
From: O'Malley Vincent [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday 28 August 2020 09:10
To: Nea Christian [REDACTED]
Cc: Phelan Sarah-Jane [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Re. Additional works at CN-N87-018.00 Ballyconnell Bridge

Christian,
Having considered the content of Atkins email I am happy to accept the reasoned determination as set out below.
Sincerely
Vincent O'Malley

From: Nea Christian <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday 27 August 2020 12:11
To: O'Malley Vincent [REDACTED]
Cc: Phelan Sarah-Jane [REDACTED] >
Subject: Fw: Re. Additional works at CN-N87-018.00 Ballyconnell Bridge

Vincent,

Having reviewed Paul's email below and having regard to the extremely minor nature of the works and the distances to European sites, I recommend that the following reasoned determination can be made:

Having performed screening for Appropriate Assessment in respect of the proposed maintenance works detailed in the email received from Paul O'Donoghue dated the 25th of August, 2020, and entitled 'Re. Additional works at CN-N87-018.00 Ballyconnell Bridge', I accept the recommendations of Atkins that the proposed 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.

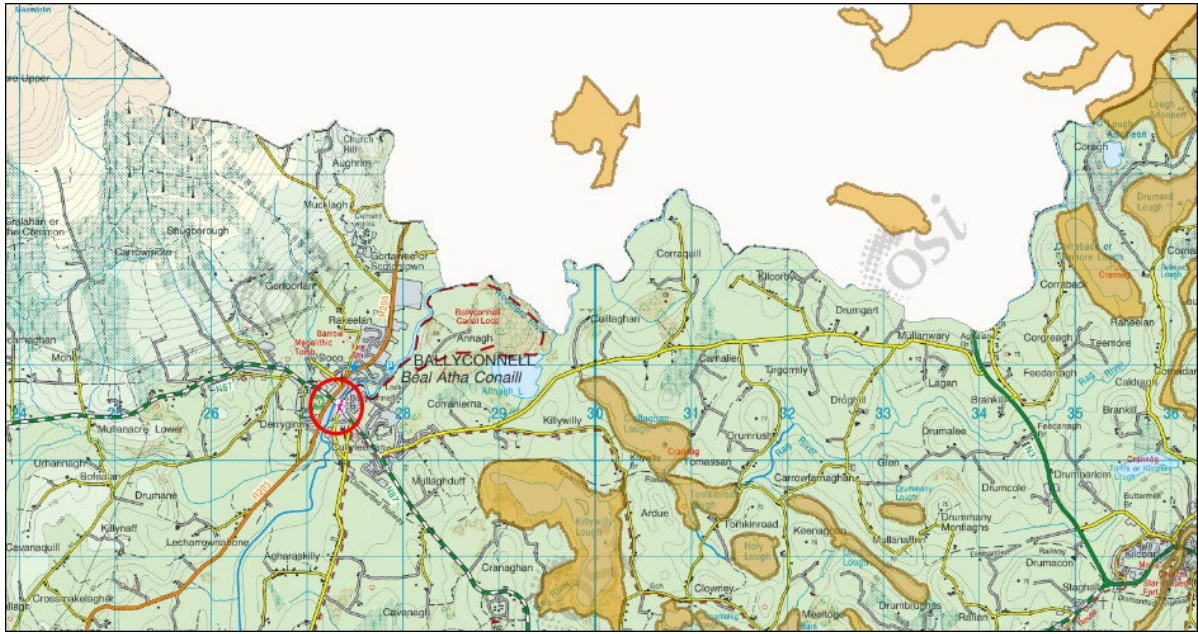
From: O'Donoghue, Paul <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 25 August 2020 17:34
To: Nea Christian [REDACTED]
Cc: O'Malley Vincent [REDACTED]; Phelan Sarah-Jane [REDACTED]
Subject: Re. Additional works at CN-N87-018.00 Ballyconnell Bridge

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Christian

Re. Additional works at CN-N87-018.00 Ballyconnell Bridge

Ballyconnell Bridge is located within the town of Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan (bridge location circled in Red).



[Source: NBDC maps].

Ballyconnell Bridge is a 2 arch masonry bridge located on the N87 as it passes through Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan. It carries the N87 over the Woodford River (WFD Catchment Woodford[Cavan]_SC_010) 12km upstream of where the river enters Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC (000007) in Cavan and Upper Lough Erne SAC (UK0016614) north of the border with Northern Ireland. (Note: River Names are taken from EPA Maps - <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>). A third dry arch carries the public footpath along the river bank (see image below).

Proposed Works:

It has been proposed to carry out localised repointing to the arch barrel soffit at/around the voussoirs to arch ring over the adjacent walkway. No scaffolding will be required and all works will be over land. The extent of works will be 2m². The photos below show the area requiring repointing works.



Ecological Characteristics:

The bridge is located 12km upstream of the Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC (000007). The qualifying interests of the site are as follows: -

- Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150]
- Bog woodland [91D0]
- Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]

The river at Woodford River Bridge does not support any of the Annex I habitats for which the Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC has been designated. Otter are recorded from the Woodford River downstream of the bridge (1994 – 2005; NBDC), however there are no records of otter within Ballyconnell town, neither is there suitable habitat for otter around the area of the bridge requiring repointing. The Lough Erne Upper, downstream of the bridge, has been classed as being of Poor fisheries status in 2010 by Inland Fisheries Ireland for the Water Framework Directive (http://wfdfish.ie/wp-content/uploads/2010/08/Erne_Upper_report_2010.pdf).

There are no SPAs hydrologically connected to the bridge. The closest SPA is Lough Oughter SPA (004049) 9.6km southeast of the bridge. The qualifying interests of the site are as follows: -

- Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) [A005]
- Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*) [A038]
- Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) [A050]
- Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]

No suitable habitats for these species occur at or close to the bridge, and the bridge is sufficiently remote that disturbance impacts are not predicted.

The Ballyconnell Bridge is not within an area designated as being sensitive for Freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*). Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) has been recorded within 1km of the bridge in 2015 - H2718 (Source: NBDC). Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) has not been recorded nearby, nor are there records of invasive species such as Indian balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) or Giant-rhubarb (*Gunnera* sp.) (Source: NBDC).

As noted, all works will take place over land. Access to the river will not be required. Works previously screened out, and are scheduled to take place by late September 2020, at the bridge comprise: -

- Removal of vegetation (moss and weeds and ivy) from parapet faces including the top (10 m2)
- Removal of vegetation from revetments (20 m2)
- Removal of vegetation from all wingwalls and spandrels and cut water (20 m2)

Proposed works are of short duration. While there may be temporary disturbance, no impact to otter using the watercourse is predicted. Given the nature of works, there shall be no in-combination effects on European sites.

No impact on bats is anticipated.

Negative impacts to European sites are not anticipated.

References: -

NPWS (2020) Conservation objectives for Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC [000007]. Generic Version 7.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht


NPWS (2020) Conservation objectives for Lough Oughter Complex SPA [004049]. Generic Version 7.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

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 European 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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