Nea Christian

From: O'Malley Vincent
Sent: Tuesday 21 January 2020 16:42
To: Nea Christian
Subject: RE: Re. TO270 Munster Reactive Maintenance Works No. 10 - CC-N72-033.00 Downey's Bridge

Christian,
Having reviewed the attachments, I am happy to accept the reasoned determination as set out below.
Sincerely
Vincent

From: Nea Christian [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday 15 January 2020 16:24
To: O'Malley Vincent [redacted]
Subject: FW: Re. TO270 Munster Reactive Maintenance Works No. 10 - CC-N72-033.00 Downey's Bridge

Vincent,

Having reviewed Paul's email below (with figures attached) and having regard to the minor 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 PhD dated the 8th of January 2020 and entitled 'Re. TO270 Munster Reactive Maintenance Works No. 10 - CC-N72-033.00 Downey's Bridge', 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.***

Kind regards,

Christian.

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

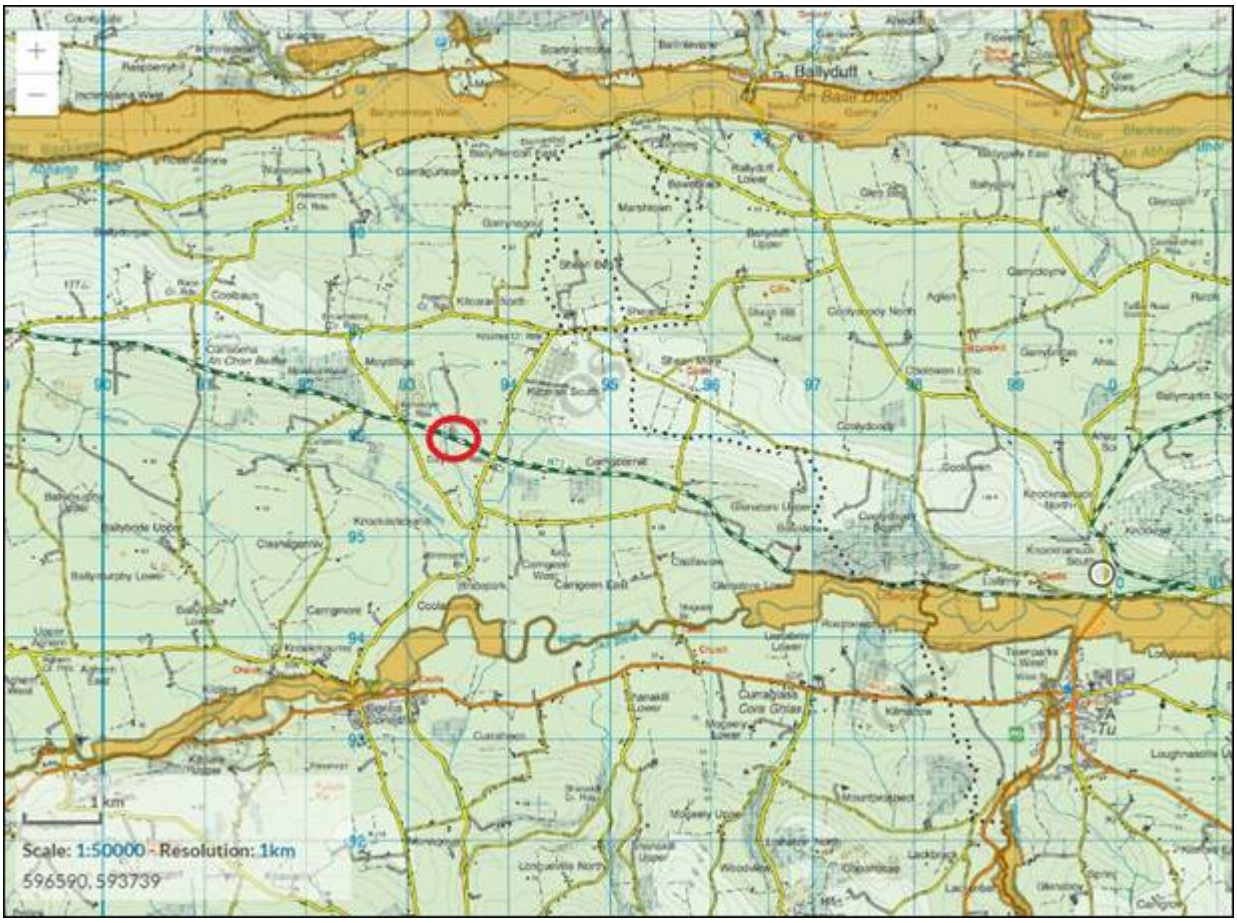
Senior Engineer (Environment)
Environmental Policy and Compliance Section,
Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Parkgate Business Centre, Parkgate Street, Dublin 8.
[redacted]

From: O'Donoghue, Paul [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday 8 January 2020 10:18
To: Nea Christian [redacted]; O'Malley Vincent [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; Sweeney, Niamh [redacted]
Subject: Re. TO270 Munster Reactive Maintenance Works No. 10 - CC-N72-033.00 Downey's Bridge

Christian

Re. TO270 Munster Reactive Maintenance Works No. 10 - CC-N72-033.00 Downey's Bridge

The structure location is illustrated here (bridge location circled in Red).



