


Appropriate Assessment Screening – Note TO289/RM02

Project:	5162160_TO 289 NW Bridges		
Subject:	Reactive Maintenance- AA Screening No. 2		
Author:	Paul O'Donoghue, Atkins Principal Ecologist	Atkins No.:	Appropriate Assessment Screening – Note TO289/RM02. Revision 1.0
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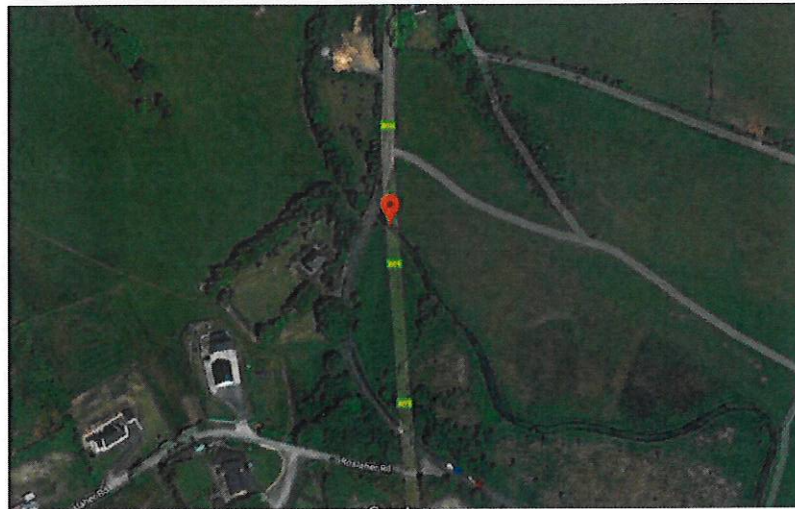
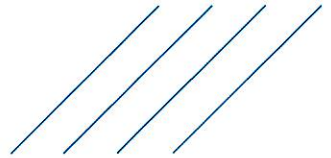
Bridge / Culvert Details

Bridge	Rossow Bridge
Structure ID	MO-N59-045.10
County	Mayo
Location	On the N59, approximately 6.5km north of Westport town, Co. Mayo and approximately 2.8km south of the town of Newport (ITM ref: 498295.432, 791021.786).

Maps



Map 1. Rossow Bridge (circled in Red); Clew Bay Complex SAC shown in brown.
 [Source: <https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/Map>]



Map 1. Rossow Bridge. [Source: [GoogleMaps](#)]

Photos



Plate 1. Rossow Bridge. View from deck.



Plate 2. Parapet wall requiring masonry repair.

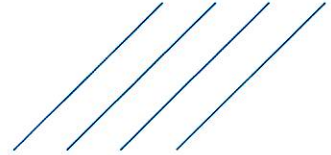


Plate 3. Areas requiring sweeping and vegetation removal [Source: Atkins R.E.; 10/2018]

Proposed Works

Appropriate Assessment Screening was previously carried out on the old Rossow Bridge (MO-N59-045.00). This bridge has, however, been bypassed with the realignment of the N59. It has since been replaced by the new Rossow Bridge (MO-N59-045.10), for which this AA Screening is being conducted. Both structures traverse the Rosssdoaun River, approximately 15m apart.

Works to be carried out at the new Rossow Bridge comprise the following: -

- Vegetation removal within the deck of the bridge - $11\text{m} \times 1\text{m} \times 3 = 33\text{m}^2$
- Masonry repointing to 2 areas on eastern parapet - 5m^2
- Sweeping/cleaning to the deck - $35\text{m} \times 2\text{m} \times 2 = 140\text{m}^2$; $35\text{m} \times 0.5\text{m} \times 2 = 35\text{m}^2$
- Hosing of drainage system - $35\text{m} \times 2 = 70\text{m}$

Note: 'Hosing of drainage system' is a description of works called up on the Eirspan system. However, the specification in the Contract is for rodding and subsequent removal of debris. As can be seen from the photos below, galvanised kerb drainage systems have rodding chambers at either end of the structure. Debris is rodded from the high end and removed from the low end. There is no outfall through the bridge deck and the precast kerb units drain to the embankments of the bridge.



