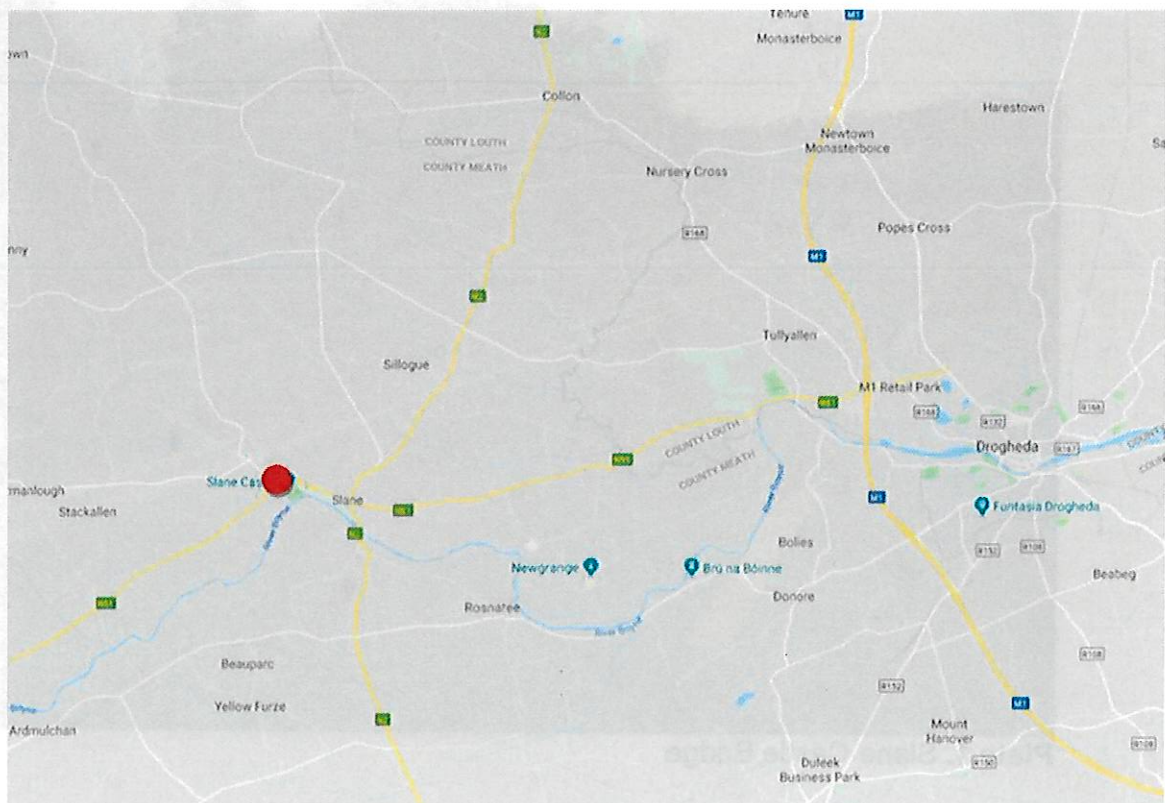


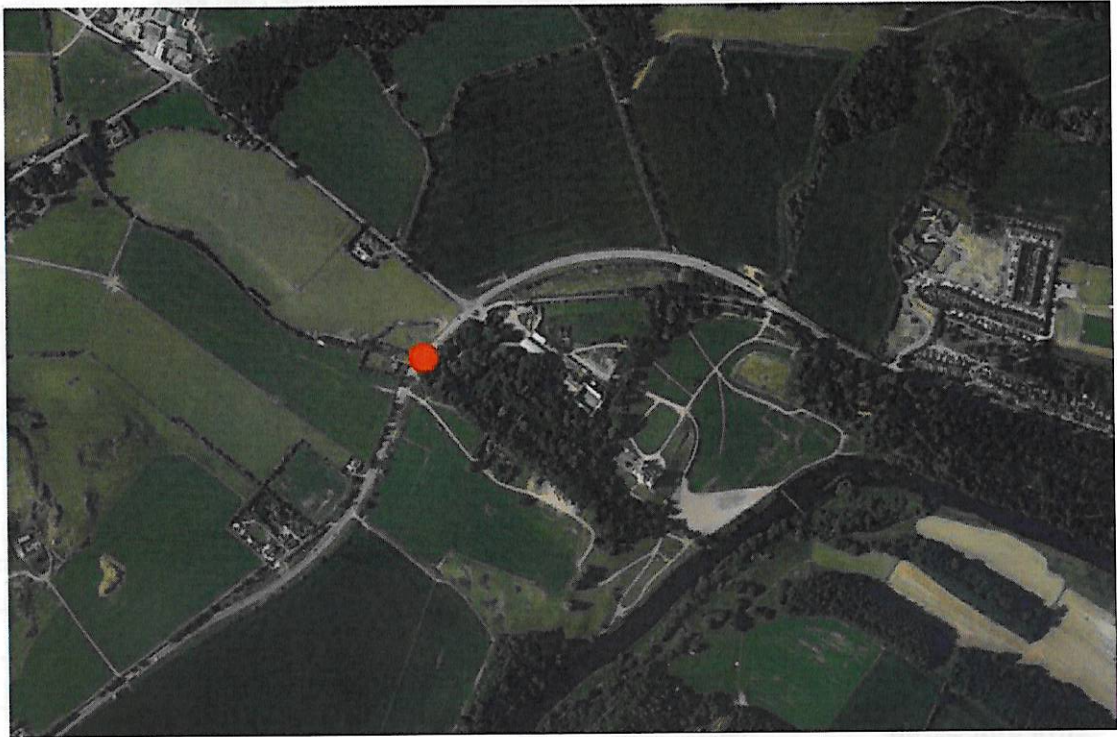
Leinster Bridges Reactive Maintenance

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	: MH-N51-007.00
Structure Name	: Slane Castle Bridge
Subject	: Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

1. Maps

Bridge carrying the N51 over the Castleparks River, a tributary of the River Boyne near Slane, Co. Meath.





2. Photographs



Plate 1. Slane Castle Bridge



Plate 2. Damaged Guardrail on Bridge

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 south spandrel wall (8 m²).
- Masonry repointing on south spandrel wall (16 m²).

The reactive works proposed in this report are:

- Remove and replace 16 m of damaged guardrail and 4 no. posts. 1 no. post to be surface-mounted to the structure.

4. Appropriate Assessment Screening

The Natura 2000 Sites within 15 km are:

- River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC
- River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA

Slane Castle Bridge crosses the Castleparks River, which flows into the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC 100 m downstream and into the River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA 500 m downstream. Impacts on these sites are considered further below.

5. Ecological Constraints

Other Designated Sites

The table below list the designated sites, other than Natura 2000 Sites, within 15 km of Slane Castle Bridge Bridge.

Site Name	Location relative to Slane Castle Bridge
Boyne Woods pNHA	0.5 km south-east (downstream)
Mellifont Abbey Woods pNHA	9.5 km north-east
