

## Nea Christian

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**From:** O'Malley Vincent  
**Sent:** Thursday 17 October 2019 11:47  
**To:** Nea Christian  
**Subject:** RE: Re. Reactive Maintenance works at Muhine Bridge (DL-N14-012.00)

Christian,  
Have reviewed the attached documents, I accept the reasoned determination outlined below.  
Sincerely  
Vincent

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**From:** Nea Christian [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday 17 October 2019 11:32  
**To:** O'Malley Vincent [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Re. Reactive Maintenance works at Muhine Bridge (DL-N14-012.00)

Vincent,

Having reviewed Paul's email below and having regard to the extremely 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 PhD dated the 16<sup>th</sup> of October, 2019, and entitled 'Re. Reactive Maintenance works at Muhine Bridge (DL-N14-012.00)', 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.*

Kind regards,

Christian.

*Christian Nea* B.E., LL.B., LL.M., C.Eng., M.I.E.I.  
Chartered Engineer

Senior Engineer (Environment)  
Environmental Policy and Compliance Section,  
Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Parkgate Business Centre, Parkgate Street, Dublin 8.  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** O'Donoghue, Paul [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday 16 October 2019 17:33  
**To:** Nea Christian [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Sweeney, Niamh [REDACTED]; O'Malley Vincent [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re. Reactive Maintenance works at Muhine Bridge (DL-N14-012.00)

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Christian

## **Re. Reactive Maintenance works at Muhine Bridge (DL-N14-012.00)**

### *Bridge Location*

The structure location is here: <https://goo.gl/maps/NBnfbwa7Rhe8UMse7>. Photographs of the bridge are included in the attached PI Report.

### *Works*

The proposed reactive maintenance works will involve the replacement of the existing deck expansion joints with new Type 2 asphaltic plug joints on Muhine Bridge to the northwest of Lifford, Co. Donegal. A graphic of the joint is attached. The works will involve the excavation of the existing joints and adjacent road surfacing with the new joints then installed and surfacing works undertaken. All works will be undertaken from the deck of the structure with an estimated working period of 1 week. No site compound will be required.

Following creation of a cut in the road surface (using a circular saw) the existing surface will be dug out by kango hammer or small excavator to expose the joint. It is not necessary to remove material from within the joint itself, rather the overlying asphaltic plug joint (APJ) has degraded and must be replaced. The material to be used is Armour joint – this is a flexible bridge jointing comprising a polymer modified bituminous bridge joint binder mixed with graded aggregates to form an asphaltic plug joint in concrete and asphalt carriageways (see attached safety sheet). For installation - the Armour joint/ BP02 binder is heated – the resultant viscous material will be poured over the joint – bridging plate – waterproofing. A suitable heat resistant masking tape is fixed along each side of the joint to form a neat finishing edge and to prevent hot material spreading on to the adjacent road surfacing. The hot material is placed in the recess; the joint is built up in successive layers not exceeding 50mm, flooding each layer in turn with hot binder until the Joint has been brought to the correct level. Allow the joint to cool to ambient temperature, remove the masking tape and finalise surfacing as required.

### *Ecological Characteristics*

The bridge is not with an SAC or SPA.

It is on the River Deelee (Deele[Donegal]\_SC\_010) a tributary of the River Finn, which in turn discharges to the River Foyle on the border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. The River Finn is designated as the River Finn SAC (IE002301) / River Foyle & Tributaries SAC (UK0030320). A significant distance downstream within Lough Foyle – parts of the estuary are designated as Lough Foyle SPA (IE004087) / (UK9020031) for a number of wintering waders and wildfowl; these species do not occur at the bridge location.

The River Foyle & Tributaries SAC is also designated as an Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) in Northern Ireland.

The River Finn is designated for: - Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia 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] and *Lutra lutra* (Otter) [1355]. None of these habitats occur at Muhine Bridge. Both Atlantic salmon and Otter occur in the Deelee Bridge. The UK SAC is designated for Atlantic salmon and Otter.

Otter have been recorded from the River Deelee (Source; NBDC). From Ballindrait Bridge (H305998) in 2003; road kill on the R264 in the townland of Murlough (H313995) in 2013. The latter was close to where a small order tributary of the River Deelee is crossed by the R264.

No freshwater pearl mussel are recorded from the watercourse. The River Deelee is not in *Margaritifera* sensitive area.

Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) has been recorded on the River Deelee upstream of the proposed works – at Ballindrait Bridge in 2016 (H304997; Source; NBDC). The PI Inspection found it on the embankment adjoining DL-N14-012.00; however, this area is not to be accessed for these works.

The bridge is a modern concrete / metal bridge. It does not offer suitable roosting opportunities for bats.

Atkins Findings -

No instream works are to be undertaken. All works will be restricted to the bridge deck. No materials will be allowed to fall from the bridge deck during works. The works are of short duration (1 week).

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?**

Regards

Paul

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**Paul O'Donoghue** *PhD CEnV MCIEEM*  
Principal Ecologist / Environmental Scientist  
Ireland  
Environment



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