

Nea Christian

From: O'Malley Vincent
Sent: Thursday 6 February 2020 16:10
To: Nea Christian
Subject: RE: Re. Reactive Maintenance – WC-N72-004.00

Christian,
Following a review of Atkins email and associated attachments, I accept the reasoned determination as set out below.
Sincerely
Vincent

Dr. Vincent O'Malley,
Head of Environmental Policy & Compliance,
Parkgate Business Centre,
Parkgate Street,
Dublin,
D08 DK10,
Ireland,

www.tii.ie

From: Nea Christian [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday 6 February 2020 11:33
To: O'Malley Vincent [REDACTED]
Cc: Phelan Sarah-Jane [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Re. Reactive Maintenance – WC-N72-004.00

Vincent,

Having reviewed Paul's email below and the associated attachments and having regard to the minor nature of the works and the distance to any European sites, 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 PhD dated the 30th of January 2020, and entitled 'Re. Reactive Maintenance – WC-N72-004.00', I accept the recommendations of Atkins Limited 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.

Christian Nea B.E., LL.B., LL.M., C.Eng., M.I.E.I.
Chartered Engineer

Senior Engineer (Environment)

From: O'Donoghue, Paul [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday 30 January 2020 10:33

To: Nea Christian [REDACTED]; O'Malley Vincent [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

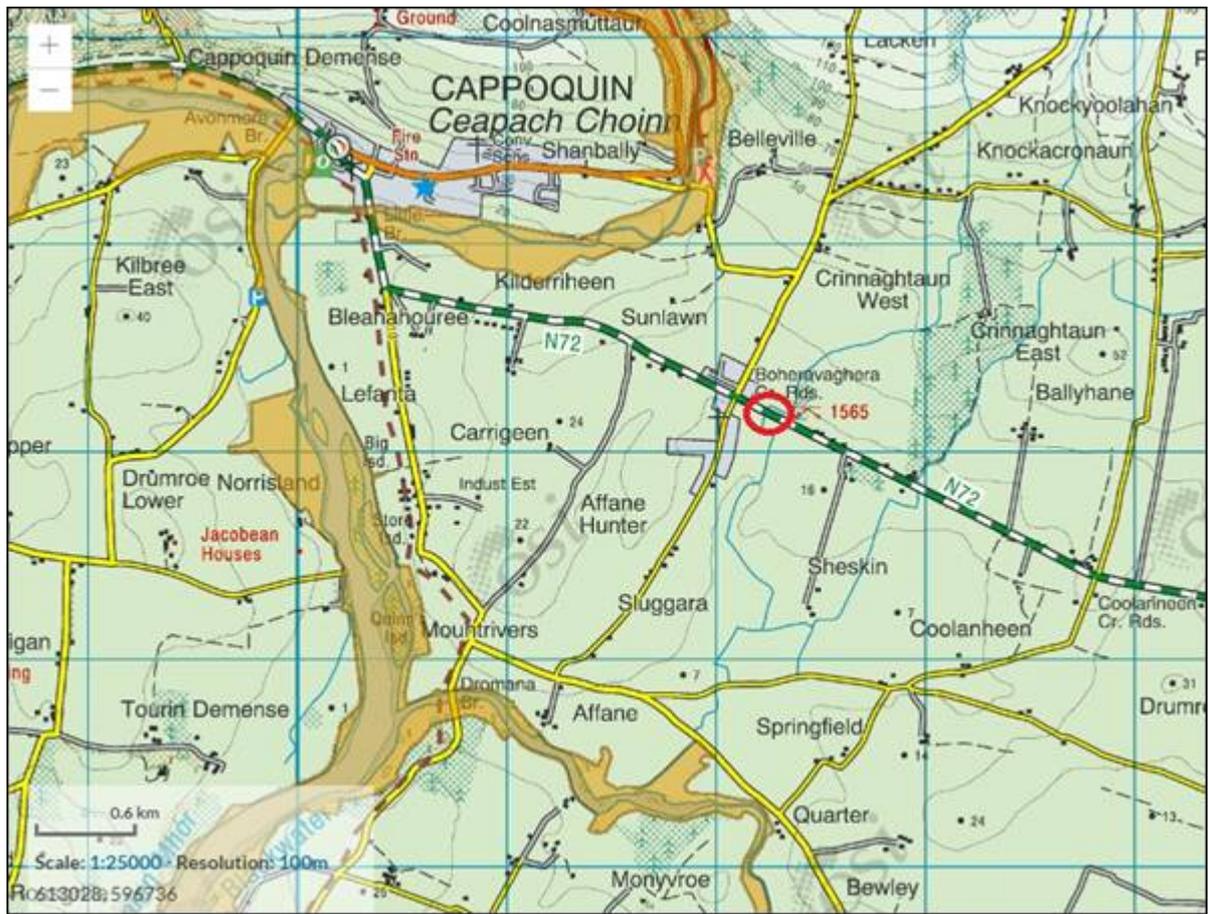
Subject: Re: Reactive Maintenance – WC-N72-004.00

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Christian

Re. Reactive Maintenance – WC-N72-004.00

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



(Source: NBDC map viewer).

