
From: O'Malley Vincent
Sent: Monday 13 September 2021 10:13
To: Chamberlain Greg
Cc: Nea Christian; Duffy Liam
Subject: RE: Re. TN-N75-001.00 (Suir River 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 11:04
To: O'Malley Vincent [REDACTED]
Cc: Nea Christian [REDACTED]; Duffy Liam [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Re. TN N75 001.00 (Suir River 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 3rd September, 2021, and entitled Re. TN-N75-001.00 (Suir River 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

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: O'Donoghue, Paul [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 3, 2021 7:13:08 PM
To: Chamberlain Greg [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

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Greg

Re. TN-N75-001.00 (Suir River Bridge) [Reactive Maintenance]



Figure 1. Suir River Bridge is on the N75 Regional road in Thurles in north Co. Tipperary; as shown below circled in red (Source: NBDC webviewer). The bridge spans the River Suir.

Existing Damage:

The masonry wall of the west abutment is partially collapsed at the south end. The area of collapse measures 3.6m long x 0.85m high x up to 0.8m deep. Plate 1.1 below displays the face of the River Suir Bridge, while Plate 1.2 shows the damaged abutment.



Plate 1.1 River Suir Bridge.



Plate 1.2 Damaged abutment at River Suir Bridge.

Scope of Works:

1. Deconstruct the section of collapsed masonry
2. Excavate for a new concrete footing (base of footing located 500mm below the existing bed material)
3. Rebuild the masonry flush with the existing abutment
4. Reinststate the excavated bed material above the new concrete footing. No concrete is to be visible following the repairs.

The works area will be accessed via North West corner of the bridge. A ladder will be used to access the watercourse which will be tied off to 2 points of contact. No machinery will be permitted instream.

Works will be conducted in the dry by installing 1-tonne sandbags walls to divert the water upstream of the bridge. Hessian sandbags will be used where required to create a seal between the 1-tonne bags. Once the works area is sealed upstream, a dam of hessian sandbags will be built along the downstream end of the arch. This system will divert the river to flow through the remaining 5 arches and allow works to be safely undertaken in the dry.

The damaged wall is to be deconstructed to stable material using hand tools. Any loose material will be stored in buckets / bags and removed off-site. The bed material will be excavated to 500mm depth using hand tools and stored in bags. Steel shuttering used to shape the concrete footing will be erected and sealed. All concrete deliveries for instream works will be completed with the aid of a sealed delivery pipe from a concrete pump located on the bridge deck to the works area. The concrete footing will then be filled into the shuttering. The delivery pipe must have a safety shut off and will not be left unattended during the pour which will be co-ordinated with an worker at the concrete delivery truck. As noted cement pour will be in a dry area isolated from the river. Concrete trucks will not be permitted to wash out on site or in its proximity. Once the concrete is set, the bed material will be reinstated.

The masonry abutment wall will be fully reconstructed using hand tools to tie in with the existing wall. Mortar for repointing new and existing masonry work shall be NHL5 lime mortar Mix. The existing non-defective stone masonry facings will be used to rebuild the abutment, or if not possible, new locally sourced stone masonry to match the existing wall will be used. The mortar will be mixed 20m away from the watercourse in a nearby carpark. All damaged masonry sections not suitable for re-use and other debris resulting from the damage to be disposed off-site. All joints will be tamped with stiff brush once mortar is stiff.

Works will be completed within the fisheries open season (by the end of September 2021) and will take approximately 7 days to complete.

Biosecurity protocols shall be implemented during the construction phase of the proposed project to prevent the introduction of invasive species listed on the third schedule of the 2011 Regulations to site and the further spread of diseases such as crayfish plague. All contractors must implement routine cleaning and drying of their equipment once they leave a site and before using it again on a new watercourse. This is especially important as it is known that the crayfish plague organism can be carried on wet equipment to new sites.

All equipment intended to be used at the site shall be dry, clean and free from debris prior to being brought to site.

If drying out of equipment is not feasible, equipment should be either: -

power steam washed at a suitably high temperature or at least 65 degrees, or

disinfected with an approved disinfectant, e.g. Virkon or an iodine-based product. It is important that the manufacturer's instructions are followed and if required, the correct contact times are allowed for during the disinfection process. Items that are difficult to soak should be sprayed or wiped down with disinfectant.

During the duration of the proposed project, if equipment is removed off-site to be used elsewhere, the said equipment shall be cleaned and disinfected prior to being brought back to the works area of the proposed project.

Ecological Characteristics.

River Suir Bridge crosses the River Suir, in Thurles, Co. Tipperary.

The bridge is located within the Suir Water Framework Directive catchment. The bridge is not located within any European sites. The Lower River Suir SAC [002137] is located 4.7km downstream of bridge. Cabragh Wetlands pNHA is also 4.7km downstream of the bridge, overlapping with the SAC.

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 or the environs (Source: NBDC).

There are several records of Otter (*Lutra lutra*) at the bridge dating from between 2011 and 2015. It is expected that otter commute along the river and still occur at River Suir Bridge. However, works will take place at only one of the bridge arches – all others will remain open and allow for continued movements on the Suir by Otter.

There are historic records of white-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) at the bridge from 2002, however they have not been recorded recently (Source: NBDC). There were records of crayfish plague (*Aphanomyces astaci*) on the River Suir in 2017. A bat survey conducted in 2020 recorded dead white-clawed crayfish, which showed signs of crayfish plague. A strict biosecurity protocol, as outlined above, shall therefore be implemented be implemented.

[REDACTED]

The abutment proposed for repair is not suitable for supporting roosting bats. However, crevices suitable for bat roosting were recorded and marked for retention. These areas are not in the vicinity of the works area.

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.

Findings of TII Appropriate Assessment -

Can you please provide a Reasoned Determination?

Paul O' Donoghue *BSc PhD CEnV MCIEEM*
Associate Director, Ecology
Ireland

[REDACTED]

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