TECHNICAL NOTE

NW Bridge Term Maintenance Contract No. 4

SUBJECT	PROJECT NO.	DATE
Non-Routine Maintenance – Ballina Upper Bridge (MO-N59-001.70)	5219387	27 August 2025

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Client signoff

Client			
Project	NW Bridge Term Maintenance Contract No. 4	**Project No.**	5219387
Client signature / date			

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

AtkinsRéalis have been requested to undertake Stage 1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment for the proposed non-routine maintenance at Ballina Upper Bridge (MO-N59-001.70), located within the town of Ballina, Co. Mayo (Figure 1). The proposed non-routine maintenance involves repairs to the structure, including the removal of fallen stonework within the River Moy following a strike to the bridge (Figure 2). The proposed works are not related to or directly associated with the management of any Natura 2000 site(s).

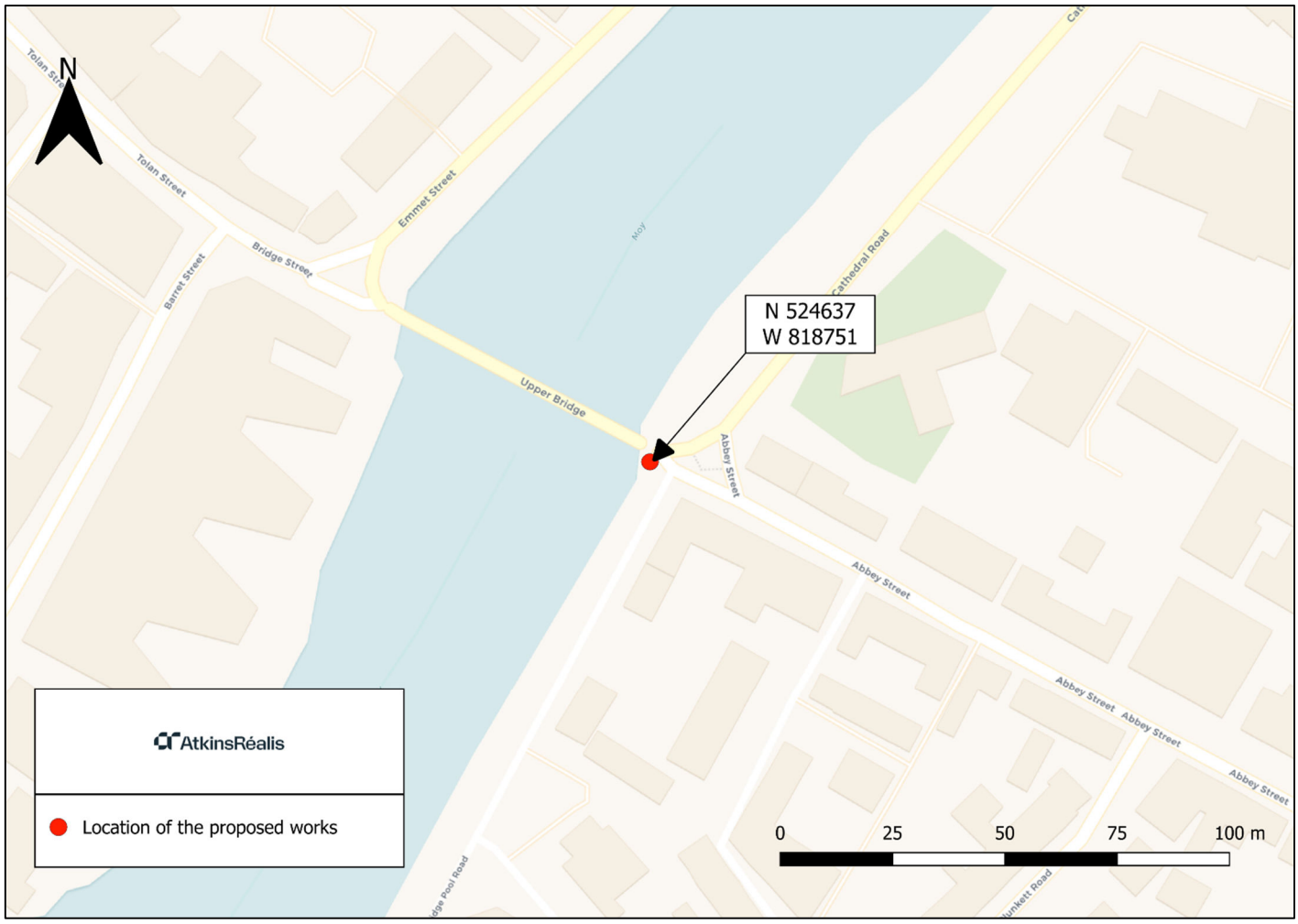

Figure 1: Location of the Ballina Upper Bridge (MO-N59-001.70) within the town of Ballina, Co. Mayo. Coordinates in ITM. [Basemap: Carto].

Figure 2: Damage to the roadside face of the parapet at Ballina Upper Bridge (MO-N59-001.70).

Figure 3: Damage to the riverside face of the parapet at Ballina Upper Bridge (MO-N59-001.70).

1.2 Project Description

A vehicular strike has resulted in damage to the Ballina Upper Bridge, which has also resulted in debris entering into the watercourse of the River Moy. The Ballina Upper Bridge is located within the town of Ballina, Co. Mayo and carries the N59 across the River Moy. The damage resultant of the vehicular strike has reduced the structural integrity of the bridge at certain areas, which requires immediate attention to prevent a further weakening of the structure. The Contractor has been commissioned by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to repair the damage to the bridge structure. The Contractor is expected to mobilise between late August and early September 2025. The total proposed works programme is expected to occur over the course of ten days with traffic times to be consulted to minimise disruption to pedestrian and vehicle traffic over the bridge. Access to the site of the proposed works will be from the junction of the Ballina Upper Bridge and The Brook/Lower Bridge, which will be closed to traffic during the duration of the works in order to facilitate access and create a staging area for the works. The southern pedestrian walkway along the bridge will also be closed as part of this access and staging area. All plant and materials will be removed from the site upon the conclusion of the works.

