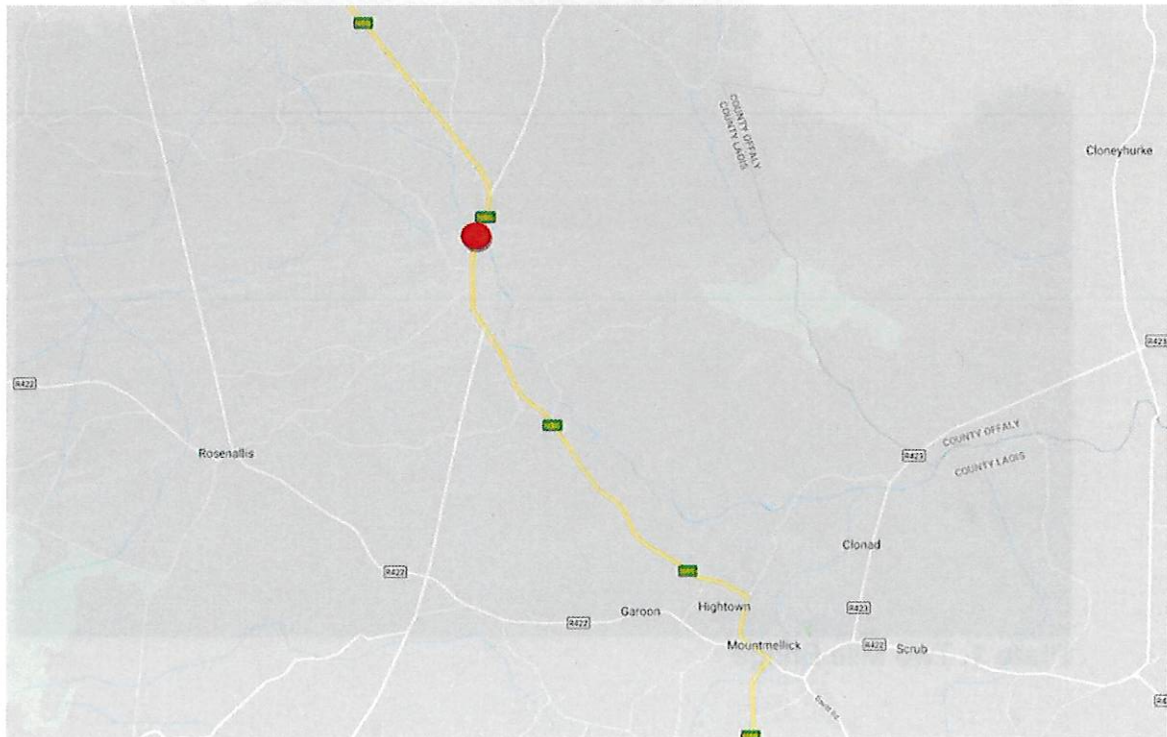


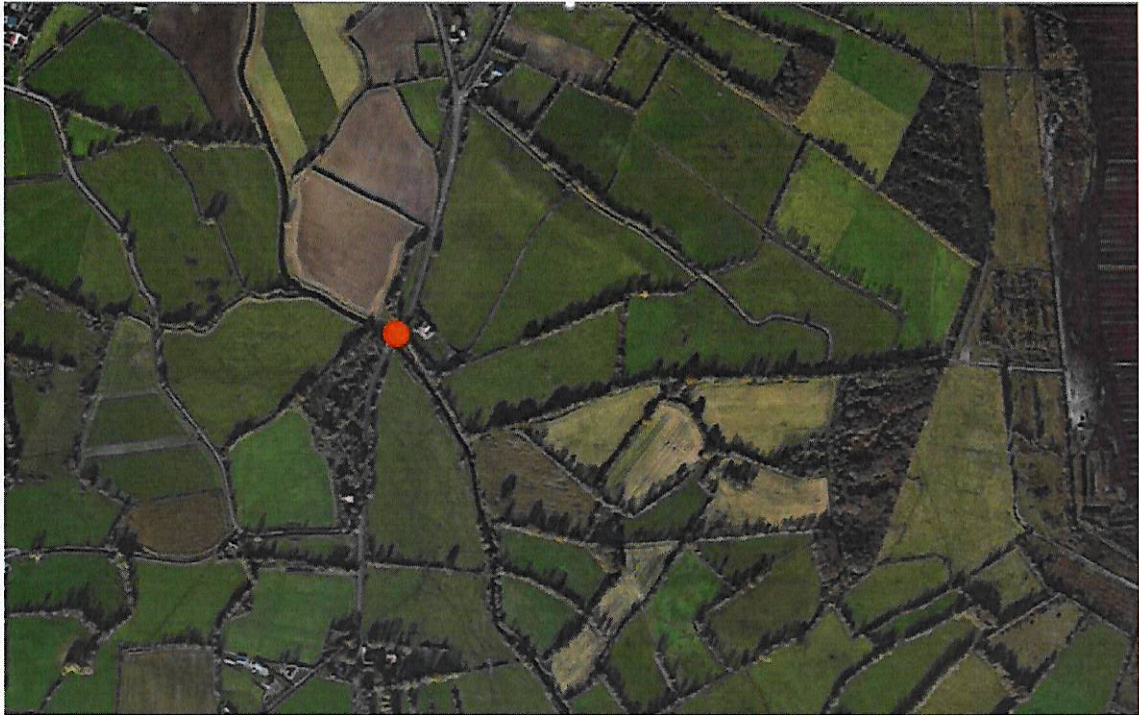
Leinster Bridges Reactive Maintenance

To	: Aidan Farrell Peter King Christian Nea Vincent O'Malley Liam Duffy Nino Belarmaric John Briody
From	: Patrick O'Shea
Date	: 1 st November 2018
Structure ID	: LS-N80-001.00
Structure Name	: Two Mile Bridge
Subject	: Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

1. Maps

Bridge carrying the N80 over the River Barrow, 3 km north of Mountmellick, County Laois.





2. Photographs



Plate 1. Two Mile Bridge



Plate 2. Damaged Crash Barrier



Plate 3. Damaged Crash Barrier

3. Proposed Works

Screening for Appropriate Assessment was carried out for the following routine maintenance works by TII on the 1st August 2018. The routine maintenance works included the following elements:

- Vegetation removal from parapets and safety barrier (60 m²);
- 1m from wingwalls and spandrel walls (60 m²).
- Repointing of wingwalls (10 m²).
- Reseal cracks in concrete on top of parapets (1 m²).

The reactive works proposed in this report are:

- Remove and replace 12 m of damaged guardrail and 4 no. posts at downstream side of bridge.

4. Appropriate Assessment Screening

The Natura 2000 Sites within 15 km are:

- River Barrow and River Nore SAC
- Slieve Bloom Mountains SAC
- Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA
- Charleville Wood SAC
- Clonaslee Bog and Eskers SAC

Two Mile Bridge crosses the River Barrow, which is within the River Barrow and River Nore SAC. Impacts on this site are considered further below.

The Slieve Bloom Mountains SAC and SPA are 7.5 km and 4.5 km west of the bridge. Charleville Wood SAC is 15 km north-west and Clonaslee Bog and Eskers SAC is 15 km west. There are no hydrological pathways between Two Mile Bridge and these four Natura 2000 Sites, therefore, these are not considered further in the report.

5. Ecological Constraints

Other Designated Sites

The table below list the designated sites, other than Natura 2000 sites, within 15 km of Two-Mile Bridge.

