

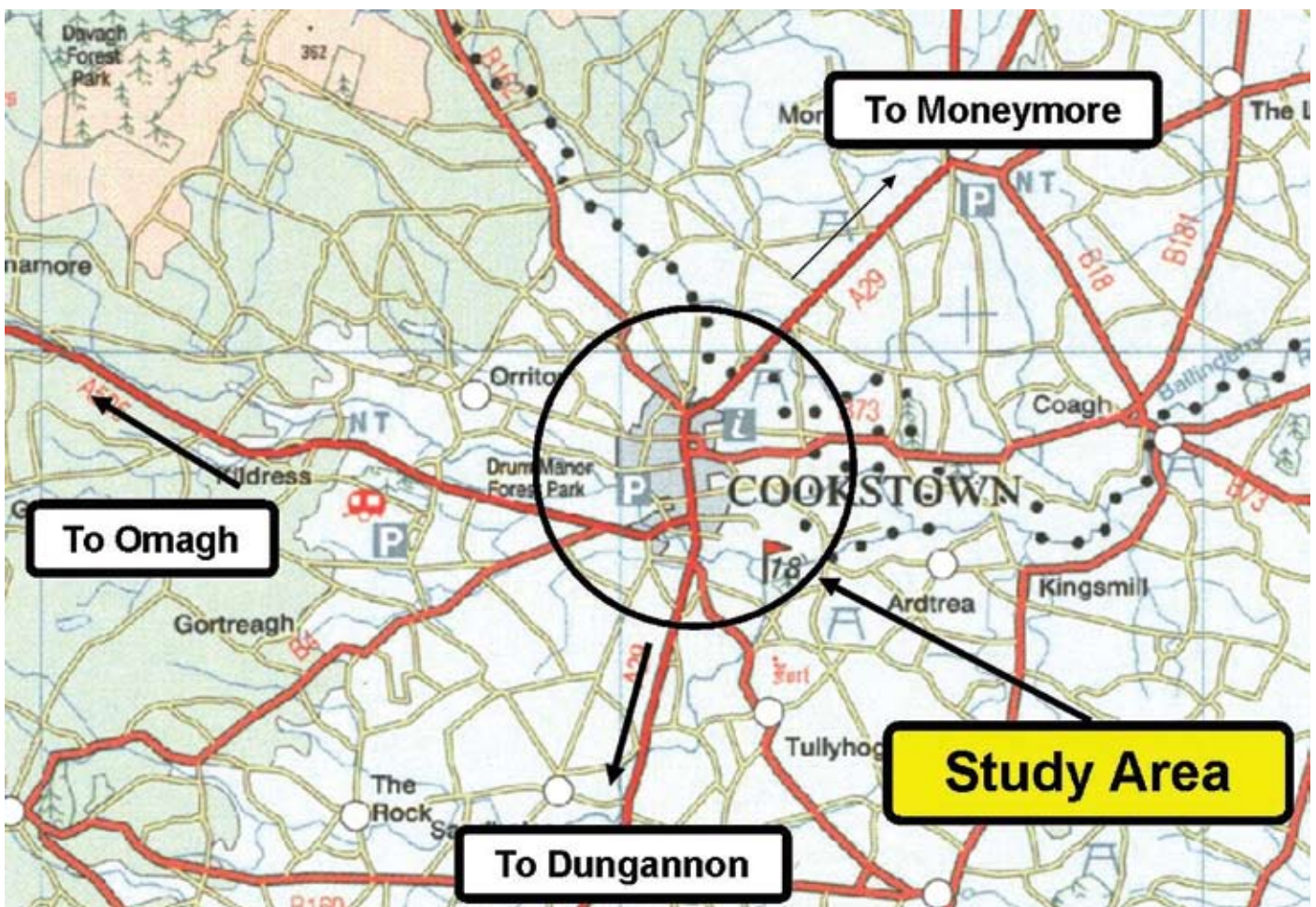
Link Corridors and Trunk Roads A29 Cookstown Bypass

Need for Scheme

The A29 Cookstown Bypass Scheme is included within the Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan 2015 and the Investment Delivery Plan for Roads (2008).

The existing A29 passes through Cookstown town centre and as a result, through traffic

negotiates several traffic signalled junctions, coming into conflict with local town centre road users. This can produce long traffic queues and associated delays, at peak times in particular.



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The Proposed scheme

The A29 Cookstown Bypass proposal will extend from Loughry Roundabout, south of the town centre, to the A29 Moneymore Road to the north of the town centre, thus providing an alternative route for strategic traffic.

A proposal for a Sandholes Link Road, to improve the link between the A29 and the A505 Drum Road is also being investigated. This link would further reduce strategic traffic in the town centre as it would accommodate traffic travelling to and from the A505 Drum Road. Bypass route options under investigation include an Eastern Distributor Route, included in The Cookstown Area Plan 2010 and other alternative routes to the east and west of the town. The Sandholes Link Road is also included in the Area Plan as a proposed road improvement.

Benefits

The scheme aims to;

- Reduce journey travel times along the A29 Corridor.
- Reduce traffic congestion within Cookstown town centre.
- Improve the quality of life for residents and visitors to Cookstown town centre.
- Improve road safety for all road users

Progress

Route corridors to the east and west of the town have been investigated in order to identify a preferred route corridor. Route options within this preferred corridor will then be assessed and these will be identified at a public consultation event scheduled for December 2008. It is anticipated that the preferred route will be announced during 2009.

The 'DRD Investment Delivery Plan for Roads (IDP)' estimates that the Cookstown Bypass will be delivered within the period 2013 to 2018.