
From: O'Malley Vincent
Sent: Monday 13 September 2021 10:14
To: Chamberlain Greg
Cc: Nea Christian; Duffy Liam
Subject: RE: Re. GC-N60-002.00 (Castlereagh Bridge) [Reactive Maintenance]

Hi Greg,
Having reviewed the content of the email from Atkins, I accept the reasoned determination as set out below.
Sincerely
Vincent

From: Chamberlain Greg [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday 8 September 2021 10:23
To: O'Malley Vincent [REDACTED]
Cc: Nea Christian [REDACTED]; Duffy Liam [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Re. GC N60 002.00 (Castlereagh Bridge) [Reactive Maintenance]

Vincent

Having reviewed Paul's email below and having regard to the nature of the works, 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 dated the 2nd September, 2021, and entitled Re. GC-N60-002.00 (Castlereagh Bridge) [Reactive Maintenance] I accept the recommendations of Atkins 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.

Kind Regards

Greg

From: O'Donoghue, Paul [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday 2 September 2021 11:54
To: Chamberlain Greg [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re. GC N60 002.00 (Castlereagh Bridge) [Reactive Maintenance]

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Greg

Re. GC-N60-002.00 (Castlereagh Bridge) [Reactive Maintenance]



Figure 1. Castlereagh Bridge is on the N60 Regional road northwest Co. Galway on the border with Co. Roscommon; as shown below circled in red (Source: NBDC webviewer). The bridge spans the River Suck.

Existing Damage:

Following vehicular impact, the section of north parapet wall over the central span has been partly demolished from approximately 100mm above adjoining carriageway level with resultant masonry debris largely lying in the watercourse below. The top course of impacted masonry together with the coping are largely missing and the lower course of impacted masonry has been dislodged with sections displaced laterally inwards by up to 150mm and generally overhanging the spandrel wall below. The length of damaged wall excluding copings measures 6500mm in length, 525mm high, 450mm thick. The 210mm high coping to the section of parapet wall over the central span appears to have been constructed (prior to impact) of concrete faced random rubble stone extending over a length of 10,500mm. The copings to the remainder of parapet wall either side of this section of parapet wall are masonry block copings. The length of damaged mostly missing concrete faced random rubble stone coping measures 7750mm in length, 450mm thick. The damaged wall has been constructed with square cut stone masonry facings approximately 150mm thick each face and infilled with random rubble and some concrete. Some minor vehicle crash debris was also noted adjacent to the impacted wall.

Scope of Works: -

- Remove 5m² of masonry debris resulting from impact from watercourse below and re-utilise non-defective stone masonry facings salvaged from watercourse to rebuild the damaged

section of north parapet wall or if not possible, new locally sourced stone masonry to match existing wall, and lime mortars.

- Rebuild damaged section of north parapet wall over central span of the bridge and to tie in and match existing wall construction. Reinstall copings to parapet with stone blocks to tie in and match existing parapet construction. The length of reinstatement of wall copings measures 10,500mm in length. The extent of damage that warrants masonry repairs measures 2.75m³ including reinstatement of copings
- Remove plastic/glass from verge adjacent to impacted parapet wall (1m²)

The damaged wall is to be deconstructed to stable material, and then fully reconstructed using hand tools to tie in with the existing wall utilising the existing non-defective stone masonry facings salvaged from watercourse below, or if not possible, new locally sourced stone masonry to match existing wall, and lime mortars. The mortar will be mixed away from the watercourse. All damaged masonry sections not suitable for re-use and other debris resulting from the damage to be disposed off-site. Edge protection will be erected on the outer side of the parapet for health and safety. This will also prevent material dropping into the watercourse below.

Plates 1 – 3 below display the bridge, the surroundings and the nature of the damage.



Plate 1. Area of damage and material which has fallen into the river (highlighted in red).



Plate 2. Castlereagh Bridge. Damaged parapet wall and fallen debris highlighted in red.



Plate 3. Castlereagh Bridge. Instream debris resulting from fallen masonry parapet wall.

Ecological Characteristics.

Castlereagh Bridge crosses the Island River, a tributary of the River Suck, in Ballymoe, Co. Galway.

The bridge is located within the Suck_SC_020 Water Framework Directive subcatchment. The bridge is not located within any European sites. The River Suck Callows SPA [004097] is located 18km downstream. Corliskea/Trien/Cloonfelliv Bog SAC/pNHA [002110] is located 1.2km to the north of the bridge, straight-line distance, with no hydrological connection.

There are no records of knotweeds, such as Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*); or Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) or Giant-rhubarb (*Gunnera* asp.) from the bridge location (Source: NBDC).

There is a record of Otter (*Lutra lutra*) 1.3km downstream of the bridge at Ballymoe bridge dating from 2015. It is highly probable that otter commute along the river and occur at Castlereagh Bridge occasionally. There are also historic records of white-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) at the bridge and downstream at Ballymoe Bridge, however they have not been recorded recently (Source: NBDC). There have not been records of crayfish plague on the River Suck or its tributaries, however Check, Clean, Dry protocol will be applied before works are conducted instream. The river is not within a *Margaritifera* sensitive area.

The bridge parapet proposed for repair is not suitable for supporting roosting bats. The bridge was surveyed for bats in 2019 – “The bridge consists of three arches all of stone construct. Most of the joints are mortared however the central arch has 26 cavities most however are wet. Towards the centre of the middle arch an unoccupied roost was found with grease staining. This cavity was dry.” “Two bat boxes have previously been erected on either side however both were unoccupied by bats. One had a nest in it -unoccupied.” However, as noted all works are to the parapet and will be undertaken with hand tools.

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, either alone or in combination with other projects. Thus, it is recommended that it is not necessary for the proposed project to proceed to Appropriate Assessment.

Can you please provide a Reasoned Determination?

Paul O' Donoghue *BSc PhD CEnV MCIEEM*

Associate Director, Ecology
Ireland



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