ATKINS

Member of the SNC-Lavalin Group

Munster Term Maintenance Contract No 3

Derreenamacken Bridge Ecology Note

Transport Infrastructure Ireland

31/08/2022

Notice

This document and its contents have been prepared and are intended solely as information for Transport Infrastructure Ireland and use in relation to Derreenamacken Bridge Ecology Report

WS Atkins Ireland Limited assumes no responsibility to any other party in respect of or arising out of or in connection with this document and/or its contents.

Document history

Revision	Purpose description	Origin-ated	Checked	Reviewed	Author-ised	Date
Rev 1.0	Ecology Note	POD	POD	POD	MJ	31-08-22

Client signoff

Client	Transport Infrastructure Ireland
Project	Munster Term Maintenance Contract No 3
Job number	5162555
Client signature / date	

Contents

Plates

1. Derreenamacken Bridge

1.1. Introduction

The EIRSPAN Bridge Management System covers all aspects of bridge management including routine maintenance. Over the past number of years routine maintenance contracts have been undertaken by private contractors under Bridge Term Maintenance contracts. In the Munster Region the most recent contract concluded in December 2016. A Bridges Term Maintenance Contract for 653 bridges in the Munster Region is being progressed by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) under a new contract.

TII have appointed Atkins as the consultant to provide services including bridge inspections and reporting, ecological assessment, production of contract documents, tender assessment and contract administration and site supervision.

As part of this contract, Atkins Ireland was commissioned by TII to provide a report to support TII in making a screening decision as to whether Appropriate Assessment of proposed routine maintenance works to bridges in Munster (i.e. Task Order 270) under the Munster Bridges Term Maintenance Contract No.3 would be required. TII undertook the Screening for Appropriate Assessment and issued determinations for each structure.

TII determined that likely significant effects could not be ruled out for 68 bridges in Munster and thus require Appropriate Assessment. A Natura Impact Statement was prepared on behalf of TII[1] and can be viewed on TII's website: -

> https://www.tii.ie/technical-services/environment/appropriate-assessment/bridges-term-main-contracts/Munster/index.xml

Full Reference: Atkins (2021). *Munster Term Maintenance Contract No. 3. Year 4 Natura Impact Statement.* Report prepared for Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

One of the bridges considered was Derreenamacken Bridge [KY-N70-052.60]. This report was prepared to address a number of queries raised by TII with respect to Derreenamacken Bridge [KY-N70-052.60]; specifically, regarding the discovery of roosting Lesser horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*) at this location.

1.2. Derreenamacken Bridge [KY-N70-052.60]

The Derreenamacken Bridge is a single span stone masonry arch bridge with two stone culverts just west of the arch. The span is 3.04m. The substructure consists of 2 masonry abutments. There are no parapets on the structure. The structure is located 150m upstream of the Kenmare River SAC. Plate 1 shows the north elevation.

[1] Atkins (2021). *Munster Term Maintenance Contract No. 3. Year 4 Natura Impact Statement.* Report prepared for Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

Plate 1 Derreenamacken Bridge.

The qualifying interests of Kenmare River SAC are listed in Appendix 1. The qualifying interests that could be impacted are Large shallow inlets and bays, reefs, otter, harbour seal, lesser horseshoe bat. The potential impacts to the SAC are the loss or modification of habitat, physical disturbance of species, reduction in species density and deterioration of surface water quality.

Derreenamacken Bridge was surveyed twice in 2020. On the first occasion a single Lesser horseshoe bat was recorded roosting under one of the stone culverts. This survey was followed up with a bat detector survey. Derreenamacken Bridge and surrounding watercourse are important foraging areas for Lesser Horseshoe bats. On 18/05/21 no bats were recorded roosting in the structure but a few bat droppings (most likely Lesser Horseshoe bat) were recorded on the floor of both culverts. A total of 7 crevices have been marked for retention under the arch.The culvert is characterised as being used intermittently as a resting site/feeding perch by small numbers of bats.

The site was visited again by Dr. Caroline Sheil in July 2022 in order that Derreenamacken Bridge could be checked again for bats. No bats were recorded.

The NPWS Article 17 report from 2019[2] describes the "*population of this species has increased significantly since monitoring began. While individually managed roosts within the core area of this bat's range continue to thrive, population overall is likely to continue to do well, despite the loss of some roosts around the periphery of the species' range*".

[2] https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/NPWS_2019_Vol3_Species_Article17.pdf

1.2.1. Proposed Works

The proposed works at this bridge are detailed in Table 1 below. The table also contains a screening recommendation regarding the potential for the works to give rise to likely significant effects.

Table 1 Work elements and potential for likely significant effects.

Bridge Component	Work Element	Screening Recommendation
Embankments/Revetments	All trees, bushes and deep rooted vegetation within 1m of structure to be removed. Collapsed tree to be removed. ($6m^2$)	Screened out. Vegetation is not QI of the SAC.
Wing/Spandrel/Retaining Walls	Masonry repointing to wingwall between the clapper beam and main arch span. ($15m^2$)	Screened in – signs of lesser horseshoe bat (QI) recorded.
Abutments	Masonry repointing to the clapper beam abutments throughout ($10m^2$)	Screened in – signs of lesser horseshoe bat (QI) recorded.
Piers	Masonry repointing to the clapper beam abutments throughout ($28m^2$)	Screened in – signs of lesser horseshoe bat (QI) recorded.
Abutments	Masonry repair to partial collapse to clapper beam structure to the west of the main arch. ($3m^3$)	Screened in – signs of lesser horseshoe bat (QI) recorded.

