

29<sup>TH</sup> OF OCTOBER, 2019

**SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT OF SPECIFIC WORKS ASSOCIATED WITH 'LOT 1 – NORTH WEST  
BRIDGES TERM MAINTENANCE CONTRACT NO. 3'  
REASONED DETERMINATION**

Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 ('the Habitats Regulations') states, *inter alia*, 'A screening for Appropriate Assessment of a [...] project [...] which a public authority wishes to undertake [...] shall be carried out by the public authority to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the site, if that [...] project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have significant effects on the European site.'<sup>1</sup> Regulation 42(2) of the Habitats Regulations states 'A public authority shall carry out a screening for Appropriate Assessment under paragraph (1) before [...] a decision to undertake [...] a project is taken.'<sup>2</sup> Having taken the view that the works required under 'Lot 1 – North West Bridges Term Maintenance Contract No. 3' might constitute 'projects'<sup>3</sup> within the meaning of the Habitats Regulations, Transport Infrastructure Ireland<sup>4</sup> (TII) decided that the works required under the contract should be subject to screening for Appropriate Assessment pursuant to, *inter alia*, Regulation 42 of the Habitats Regulations and Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.<sup>5</sup> Mr. Michael Nolan (Chief Executive of Transport Infrastructure Ireland) delegated the function of screening for Appropriate Assessment to me, Dr. Vincent O'Malley, Head of Environmental Policy and Compliance Section, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June, 2018.

<sup>1</sup> Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011).

<sup>2</sup> Regulation 42(2) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011).

<sup>3</sup> Regulation 2(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011) defines 'project' to include 'land use or infrastructural developments, including any development of land or on land.' Given the breadth of the term 'project' under the Habitats Regulations, Transport Infrastructure Ireland is uncertain as to whether or not works required under 'Lot 1 – North West Bridges Term Maintenance Contract No. 3' constitute 'projects'. It notes, however, that Section 3(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, defines 'development' to include '[...] the carrying out of any works on, in, over, or under land [...]' and that Section 2(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 defines 'works' to include '[...] any act or operation of construction, excavation, demolition, extension, alteration, repair or renewal [...]' As such, Transport Infrastructure Ireland acknowledges that works required under 'Lot 1 – North West Bridges Term Maintenance Contract No. 3' might constitute 'projects' within the meaning of the Habitats Regulations.

<sup>4</sup> Article 2 of the Roads Act 2015 (Operational Name of National Roads Authority) Order, 2015 (S.I. No. 297 of 2015) provides that the National Roads Authority may describe itself as Transport Infrastructure Ireland for operational purposes.

<sup>5</sup> Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora [1992] OJ L 206.

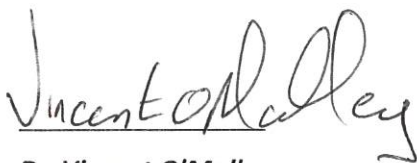
In performing this screening for Appropriate Assessment, I had regard, *inter alia*, to information contained in the following document:

- CN291019\_NW Bridges\_2019\_NIS Re-Screening\_For TII (23-10-2019).xls (first prepared by Atkins Limited and to which the Environmental Policy and Compliance Section of TII have added comments).

In performing this screening for Appropriate Assessment I also met and discussed with various members of staff from TII (e.g., from the legal, structures and environmental sections); and, the consultant engaged by TII to prepare and administer the contract (including the consultant's ecological expert).

The specific works that I screened for Appropriate Assessment were the works detailed in CN291019\_NW Bridges\_2019\_NIS Re-Screening\_For TII (23-10-2019).xls, which I am advised and believe to be works required under the contract.

Having performed screening for Appropriate Assessment in respect of the specific works detailed in CN291019\_NW Bridges\_2019\_NIS Re-Screening\_For TII (23-10-2019).xls, I accept the recommendations of Atkins Limited that the works proposed on the structures specifically listed in the table below, 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.



29/10/2019

**Dr. Vincent O'Malley**

*Head of the Environmental Policy and Compliance Section*

*Transport Infrastructure Ireland*

Structure_ID	Structure_Name	Works screening out	TII Determination
DL-N56-006.00	Eddrim Bridge	<p>4 Parapets/Safety barrier - Vegetation removal from both parapets.</p> <p>4 Parapets/Safety barrier - Vegetation removal from both parapets. 5</p> <p>Embankments/Revetments Vegetation up to 1m from the structure to be cut back or removed. 1 Bridge surface Ponding at north parapet block. Cleaning of drainage gully required (no.1)</p> <p>4 Parapets/Safety barrier - Masonry repointing to parapets where vegetation was removed (5m2).</p>	Agree
DL-N56-046.00	Bedlam Bridge	<p><b>NB: ROAD SIDE ONLY</b> 4 Parapets/Safety barrier - Vegetation to be removed from parapets. 3m2 roadside, (40 m2)</p> <p>4 Parapets/Safety barrier - Masonry to be repointed where vegetation was removed.</p>	Agree
GC-N63-019.00	Mount Talbort Bridge	<p>4 Parapets/Safety barrier - Removal of vegetation from inside and outside of parapets and from top of parapets on both sides. (80 m2).</p>	Agree
LM-N16-018.00	Meenaphuill Bridge	<p>4 Parapets/Safety barrier - Vegetation to be removed from parapet walls. Vegetation mostly consists of brambles and ivy (10m2).</p>	Agree
MO-N05-022.00	Spaddagh River Bridge	<p>5 Embankments/Revetments - 1m strip of vegetation to be cut back from all embankments and above structure. (60 m2).</p> <p>5 Embankments/Revetments - Vegetation to be removed from gabion baskets. (3 m2).</p>	Agree
MO-N26-003.00	Coolcraun Bridge	<p>5 Embankments/Revetments Vegetation up to 1m from the structure to be cut back or removed. Vegetation mostly consists of bushes. (8 m2)</p>	Agree
MO-N59-003.00	Knockadangan Bridge	<p>5 Embankments/Revetments Vegetation up to 1m from the structure to be cut back or removed. Vegetation mostly consists of bushes. (20 m2)</p>	Agree

Structure_ID	Structure_Name	Works screening out	TII Determination
MO-N59-006.00	Coolturk Bridge	5 Embankments/Revetments Vegetation up to 1m from the structure to be cut back or removed. Vegetation mostly consists of bushes. (40 m2)	Agree
MO-N59-024.00	Muingnahalloona Bridge	12 Riverbed - Vegetation build up upstream and downstream below structure to be removed. ( Expected: 20m2) Obstruction upstream to be removed. (Expected: 1m2) (21 m2) 4 Parapets/Safety barrier 0.5m roadside, 0.5m riverside. (1 m2) 4 Parapets/Safety barrier - Repointing required on cap stones above parapets. (1.5 m2) 4 Parapets/Safety barrier - Vehicular damage to north end of west parapet. (0.1 m3) 5 Embankments/Revetments Vegetation removal on embankments (16 m2)	Agree
MO-N60-002.00	Manulla Bridge	5 Embankments/Revetments Vegetation up to 1m from the structure to be cut back or removed. Vegetation mostly consists of grass. (10 m2)	Agree