Site Name	Location relative to Two Mile Bridge
The Slieve Bloom Mountains pNHA	7.5 km west
Slieve Bloom Mountains Nature Reserve	7.5 km west
Hawkswood Bog NHA	11 km west
Clonad Wood pNHA	12 km west
Screggan Bog NHA	13.5 km west
Annaghmore Lough Fen (Offaly) pNHA	11 km west
Clonaslee Bog and Eskers pNHA	15 km west
Clonreher Bog NHA	8 km south
The Ridge of Portlaoise pNHA	9.5 km south
The Great Heath of Portlaoise pNHA	13 km south
Emo Court pNHA	11.5 km east
Derries Wood pNHA	14 km south east

Site Name	Location relative to Two Mile Bridge
Rahnee Lough pNHA	7 km north

Freshwater Pearl Mussel



Bats

Two Mile Bridge has no features which could be used by roosting bats.

Invasive Species

No invasive species were identified during the survey.

Other Ecology Notes

None.

6. Description of Natura 2000 Sites

River Barrow and River Nore SAC		
Qualifying Interests:	Location	Pathways
Estuaries	> 50 km downstream near St. Mullins (tidal reaches of the river)	Yes - hydrological
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	> 50 km downstream south of New Ross (tidal reaches of the river)	Yes - hydrological
Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand	> 50 km downstream south of New Ross (tidal reaches of the river)	Yes - hydrological
Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>)	> 50 km downstream south of New Ross (tidal reaches of the river)	Yes - hydrological
Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>)	> 50 km downstream south of New Ross (tidal reaches of the river)	Yes - hydrological
Watercourses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranuncullion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation	Immediate proximity	Yes - hydrological
European dry heaths	> 1 km upstream in the foothills of the Blackstairs Mountains	No
Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels	Potentially close by but no in immediate proximity to bridge. Distribution of this habitat in this site is currently unknown. Considered to occur in association with some riverside woodlands, unmanaged river islands and in narrow bands along the floodplain of slow-flowing stretches of river.	Yes - hydrological
Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>)	Petrifying springs with tufa formations occur at Dysart Wood along the River Nore (separate catchment). There are likely to be unrecorded examples of this habitat however none are found in close proximity to the bridge.	Yes - hydrological
Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles	> 50 km downstream near Graignamanagh	No
Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicton albae</i>)	> 20 km downstream north of Athy	Yes - hydrological
Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>)	> 50 km downstream near Graignamanagh	Yes - hydrological
Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>)		

White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>)	Immediate proximity	Yes - hydrological
Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>)	Immediate proximity	Yes - hydrological
Brook Lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>)	Immediate proximity	Yes - hydrological
River Lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>)	Immediate proximity	Yes - hydrological
Twaite Shad (<i>Alosa fallax fallax</i>)	> 50 km downstream near St. Mullins (tidal reaches of the river)	Yes - hydrological
Atlantic Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)	Immediate proximity	Yes - hydrological
European Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)	Immediate proximity	Yes - hydrological
Killarney Fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>)	> 50 km downstream near Graignamanagh	No
Nore Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera durrovensis</i>)	River Note	No - different catchment

7. Impact Assessment

Impacts During Construction

As shown in the table above, there is the potential for impacts on the Qualifying Interests of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC. The nature of the proposed works, which will take place entirely on the road verge and will not involve working over the watercourse. Installing the new crash barrier posts will require pouring concrete footings in the soft verge. This will follow standard working procedures. In the event of an accidental spillage of concrete the works will be buffered by 20 m of road verge and hedgerow which will prevent any pollutants reaching the River Barrow.


Impacts During Operation

There will be no risk of ongoing pollution, changes to the hydrological regime or disturbance as a result of the works. Therefore, there are no anticipated impacts of the proposed works during operation.

8. Conclusion

Based on the information provided above and considering the location and sensitivities of the Qualifying Interests of Natura 2000 Sites where potential pathways of risk exist, Roughan & O'Donovan can advise TII, as the competent authority, to conclude that the proposed works will not lead to likely significant effects on the River Barrow and River Nore SAC or any other Natura 2000 Site.

Having performed screening for Appropriate Assessment in respect of the proposed reactive maintenance works detailed in this document entitled *Appropriate Assessment Screening Report* relating to Two Mile Bridge, County Laois, I accept the recommendations of Roughan & O'Donovan Consulting Engineers 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.



26/11/2018

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