

Nea Christian

From: O'Malley Vincent
Sent: Thursday 24 October 2019 17:40
To: Nea Christian
Subject: RE: Re. Reactive Maintenance works at Gortnamucklagh Bridge (DL-N56-029.00)

Christian,
Having reviewed the attachment, I agree with the reasoned determination outlined below.
Sincerely
Vincent

From: Nea Christian [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday 24 October 2019 12:19
To: O'Malley Vincent [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Re. Reactive Maintenance works at Gortnamucklagh Bridge (DL-N56-029.00)

Vincent,
Having reviewed Paul's email below and having regard to the extremely 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 22nd of October, 2019, and entitled 'Re. Reactive Maintenance works at Gortnamucklagh Bridge (DL-N56-029.00)', 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.

Kind regards,
Christian.

From: O'Donoghue, Paul [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 October 2019 12:08
To: Nea Christian [REDACTED]; O'Malley Vincent [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re. Reactive Maintenance works at Gortnamucklagh Bridge (DL-N56-029.00)

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Christian

Re. Reactive Maintenance works at Gortnamucklagh Bridge (DL-N56-029.00)

Bridge Location

The structure location is here: <https://goo.gl/maps/ky2tipkYcmFc4wW77>. Photographs of the bridge are included in the attached zip file. On the OSi Discovery Series mapping the bridge is labelled as Sruhingarve Bridge.

Works

Repair to parapet wall (see image 9546). The works will involve the removal and disposal off site of the broken concrete blockwork and capping, with the section of the capping now present in the watercourse removed by hand (see image 9551). Otherwise there are no instream works. The new parapet section will be constructed using hand tools and will consist of new concrete blockwork, cement mortar, concrete capping and sandstone facing to match the remainder of the existing parapet. The cement mortar and concrete will be mixed away from the structure to prevent contamination of the watercourse. As some of the parapet works will be above the watercourse a tarpaulin will be erected to prevent any loose mortar or material entering the watercourse. Works will take 1 week.

To undertake the repairs no shuttering is required; no pouring of liquid concrete into formwork is required; no site compound is required; no heavy machinery is to be used on site. Single lane closure will be required to safely undertake the works. The majority of the wall to be repaired is over a grass field that adjoins the river – the full extent of works is equivalent to the length of metal barriers shown on image 9546. No foundations are required – the parapet is to be constructed on top of existing masonry wing wall. Works over the river are limited to repair of the remaining elements of the parapet wall.

Ecological Characteristics

The bridge is not with an SAC or SPA.

It is on an unnamed stream which flows under the N56 to join the Owenea River [Owenea_SC_010] – this stream also receives water from a small lake (Lough Kip) and a small stream which runs through the village of Glenties, as well as an area of conifers, before entering the Owenea River, which continues westwards to join the sea west of Ardara.

The Owenea River is located within the West of Ardara/Maas Road SAC (000197) – this SAC is designated for a significant number of habitats and species (see - <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/000197>), a significant number of which are coastal habitats not found at the bridge location. Aquatic species of particular note include *Margaritifera margaritifera* (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029], *Salmo salar* (Salmon) [1106] and *Lutra lutra* (Otter) [1355].

Freshwater pearl mussel has been recorded from the full length of the Owenea River between Glenties and Owenea Bridge on the coast; including along the channel where the small unnamed stream joins the Owenea. The stream and Owenea River are within the *Owenea – Margaritifera Sensitive Area*. It is also one of the catchments listed under S.I. No. 296/2009 – The European Communities Environmental Objectives (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) Regulations, 2009.

Otter has historically been recorded from the small stream on which the Gortnamucklagh (Sruhingarve) Bridge is located and is likely to use the stream at Gortnamucklagh Bridge. There are no records of crayfish from this location.

None of the terrestrial habitats for which West of Ardara/Maas Road SAC is designated occur at Gortnamucklagh (Sruhangerve) Bridge (see accompanying photographs).

The damaged area of parapet wall does not offer suitable roosting opportunities for bats.

Atkins Findings -

Apart from removal of fallen stone by hand, no instream works are to be undertaken. All works will be restricted to the parapet wall on the bridge deck and adjoining road edge. No materials will be allowed to fall from the bridge deck during works. The works are of short duration (1 week).

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: The streams connection to the Owenea River and its importance for Freshwater Pearl Mussel will be communicated to the Contractor].

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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