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**From:** O'Malley Vincent  
**Sent:** Tuesday 12 October 2021 11:18  
**To:** Chamberlain Greg  
**Cc:** Nea Christian  
**Subject:** RE: Re. Tiknock Seawall Repair( WC-N25-502.00)

Greg,  
Having reviewed the content of the Atkins email, I accept the reasoned determination as set out below.  
Sincerely  
Vincent

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**From:** Chamberlain Greg [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday 11 October 2021 13:56  
**To:** O'Malley Vincent [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Nea Christian [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Re. Tiknock Seawall Repair( WC-N25-502.00)

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 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2021, and entitled Re. Tiknock Seawall Repair (WC-N25-502.00) 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

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**From:** O'Donoghue, Paul [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday 1 October 2021 12:30  
**To:** Gregan, John [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Nea Christian [REDACTED]; Daly, Vincent [REDACTED]; Jennings, Martin [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re. Tiknock Seawall Repair

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Greg

## Re. Tiknock Seawall Repair (WC-N25-502.00)

Tiknock Seawall is located on the northern side of Youghal / Blackwater Estuary in Co. Waterford. The seawall separates the N25 from the estuary.

### Proposed Works

In accordance with the Munster Bridge Term Maintenance Contract No. 3, Clause 4.18 the Contractor is required to undertake repairs to the parapet at Tiknock Retaining Wall (WC-N25-502.00). Repairs were carried out to this wall in Year 1 of this contract after a truck crashed through the wall. The previous repair carried out in 2019 is circa 3m away from the current impact damage. Let me know if a copy of this assessment would be of use.

As you can see in the photographs (attached), following a vehicle impact, a short stretch of parapet is collapsed with debris deposited in the bay in front of the wall. The impact damage is over a length of 6.90m x 1.03m high x 0.51m deep. A like for like masonry repair is required matching the existing copping, which in this section is a masonry copping stone (see photo 3 in the attached pdf). The masonry debris is to be removed from the shore in front of the wall and where possible reused in the repair. All vehicle fragments (plastics/glass etc.) on the shore is to be removed and disposed of in accordance with the Contract.

As noted the retaining wall which is to be the subject of proposed repairs is over a short length adjoining the N25 National Primary Road. A full description of works is presented below. The wall is to be repaired on a like for like basis. At the location of the main area of damage some stone will be available for reuse; however imported stone may also be required at this location. The areas of localised masonry loss will require that imported stone matches the existing stone.

### Description of Proposed Works

- Set up TTMP as per plan. The road will be reduced to one lane over the area of works. The Contractor will use the closed off lane to temporarily store materials for the duration of the works. A mobile welfare unit will also be set up in this area.
- Safety barriers to be placed around the works area.
- All works to be planned so that working day is maximised in relation to tide times.
- Life jackets will be used by all workers on site.
- Set up scaffold around works area (CSCS certified). Scaffold will be supported by rakers from the shore and will not have to be attached to the wall.
- Starting at the top of wall remove stone in sections by hand in controlled manner. Old stone will be retained and re-used where possible.
- Stone will be stored on site in tonne bags.
- All stone and mortar which has fallen into the estuary will be removed by hand at low tide.
- Once collapsed area has been removed re-construction works can begin. The damaged section measures 6.9m x 1.03m x 0.51m. The repair will be carried out to match existing.
- Re-instate damaged section of wall.
- Once the damaged section of the wall has been re-built repointing works will then be completed.
- De-mobilisation will begin after the repointing has been completed.
- Materials will be removed off site.
- Scaffolding will then be removed.

- TTMP to be removed when works are fully complete.
- Mortar for new and repointing existing masonry work shall be NHL5 lime mortar Mix Reference (a) in accordance with Table 24/4 of Transport Infrastructure Ireland Publication CC-SPW-02400.
- If the temperature is below 4° no work with lime mortar will be carried out (preparation work such as cleaning/hacking out of joints can still be done).
- All joints to be tamped with stiff brush once mortar is stiff.
- All stonemasons to have attended 'Masonry Arch Bridge Repair Workshop' or be members of the Guild of Master Craftsmen.
- Site clean-up.

Works will take approximately 1 week to complete.

