



## PROJECT PROFILE

<b>Title</b>	<b>National Cycle Network – Route selection, design assessment and cost considerations of a proposed Galway to Clifden cycling corridor</b>	
<b>Contractor</b>	NUIG	
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<b>Start date</b>	Jan-11	
<b>End date</b>	Dec-12	
<b>Status</b>	On-going	
<b>Type of project</b>	NRA Research Project	
<b>Project reference</b>	NRA04250	

<b>Description</b>	 <p>The National Roads Authority, at the request of the Department of Transport, carried out a scoping study into the extent of a National Cycle Network in Ireland that would be aimed at providing world class cycling routes in a rural and interurban context to attract users for commuting, leisure and tourism. The aim is to maximise the length of the network that is off road or of greenway standard in order to minimise the interaction with motorised vehicles. The result of the scoping study is a map outlining proposed route corridors that would attract the maximum number of users in terms of settlements near the routes, and also links into, for example, tourist attractions. The route corridors making up the proposed network consist of 2,000 km of route, and provide a skeleton around which the National Cycle Network could develop, including the provision of links to and between the route corridors.</p> <p>The NRA, from the Roscommon Regional Office, is commencing work on a route selection study on the Dublin Galway – Clifden corridor, one of the corridors outlined in the NCN scoping study. This work will include an examination of all options for route sections along the Galway to Clifden corridor, assessment of the routes, development of appropriate design standards and construction specification, a tentative construction delivery programme, and, with input of the NRA Roscommon Regional Design Office, the development of a robust cost estimate.</p>
<b>Objectives</b>	The research undertaken by NUIG in conjunction with the NRA will focus on the route selection, and the design, maintenance, operation and cost of a proposed cycling network between Galway and Clifden. The work will be completed over a two year period. A graduate student will be appointed to complete the work. The graduate will work for a period of approximately 6 to 9 months at the NRA regional office in Roscommon at the route selection, pavement selection and costing phases of the study. The project will focus on route selection, construction material, and maintenance and operation strategies for cycle paths.
<b>Benefits</b>	The project is based on recently issued National Cycle Policy Framework which includes as Objective 3 to “provide designated rural signed cycle networks proving especially for visitors and recreational cycling”. The NRA is currently concentrating on one element of this objective which the route selection and feasibility study for the corridor between Dublin and Galway. This project will examine two areas: route selection analysis and the production of design standards for interurban cycle lanes in Ireland.
<b>Outputs</b>	The outputs of the project include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Route selection report</li> <li>2. Outline construction specification and construction programme</li> <li>3. Literature review of international best practice</li> <li>4. Final project report</li> </ol>