Part of the proposed works will require the use of machinery above the river channel. Oil absorbent booms and pads, grab ropes and silt trapping booms will be on-site as standard to ensure that there is no input of additional debris or pollutants into the river arising from the proposed works in the event of an oil leak or if silt is disturbed within the river channel. Forecasts will also be consulted prior to commencing works to ensure that high winds or rain do not flush any debris or other material associated with the proposed works into the river channel.

1.3 Works Methodology

The proposed works are of a short duration - ten days in total from pre-works to demobilisation.

1.3.1 Pre Works

- Prior to any works, JONS Engineer will liase with the landowner for access and notify all relevant shareholders (Inland Fisheries Ireland, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Mayo County Council, as appropriate).
- Temporary Works Design and TWDC.
- Application/approval of road closure.
- Notify Gardaí & Mayo County Council Area Engineer.
- Review & prepare Temporary Traffic Management (TTM) requirements.
- Procurement of materials & equipment.

1.3.2 TTM and Scaffold Install

- Before any parapet masonry works commence, TTM system will be setup in accordance with approved TTM drawing. TTM drawing will be provided on approval of NRM works proposal.
- A section of road closure will be required between the junction of The Brook/Lower Bridge & the Upper Bridge. This is primariliy to facilitate build out of a cantilever scaffold to access the outside face of the parapet repair. The footpath

on the south side of the bridge will also require closure with existing crossing points utilized to divert pedestrians. These will be in place for the duration of the works and routinely inspected.

- Prior to building the scaffold access, a hiab/grab will assist with recovering stone from the river. This will be set asside for reuse. A containment float/pontoon will be mobilised to site and staged underneath the repair area. Each unit will be inspected for cleanliness before it is placed in the river as part of routine biosecurity measures. This will be in place to help contain debris from the damaged parapet and scaffold assembly.

