of land and sea, made up of one or more river basins, together with the associated groundwater and coastal waters, identified by the Water Framework Directive, as the main unit for the management of river basins.

### **River Basin Management Plan (RBMP)**

A plan setting out the actions required within a river basin to achieve set environmental quality objectives, reviewed on a six yearly basis.

### **River Ecosystem (RE) Class**

System used to assess the quality of water in different river ecosystems.

### **Run-Off**

Water that flows over the ground surface to the drainage system. This occurs if the ground is impermeable or if permeable ground is saturated.

### **Scheduled Monuments, Scheduled Ancient Monuments**

Archaeological sites of national importance can be Scheduled under the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (Northern Ireland) Order 1995. Sites are assessed on criteria of period, rarity, documentation, group value, survival and condition, fragility or vulnerability, diversity and potential. Any work undertaken within the boundaries of a SAM requires Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC).

### **Scoping**

An initial stage in determining the nature and potential scale of the environmental impacts arising from the proposed development, and assessing what further studies are required to establish their significance.

### **Sediment Quality Guidelines (SQG)**

These refer to pollutant concentrations within the sediment derived from the highway. Research has shown that SQGs are exceeded in all highway derived sediment. As such, the real test is whether sediment will disperse or whether it will accumulate in quantities that might have an adverse effect.

### **Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)**

The NIEA Sites and Monuments Record holds information on over 16,000 archaeological sites and historic monuments. These are the remains of settlements, fortifications, ritual sites and tombs created by people over the last 9000 years.

### **Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCI)**

Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCIs) are designated for their habitats, species and or earth science. As well as making a contribution to the local natural heritage, they contribute to National and European biodiversity.

### **Special Area of Conservation (SAC)**

SACs are areas which have been given special protection under the European Union's Habitats Directive. They provide increased protection to a variety of wild animals, plants and habitats and are a vital part of global efforts to conserve the world's biodiversity.

### **Special Protection Area (SPA)**

SPAs are areas which have been identified as being of international importance for the breeding, feeding, wintering or the migration of rare and vulnerable species of birds found within European Union countries. They are European designated sites, classified under the Birds Directive which provides enhanced protection given by the Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) status all SPAs also hold.

### **Stopping Sight Distance (SSD)**

Sight distance, in the context of road design, is how far a road user (usually a vehicle driver) can see before the line of sight is blocked by a hill crest, or an obstacle on the inside of a horizontal curve or intersection. Insufficient sight distance can have implications for the safety or operations of a roadway or intersection.

### **Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS)**

Currently draft, the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) provides a new set of overarching core planning principles to underpin delivery of the planning reforms set out in the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 ('the Planning Act'). It also explains the new

Development Plan and Development Management system requirements. In addition, the SPSS consolidates existing subject planning policies (PPSS) into a single document.

**Subject Plan**

Subject Plan is a type of development plan that deals with a particular type of development within a particular area.

**Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)**

A colourless gas produced from the burning of fossil fuels.

**Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)**

A sequence of management practices and control structures designed to drain surface water in a more sustainable fashion than some conventional techniques (may also be referred to as sustainable drainage techniques).

**Tree Preservation Order (TPO)**

TPOs are used to protect trees, groups of trees or woodlands, which add to the character and appearance of an area. They provide protection for those trees specified in the Order and makes it an offence to cut down, top, lop, uproot, wilfully damage or destroy a tree, or permit these actions, without first seeking the consent of DOE Planning to do so.

**Trans-European Network (TENs)**

Purpose of TENS lies in the general objective of economic and social cohesion, and one of the main aims is to link island, landlocked and peripheral regions with the central regions of the European Community.

**Trunk Road**

A Trunk Road is a major road, suitable for heavy vehicles.

**Trunk Road Network**

The Trunk Road Network is a designated network of strategic roads that because of their significance in transportation delivery, should attract priority in allocation of maintenance and development funding. The network comprises those roads linking the main provincial towns with Belfast, Londonderry and the main air and sea ports; selected roads linking the largest provincial towns with each other and the principal roads linking to the National Primary Road Network in the Republic of Ireland.

**United Kingdom Technical Advisory Group (UKTAG)**

UKTAG supports the implementation of the European Community (EC) Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC). It is a partnership of the UK environment and conservation agencies. It also includes partners from the Republic of Ireland. UKTAG was established in 2001 to provide coordinated advice on technical aspects of the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

**µgm<sup>3</sup>**

Mircogrammes per cubic metre.

**Visual envelope**

Extent of potential visibility to or from a specific area or feature.

**Visual intrusion**

The degree to which a development intrudes upon the field of view.

**Vesting Order (VO)**

Where DRD Transport NI desires to acquire any land other than by agreement, the Department may make an Order vesting the land in the Department.

**Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)**

One of the main precursors of ground level (tropospheric) ozone, which is toxic to plants and can cause breathing difficulties in humans. Most VOCs are not harmful, but some are dangerous to humans, such as the carcinogens benzene and 1,3-butadiene. The majority of VOC emissions in the UK come from road transport and solvent use.

**Water Framework Directive (WFD)**

A framework for management of water resources throughout the European Union. It is designed to enhance the status and prevent further deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and associated wetlands, which depend on the aquatic ecosystems; promote the sustainable use of water; reduce pollution of water, especially by 'priority' and 'priority hazardous' substances (see Daughter Directives); and ensure progressive reduction of groundwater pollution.

**Zone of Visual Influence (ZVI)**

An area within which a proposed development may have an influence or effect on visual amenity.

**1,3-butadiene**

A colourless, non-corrosive gas, contained in traffic exhaust fumes.