

Chamberlain, Greg

From: O'Malley Vincent [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
To: Chamberlain, Greg
Cc: Nea Christian
Subject: RE: Re. CN-N03-018.00 (Ballachanea Bridge)

Greg,
Having reviewed the content of the email related to the proposed repairs to the Ballachanea Bridge from Atkins, I am happy to accept the reasoned determination as set out below.
Sincerely
Vincent

From: Chamberlain, Greg [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday 28 January 2021 09:43
To: O'Malley Vincent [REDACTED]
Cc: Nea Christian [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Re. CN-N03-018.00 (Ballachanea Bridge)

Vincent

Having reviewed Paul's email below and having regard to the very minor nature 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 24th of January, 2021, and entitled 'Re. Reactive Maintenance works at CN-N03-018.00 Ballachanea 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
Greg

From: O'Donoghue, Paul [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday 24 January 2021 15:24
To: Nea Christian [REDACTED]
Cc: O'Malley Vincent [REDACTED] Phelan Sarah-Jane [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; Sweeney, Niamh [REDACTED]
Subject: Re. CN-N03-018.00 (Ballachanea Bridge)

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Christian

Re. CN-N03-018.00 (Ballachanea Bridge)

CN-N03-018.00 (Ballachanea Bridge) is located on the N3 to the southeast of Virginia, Co. Cavan – as shown on Figure 1.



Figure 1. Location of Ballachanea Bridge (circled in red). [Source: NBDC.ie].

Description of damage to parapet wall:

Reactive Maintenance Proposal - It is proposed to rebuild, following impact damage, the east parapet wall to CN-N03-018.00 (Ballachanea Bridge); refer to the attached photos. The overall damage to the parapet wall measures 9m in length and extends above the watercourse. The overall height of the damaged wall includes 300mm high capping stones measures 450mm. The thickness of the wall measures 460mm.

The damage comprises:-

- Missing capping stones to the wall measuring 1.8m in length directly over the watercourse and the centre span of the Structure. The missing capping stones were not visible in the watercourse during the course of a recent site visit. Capping stones over a total length 5.8m are displaced outward by up to 100mm generally either side of the missing capping stones.
- Loose facing stones (traffic face) to the wall height below the capping stones with sections of the wall facing (traffic face) over a length of 7.6m of damage to the wall. Loose and displaced facing stones were also noted over the parapet height below the displaced capping stones along the length of damaged wall on the stream

face. The parapet wall height above carriageway level to underside of capping stones measures 150mm generally.

Proposal to reconstruct section of damaged parapet wall:

Please see attached Method Statement.

The damaged wall is to be deconstructed to stable material at carriageway level, and then fully reconstructed including the reinstatement of capping stones using hand tools to tie in with the existing parapet wall utilising the existing non-defective stone masonry or, if not possible, new locally sourced stone masonry to match existing wall, and lime mortars. The reinstatement of capping stones to the rebuilt wall is to match the capping stones to the existing wall. The mortar is 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 in accordance with all relevant legislative requirements. Measures should also be implemented to prevent materials from entering the watercourse during the works – of particular note is measures taken during any reconstruction of the wall over the watercourse. Silt fencing to control and prevent any pollution of the watercourse should be erected in the vicinity of the top of the edge of the stream banks, as necessary, to intercept any runoff that might arise from the construction works. This is not intended to protect the downstream European sites, but water quality locally within Lough Ramor.

The impact damage that warrants the damaged section of wall to be rebuilt over a length of 7.6m measures 1.7m3 and includes reinstatement of capping stones. A section of wall measuring 1.4m in length adjoining the north end of damaged wall to be rebuilt warrants repointing over an area of 0.7m2 to the traffic face of the wall. A localised section of wall (within the length of damage to the wall) extending up to 400mm below the capping stones and over a length of 600mm northwards from the springing to north arch requires localised masonry repairs (ref photo 2111 attached).

Ecological Characteristics:

CN-N03-018.00 (Ballachanea Bridge) is not located within a Natura 2000 site. The N3 runs along the eastern side of Lough Ramor in this area. At its southern end water exits the lake via the River Blackwater, part of River Boyne And River Blackwater SAC (002299) (Figure 1). The river is also designated as River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA (004232). The bridge to be repaired is located on stream named Lislea_010 by the EPA [Source: EPA Maps - <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>]; a 3rd order watercourse. The EPA assigned a water quality status of Good (Q value – 4) when last sampled in 2018; its WFD status is defined as Not at Risk. Water quality in Lough Ramor is described as being At Risk; its WFD status is defined as Poor.

The River Boyne And River Blackwater SAC is designated for: -

- Alkaline fens [7230]
- Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*) [91E0]
- *Lampetra fluviatilis* (River Lamprey) [1099]
- *Salmo salar* (Salmon) [1106]
- *Lutra lutra* (Otter) [1355]

River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA is designated for: -

- Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) [A229]

The habitats for which the SAC has been designated are not located at Ballachanea Bridge (see attached photos). Both River Lamprey and Salmon potentially could potentially occur within the Lislea_010 Stream. Otter have been recorded extensively around Lough Ramor and associated watercourses. Otter was recorded in 1982 close to the outlet of Lislea_010 Stream to Lough Ramor (downstream of the bridge; N621862) (Source: NBDC; Otter survey of Ireland 1982 - Vincent Wildlife Trust).

There are no records of Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), Indian balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) or Giant-rhubarb (*Gunnera* sp.) (Source: NBDC).

The Lislea_010 Stream is not within a Margaritifera Sensitive Area.

The bridges was assessed as not being suitable to support bats. The parapet to be repaired is not suitable for use by roosting bats

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, 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.

Findings of TII Appropriate Assessment -

Can you please provide a Reasoned Determination?

Paul O' Donoghue *BSc PhD CEnV MCIEEM*
Principal Ecologist
Ireland



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