- Scaffold platform will be lined tarpaulin/polythene to catch debris on the scaffold and prevent material from falling into the river.

- Scaffold will then be delivered to site and built out in accordance with the temporary works design. As the scaffold floor is built, kelly blocks[1] for counterweight will be delivered to site and set out on the roadside platform. The scaffold will then be built out and a working platform constructed into the parapet.

- A scaffold gang (with qualified CSCS training) will build out the access platform while following their specific RAMS. On completion, the scaffold will be inspected and tagged for use. Routine inspections of the scaffold will take place throughout the duration that it is in position.

- Prior to any break down of the existing parapet back to sound construction, a detailed survey will be carried out and each component identified & labelled to aid the rebuild process. Any shortfall in stone will be supplemented with approved material and finished to match the existing stonework.

[1] Also known as Kentiledge Blocks – i.e. heavy duty concrete weights.

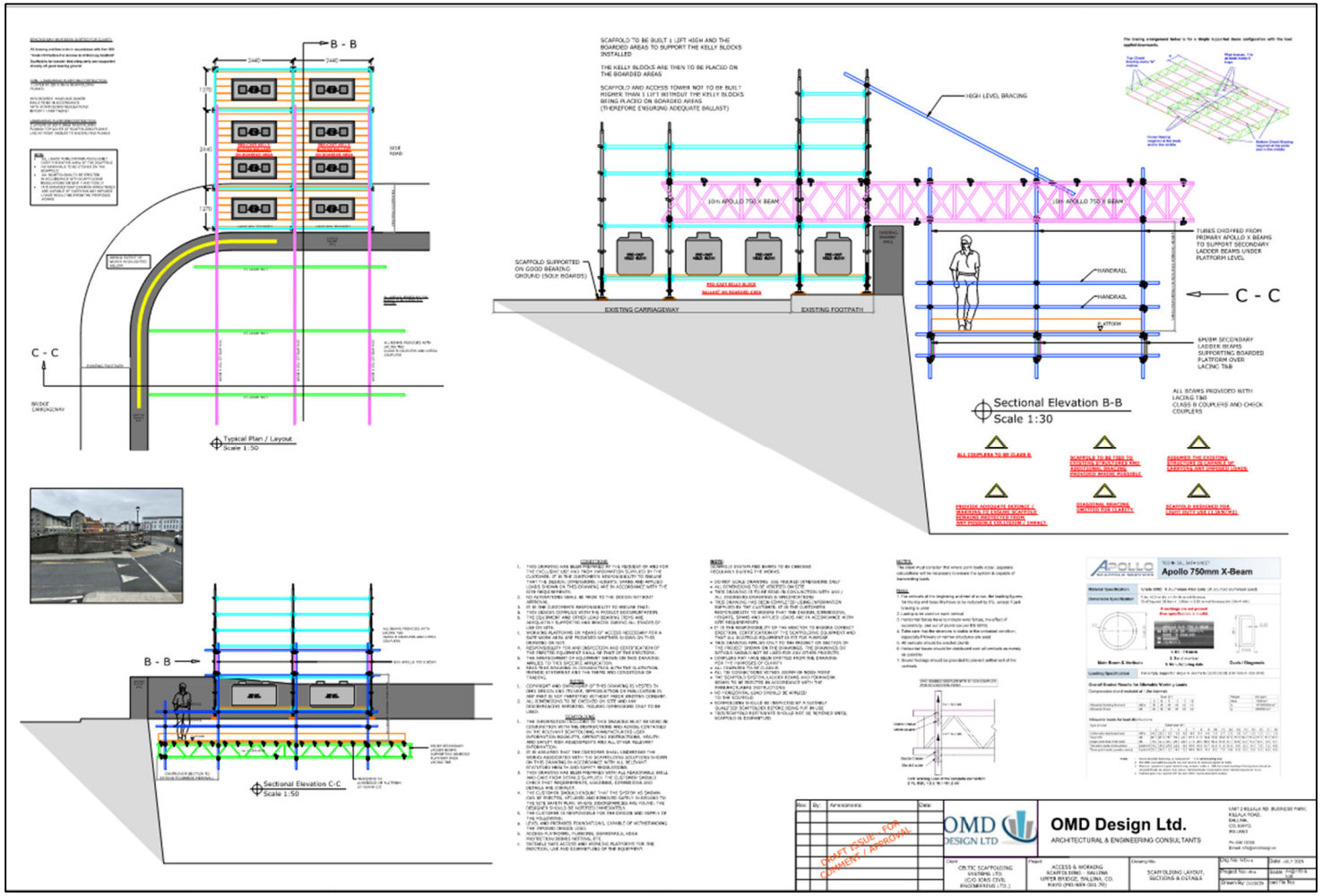

Figure 3: Draft scaffold acces to facilitate repair.

1.3.3 Masonry Repair Works

- Individual masonry stones and copings will be numbered with paint markers (note paint marker markings will wear off in approximately 3 weeks).
- Once numbered, all stonework will be photographed in a 1m x 1m grid pattern. Before any masonry removal works commence, photographs of each grid section will be printed off by JONS engineer and individual stone grid sections will be removed one by one by hand and laid out on wooden pallets adjacent to the wall for rebuilding. A copy of the photo survey will also be issued to the RE in advance of any masonry removal works.
- Any existing damaged stonework will be surveyed in advance and stone will be sourced to match existing including hand punched finishes.
- Specialists stone conservation suppliers "*Irish Natural stone*" will be utilised to supply replacement stone. They have surveyed the existing masonry and have sourced the best possible match.
- Samples of replacement stone will be provided for inspection by the Resident Engineer (RE) prior to works commencing.
- As detailed above the Mason will remove the existing stones one by one, clean off on the surface and set in sequence on adjacent wooden pallets. All loose/damaged stone and mortar will be removed as needed back to sound construction prior to commencing rebuild work.
