

Nea Christian

From: O'Malley Vincent
Sent: Tuesday 5 November 2019 15:30
To: Nea Christian
Subject: RE: Re. Reactive Maintenance works at Donemark Bridge (CC-N71-009.00)

Christian,

Your comments re ecological impacts and IAPS are noted. Having reviewed the attachments, I accept the reasoned determination set out below.

Thanks for preparing the determination.

Sincerely
Vincent

From: Nea Christian [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday 5 November 2019 12:41
To: O'Malley Vincent [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Re. Reactive Maintenance works at Donemark Bridge (CC-N71-009.00)

Vincent,

Having reviewed Paul's email below and the attached information and having regard to the lack of any pathways to European sites, I recommend that the following reasoned determination can be made:

Having performed screening for Appropriate Assessment in respect of the proposed reactive maintenance works detailed in the email received from Paul O'Donoghue PhD dated the 4th of November, 2019, and entitled 'Re. Reactive Maintenance works at Donemark Bridge (CC-N71-009.00)', I accept the recommendations of Atkins Limited that the proposed reactive maintenance works, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would not be likely to have a significant effect on any European site in view of the best scientific knowledge and the site's conservation objectives. I determine that an Appropriate Assessment of these proposed works is not required, as it can be excluded on the basis of objective scientific information following the screening done that the proposed works, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on any European site.

On a separate note, it should be stressed that ecological impacts, generally, must be avoided. The presence of knotweed (apparent in the photographs), giant rhubarb (apparent from Google maps) and Indian balsam (mentioned below) should be noted. Furthermore, freshwater pearl mussel must be dealt with appropriately.

Kind regards,

Christian.

Christian Nea B.E., LL.B., LL.M., C.Eng., M.I.E.I.
Chartered Engineer

Senior Engineer (Environment)
Environmental Policy and Compliance Section,
Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Parkgate Business Centre, Parkgate Street, Dublin 8.
[REDACTED]

From: O'Donoghue, Paul [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday 4 November 2019 14:20

To: Nea Christian [REDACTED]
Cc: O'Malley Vincent [REDACTED]

Subject: Re. Reactive Maintenance works at Donemark Bridge (CC-N71-009.00)

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Christian

Re. Reactive Maintenance works at Donemark Bridge (CC-N71-009.00)

Bridge Location

The structure location is here (bridge location circled in Red): -



Photographs of the bridge are included in the attached zip file.

Works

It is proposed to remove a fallen tree from the River Mealagh just upstream of Donemark Bridge. This bridge is on the N71 as it crosses the Mealagh River just north of Bantry, Co. Cork. Attached is a proposed method statement from the Contractor (Cumnor) and site photos.

The proposed sequence of works is as follows: -

1. Prior to commencement of all watercourse clearance works, it will be important to check the impact the removal procedure could have on any species in the watercourse.
2. Virkon spray will be used on all tools, work boots/ wellies/ waders and any other equipment used that will be entering the watercourse. This will be done before workers enter the watercourse and again when the job is complete.
3. As the tree is jammed at the upstream side of one arch barrel only therefore a silt curtain will be installed downstream of the effected arch barrel.
4. A hi0ab truck will be positioned in a carpark adjacent to the bridge, this will allow for the timber to be craned up onto the embankment and prevent anything being washed downstream.
5. Two operatives will enter the watercourse and limb the tree using chainsaws, each section that is being cut will be secured to the hi-ab of our truck which will lift the timber onto the embankment.
6. Once all the timber is out of the water course it will then be removed off site.
7. The silt curtain will be removed once the works are complete.

Ecological Characteristics

The bridge is not within an SAC or SPA; nor is it within a NHA / pNHA.


The works are located on the River Mealagh, which discharges to Bantry Bay. [Mealagh_21_M01].

[REDACTED] The River is designated as a *Margaritifera Sensitive Area – Mealagh*. It is not one of the catchments listed under S.I. No. 296/2009 – The European Communities Environmental Objectives (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) Regulations, 2009.

[REDACTED]

The immediate environs of Donemark Bridge was surveyed for Freshwater Pearl Mussel in 2019 by Aquatic Service Unit [ASU (2019). *Munster Bridge Term Maintenance Contracts. LOT 5. Specialist Surveys 2019 - Fresh Water Pearl Mussel. Report prepared for TII*] – full copy attached. The following is extracted from ASU (2019). The area within which the tree has fallen and works are to be undertaken is located with the area considered as part of the ASU survey (ASU, 2019).

CC-N71-009.00 - Donemark Bridge

	<p>X, Y (ITM): 500464 550107</p> <p>Main channel Mealagh River, Bantry, Co. Cork. Snorkel and wading survey 50m US & DS of bridge. Average width / depth: 12m / 0.50m. Bedrock dominated DS, with outcrops US. Gravel, pebble in long glide US. Some FGA and silt. Good salmonid habitat; many fish observed.</p> <p>FPM Absent; [REDACTED] DS of bridge comprised all bedrock, then long cascade to saline habitat (tidal).</p>
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Apart from a single record of a roadkill in 2005 close to the river, NBDC mapping does not show any records of Otter (*Lutra lutra*) from the Mealagh River. They have, however, been recorded from Bantry Bay and are very likely to be using the Mealagh River. There are no records of crayfish from this location.

There are no works to the bridge itself – hence no risk to bats.

Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) has been recorded from multiple sites in Bantry; including from W005499 to the southeast of the bridge. TII have also recorded Japanese knotweed in a number of locations along the N71 just to the south of Donemark Bridge. Indian balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) has been recorded from the Reenydonagan Lough to the northwest – no records from the bridge (Source: NBDC Maps).

Atkins Findings -

This Screening for Appropriate Assessment is based on the best available scientific information. It is concluded that the proposed project poses no likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites. Thus, it is recommended that it is not necessary for the proposed project to proceed to Appropriate Assessment.

[Note: - [REDACTED] While survey work in 2019 did not find any Freshwater Pearl Mussel within the works area, appropriate precautions to protect water quality – see above – are to be implemented. The importance for Freshwater Pearl Mussel will be communicated to the Contractor and they are required to seek advice on works from their project ecologist].

Findings of TII Appropriate Assessment -

Can you please provide a Reasoned Determination?

Regards

Paul

Paul O'Donoghue PhD CEnV MCIEEM
Principal Ecologist / Environmental Scientist
Ireland
Environment



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