
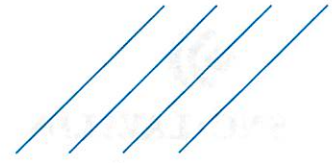


Appropriate Assessment Screening – Note TO270/RM02

Project:	5162555_TO 270 Munster Bridges		
Subject:	Reactive Maintenance - AA Screening No. 8		
Author:	Niamh Sweeney, Atkins Senior Ecologist	Atkins No.:	Appropriate Assessment Screening – Note TO270/ RM08. Revision 1.0
Date of Query:	04/10/2019	Date Issued:	03/10/2019
Distribution:	 Vincent O'Malley Christian Nea	Representing:	Atkins Atkins TII TII

Bridge / Culvert Details

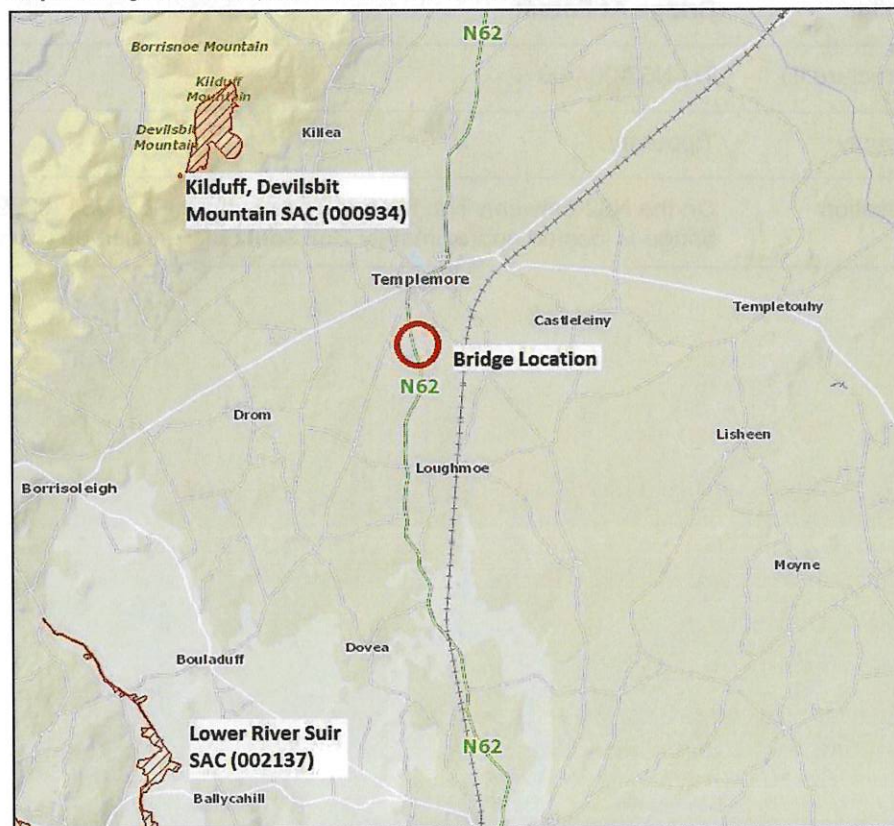
Bridge	Bridge At Forest
Structure ID	TN-N62-004.00
County	Tipperary
Location	On the N62 between Thurles and Templemore (0610661, 0669953 ITM). The bridge is located approximately 2km south of Templemore town.



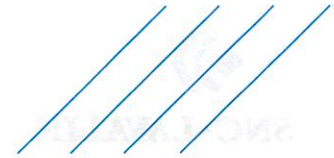
Maps



Map 1. Bridge Location (circled in red). [Source: Bing Maps].



Map 2. Bridge (circled in red); Kilduff, Devilsbit Mountain SAC & Lower River Suir SAC. [Source: NPWS MapViewer].



Photos



Plate 1. Upstream side of bridge, facing downstream.



Plate 2. Undermining of left abutment.