- The mason will mix mortar as in accordance with Table 24/4 (Mix (a): 1 Lime:2 ½ Sand for NHL5) and rebuild the stone with mortar bedding and pointing between stones to match existing.
- If necessary, vegetation will be removed from existing construction, the joints are to be routed out with a wire brush and cleaned by hand. The joints shall then be dampened and newly mixed lime mortar placed and pointed to match existing joints of the masonry and brushed back to the desired finish.
- Mortar will be mixed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and specification. A cement mixer located within the staging area for the works will be utilised for mixing. Measuring the material for mixing is to be done be with a gauging box or bucket for consistency with quantities.
- Lime mortar to be mixed in accordance with Table 24/4 (Mix (a): 1 Lime:2 ½ Sand for NHL5). Lime mortars mixed in drum mixers can be prone to balling. Procedure for mixing to reduce this potential: -
    - Start with an empty mixer.
    - Add 1 part sand.
    - Mix in 1 part lime.
    - Followed by 1 ½ part sand.
    - Mix dry for at least 5 minutes.

- After 5 minutes slowly add water until the desired consistency is reached, it is very important not to drown the mix by adding too much water.

- Once the desired consistency is reached, mix for a further 20 minutes. The mix, to begin with, should appear rather dry but as mixing time increases the render will become much ‘fattier’. If too much water is added the risk of shrinkage will increase and the final strength reduced. Do not use any Plasticisers/water proofers.

- If the walls are dry, damp down to reduce the effects of suction. This is noted above in the joint preparation prior to pointing.

- Weather conditions to be monitored so that the product does not exceed these requirements and suitable control measures put in place such as correct storage of materials and use of hessian and polythene where low temperatures are expected/experienced.

- When sustained rainfall is forecast/encountered, mason to set up suitable polythene “tenting” to protect works from washing out during pointing/rebuild activities. Completed work for the day to be protected with polythene overnight ensuring it is correctly weighed or tied down.