Downey's Bridge is located on the N72 in the townland of Kilcoran South, Co. Cork 12.5km east of Fermoy town (to the southwest of Ballyduff). It spans the Kilcoran_North River (EPA Code – 18K25) a first order river and a tributary of the River Bride. The Kilcoran_North flows into the Currabeha River which in turn joins the River Bride at Bridepark (south of Bridepark Bridge). At this point it enters the Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC (002170). (Note: river names taken from EPA Maps - https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/). Downey's Bridge is 1.84 km upstream of the SAC.

Part of the roadside stone wall on the approach to the bridge has been damaged. The proposed works site is located back from the Kilcoran_North stream and is confined to the roadside stone wall and embankment on the approach to the bridge and adjoining the N72 (see attached photos). The proposed site is located on the north side road carriageway.

Photographs of the parapet damage are attached.

Proposed Works: Masonry Repair to approach parapet at Downeys Bridge CC-N72-033.00.

- Parapet / stone wall rebuild - 5.2m long x 0.8m high x 0.48m deep section of parapet.
- No access to the nearby watercourse is required and no instream works will be undertaken.
- Rebuild an area of displaced masonry adjacent to collapse measuring 1.9m long x 0.45m high x 0.48m deep.
- Works will involve taking down the masonry by hand and reconstructing the wall in its original position. The repair will be on a like for like basis.

- At the area of the damage most stone is available for reuse however some imported stone may be required.
- A scaffold is required to complete the works – this will be decked out with plywood which will run into the parapet wall. The scaffolding will not be located in or over the watercourse.

Ecological Characteristics

The bridge is not within a SAC or SPA; nor is it within a NHA/pNHA. It spans the main channel of the Kilcoran North stream which flows into the Bride. As noted above the bridge is 1.8 km upstream of the Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC (002170) SAC.

Qualifying interests of the Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC (002170) SAC.

[1130] Estuaries
[1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
[1220] Perennial vegetation of stony banks
[1310] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand
[1330] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)
[1410] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi)
[3260] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation
[91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles
[91E0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)
[redacted]
[1092] *Austropotamobius pallipes* (White-clawed Crayfish)
[1095] *Petromyzon marinus* (Sea Lamprey)
[1096] *Lampetra planeri* (Brook Lamprey)
[1099] *Lampetra fluviatilis* (River Lamprey)
[1103] *Alosa fallax fallax* (Twaite Shad)
[1106] *Salmo salar* (Salmon)
[1355] *Lutra lutra* (Otter)
[1421] *Trichomanes speciosum* (Killarney Fern)

The SAC is designated for a number of coastal habitats, such as estuaries, which due to the location of the works will not be impacted. There are no instream works and the works area is located away from the river – aquatic habitats such as floating river vegetation, and species such as salmon will not be impacted. Habitats such as Old sessile oak woods or Alluvial forests are not located at, or close to, the works area. There are no records of Killarney Fern from this location. While Otter occurs widely within the River Bride catchment the proposed works are not located on the river, are of short duration and will not restrict access to the river by Otter.

The main channel of the River Bride downstream of the bridge is designated under the Salmonid Regulations (S.I. No. 293 of 1988). The bridge is not in a *Margaritifera* Sensitive Area and there are no records of FWMP at the bridge or downstream of it. No White clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) have been recorded within the Bride River (Source; NDBC).

The Kilcoran North stream is not monitored by the EPA. The Mogeely Bridge station on the River Bride is the closet monitoring station to the site and was found to have a Q-value of 4 (Good) in 2003. Water quality on the stream – labelled by the EPA as Kilcoran_north – is detailed as *'Not at Risk'* under the Water Framework Direct risk assessment.

There are no works to the bridge itself – vegetation to be removed along the parapet is not suitable for roosting bats - hence no risk to bats from its removal.

Japanese knotweed *(Fallopia japonica)*, Giant hogweed (Heracleum mantegazzianum) or Indian balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) have not been recorded from the bridge location (Source: NBDC).

As noted, the proposed works include repair to a damaged roadside stone wall on the approach to the bridge – at a remove from the riverbank. Works will be of short duration. No impact to the water quality status of the nearby stream or Bride River should occur as a result of the works. Consequently, no direct impacts to qualifying interests of the SAC will occur as a result of the works.

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.

Findings of TII Appropriate Assessment -

Can you please provide a Reasoned Determination?

Paul O' Donoghue *BSc PhD CEnV MIEEM*
Principal Ecologist
Ireland

[redacted]
