

Phelan Sarah-Jane

From: O'Malley Vincent
Sent: Tuesday 5 July 2022 17:08
To: Nea Christian
Cc: Phelan Sarah-Jane; Watt Robbie
Subject: RE: RE. TO289 Northwest Bridges Reactive Maintenance Works – Mullandrait Bridge (DL-N15-003.00)

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

From: Nea Christian <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday 30 June 2022 12:26
To: O'Malley Vincent <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Phelan Sarah-Jane <[REDACTED]>; Watt Robbie <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE. TO289 Northwest Bridges Reactive Maintenance Works – Mullandrait Bridge (DL-N15-003.00)

Vincent,
Having reviewed the information contained within this email chain and having regard to 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 24th of June 2022, and entitled 'RE. TO289 Northwest Bridges Reactive Maintenance Works – Mullandrait Bridge (DL-N15-003.00)', 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: Watt Robbie <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 30 June 2022 10:35
To: Nea Christian <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Phelan Sarah-Jane <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: RE. TO289 Northwest Bridges Reactive Maintenance Works – Mullandrait Bridge (DL-N15-003.00)

Hi Christian,

Following review of the proposed works and receiving environment I agree with the conclusion of Atkins that the works would not be likely to have a significant effect on any European site.

Regards,
Robbie

From: Nea Christian
Sent: 27 June 2022 09:45
To: Watt Robbie <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Phelan Sarah-Jane <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: RE. TO289 Northwest Bridges Reactive Maintenance Works – Mullandrait Bridge (DL-N15-003.00)

Hi Robbie,
Could you have a look at this when you get a chance please?

Kind regards,

Christian.

From: O'Donoghue, Paul <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday 24 June 2022 16:45
To: Nea Christian <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Watt Robbie <[REDACTED]>; Phelan Sarah-Jane <[REDACTED]>; Daly, Vincent <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE. TO289 Northwest Bridges Reactive Maintenance Works – Mullandrait Bridge (DL-N15-003.00)

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Christian

RE. TO289 Northwest Bridges Reactive Maintenance Works – Mullandrait Bridge (DL-N15-003.00)

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

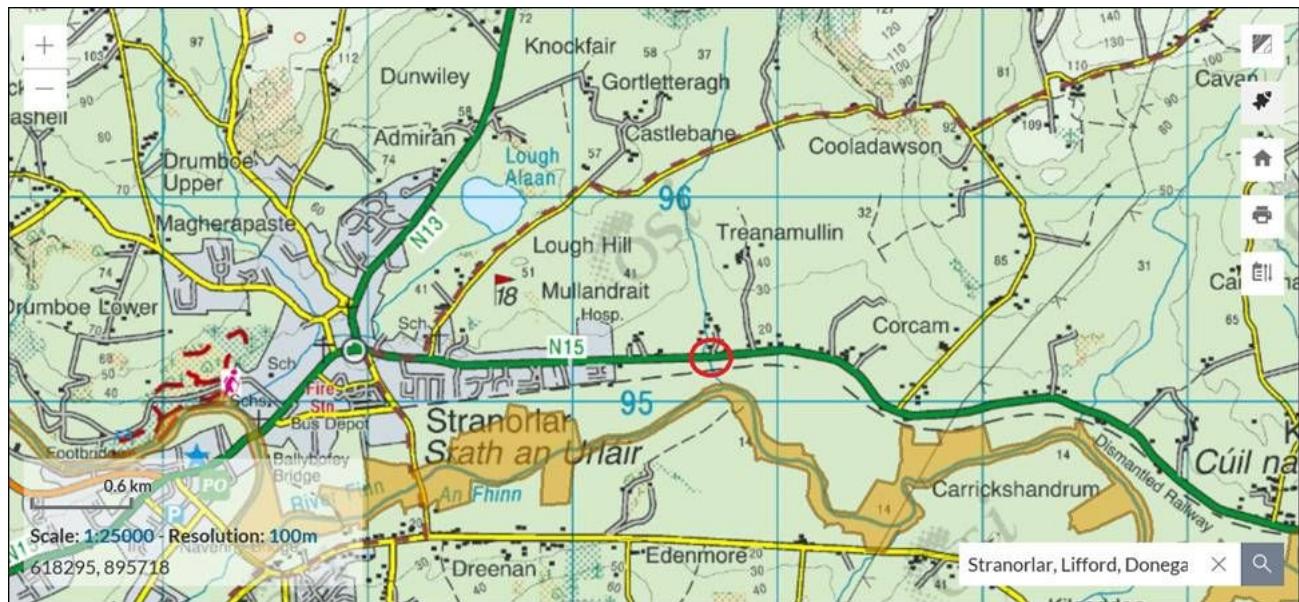


Figure 1. Mullandrait Bridge (DL-N15-003.00) (Source: NBDC Mapviewer).

