



LEINSTER BRIDGES NON-ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

AA Screening Report

Royal Canal Underbridge (WH-N52-004.00)



August 2025



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1. DESCRIPTION OF THE STRUCTURE

Royal Canal Underbridge single-span reinforced concrete beam bridge spanning the Royal Canal and Royal Canal Way path, southeast of Mullingar, Co. Westmeath. The bridge is 31.4m in length. Woodlands are present in the immediate vicinity of the bridge, and the primary land use in the area is agriculture. A vehicle restraint system (VRS) steel connection at the northwestern end of the western parapet is broken and requires replacement. This is displayed in Plate 1 below.

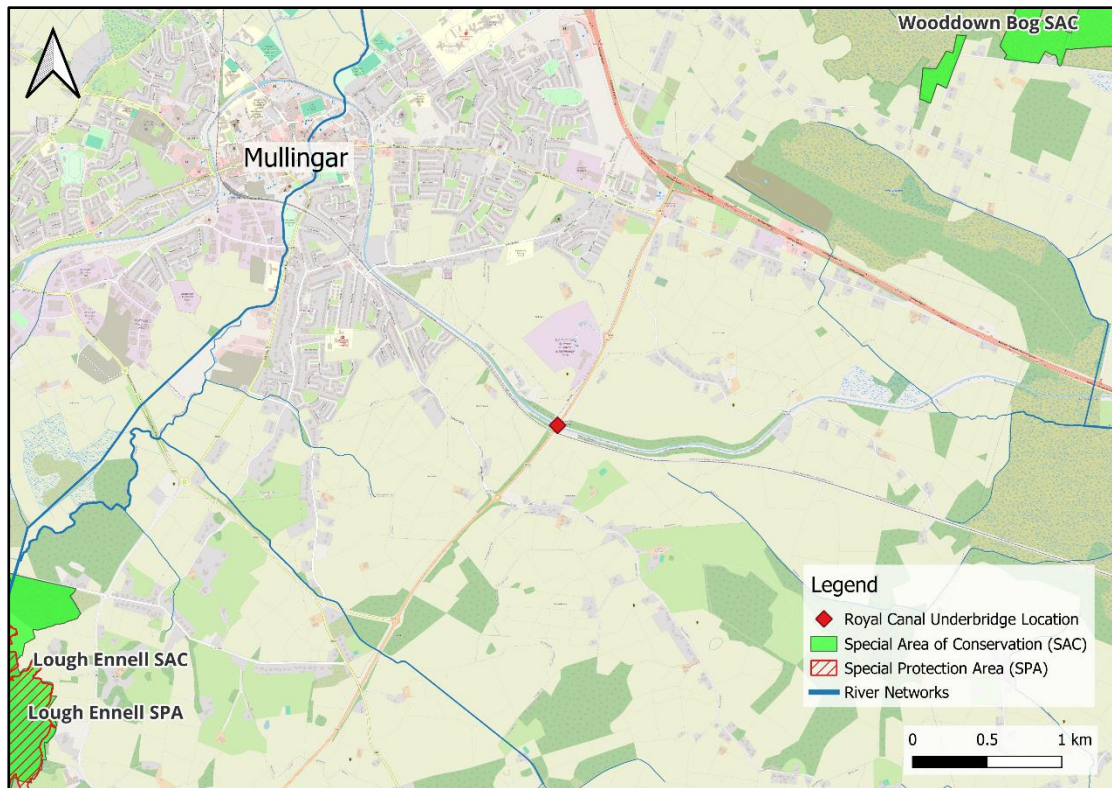
2. PHOTOGRAPHS



Plate 1 Broken VRS steel connection on the northwestern parapet.

3. LOCATION OF THE STRUCTURE

The structure is located on the N52 roadway, and passes over the over the Royal Canal in Co. Westmeath, approximately 1.8km southeast of Mullingar.



4. THE PROPOSED WORKS

The existing VRS steel connection at the end of the bridge parapet on the north-west side has been damaged. This will be removed and taken to a workshop to be used as a template for the new piece. Varioguard will be installed while connection piece is removed for fabrication. The Varioguard will be removed when the new VRS is prepared, the new VRS and bracket will then be installed.

The works will be completed during normal daytime hours, and are projected to take a total of two days to complete.

5. APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING

The table below list Natura 2000 Sites within 15 km of Royal Canal Underbridge.

Site Name	Location relative to Royal Canal Underbridge
Wooddown Bog SAC	3.3km northeast
Lough Ennell SAC	3.4km southwest
Lough Ennell SPA	3.8km southwest
Lough Owel SPA	6.1km northwest
Lough Owel SAC	6.1km northwest
Scragh Bog SAC	7.8km northwest
River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC	11km northeast
Lough Derravaragh SPA	11.2km north
Lough Iron SPA	12.5km northwest
River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA	14km northeast
Mount Hevey Bog SAC	14.2km southeast

6. ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

The proposed works will be undertaken entirely on the bridge deck, and do not create a risk for negative water quality impacts. Given this, the scale of the proposed works, and the distance between the proposed works and the nearest European sites, there will be no impacts to any European sites as a result of the proposed works.

7. CONCLUSION

Considering the nature and scale of the works, the location the European sites, Roughan & O'Donovan can advise TII, as the competent authority, to conclude that the proposed works will not lead to likely significant effects on any European Site.

It is the considered opinion of ROD, that, in making its AA Screening determination in respect of the proposed works, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, as the Competent Authority in this case, may determine that, given the nature and scale of the proposed works, the location of the works relative to European sites, and the sensitivities of the Qualifying Interests of those sites, that the proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is not likely to significantly effect the integrity of any European site.

8. OTHER ECOLOGICAL CONSTRAINTS (NOT RELATED TO APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT)

Designated Sites

The table below list the designated sites, other than European sites, within 15 km of Royal Canal Underbridge.

Site Name	Location relative to Royal Canal Underbridge
Royal Canal pNHA	Overlaps with the proposed works
Wooddown Bog NHA	2.8km northeast
Lough Ennell pNHA	3.4km southwest
Lough Sheever Fen/Slevin's Lough Complex pNHA	3.7km north
Lough Owel pNHA	6.1km northwest
Walshestown Fen pNHA	6.7km northwest
Milltownpass Bog NHA	7.7km southeast
Scragh Bog pNHA	7.8km northwest
Ballynafid Lake And Fen pNHA	9.9km northwest
Lough Derravaragh NHA	10.6km north
Nure Bog NHA	10.6km southwest
Lough Iron pNHA	12.6km northwest
Cloncrow Bog (New Forest) NHA	13.5km southwest
Mount Hevey Bog pNHA	14.2km southeast

Bats

The Royal Canal Underbridge single-span reinforced concrete beam bridge. There are no features which could be used by roosting bats.

Invasive Species

There are no invasive species in the vicinity of the proposed works.