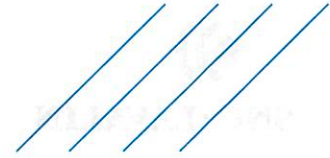


Plate 3. Undermining of right abutment.

Proposed Works

Scour to the riverbed has caused undermining of the abutments. Scour protection will be required over a length of 7.5m to both abutments with subsequent regrading of the riverbed where required.

Due to the fact that the proposed works are to the abutments of the bridge, the works will have to be carried out in the dry. In order to create a dry working area, sand bags will be placed upstream and downstream of the bridge and water will be flumed through a pipe downstream of the bridge and works area.

The existing concrete along the abutment will be broken and wheel barrowed out. Shuttering will be erected for the new concrete to cure. Concrete will be delivered to the works area via a sealed delivery pipe from a concrete pump.

Appropriate Assessment Screening Decision Matrix

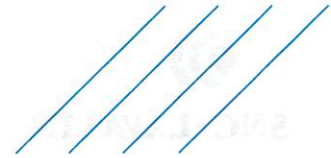
Natura 2000 Sites

Natura 2000 sites with 15km: -

1. Kilduff, Devilsbit Mountain SAC (000934).
2. Lower River Suir SAC (002137).

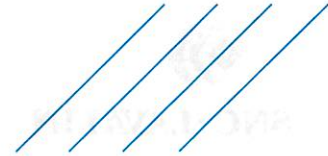
The bridge is located on the Oldtown stream, which flows for approximately 1.3km before joining the Templemore Demesne river. The Templemore Demesne river then flows for 900m before it joins the River Suir, however the River Suir is not designated as a Natura 2000 site at this location.

The Lower River Suir SAC is located approximately 24km downstream of the bridge. The upper boundary of the SAC is located downstream of Thurles town. Thus, the Lower River Suir SAC is hydrologically connected to the bridge and the proposed works. The SAC is considered to be within the potential zone of influence of the proposed project and is considered further in this report.



Kilduff, Devilsbit Mountain SAC is located approximately 6km to the north-west of the proposed project. The SAC is designated for heath and *Nardus* grasslands in mountain areas. The SAC is not hydrologically connected to the proposed project. The proposed project also does not have landscape connectivity to the SAC. Thus, Kilduff, Devilsbit Mountain SAC is not considered to be within the potential zone of influence of the proposed project.

pNHA / NHA	<p>The bridge is not within or adjacent to a pNHA or NHA. Both SACs detailed above are designated as NHAs.</p> <p>Templemore Wood pNHA (000942) and Cabragh Wetlands pNHA (001934) are located approximately 1.8km and 9.2km from the proposed project. These are not hydrologically connected to the proposed project and are not anticipated to be impacted by the proposed works.</p>
Hydrological links	<p>The bridge spans the Oldtown stream (EPA Code IE_SE_16S020300), which flows for approximately 1.3km before joining the Templemore Demesne river. The Templemore Demesne river then flows for 900m before it joins the River Suir, however the River Suir is not designated as a Natura 2000 site at this location. The Lower River Suir SAC is located approximately 24km downstream of the bridge.</p>
FWPM	<p>The Oldtown stream is located in a <i>Margaritifera</i> sensitive area. Within the Suir catchment FWPM are located on the Clodiagh River, Multeen and Aherlow rivers, which are tributaries of the River Suir. These are in different subcatchments to that of the proposed project and thus, the proposed project is not hydrologically connected to these FWPM populations.</p>
Bats	<p>The bridge is a low profile bridge with a solid concrete deck. The pointing of the parapet walls is in good condition. There are voids present where the beams are exposed and corroded, however at the time of the site visit on 17/09/2019, these were covered in cobwebs with no signs of bat activity. Thus, this structure is not considered to support bats.</p>
Invasive Species	<p>No invasive plant species were recorded on site during the site visit on 17/09/2019.</p>
Other Ecology Notes	<p>NBDC includes records of crayfish and otter from the River Suir at Penane Bridge.</p> <p>The site visit carried out on 17/09/2019 recorded significant otter sprainting activity at the bridge. Four sprainting sites at the bridge were recorded with 4-5 spraints of varying ages observed at each sprainting site. Crayfish remains were present in the spraints. No otter holts were recorded within 100m upstream and downstream of the bridge.</p> <p>The fluming of the Oldtown stream will not act as a barrier to otter. There will be a temporary disturbance during the working day, however, at the end of a working day the works area will be maintained passable by otter. The works area will not be artificially lit.</p>