Reactive maintenance works are required at Boheravaghera Bridge, Co. Waterford (WC-N72-004.00). This is located ca. 2km southeast of Cappoquin, Co. Waterford on the N72 (see map above). The structure is a small masonry bridge, with a single small masonry arch alongside a pipe. Scour has resulted in the partial collapse of the downstream pier (see attached photos). The structure is earmarked for replacement in the near future so an effective temporary solution is required in the short term. The favoured option is to excavate 500mm below existing bed level and shutter the pier to support the arch and protect against

further scour. The adjacent pipe is also undermined; to protect against deterioration it is proposed to install a concrete base in front/under the pipe outlet. See attached photographs of the damage. Attached also is an image from Google StreetView (© Google) which illustrates the scale of the bridge and stream (from 2009).

The stream is labelled the Moneygorm_010 on EPA Maps. It is not assigned a WFD Waterbody status by the EPA; nor is water quality in the stream monitored by the EPA. Water quality in the Finisk River (upstream of its confluence with Moneygorm_010) is classified by the EPA as Q4 – Good (at Kilmolash Bridge on FINISK_030; 2018).

It is effectively proposed to undertake all works in the dry by directing the river through the arch and pipe in turn; this approach is an integral part of the design of the works to facilitate them being safely undertaken. A copy of the Contractors Method Statement is attached. This sets out works under Water Management and Arch & Pier Repair. The 2nd reference to Arch & Pier Repair should read Pipe Repair. Works will take 3-5 days to complete.

Note: A separate derogation licence application is to be submitted to Inland Fisheries Ireland to facilitate completion of the works as soon as is practical.

As noted in the Method Statement should water be retained in the dammed area this is to be electrofished by an appropriately qualified ecologist (such as IFI, if available) to remove any fish from the works area.

Ecological Characteristics

The bridge is not within a SAC or SPA; nor is it within a NHA/pNHA. It spans a small stream (Moneygorm_010) which flows south to join the Finisk River, a tributary of the main channel of the River Blackwater. As noted above the bridge is ca. 1.8 km upstream of the Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC (002170) SAC and Blackwater River And Estuary pNHA (000072). The Blackwater Estuary SPA (004028) is located a significant distance downstream, starting just north of Youghal.

Qualifying interests of the Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC (002170): -

[1130] Estuaries

[1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide

[1220] Perennial vegetation of stony banks

[1310] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand

[1330] Atlantic salt meadows (*Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima*)

[1410] Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*)

[3260] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation

[91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles

[91E0] Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*)

[1092] *Austropotamobius pallipes* (White-clawed Crayfish)

[1095] *Petromyzon marinus* (Sea Lamprey)

[1096] *Lampetra planeri* (Brook Lamprey)

[1099] *Lampetra fluviatilis* (River Lamprey)

[1103] *Alosa fallax fallax* (Twaite Shad)

[1106] *Salmo salar* (Salmon)

[1355] *Lutra lutra* (Otter)

[1421] *Trichomanes speciosum* (Killarney Fern)

The SAC is designated for a number of coastal habitats, such as estuaries, which due to the location of the works will not be impacted. Habitats such as Old sessile oak woods or Alluvial forests are not located at, or close to, the works area. There are no records of Killarney Fern from this location. There are no records of White-clawed Crayfish from the stream (Source; NDBC). While Otter occurs widely within the River Blackwater catchment the proposed works, are of short duration and will not restrict access to the river by Otter.

The bridge is not in a *Margaritifera* Sensitive Area and there are no records of FWMP at the bridge or downstream of it.

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

Works to the bridge are within the area covered by river water - hence no risk to bats from its removal.

As noted, the proposed works include repair to a damaged masonry on the bridge. Works will be of short duration (3-5 days). By working in the dry on each arch / pipe in turn no impact to the water quality status of the nearby stream, Finisk River or River Blackwater should occur as a result of the works. Consequently, no direct impacts to qualifying interests of the SAC will occur as a result of the works.

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 MIEEM
Principal Ecologist
Ireland

Québec, Canada, H2Z 1Z3. A list of Atkins Group companies registered in the United Kingdom and locations around the world can be found at <http://www.atkinsglobal.com/site-services/group-company-registration-details>

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