

Phelan Sarah-Jane

From: O'Malley Vincent
Sent: Friday 25 March 2022 17:21
To: Nea Christian
Cc: Watt Robbie; Phelan Sarah-Jane
Subject: RE: Re. RN-N61-002.00 [Boyle River Bridge] – Reactive Maintenance

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

From: Nea Christian <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday 25 March 2022 15:46
To: O'Malley Vincent <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Watt Robbie <[REDACTED]>; Phelan Sarah-Jane <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: Re. RN-N61-002.00 [Boyle River Bridge] – Reactive Maintenance

Vincent,
Having reviewed Paul's email below and having regard to the minor nature and extent of the works and the presence of a buffer distance, 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 24th of March 2022, and entitled 'Re. RN-N61-002.00 [Boyle River Bridge] – Reactive Maintenance', 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: Watt Robbie <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday 25 March 2022 15:34
To: Nea Christian <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: Re. RN-N61-002.00 [Boyle River Bridge] – Reactive Maintenance

Hi Christian,

I have reviewed the below. I agree with the conclusion of no likely significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites.

I'm free this afternoon if you want to discuss the next steps.

Thanks,
Robbie

From: Nea Christian [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday 25 March 2022 11:54
To: Watt Robbie [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Re. RN-N61-002.00 [Boyle River Bridge] – Reactive Maintenance

As discussed.

From: O'Donoghue, Paul [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday 24 March 2022 11:37
To: Nea Christian [REDACTED]
Cc: Daly, Vincent <[REDACTED]>; Jennings, Martin [REDACTED]
Subject: Re. RN-N61-002.00 [Boyle River Bridge] – Reactive Maintenance

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Dear Christian

Re. RN-N61-002.00 [Boyle River Bridge] – Reactive Maintenance

The bridge location is illustrated here (bridge location circled in Red). The bridge is also a protected structure, RPS Ref: 00600352.



RN-N61-002.00 [Boyle River Bridge] is located on the Boyle River in Boyle, Co. Roscommon. Northeast of Boyle, the river (along with the Boyle Canal) enters the southwestern corner of Lough Key. The Lough is not a European site. Lough Gara SPA (004048) is

located ca. 7km to the west of Boyle. The River Boyle is a tributary of the River Shannon. However, it joins the Shannon in its upper reaches at a significant distance from any of the European sites along the main channel of the River Shannon.

Just upstream of the Boyle River Bridge water quality at the Bridge at Boyle Abbey was noted by the EPA to be 'Moderate' (Q3-4); however, this data is quite old – from 1992. Downstream, water quality was noted as being 'Good' (Q4) in 2020 at Drum Bridge (Boat House Ford) where the N4 crosses the Boyle River. The Water Framework Directive status of the Boyle River upstream indicates that water quality is 'Good'; downstream of the N4 it is classified as 'Moderate' (WFD 2013-2018). The EPA categorise water quality upstream of the N4 as 'Not at risk'; while waters downstream are categorised as being 'At Risk'. Water quality in Lough Key is defined as 'Moderate' (WFD 2013-2018).

Summary of Existing Damage:

The stone masonry wall copings extending over a length of 8100mm have been damaged. Copings extending over a length of 6500mm on top of the wall are missing and have fallen into the watercourse below with the top section of the masonry wall under the missing copings demolished over a length of 4900mm to within 300mm above the adjoining footway. Extensive loose masonry in the wall along with extensive loose, cracked or perished mortar joints were observed to the remaining section of wall under the missing copings also to within 300mm above the adjoining footway level. The copings immediately to the north of the missing copings are also partly dislodged as a result of the impact. The masonry wall is constructed of random rubble with square cut stone masonry copings anchored to the top of the wall. The height of the wall is 950mm on average above adjoining footway level. The wall thickness is 500mm. The missing copings or masonry debris resulting from impact were not visible in the watercourse as water levels were high at the time of our inspection. The missing copings are to be salvaged from the watercourse safely as water levels drop and are to be re-used in the re-construction where at all possible, noting in particular the historic significance of the structure.

Photos of damage attached.

Scope of Works:

- Demolish damaged masonry wall to within 300mm of the top of footway level and rebuild damaged wall over a length of 6500mm extending under the missing copings to tie in and match existing wall construction (quantity 1.5m³)
- Reinstall missing stone copings, salvaged from the watercourse (quantity 0.75m³) over a length of 6500mm and reinstall remaining dislodged stone copings to wall (quantity 0.15m³) over a length of 1600mm, total length of reinstatement of copings 8100mm.

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 copings and stone rubble salvaged from watercourse below, or if not possible, new locally sourced stone masonry to match existing wall, and lime mortars. The mortar to 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 should also be implemented to prevent materials or run-off from entering the watercourse during the works.

There will be no instream works. Works will be done from a bridge unit. No scaffold will be used.

Ecological Characteristics

The Boyle River is not within a pearl mussel sensitive area. There are historic records of Otter (*Lutra lutra*) from the Boyle River upstream of the works and from the Boyle Canal downstream of the Boyle River Bridge (Source: NBDC). However, as noted works are to repair a parapet above the river with works undertaken from the road. The parapet wall is not a suitable roost site for bats.

White-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) have been recorded from the Boyle River upstream of Boyle River Bridge in 2002 – Cuppanagh Bridge (G733010) (Source: NBDC; River Biologists' Database (EPA)). There are no records on NBDC from the bridge location (Source: NBDC).

Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) has been recorded from College Road, Boyle (G803023) as recently as 2018; but there are no records from Boyle River Bridge. There are no records of other invasive species such as Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), Indian balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) or Giant rhubarb (*Gunnera* sp.) from the bridge location (Source: NBDC).

As noted, the proposed works are not within a Natura 2000 site. Lough Key to which the Boyle River discharges is also not designated as a European site. 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.

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.

Findings of TII Appropriate Assessment -

Can you please provide a Reasoned Determination?

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

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