

Phelan Sarah-Jane

From: O'Malley Vincent
Sent: Friday 22 April 2022 10:36
To: Nea Christian
Cc: Phelan Sarah-Jane; Watt Robbie
Subject: RE: Re. MO-N59-028.00 [Knockmoyleen Bridge] - Reactive Maintenance

Christian,
I accept the reasoned determination as set out below.
Sincerely
Vincent

From: Nea Christian <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday 21 April 2022 16:35
To: O'Malley Vincent <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Phelan Sarah-Jane <[REDACTED]>; Watt Robbie <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: Re. MO-N59-028.00 [Knockmoyleen Bridge] - Reactive Maintenance

Vincent,

Robbie has reviewed below and has made the following comments:

"On review of the description of the works and the source-pathway-receptor connectivity between European sites/qualifying features I would agree that the works would not result in likely significant effects on European sites.

There is the potential that otter resting sites may be present within the ZoI for disturbance from the works. This ZoI would be relatively small as works comprise the use of hand tools only. As otter resting sites are afforded protection under Annex IV of the Habitats Directive a pre-construction survey may be prudent. Regardless, I don't consider that short-term potential disturbance effects on otter would constitute an LSE in respect to their conservation objectives."

Having reviewed Paul's email below and Robbie's comments and having regard to the minor nature and extent of the works and the presence of a buffer distance, 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 14th of April 2022, and entitled 'Re. MO-N59-028.00 [Knockmoyleen Bridge] - Reactive Maintenance', 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: Thursday 14 April 2022 17:18

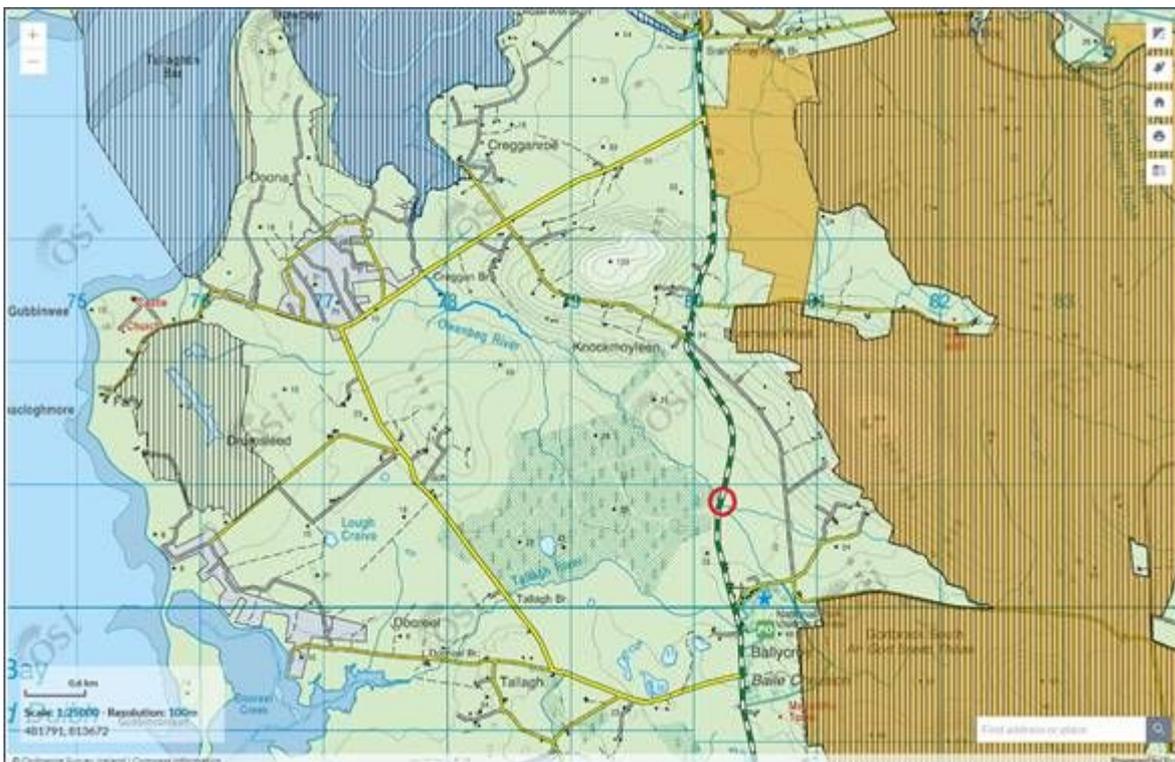
To: Nea Christian <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Daly, Vincent <[REDACTED]>; Jennings, Martin <[REDACTED]>; ROGER RYAN (NRDO) <[REDACTED]>; THOMAS KERR (NRDO) <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re. MO-N59-028.00 [Knockmoyleen Bridge] - Reactive Maintenance