Plate 4. Kerb drainage at Rossow Bridge.

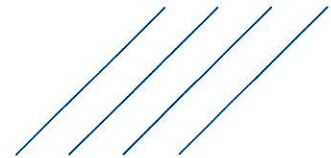


Plate 4. Arch of Rossow Bridge showing no outfall through bridge deck.

Appropriate Assessment Screening Decision Matrix

Natura 2000 Sites

Natura 2000 sites with 15km: -

1. Clew Bay Complex SAC (001482)
2. Owenduff/Nepin Complex SAC/SPA (000534)
3. Newport River SAC (002144)
4. Brackloon Woods SAC (000471)

Rossow Bridge is on the Rossdooaun River, which converges with the Carrow More River and discharges to Clew Bay a short distance downstream of the works (ca. 500m). The works area is not within the Clew Bay Complex SAC, nor is the confluence between the Rossdooaun River and the Carrow More River. Due to the hydrological link between the works location and Clew Bay Complex SAC, this site is discussed in further detail below.

Owenduff/Nepin Complex SAC is located approximately 7km northwest of Rossow Bridge, while the SPA is located 8km northwest of the bridge. They are not hydrologically connected to the works location. Therefore, there is no risk of direct impacts to these sites. The site is not considered further.

Newport River SAC is located approximately 2.5km north of the works location. However, it is not hydrologically connected to the bridge. Therefore, there is no risk of direct impacts to this site. The site is not considered further.

Brackloon Woods SAC is located 10km south of the works location. However, it is not hydrologically connected to the bridge. Therefore, there is no risk of direct impacts to this site. The site is not considered further.

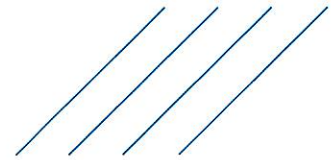
pNHA / NHA

The only pNHA located in the environs of the bridge is Clew Bay Complex pNHA which overlaps with the SAC and located 500m downstream of the works location.

Hydrological links

The second order Knocknaboley Stream rises in Drumgoney Lough 4.7 km northeast of Rossow Bridge and flows in a south-westerly direction where it enters the Rosdooaun River 900m upstream of Rossow bridge.

The Rosdooaun River is located in the Rosclave_010 River Sub-Basin within the Carrowtootagh_SC_010 Sub catchment, all of which are located within the Erriff-Clew Bay Catchment.



FWPM The Rosdooaun River is not within a *Margaritifera* sensitive area.
There are no records of Freshwater Pearl Mussel in the vicinity of the bridge.
The Rosdooaun is not listed on the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) Regulations, 2009 [S.I. 296 of 2009].

Bats Not suitable for supporting roosting bats.

Invasive Species There are no records of invasive species in the vicinity of the bridge.

Other Ecology Notes NBDC records of otter from the Rosdooaun River include a record from L974917 in 2014 – downstream of Rossow Bridge. It is probable that it might occur in the environs of the bridge.

Brief Description of the Natura 2000 site(s)

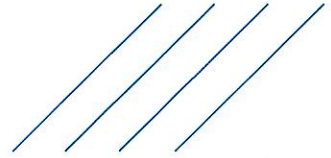
Site Clew Bay Complex SAC (001482)

- Qualifying Interests:** -
- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]
 - Coastal lagoons [1150]
 - Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]
 - Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]
 - Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]
 - Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) [1330]
 - Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]
 - Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2120]
 - Machairs (* in Ireland) [21A0]
 - Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]
 - *Vertigo geyeri* (Geyer's Whorl Snail) [1013]
 - *Lutra* (Otter) [1355]
 - *Phoca vitulina* (Harbour Seal) [1365]

Assessment The location of the Qualifying Interests¹ relative to the works is detailed in the table below.

