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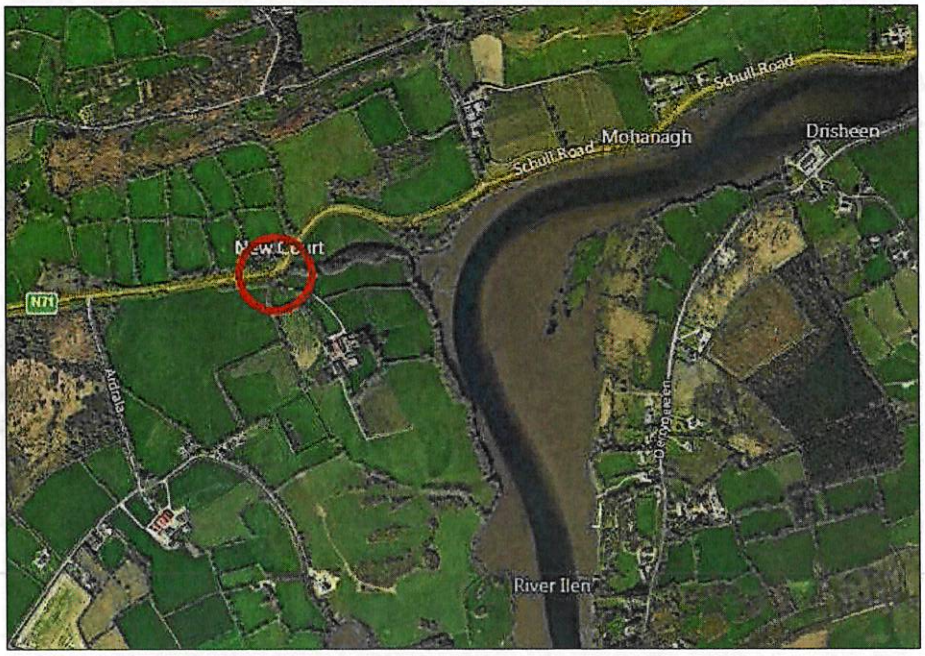
Appropriate Assessment Screening – Note TO270/RM02

Project:	5162555_TO 270 Munster Bridges		
Subject:	Reactive Maintenance - AA Screening No. 7		
Author:	Niamh Sweeney, Atkins Senior Ecologist	Atkins No.:	Appropriate Assessment Screening – Note TO270/ RM07. Revision 1.0
Date of Query:	6/09/2019	Date Issued:	16/09/2019
Distribution:	[redacted] Vincent O'Malley Christian Nea	Representing:	Atkins TII TII