Thomastown Bog pNHA	8.0 km south-east
Balrath Woods pNHA	8.5 km south-east

Freshwater Pearl Mussel

There are no Freshwater Pearl Mussel in the River Boyne Catchment.

Bats

Slane Castle 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 Boyne and River Blackwater SAC		
Qualifying Interests	Location Relative to Slane Castle Bridge	Pathways
Alkaline Fens	> 30 km west	No
Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>)	800 m downstream on the banks of the River Boyne	Yes - hydrological
River Lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>)	Immediate proximity	Yes - hydrological pathways
Atlantic Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)	Immediate proximity	Yes - hydrological pathways
Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)	Immediate proximity	Yes - hydrological pathways

River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA		
Qualifying Interests	Location Relative to Slane Castle Bridge	Pathways
Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>)	Immediate proximity	Yes - hydrological pathways

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 Boyne and River Blackwater SAC/SPA. However, the nature of the proposed works, which will take place entirely on the road verge (rubbing strip) and will not involve work over the watercourse.

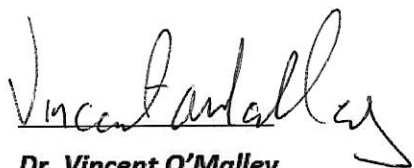
Impacts During Operation

There will be no risk or 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 Boyne and River Blackwater SAC/SPA 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 Slane Castle Bridge, County Meath, 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