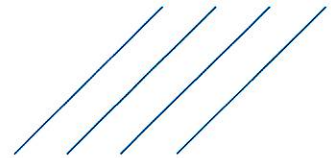
Qualifying Interests	Location	Within Zone of Influence
Mudflats and sandflats	This habitat is located approximately 1.3km downstream of Rossow Bridge, in the tidal section of the Carrow More estuary and Clew Bay.	Y – surface water pathways

¹ https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO001482.pdf



Coastal Lagoons	Furnace Lough is located at the northern extent of Clew Bay and Claggan Lagoon is located approximately 5km by land from Roscow Bridge. The lagoons are situated north and south respectively of the bridge in separate bays to that of the Carrowmore estuary.	No
Large shallow inlets and bays	This habitat includes the entirety of Clew Bay. Thus, it is located approximately 1.3km downstream of Rossow Bridge.	Yes – surface water pathways
Annual vegetation of drift lines	The main areas within the SAC are at Bartraw and Rosmurrevagh, which are located 10 and 15km (as the crow flies) from the bridge.	No
Perennial vegetation of stony banks	The habitat is associated with shingle habitats. The main shingle habitats are located at Bartraw and Rosmurrevagh, which are located approximately 10km (as the crow flies) from the bridge.	No
Atlantic salt meadows	Salt marsh habitat is present in the Carrowmore estuary, along the north shoreline.	Yes – surface water pathways
Dunes (embryonic shifting and 'white' dunes)	The main dune areas are located at Bartraw and Rosmurrevagh. As detailed above, these are located greater than 10km (as the crow flies) from the bridge.	No
Machair	Machair systems are fronted by sand dunes, and as above, these habitats are located greater than 10km (as the crow files) from the bridge.	No
Oak woods	Woodlands are located north of Furnace Lough and at Brackloon woods. These are located a considerable distance from Rossow Bridge.	No
Geyer's Whorl Snail	Geyer's whorl snail is present at Rosmoney, which is 6km (as the crow flies) from Rossow Bridge. Optimal habitat is tussocks of Black bog-rush <i>Schoenus nigricans</i> or calcareous cropped open sedge swards and moss carpets within undulating terrain ² .	No
Otter	Otter is present throughout the SAC. Otters will forage within 80m of the shoreline and will use freshwater habitats from estuary to headwaters. The Carrowmore River is designated as 'freshwater aquatic linear habitat' for otter.	Yes – surface water pathways

² Moorkens & Killeen (2011) <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/IWM55.pdf>



Harbour Seal	Breeding, moulting and resting sites of Harbour Seal are located on islands within Clew Bay. The entirety of Clew Bay is designated as supporting habitat for Harbour Seal, which is located 1.3km downstream of Rossow Bridge.	Yes – surface water pathways
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Potential impacts during construction:-

As shown in the table above, the proposed works will not give rise to impacts via land and air pathways and thus, direct impacts on the habitats of the SAC will not occur.

Rossow Bridge is hydrologically connected to Clew Bay via the Rosssdooaun and Carrow More Rivers. The works could potentially indirectly affect the qualifying interests hydrologically connected via surface water pathways to Rossow Bridge. However, as noted, there are no instream works proposed. All works will be undertaken from the carriageway of the bridge and the works will not be carried out over the water. Thus, impacts via surface water pathways are not anticipated, as the risk associated with the proposed works is negligible.

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 rivers and will not generate further emissions to the watercourses.

Similar works are also proposed at the neighbouring Rosdooaun Bridge (MO-N59-046.10). Due to the nature, extent, duration and location of the proposed works at both bridges, no in-combination effects are anticipated.

Findings of this Assessment

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 Clew Bay Complex SAC. 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 TO289/RM02. Revision 1.0*, 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.

 31/10/2018

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

Reactive Maintenance - AA Screening No.2 | 1.0 | 15/10/2018