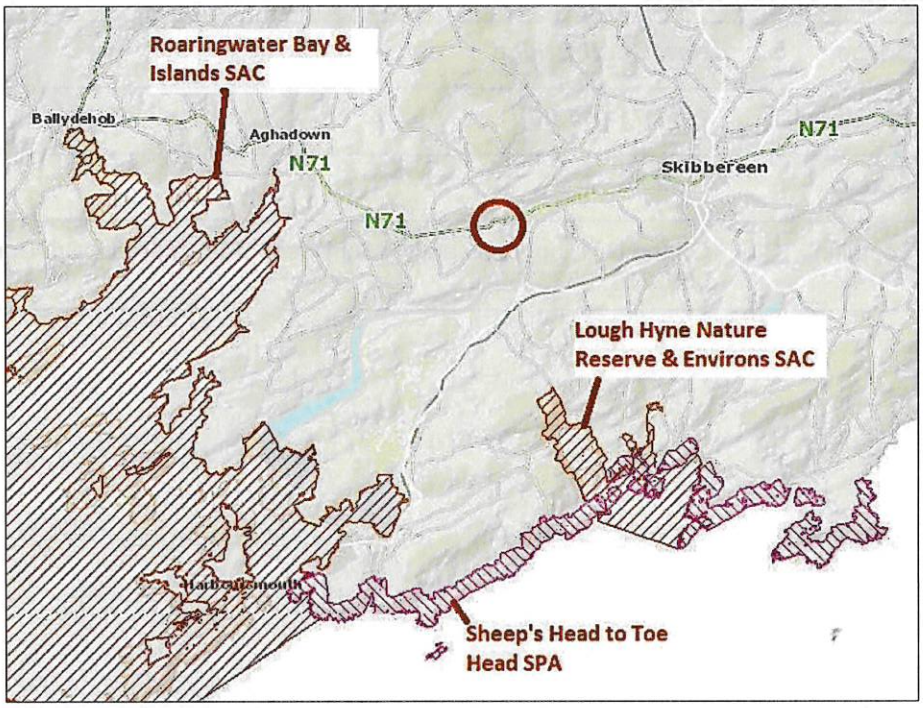
Bridge / Culvert Details

Bridge	**New Court Bridge**
Structure ID	CC-N71-017.00
County	Cork
Location	On the N71, approximately 4.3km west of Skibbereen, Co. Cork (ITM ref: 0507752, 0533239).

Maps



Map 1. New Court Bridge Location (circled in red). [Source: Bing Maps].



Map 1. New Court Bridge (circled in red); Roaringwater Bay & Islands SAC, Lough Hyne Nature Reserve & Environs SAC and Sheep's Head to Toe Head SPA. [Source: NPWS MapViewer].

Photos

Plate 1. New Court Bridge & N71, facing east [Source: Atkins R.E.].

Plate 2. Damaged parapet wall [Source: Atkins R.E.].

Plate 3. Debris from damaged parapet in adjacent field to N71 [Source: Atkins R.E.].

Proposed Works	The proposed works are for the repair of a damaged parapet wall due to vehicle impact adjacent to New Court Bridge CC-N71-017.00. The debris from the impact is located in the field behind the wall. No access to the watercourse is required for the proposed project. This structure is a protected structure. Consultation has taken place with Cork County Council's Heritage Unit and the proposed works shall be a like for like repair to match the existing structure using the material from the collapse in the field below (Plate 3 above). The method statement for the proposed works shall be submitted to Mary Sleeman of the Heritage Unit of Cork County Council for review in advance of the works commencing.

Appropriate Assessment Screening Decision Matrix

Natura 2000 Sites	Natura 2000 sites with 15km: - 1. Roaringwater Bay and Islands SAC (000101) – 4.2km by land. 8.5km downstream distance. Surface water connection via the Gneeves and Ilen rivers. 2. Lough Hyne Nature Reserve and Environs SAC (000097) – 3.6km by land. No surface water connection. 3. Sheep's Head to Toe Head SPA (004156) – 5.6km by land. No surface water connection. 4. Castletownshend SAC (001547) – 10km by land. No surface water connection.

	5. Myross Woods SAC (001070) – 12.8km by land. No surface water connection. New Court Bridge is situated on the Gneeves river, which flows for approximately 300m before it enters the Ilen estuary. The Ilen estuary flows into Roaringwater Bay. Therefore, Roaringwater Bay & Islands SAC is within the potential zone of influence of the proposed project and is considered further is this report. The remaining SACs and SPA listed above do not have surface water connectivity to the proposed project. These SACs and SPA are located a large distance to the east of the Ilen estuary and thus are not linked to the proposed project via landscape features such as treelines, hedgerows or rivers. Thus, they are not considered further in this report.
pNHA / NHA	The SACs listed above are also designated as Natural Heritage Areas. Derreennatra Bog NHA is located 12km to the west of New Court Bridge.
Hydrological links	New Court Bridge spans the Gneeves river (EPA Code IE_SW_20L450850), which flows for approximately 300m before entering the Ilen estuary.
FWPM	The Gneeves river is not located in a *Margaritifera* sensitive area. There are no records of Freshwater Pearl Mussel in the vicinity of the bridge.
Bats	New Court Bridge was surveyed for bats in May 2018 under the TII term maintenance contract. The bat survey recorded many deep crevices, particularly hibernation roosting, in the old ornate wall at the south-east side of the bridge. However, no bats or bat activity signs were observed. The report stated that "*There are no suitable crevices in the NW parapet wall which has had impact damage and is proposed for repair*". The Contractor's ecologist will be required to examine the areas of wall adjacent to the proposed works area prior to the repair works commencing.
Invasive Species	There are no records of invasive species in the vicinity of the bridge. There are numerous records of Japanese knotweed in the environs of Skibbereen town.
Other Ecology Notes	NBDC includes records of otter from both the Ilen estuary and the Ilen river. There are no records of white-clawed crayfish from the Ilen catchment.
Brief Description of the Natura 2000 site(s)	
Site	**Roaringwater Bay and Islands SAC (000101)**
Qualifying Interests: -	➢ Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]