- Where cold weather conditions are to be encountered, protect the build overnight using hessian sheeting.

- Testing for flexural and compressive strength will be conducted as required by Appendix 24/1 of the Specification. ER to be invited for attendance when sampling and making prisms. In consultation with test house, care to be taken with prism samples so they are correctly transported and stored prior to testing.

- An excavator will aid positioning and placement of the cope stones after parapet reconstruction. Each unit will be lifted into place using synthetic slings and pointed to match the existing parapet. Once complete, the mason will remove the tarpaulin and dispose of the debris off site.

- Once complete a final photographic survey of the rebuilt stonework will be complete and cross check with original numbering completed.

- The TTM will be removed and the works inspected by JCEL Engineers.

1.3.4 Demobilisation

- Once parapet repair works have been inspected by the RE and approved, the scaffold will be taken down and loaded out for removal. TTM can then be removed, reopening side road to the junction with the Upper Bridge, and complete the demobilisation from site.

2. Legislative Background

2.1 Natura 2000

Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora ("the Habitats Directive") is a legislative instrument of the European Union (EU) which provides legal protection for habitats and species of Community interest. Article 2 of the Directive requires the maintenance or restoration of such habitats and species at a favourable conservation status, while Articles 3 to 9, inclusive, provide for the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of special areas of conservation (SACs), known as Natura 2000, which also includes special protection areas (SPAs) designated under Article 4 of Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds ("the Birds Directive"). Both SACs and SPAs are commonly referred to as "European sites" or "Natura 2000 sites".

SACs are selected for natural habitat types listed on Annex I to the Habitats Directive and the habitats of species listed on Annex II to the Habitats Directive. SPAs are selected for species listed on Annex I to the Birds Directive, other regularly occurring migratory species and other species of special conservation interest. The habitats and species for which a Natura 2000 site is selected are referred to as the "*qualifying interests*" of that site and each is assigned a "*conservation objective*" aimed at maintaining or restoring its "*favourable conservation condition*" at the site, which contributes to the maintenance or restoration of its "*favourable conservation status*" at national and European levels.

2.1.1 Appropriate Assessment

Article 6 of the Habitats Directive deals with the management and protection of Natura 2000 sites. Articles 6(3) and (4) set out the decision-making process, known as "*Appropriate Assessment*" (AA), for plans or projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites. Article 6(3) states: -

> *"Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public."*

The first sentence of Article 6(3) provides a basis for determining which plans and projects require AA, i.e., those "*not directly connected with or necessary to the management of* [one or more Natura 2000 sites] *but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects*".

In *Waddenzee* (C-127/02), the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) ruled that significant effects must be considered "*likely*" if "*it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information*", that they would occur. This clearly sets a low threshold, such that AA is required wherever there is a reasonable possibility of significant effects on a Natura 2000 site. In the same judgment, the CJEU established that the test of significance relates specifically to the conservation objectives of the site concerned, i.e., "*significant effects*" are those which, "*in the light, inter alia, of the characteristics and specific environmental conditions of the site*", could undermine the site's conservation objectives.

In addition to the effects of the plan or project on its own, the combined effects arising from the plan or project under consideration and other plans and projects must also be assessed (see Section 7.1 for more details).

The last part of the first sentence of Article 6(3) defines AA as an assessment of the "*implications* [of the plan or project] *for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives*". In the second sentence, Article 6(3) requires that, prior to agreeing to a plan or project, the competent authority must "*ascertain*" that "*it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned*". In *Sweetman v. An Bord Pleanála* (C-258/11), the CJEU ruled that a plan or project "*will adversely affect the integrity of that site if it is liable to prevent the lasting preservation of the constitutive characteristics of the site that are connected to the presence of a priority natural habitat whose conservation was the objective justifying the designation of the site in the list of sites*". On that basis, EC (2018) described the "*integrity of the site*" as "*the coherent sum of the site's ecological structure, function and ecological processes, across its whole area, which enables it to sustain the habitats, complex of habitats and/or populations of species for which the site is designated*". As such, the "*integrity*" of a specific site is defined by its conservation objectives and is "*adversely affected*" when those objectives are undermined. In *Waddenzee*, the CJEU ruled that the absence of adverse effects can only be ascertained "*where no reasonable scientific doubt remains*".

