

From: [O'Malley Vincent](#)
To: [Nea Christian](#)
Cc: [Phelan Sarah-Jane](#)
Subject: RE: Re. Easky River Bridge [SO-N59-013.00]
Date: Monday 30 November 2020 15:02:32

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

From: Nea Christian <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday 30 November 2020 11:33
To: O'Malley Vincent <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Phelan Sarah-Jane <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: Re. Easky River Bridge [SO-N59-013.00]

Vincent,
Having reviewed Paul's email below and having regard to the minor nature and extent of the works and the remoteness of any connection to a European site, 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 23rd of November 2020, and entitled 'Re. Easky River Bridge [SO-N59-013.00]', 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,

Christian.

From: O'Donoghue, Paul <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday 30 November 2020 11:15
To: Nea Christian <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: Re. Easky River Bridge [SO-N59-013.00]

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Christian

Good morning. Just wondering if you've had a chance to take a look at Easky River Bridge [SO-N59-013.00]. Contractor is keen to add to works before leaving site if all is in order.

Thanks

Paul

From: O'Donoghue, Paul
Sent: 2020-11-23 15:14
To: Nea Christian <[REDACTED]>
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] O'Malley Vincent
<Vincent.O'Malley@tii.ie>; Phelan Sarah-Jane <[REDACTED]>
[REDACTED]
Subject: Re. Easky River Bridge [SO-N59-013.00]

Christian

Re. Easky River Bridge [SO-N59-013.00]

Easky River Bridge [SO-N59-013.00] is located on the N59 crossing of the River Easky (EPA Code: 35E01) south of Easky; southwest of Dromore West, Co. Sligo. The Easky is a short river which rises to the south of the N59 within Ox Mountains Bogs SAC (002006). It flows northwards through Easky (under the R297) and discharges to the sea on the coast to the east of Iniscrone, Co. Sligo (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Location of Easky River Bridge (circled in red). [Source: NBDC.ie].

Description of damage to parapet wall:

The open area of impact damage where the masonry including copings have dislodged and fallen approximately 4m onto the embankment below measures 3,680mm in length by 950mm high above top of stable masonry just above top of road level at edge of the channel. The section of the base of the wall immediately adjoining the west side of the open area also shows resulting joint separation and minor displacement of masonry where joint separation is evident. This area of damage measures 1,500mm in length by 400mm high.

The section of wall immediately adjoining the east side of the open area shows dislodged and loose masonry, joint separation and perished mortar as well as lateral displacement of coping stones up to 50mm. This area of damage measures 700mm in length and the length of reinstatement of 4 No. coping stones required is 3.5m. The wall measures 475mm thick.

The location of the damaged section of wall was located approximately 3m away from the top of the embankment at the edge of the river at its nearest point (i.e. works are above the embankment not the watercourse – see attached photos).

Proposal to reconstruct section of damaged parapet wall:

The total impact damage described above warrants the damaged section of parapet wall to be fully rebuilt and measures approximately 3.5m³ in volume.

The damaged wall is to be deconstructed to stable material, and then fully reconstructed using hand tools to tie in with the existing parapet wall utilising lime mortars and the existing non-defective stone masonry facings salvaged from the embankment below (using a grab lorry parked and reaching over from carriageway inside a single lane closure at the damaged location) or, if not possible, new locally sourced stone masonry to match existing wall. A scaffold tower will also be erected on the embankment approximately 4m in height to facilitate the reconstruction of the damaged section of wall. The mortar will be mixed away from the structure to prevent contamination of the watercourse. All damaged masonry sections not suitable for re-use and other debris resulting from the damage is to be disposed off-site. Measures should also be implemented to

prevent materials from entering the watercourse during the works. None of the construction works will take place directly above the watercourse but as a precautionary measure silt fencing to control and prevent any pollution of the watercourse will be erected at the edge of the works to intercept any runoff that might arise from the construction works. However, this is to be done to protect water quality in the adjoining watercourse irrespective of the presence / absence of a Natura 2000 site. In this case the Easky River is not within a Natura 2000 site, not is there any Natura 2000 site downstream of the works area.

Ecological Characteristics:

Easky River Bridge is not located within a Natura 2000 site. The river downstream of the bridge is, however, designated in part as Easky River pNHA (001665). The NPWS site synopsis defines the site as: - "This site includes the steeply sloping woodlands on the banks of the Easky River approximately 1 km south of Easky and 5.5 km. north-west of Dromore West. The underlying bedrock is limestone but the river is mainly bordered by glacial drift which are very steeply sloping. ___ The calcareous flushed areas hold interesting plant communities including several unusual species for the area. The woodland has a rich ground flora and is of some importance locally for its bird and mammal populations".

Water quality at Easky Bridge was recorded as Q4-5 (High Quality) by the EPA in 2018. Water quality in the river (WFD) is described as Not at Risk.

The Easky River is not within a Margaritifera Sensitive Area.

There are Otter (*Lutra lutra*) records on the Easky River both upstream (e.g. Buncrowey River near Carraghanally; G407309 in 2005) of the N59 and downstream on the river and seashore at Easky (Source: NBDC).

There are no records of Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), Indian balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) or Giant-rhubarb (*Gunnera* sp.) (Source: NBDC).

The bridge was surveyed for bats in 2020 – report attached. The parapet to be repaired is not suitable for use by roosting bats.

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*
Principal Ecologist
Ireland

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