- Reefs [1170]
- Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]
- European dry heaths [4030]
- Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330]
- *Phocoena phocoena* (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]
- *Lutra lutra* (Otter) [1355]
- *Halichoerus grypus* (Grey Seal) [1364]

Assessment

The location of the Qualifying Interests[1] relative to the proposed project is detailed in the table below.

Qualifying Interests	Location	Within Zone of Influence
Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]	This habitat is located within Roaringway Bay, which is located approximately 8.5km downstream of the proposed project.	Yes, via surface water pathways.
Reefs [1170]	Reefs are located along the shorelines where the Ilen estuary meets the bay. The SAC boundary is located 8.5km downstream of the proposed project.	Yes, via surface water pathways.
Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]	These are located on the cliffs along the coast of the mainland or on the islands within the bay. Given that seas cliffs are not a surface water dependent habitat, this habitat is not considered to be within the potential zone of influence of the proposed project.	No
European dry heaths [4030]	This habitat is located on the rocky coastal areas and on the islands within the bay. The proposed project will not affect attributes of this habitat, such as habitat area and vegetation composition and structure. Thus, this habitat is not considered to be within the potential zone of influence of the proposed project.	No
Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330]	Sea caves are located where the Ilen estuary enters the bay, approximately 8.5km downstream of the proposed project.	Yes, via surface water pathways.
Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Harbour porpoise is present within the bay. The proposed project will not affect access to suitable habitat or the level of disturbance in the area that harbour porpoise would be exposed to. Thus, it is not considered to be within the potential zone of influence of the proposed project.	No

[1] https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000101.pdf

Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]	Otter are a mobile species that may commute and forage within the Ilen estuary. Thus, otter are considered to be within the potential zone of influence of the proposed project.	Yes, via surface water pathways.
Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364]	The breeding and moulting sites of grey seal are located on the islands within the bay. The proposed project will not affect these sites, the population composition or the level of disturbance to which they are exposed. Thus, grey seal are not considered to be within the potential zone of influence of the proposed project.	No

Potential impacts during construction:-

There is no spatial overlap with the SAC. The SAC is located approximately 8.5km downstream of the proposed project.

The proposed project will not involve access to the Gneeves river, as the damaged parapet wall is located over land and not over water. Given that the parapet wall is a protected structure the repair of the wall will involve the use of the material in the field behind the wall. An experienced stone mason will be required to carry out the works to the required standard of the Heritage Unit.

Thus, given the location of the parapet wall, and the nature and extent of the proposed works, it is not anticipated that the proposed works pose a risk to surface water quality. Therefore, likely significant effects to the surface water dependant habitats and species of the SAC are not anticipated.

Potential impacts during operation:-

Impacts during the operation phase of the proposed works are not anticipated. The works will not affect the hydrological regime of the rivers and will not generate further emissions to the watercourses.

Atkins Findings	This Screening for Appropriate Assessment report is based on the best available scientific information. It is concluded by the authors of this report that the proposed project poses no likely significant effects on Roaringwater Bay and Islands SAC (000101). Thus, it is recommended that it is not necessary for the proposed project to proceed to Appropriate Assessment.

Findings of TII Appropriate Assessment

Having performed screening for Appropriate Assessment in respect of the proposed reactive maintenance works detailed in this document entitled *Appropriate Assessment Screening – Note TO270/RM02*, 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.

Vincent O'Malley 17/10/2019

Dr. Vincent O'Malley
Head of the Environmental Policy and Compliance Section
Transport Infrastructure Ireland