The "*precautionary principle*" applies to all of the legal tests in AA, i.e., in the absence of objective information to demonstrate otherwise, the worst-case scenario is assumed. Where the tests established by Article 6(3) cannot be satisfied, Article 6(4) applies.

2.1.2 Competent Authority

The requirements of Articles 6(3) and (4) are transposed into Irish law by, inter alia, Part 5 of the European Communities (Birds and Natura Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended) ("the Habitats Regulations") and Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) ("the Planning and Development Acts"). As per the second sentence of Article 6(3), it is the "*competent national authorities*" who are responsible for carrying out AA and, by extension, for determining which plans and projects require AA. The competent authority in each case is the entity responsible for authorising a plan or project, e.g., local authorities, An Bord Pleanála, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or a government minister. In all cases, it is the competent authority who is ultimately responsible for determining whether or not a plan or project requires AA and for carrying out the AA, where required.

3. Ecological Assessment

3.1 Ecological Constraints

The proposed works are located along the River Moy (EPA name: Moy 34). At this section of the river, the watercourse is part of the River Moy SAC. This section also lies 313m upstream of the Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC and 2.84km upstream from the Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA, for which there is a hydrological link to both. Therefore, there is hydrological connectivity between the proposed works and three no. Natura 2000 sites.

The River Moy SAC (site code: 002298) consists of the majority of the River Moy catchment area, including the River Moy and its tributaries, and Lough Conn / Lough Cullin. The River Moy SAC is designated for seven no. habitats, namely *Lowland hay meadows (*Alopecurus pratensis*,* Sanguisorba officinalis*) [6510], Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Depressions on peat substrates of the* Rhynchosporion *[7150], Alkaline fens [7230], Old sessile oak woods with* Ilex *and* Blechnum *in the British Isles [91A0]* and *Alluvial forests with* Alnus glutinosa *and* Fraxinus excelsior *(*Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae*) [91E0]* (see - https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/002298). None of the habitats for which the SAC has been designated are located within the vicinity of the proposed works, with the closest recorded examples lying greater than 20km upstream of the site of the proposed works. The River Moy SAC is also designated for five no. species, namely *Austropotamobius pallipes* (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092], *Petromyzon marinus* (Sea Lamprey) [1095], *Lampetra planeri* (Brook Lamprey) [1096], *Salmo salar* (Salmon) [1106], and *Lutra lutra* (Otter) [1355] (see - https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/002298). Given the mobile nature of these species, there is potential for them to occur within the immediate vicinity of the proposed works.

The Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC (site code: 000458) is situated within the estuarine portion of the River Moy, and Killala Bay. The Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC is designated for ten no. habitats, namely *Estuaries [1130], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130],* and *Humid dune slacks [2190]* (see -https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/000458). None of the habitats for which the SAC has been designated are located within the vicinity of the proposed works, with the closest recorded example lying approximately 4.3km downstream of the site of the proposed works The Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC is also designated for three no. species, namely *Vertigo angustior* (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014], *Petromyzon marinus* (Sea Lamprey) [1095], and *Phoca vitulina* (Harbour Seal) [1365] (see - https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/000458). There is no suitable habitat for *Vertigo angustior* (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) within the immediate vicinity of the proposed works. Given the life cycle of *Petromyzon marinus* (Sea Lamprey) [1095], and the mobile nature of *Phoca vitulina* (Harbour Seal) [1365], these species may occasionally occur within the immediate vicinity of the proposed works.

The Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA (site code: 004036) is situated within the estuarine portion of the River Moy, and Killala Bay. The Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA is designated for zero no. habitats and nine no. species, namely Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) [A137], Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140], Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141], Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) [A144], Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149], Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157], Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) [A160], Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162], and Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] (see - https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/spa/004036). Given the mobile nature of these species, there is potential for them to occur in the immediate vicinity of the proposed works.

The water quality of the River Moy at the site of the proposed works has not been assessed. The closest Q-Value monitoring station is located 220m upstream of the bridge structure, receiving a score of 4/Good in 1993. A more recent value has been obtained from a monitoring station 293m upstream of the bridge structure, receiving a score of 3-4/Moderate in 2022.

The River Moy supports a population of Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*), with suitable spawning ground present at numerous sites along the River Moy. However, there are no records of Atlantic Salmon within the immediate vicinity of the proposed works. There are also no records of nesting birds or bat roosts within the immediate vicinity of the bridge structure. Records of Redshank (*Tringa totanus*), White-clawed Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) and Sea Lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*) exist within 1km of the site of the proposed works. While there may be a slight disturbance to fish present within the vicinity of the proposed works, the methodology to be followed ensures that there will be no disturbance to spawning habitat on the riverbed. For avian species, the urbanised nature of the environment surrounding the bridge structure means that any temporary disturbance caused during the proposed works will not significantly increase the normal levels of disturbance experienced by fauna within the area. The proposed works will not hinder any foraging opportunities within the River Moy SAC given the availability of more suitable foraging habitat in other, less-urbanised areas of the SAC.

High impact invasive species including Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*) have been recorded within 1km of the site of the proposed works. A low-impact invasive species, the Winter Heliotrope (*Petasites fragrans*) has been recorded 300m downstream of the bridge structure. (Source: NBDC Biodiversity Maps - https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/Map/Terrestrial/Dataset/397).

3.2 Potential In-Combination Effects

3.2.1 Background

The scope of the assessment of in-combination effects extends to all plans and projects affecting the same conservation objectives as the plan or project under consideration, irrespective of whether those effects are significant or not. The geographic scope of the in-combination assessment covered all areas which influence the conservation condition of the qualifying interests of these sites, which was taken to be the River Moy from 100m upstream of the proposed works to the point at which it discharges into Killala Bay, where dilution effects would negate any likely significant effect on relevant Natura 2000 sites and their Qualifying Interests.

Any non-significant effects arising from disturbance to habitats or species, or water quality impacts, will be brief or temporary, i.e. there will be full recovery of any effects within one year. Any non-significant effects arising from changes to the flooding regime or hydromorphology will be fully recovered in the short term, i.e. within seven years (likely within five years). On that basis, it was considered appropriate to include all existing plans, projects and ongoing activities, projects under construction, approved or awaiting planning decisions, activities awaiting licensing, and any additional future plans or projects for which there is sufficient information available at this stage to allow for meaningful consideration of the potential in-combination effects.

3.2.2 Sources of Information

The following sources of information were consulted to gather information on other plans and projects:

- Mayo County Development Plan (2022-2028)

- Mayo County Council Planning Viewer (https://www.mayo.ie/planning/search)
- *National Planning Application Database* (NPAD) (https://www.myplan.ie/national-planning-application-map-viewer/)
- *EIA Portal* (https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-housing-local-government-and-heritage/services/eia-portal/#view-the-eia-portal)
- *Flood Maps* (https://www.floodinfo.ie/map/floodmaps/)

3.2.3 Assessment

3.2.3.1 Plans

The Mayo County Development Plan (2022-2028) sets out the vision, core strategy, aims and policy objectives for the proper planning and sustainable development of County Mayo. The plan was subject to AA, including the preparation of a Natura Impact Report, which assessed, at a strategic level, the implications of the plan for relevant Natura 2000 sites. The policy objectives in the Mayo County Development Plan contribute to mitigating the negative effects of development on the counties watercourses and other Natura 2000 sites and provide for the enhanced resilience of these sites through the development of green infrastructure/ecological networks. Therefore, there will be no adverse effects from the proposed works in combination with this plan, which will itself mitigate any in-combination effects arising from other projects.