Mullandrait Bridge (DL-N15-003.00) is located on the N15 on the eastern side of Stranorlar, Co. Donegal. The bridge crosses the Mullaghagarry Stream (01M34) a 2nd order stream. A short distance downstream of the N15 the stream joins the Finn River (Donegal) (01F01) a 6th order stream. The River Finn flows east to join the River Foyle.

The river in the environs of Mullandrait Bridge is assigned a Water Framework Directive ecological status of 'Poor'; as is the downstream stretch of the River Finn. Water quality was recorded in the River Finn by the EPA at a bridge south of Stranorlar in 2019 as Poor (Q3) (Station - RS01F010800). Much of the River Finn is defined as being At Risk of not achieving its Water Framework Directive status.

Outline Scope of Permanent Works:

In accordance with the North West Bridges Term Maintenance Contract No. 3, Clause 4.18 a Contractor has been asked to rebuild, following vehicular impact, the damaged section of south parapet wall at Mullandrait Bridge (DL-N15-003.00).

See attached sketch and associated photographs of damage to the south parapet. Full height masonry repairs matching the existing are required at the east end of the wall over a length of 1.6m, further masonry repair is required over the remainder of the length of the parapet under the concrete capping. A new concrete capping is required over the full length of 10m. This will be cast in-situ using oversized shuttering.

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 salvaged from the riverbed below, or if not possible, new locally sourced stone masonry to match existing wall, and lime mortars. Debris from the impact on the riverbed below is to be removed and disposed of offsite.

Masonry repairs are required to the top of the adjacent wingwall along with repointing works to the base of the wall. Limited clearance branches adjacent to the wingwall is required; an accumulation of branches close to the bridge will also be removed as part of these works and a new ID plate fixed to the bridge. The masonry repair to the top of the wall will be done from road level, but the repointing is at bed level so some local sand bagging will be required to divert the water and allow works to be undertaken in the dry (see accompanying sketch).

Photos of damage attached. Also attached are a more comprehensive set of photographs taken during Year 3 & 4 inspections. Works will take 1 week to complete.

Ecological Characteristics

Mullandrait Bridge is not located within a European site. The stream it is located on discharges to River Finn SAC (002301) about 150m downstream of the bridge. The qualifying interests of the River Finn SAC are as follows:-

- Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorellatalia uniflorae*) [3110]
- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4010]
- Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]
- Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]
- *Salmo salar* (Salmon) [1106]
- *Lutra lutra* (Otter) [1355]

The River Foyle to which the Finn discharges is designated as River Foyle and Tributaries (UK0030320). Downstream parts of Foyle Estuary are designated as Lough Foyle SPA (004087 / UK9020031), The River Foyle and Tributaries includes a part of the River Finn which lies within Northern Ireland. The site is of particular note for Atlantic salmon and Otter [see - <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/protected-areas/river-foyle-and-tributaries-sac#skip-link>].

None of the habitats for which River Finn SAC has been designated are present at the works area. Features of relevance are Atlantic salmon and Otter. The SPA within the estuary of the Foyle is designated for wintering birds. The site is located >50km downstream of the bridge. Proposed works at the bridge would not disturb bird species using these SPA; even in the worst case scenario of some localised deterioration in water quality around the bridge, the intervening distance and volume of water to Lough Foyle SPA is such that negative impact to Lough Foyle SPA are not anticipated.

The watercourse crossed by the bridge is within the Finn Margaritifera Sensitive Area – [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] While there are no records on NBDC for Otter from Mullandrait Bridge, there are extensive records of Otter (*Lutra lutra*) from the catchment of the River Finn. As noted though the bulk of works are to repair a parapet above the river with works undertaken from the road; most works to the wingwall will also be from above. Only the small area of repointing, as shown on the attached sketch, will be undertaken in the

river using sand bags to create a dry working area. This particular element of work will be of short duration. Other than this, and the recovery of any debris, there will be no staff in the river.

The proposed works are to replace a parapet wall – this is not a suitable roost site for bats.

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).

As noted, the proposed works are not within a Natura 2000 site, but they are on a small watercourse which discharges to River Finn SAC. Based on the type, location, duration and scale of proposed works, no direct or indirect impacts to a Natura 2000 site are predicted to occur as a result of the works, either alone or in combination with other projects.

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

Associate Director, Ecology
Ireland

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