Brief Description of the Natura 2000 site(s)

Site **Lower River Suir SAC (002137)**

- Qualifying Interests: -**
- Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima*) [1330]
 - Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*) [1410]
 - Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation [3260]
 - Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430]
 - Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles [91A0]
 - Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*) [91E0]
 - *Taxus baccata* woods of the British Isles [91J0]
 - *Margaritifera margaritifera* (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]
 - *Austropotamobius pallipes* (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092]
 - *Petromyzon marinus* (Sea Lamprey) [1095]
 - *Lampetra planeri* (Brook Lamprey) [1096]
 - *Lampetra fluviatilis* (River Lamprey) [1099]
 - *Alosa fallax fallax* (Twaité Shad) [1103]
 - *Salmo salar* (Salmon) [1106]
 - *Lutra lutra* (Otter) [1355]

Assessment

It is important to note that the proposed project is not within or adjacent to a Natura 2000 site. The proposed project is located 24km upstream of the Lower River Suir SAC and thus any potential impacts are those to surface water dependent habitats and species through the deterioration of water quality.

Given that there is no spatial overlap with the Lower River Suir SAC, there will be no direct impacts to habitats or species of the SAC.

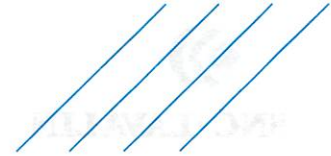
Potential impacts during construction:-

Due to the nature of the works to the base of the bridge abutments, the works must be carried out in the dry. This will be achieved by placing sandbags upstream and downstream of the bridge and fluming the water through the bridge arch to downstream of the bridge and works area.

The installation of new scour protection will be carried out using shuttering and the required concrete will be delivered to the works area via a sealed delivery pipe from a concrete pump. Therefore, the installation of scour repair works will be discrete and contained. Thus, the risk of contamination of surface waters is negligible.

The site visit recorded otter sprainting activity at the bridge. The fluming of the Oldtown stream will not act as a barrier to otter. There will be a temporary disturbance during the working day, however, at the end of a working day the works area will be maintained passable by otter. The works area will not be artificially lit. Given the nature of the works and the distance from the SAC, displacement of otter is not anticipated.

Due to the nature and scope of the proposed works and the geographical location of the works area to the SAC, significant effects are not anticipated.

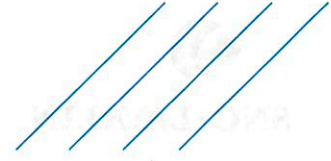


Potential impacts during operation:-

Impacts during the operation phase of the proposed works are not anticipated. The works will not affect the hydrological regime of the Oldtown stream and will not generate further emissions to the stream or any of the downstream watercourses.

Atkins Findings

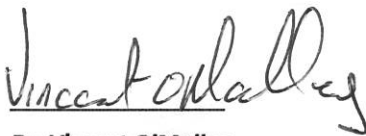
This Screening for Appropriate Assessment report is based on the best available scientific information. It is concluded by the authors of this report that the proposed project poses no likely significant effects on the Lower Suir SAC (002137) in view of its conservation objectives. Thus, it is recommended that it is not necessary for the proposed project to proceed to Appropriate Assessment.



Findings of TII Appropriate Assessment

AA Determination

Having performed screening for Appropriate Assessment in respect of the proposed reactive maintenance works detailed in this document entitled *Appropriate Assessment Screening – Note TO270/RM02*, I accept the recommendations of Atkins Limited 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.



16/10/2019

Dr. Vincent O'Malley
Head of the Environmental Policy and Compliance Section
Transport Infrastructure Ireland