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Dear Christian

Re. MO-N59-028.00 [Knockmoyleen Bridge] - Reactive Maintenance

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



MO-N59-028.00 [Knockmoyleen Bridge] is located on the Owenbeg River north of Ballycroy, Co. Mayo. The Owenbeg River enters the southeastern corner of Tullaghan Bay. This is located within Blacksod Bay/Broadhaven SPA (004037) (black hatching). The Owenbeg River is labelled the Creggan_33 on EPA Maps (Code: IE_WE_33C610950). The Water Framework Directive status of the Owenbeg River at Knockmoyleen Bridge indicates that water quality is 'Good'. There are no Q-values noted on EPA Maps for this stretch of river.

Scope of Works:

In accordance with the North West Bridges Term Maintenance Contract No. 3, Clause 4.18 the Contractor is required to submit a Reactive Maintenance Proposal to rebuild, following vehicular impact, the damaged section of west parapet wall directly over the embankment at Knockmoyleen Bridge (see attached photos).

Like for like masonry repairs measuring 1.4m long x 1.1m high (0.3m of this is below road level) x 0.46m deep are required. The damaged wall is to be deconstructed to stable material, and then fully reconstructed using hand tools to tie in with the existing wall utilising the existing non-defective stone masonry copings and stone rubble salvaged from embankment below, or if not possible, new locally sourced stone masonry to match existing wall, and lime mortars. The mortar 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. It is not permitted to allow materials or run-off from to enter the watercourse during the works.

There will be no instream works. As can be seen on the attached photos works are over the land adjoining the river. Works will take no more than a couple of days to complete.

Ecological Characteristics

Knockmoyleen Bridge is not within a European site.

Owenduff/Nephin Complex SAC (000534) / Owenduff/Nephin Complex SPA (004098) is located east of the N59 and upstream of Knockmoyleen Bridge. The Owenbeg River rises within Owenduff/Nephin Complex SAC (<https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/000534>) – the SAC includes Atlantic (*Salmo salar*) and Otter (*Lutra lutra*). However, as noted there are no instream works. Passage of otter or salmon along the river will not be impeded by works. There is no potential for interaction between proposed works and other habitats and species for which the SAC has been designated.

Owenduff/Nephin Complex SPA is designated for breeding Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) and Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) (<https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/spa/004098>). The location, type and scale of proposed works will not cause disturbance to bird species using this site.

The river does ultimately discharge to Blacksod Bay/Broadhaven SPA (004037) - <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/spa/004037>. This is designated for wintering waterbirds, breeding Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*) and Dunlin (*Calidris alpina schinzii*); as well as the wetlands that support them. The SPA is ca. 3.8km north of the bridge along the watercourse. There will be no direct impacts on the SPA. As noted no instream works are proposed. The location, type and scale of proposed works will not cause disturbance to bird species using the SPA. The environs of the bridge does not support habitats used by species for which the SPA has been designated. Furthermore, the timing of works during spring/summer is at a time when most species using the SPA will be absent from the site.

The Owenbeg River is not within a pearl mussel sensitive area. There are historic records of Otter (*Lutra lutra*) from the Owenbeg River downstream of the works (Doona, 2018; F777130) (Source: NBDC). However, as noted works are to repair a parapet adjoining rather than directly over the river with works undertaken from the road. The parapet wall is not a suitable roost site for bats (refer to attached photos).

White-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) have not been recorded from the Owenbeg River (Source: NBDC).

There are no records of invasive species listed on the 3rd Schedule of the Natural Habitats Regulations (SI 477 / 2011) from the bridge location – such as Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), Indian balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) or Giant rhubarb (*Gunnera* sp.) (Source: NBDC).

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?

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