### Ecology Constraints

The seawall adjoins Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC (002170) and Blackwater Estuary SPA (004028). The qualifying interests of these sites are as follows: -

Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC (002170) (NPWS, 2012a)	Blackwater Estuary SPA (NPWS, 2012b)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estuaries [1130]</li> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</li> <li>• Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]</li> <li>• Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]</li> <li>• Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330]</li> <li>• Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]</li> <li>• Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]</li> <li>• Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]</li> <li>• Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]</li> <li>• [REDACTED]</li> <li>• <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092]</li> <li>• <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095]</li> <li>• <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096]</li> <li>• <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099]</li> <li>• <i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> (Twaité Shad) [1103]</li> <li>• <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106]</li> <li>• <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]</li> <li>• <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421]</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050]</li> <li>• Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]</li> <li>• Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142]</li> <li>• Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]</li> <li>• Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]</li> <li>• Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]</li> <li>• Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160]</li> <li>• Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]</li> <li>• Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul>

The area adjoining the sea wall immediately adjoins the annexe I habitat 1130 Estuaries, with areas of 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide located further down the shore (see Map 4 of NPWS, 2012c). The biotope recorded in this area is *Intertidal estuarine sandy mud community complex* (see Map 5 of NPWS, 2012c). Apart from the retrieval of spilt stonework and temporary placement of footings for proposed scaffolding there will be no direct impact to this habitat and no habitat loss associated with the proposed works. There will be no vehicles permitted on the shore. Works will only occur at low tide and hence for the duration of works, repair works to the wall will not be above water. Any disturbance from scaffolding is negligible in scale and does not represent a significant impact to either 1130 Estuaries or 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide.

There are no saltmarsh habitats (see Map 6 of NPWS, 2012c) adjoining the works area. None of the terrestrial habitats and species listed, such as alluvial woodland, oak woodland or Killarney fern are recorded at the works location. As the works area is estuarine it does not support floating river vegetation. Due to the tidal nature of the site, the seawall in this location is not of value to bats or nesting birds; nor does the estuary support Freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) or White-clawed Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*).

The SAC is also listed for a number of fish species (i.e. lamprey species, Twaité shad & Atlantic salmon). As noted, works will be undertaken from scaffolding above water and be of short duration. Mortar for new and repointing existing masonry work shall be NHL5 lime mortar Mix Reference (a) in accordance with Table 24/4 of Transport Infrastructure Ireland Publication CC-SPW-02400 (TII, 2013). No negative impact to water quality is anticipated. Due to the location, scale and nature of proposed works negative impacts to fish within the wider bay are not anticipated.

Otter (*Lutra lutra*) have been widely recorded within the River Blackwater / River Tourig / Youghal Estuary. The works area does not support suitable areas of Otter to holt or to rest up (otter couches). Due to the location, scale and nature of proposed works negative impacts to Otter within the wider bay are not anticipated.

The SPA is designated for intertidal waders (Golden Plover, Lapwing, Dunlin, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Curlew, and Redshank), ducks (Wigeon) and the Wetlands which they use within Youghal Estuary. The main areas for waterbirds on the western side of the estuary are within the Tourig Estuary, eastwards towards the Foxhole and Youghal Mudlands. On the eastern side the estuary at Kinsalebeg as well as the large bank of mudflats running south from the N25 to Ferrypoint are of value. Shorebirds such as Curlew, Redshank and especially gulls do use the mudflats paralleling the N25. However, as noted works will only take ca. 1 week to complete. The works area is at the N25 which carries a significant volume of traffic and associated traffic noise. Access to the shore will be limited only to retrieval of fallen rocks. The proposed works are not expected to add significantly to existing levels of disturbance. Due to the location, scale and nature of proposed works negative impacts to birds within the wider bay are not anticipated.

The estuary side of the wall does not provide suitable habitat for invasive species such as Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), Indian balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) or Giant-rhubarb (*Gunnera tinctoria*). On the landward side the road surface runs up to the seawall. There are no invasive plant species records at the works area.

## References

- NPWS (2012a). Conservation Objectives: Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC 002170. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

- NPWS (2012b). Conservation Objectives: Blackwater Estuary SPA 004028. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
- NPWS (2012c). Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC (site code: 2170). Conservation objectives supporting document - marine habitats. Version 1.0. January 2012.
- TII (2013). Specification for Road Works Series 2400 - Brickwork, Blockwork and Stonework CC-SPW-02400 December 2013.

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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?**

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Paul

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

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