

From: [O'Malley Vincent](#)
To: [Nea Christian](#)
Cc: [Phelan Sarah-Jane](#)
Subject: RE: Re. Reactive Maintenance works at GC-N60-002.00 (Castlereagh Bridge)
Date: Wednesday 21 October 2020 09:34:05

Christian,
Having reviewed the content and attachments of Atkins email, I accept the reasoned determination as set out below.
Sincerely
Vincent O'Malley

From: Nea Christian <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday 16 October 2020 12:28
To: O'Malley Vincent <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Phelan Sarah-Jane <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: Re. Reactive Maintenance works at GC-N60-002.00 (Castlereagh Bridge)

Vincent,
Having reviewed Paul's email below and having regard to the remoteness of any pathway or connection to a European site and the minor nature and extent 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 16th of October 2020, and entitled 'Re. Reactive Maintenance works at GC-N60-002.00 (Castlereagh 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,
Christian.

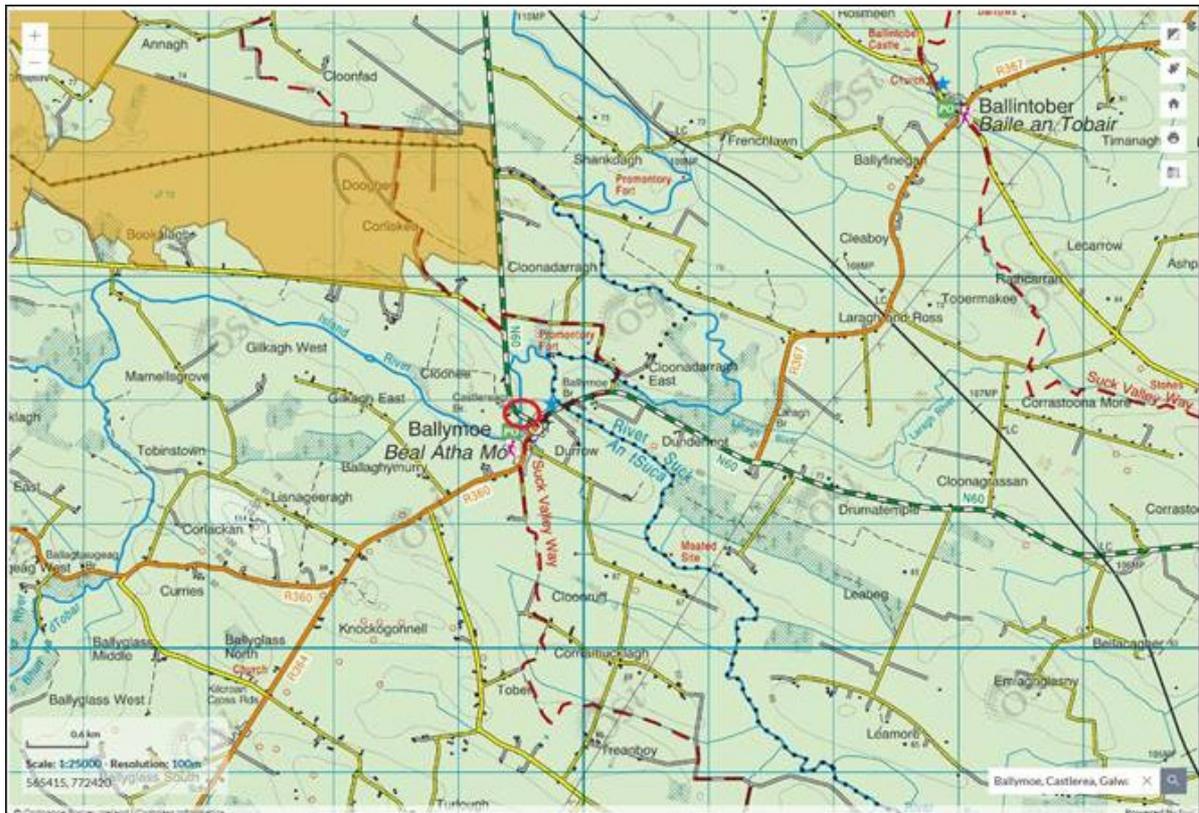
From: O'Donoghue, Paul <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday 16 October 2020 11:50
To: Nea Christian <[REDACTED]>
Cc: O'Malley Vincent <[REDACTED]>; Phelan Sarah-Jane <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re. Reactive Maintenance works at GC-N60-002.00 (Castlereagh Bridge)

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Christian

Re. Reactive Maintenance works at GC-N60-002.00 (Castlereagh Bridge)

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



It is proposed to remove 2 no. fallen trees at GC-N60-002.00 Castlereagh Bridge – see attached photographs. Castlereagh Bridge is located in the village of Ballymoe, Co. Galway (this is located just south of the Galway – Roscommon border / south of Castlereagh, Co. Roscommon).

Proposed Works:

The proposed method for cutting and removal of fallen trees is as follows: -

- Setup Traffic Management system
- A Rubber tracked 13tn excavator with Grapple saw attachment will be parked adjacent to parapet on the roadside above the river
- Fallen trees (see photos above) are to be grabbed and cut from roadside with the offcuts loaded into JCEL pickup truck (also parked on the bridge) for removal from site. This approach removes the risk of disturbing the vegetation along the riverbank, which would otherwise be required to access the fallen trees
- 3 no. staff will be required to undertake the work.

Ecological Characteristics:

The bridge is on the Island River, a tributary of the River Suck (i.e. within the EPA catchment - Suck_SC_020). The bridge is not within an SAC or SPA. Corliskea/Trien/Cloonfelliv Bog SAC (002110) is located to the northwest of Ballymoe and will not be impacted by the proposed works (shown in orange on the image above). It is located >15km upstream of the River Suck Callows SPA (004097). Not within a pNHA / NHA.

No freshwater pearl mussel are present.

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).

Otter have not been recorded at Castlereagh Bridge; but have been recorded from Ballymoe Bridge on the River Suck (M698719; in 2015) and are likely to use the Island River. (Source: NBDC).

As noted, all works will take place on the bridge deck and be of short duration. Works will not prevent safe upstream and downstream movement of otter. No impact to otter using the watercourse is therefore predicted. There are no works to the bridge itself. No impact on bats is anticipated.

Negative impacts to Natura 2000 sites are not anticipated.

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*
Principal Ecologist
Ireland

[Redacted]

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