3.2.3.2 Projects

A search of the EIA Portal, focusing on areas within the geographic scope of the assessment as outlined above identified one project which required and provided Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). This project relates to a flood relief scheme which involves works at a number of areas along the River Moy and its tributaries. While many of the potential impacts of the works items within this project overlaps with the proposed works at Ballina Upper Bridge, they have undergone prior assessment and have not been deemed as creating any likely significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites. Furthermore, due to the nature of the works occurring both within and outside of the watercourse, the works will not occur simultaneously, and the small scale of works at each stage will further reduce the potential for in-combination effects. Searches of the Mayo County Council Planning Viewer and found that, since 1st January 2020, there have been ca. 400 no. planning applications to the local authority for projects within c. 1km of the River Moy in the geographic scope of the assessment.

The nature and scale of these projects vary considerably but include domestic projects such as retention of existing dwelling houses and associated structures, or modifications to same, or the construction of new domestic dwellings or extensions to dwellings, including new connections to the public wastewater network, or associated septic tanks or other on-site treatment. Regarding potential impacts to water quality, such projects must comply with the EPA's Code of Practice for Wastewater Treatment Systems for Single Houses (EPA, 2009, 2018, 2021).

3.2.3.3 Licensed Activities

A review of licensed activities through EPA Maps found that there are 3 no. activities licences by the EPA within the Zone of Influence of the proposed works. These activities related to manufacturing industries and landfill sites. Based on the nature and scale of these activities, a risk of significant in-combination effects on Natura 2000 sites via water quality impacts must be considered. However, given the conditions attached to the IPC and IE licences and enforcement of the same by the EPA, and the very low risk of any significant water quality impacts to the River Moy or any relevant Natura

2000 sites from the proposed works, there is not likely to be any significant effects in combination with these activities from the proposed works.

3.2.3.4 Other Activities

Farmers and landowners undertake general agricultural operations in areas adjacent to the River Moy and its tributaries that could potentially give rise to effects on the same qualifying interests the proposed works. Most such operations are periodic, not continuous, and qualify as "*activities requiring consent*" that require prior consultation with the NPWS, e.g. reclamation, infilling or land drainage within 30 m of a river, removal of trees or any aquatic vegetation within 30m of a river, and harvesting or burning of reed or willow (NPWS, 2025a). Such operations must also comply with the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Agriculture) Regulations, 2011 (as amended) in relation to:

- Restructuring of rural land holdings,
- Commencing use of uncultivated land or semi-natural areas for intensive, and
- Land drainage works on lands used for agriculture.

Stage 2 AA is required under Section 9 of those Regulations if the activity is likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site. The drainage or reclamation of wetlands is controlled under the Planning and Development (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 2011 and the European Communities (Amendment to Planning and Development) Regulations, 2011. Therefore, any in-combination effects from agricultural operations and the proposed works are not likely to be significant.

3.3 Conclusion

As detailed in the preceding sections, it can be concluded that, based on the small scale of the proposed works and the brief duration of both the works themselves and any impacts arising from them, they will not give rise to likely significant effects on the River Moy SAC or any other Natura 2000 site, in combination with other plans or projects.

4. Conclusion

The proposed works will occur within one no. designated sites, the River Moy SAC. There is also hydrological connectivity to the Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC and the Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA. However, the works are of a short duration (ten days in total from pre-works to demobilisation) and the methodology to be followed ensures that the risk of additional debris or pollutants entering the river channel is low. Furthermore, the routine biosecurity measures to be followed ensure that the spread of invasive species will be unlikely to occur.

Stage 1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment is based on the best available scientific information. If the scope of the proposed works changes, a new screening determination may be required. It is concluded that the works, as currently proposed, will result in no likely significant effects on the aforementioned 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.

5. References

- Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna. Official Journal of the European Communities L 206/7-50.
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