

Chamberlain Greg

From: O'Malley Vincent
Sent: Monday 7 February 2022 16:26
To: Chamberlain Greg
Cc: Nea Christian
Subject: RE: DL-N56-050.00 (Owenwee Bridge)

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

From: Chamberlain Greg [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday 7 February 2022 15:12
To: O'Malley Vincent [REDACTED]
Cc: Nea Christian [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: DL-N56-050.00 (Owenwee Bridge)

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 7th February, 2022, and entitled Re. DL-N56-050.00 (Owenwee Bridge)] 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

From: O'Donoghue, Paul [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday 4 February 2022 17:23
To: Chamberlain Greg [REDACTED]
Cc: Nea Christian [REDACTED]; Gregan, John [REDACTED]; Daly, Vincent [REDACTED]; Jennings, Martin [REDACTED]
Subject: DL-N56-050.00 (Owenwee Bridge)

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Greg

RE. TO289 Northwest Bridges Reactive Maintenance Works – DL-N56-050.00 (Owenwee Bridge)

The bridge location is illustrated here (bridge location circled in Red).



DL-N56-050.00 (Owenwee Bridge) is located on the N56 between Falcarragh and Dunfanaghy, Co. Donegal. The bridge crosses the Ray River which enters the sea ca. 2km downstream of the bridge. The river in the environs of Owenwee Bridge is not assigned a Water Framework Directive ecological status. Nor is there a Q-value (biological water quality status) assigned to the river in this area. Where the Ray River enters the sea it enters Ballyness Bay SAC (001090).

Existing Damage:

The north end section of the wall has been demolished over a length of 1400mm following vehicular impact from approximately 60mm above adjoining verge level with the resultant debris lying mostly both build-up on top of the remaining wall and spread over the adjoining river embankment where a large section of the damaged coping also lies. Some minor masonry debris was also lying in the watercourse below. The remnants of the damaged section of wall are in disrepair over a further length of 700mm with loose and dislodged stone masonry and joint separation cracking observed along this section of wall. A section of damaged unseated coping remains on top of the wall displaced and measures 2150mm in length and extends over the river by up to 500mm. Some minor localised crash debris notably plastic was noted both on the roadside verge and embankment at the damage location.

The total length of wall to be reconstructed is 2100mm over the embankment below. The wall thickness is 550mm. The total length of damaged concrete faced random rubble stone coping is 3900mm in length, 500mm thick, 300mm high on edge. The height of the wall is 950mm.

Photos of damage attached.

Outline Scope of Permanent Works:

- Remove 2m² of masonry debris including from embankment/watercourse below.
- Reconstruct 0.75m³ of damaged wall.
- Reinstall copings to wall over a length of 3900mm.
- Remove 0.25m² of minor crash debris from roadside verge at location of damage.

The damaged wall is to be deconstructed to stable material, and then fully reconstructed using hand tools to tie in with the existing wall utilising the existing non-defective stone masonry salvaged roadside and from the embankment and watercourse, or if not possible, new locally sourced stone masonry to match existing wall, and lime mortars. The re-construction of the wall is to match existing stone random rubble construction. The mortar for stone masonry 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 to be disposed off-site. Measures will be implemented to prevent materials from entering the watercourse during the works. Works methods are outlined in full in the accompanying Method Statement.

Ecological Characteristics

The stream discharges to Ballyness Bay SAC (002165). The qualifying interests of these sites are as follows: -

- Estuaries [1130]
- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]
- Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]
- Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2120]
- Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]
- Humid dune slacks [2190]
- *Vertigo geyeri* (Geyer's Whorl Snail) [1013]

None of the habitats for which Ballyness Bay SAC has been designated are present in at the works area. The area that the Ray River discharges to is not designated as 1130 Estuaries (see Map 3 of NPWS, 2014). It does, however, discharge to an area of 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by sea water at low tide (see Map 4 of NPWS, 2014); as well as an area of Mobile sand community complex (see Map 5 of NPWS, 2014). The lands adjoining the outfall also include areas of 2130 *Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes') and 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ('white dunes'). There will however be no direct impact to any of these habitats.

With respect to Geyer's Whorl Snail - there is one known site for this species in this SAC within the 1km square B9233 (Ballyness) – 3km west of the bridge (see Map 6 of NPWS, 2014).

Falcarragh to Meenlaragh SPA is located ca. 1.4km to the west of the bridge. This site was is dominated by farmland and is designated for Corncrake (*Crex crex*) [A122]. Works at the bridge are remote from the SPA and would not impact birds within the SPA.

The Ray River is not within a pearl mussel sensitive area. While there are no records of Otter (*Lutra lutra*) from the Ray River in the environs of Ray River they are likely to occur within the river. As noted though works are to repair a parapet above the river with works undertaken from the road. The proposed works are to replace a parapet wall – this is not a suitable roost site for bats.

Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), Indian balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) or Giant rhubarb (*Gunnera* sp.) have not been recorded from the bridge location (Source: NBDC).

As noted, the proposed works are not within a Natura 2000 site, but they are on a small watercourse which discharges to Ballyness Bay SAC. Consequently, no direct or indirect impacts to a Natura 2000 site will occur as a result of the works, either alone or in combination with other projects.

Bibliography

NPWS (2014). Conservation Objectives: Ballyness Bay SAC 001090. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

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. Thus, it is recommended that it is not necessary for the proposed project to proceed to Appropriate Assessment.

Can you please provide a Reasoned Determination?

Paul O' Donoghue *BSc PhD CEnV MCIEEM*

Associate Director, Ecology
Ireland

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