1.2.1.1. Mitigation Measures

Masonry Repointing and Repair

In some locations repointing over water will be possible on foot; where the mason cannot reach the area of repointing from the ground, work platforms (scaffolds, ladders and underbridge inspection units) will be used for access. All work platforms must also be covered by geotextile filter layers (or equivalent catch system) to prevent mortar or defective concrete falling through the works platform into the watercourse and to allow for any waste material/mortar to be removed from site and disposed of appropriately at an approved site. The geotextile will extend up the sides of the platforms a minimum of 150mm to stop material falling off the edge. Removal of and cleaning of the geotextile from any platform shall be carried out in such a manner to prevent debris, grout etc. falling into the watercourse.

Where instream work platforms are required and permitted, timbers will be positioned under each leg to prevent them sinking into the riverbed. The placement of instream supports on the riverbed must be supervised by the Contractor's ecologist, in liaison with the Resident Engineer, to ensure no risk to instream ecology. Strict application of biosecurity measures must also be applied to any work platforms used instream. Biosecurity protocols are outlined in Section 2.1.

Preparation for the repointing work will include vegetation removal; loose and cracked pointing shall be raked out to sound material and the joint cleaned by hand. The joints will then be dampened, and mortar will be pointed flush with the masonry face. In the event of poor/unforeseen weather polythene or hessian covers shall be used to protect the work until the work has time to cure.

Mixing of mortar shall be carried out at least 25 metres away from the riverbank on an impermeable surface, and any waste material (including washings from the mixer) shall be stored in mortar bins and taken off-site. Great care is to be taken to ensure that no lime mortar or debris enters the watercourse or cause pollution to the surrounding land during works. Irrespective of the approach to works adopted, as noted above a geotextile membrane shall be held in place below the area of the works to prevent any waste mortar entering the watercourse. Once the area has been repointed and brushed back to the desired finish the geotextile will be carefully removed and the waste mortar will be removed off-site and disposed of appropriately at an approved site.

The construction site must be designed to allow free passage of otter commuting routes. Measures will comprise capping of pipes when not in use, provisions of a mammal ramp within excavations, and any artificial lighting will be directed away from the watercourse.

It is essential that any temporary work platforms or support props will not block off access for bats to use the masonry arch or clapper culverts. The Contractor's ecologist will undertake a visual inspection of this bridge to monitor bat activity before works begin.

Following the pre-works site survey by the bat specialist, crevices in the bridge structure which either contain roosting bats or show evidence of regular bat usage (droppings/staining) will be marked with red paint by the ecologist prior to any works taking place. These crevices are to be retained to allow bats to continue to roost in the structure. Extreme care will be taken to ensure no mortar enters the crevices during repointing works. The Contractor's ecologist will be on site to supervise when the works are taking place.

1.2.1.2. Derogation Licence

A derogation licence was applied for on by Dr. Caroline Sheil on behalf of Cumnor, who have been commissioned by TII to undertake works on this project. This was granted under Regulation 54 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, by Wildlife Licensing Unit of the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with associated conditions (Licence No. DER/BAT 2022–51). At the time of issue, the licence covered a period of 22nd April 2022 to 31st May 2022. As it was not possible to complete the bridge repair during this window an extension to the derogation licence was applied for. This was granted (Licence No. *DER/BAT 2022 – 51 (Amended 31/08/2022)*) and covers the period 15th September 2022 to 15th October 2022.

Conditions of Derogation Licence (Licence No. DER/BAT 2022–51) are as follows: -

1. This licence is granted solely to allow the activities specified in connection with the repair/restoration works located at Derreenamacken Bridge, Kenmare, Co. Kerry for Cunmor Construction Ltd.

2. All activities authorised by this licence, and all equipment used in connection herewith, shall be carried out, constructed and maintained (as the case may be) so as to avoid unnecessary injury or distress to any species of BAT.

3. This licence may be modified or revoked, for stated reasons, at any time.

4. The mitigation measures outlined in the application report (Derreenamacken Bridge derogation application , pgs.7-8), together with any changes or clarification agreed in correspondence between NPWS and the agent or applicant, are to be carried out. Strict adherence must be paid to all the proposed measures in the application.

5. No work can begin before 15th September 2022 and must be completed by 15th October 2022.

6. The works will be supervised by a licensed bat specialist Caroline Shiel.

7. This licence shall be produced for inspection on a request being made on that behalf by a member of An Garda Síochána or an authorised NPWS officer appointed under Regulation 4 of the Habitats Regulations.

8. The local National Parks and Wildlife Service field officer Declan O'Donnell, [redacted] should be contacted prior to the commencement of any activity, and if bats are detected on site during the course of the work, under the terms of this licence.

9. A report shall be submitted to Wildlife Licensing Unit, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, 90 North King Street, Smithfield, Dublin 7, D07 N7CV on completion of the actions which this licence authorises, describing the activities carried out in pursuance of this licence.

10. Prior to repair works commencing in 2022 the bridge should be resurveyed to ensure no bats are roosting in the structure.

11. Both upstream and downstream accesses to the clapper culverts are to be retained to allow bats continued access to the structures.

12. Removal of trees in the vicinity of the bridge and along the watercourse should be kept to a minimum.

13. The seven crevices marked with red paint should be retained for bats.

1.2.1.3. Discussion of Lesser Horseshoe bat

Derreenamacken Bridge is located on the southern side of Iveragh Peninsula to the west of woodlands at Dromore; these woodlands are located around and to the east of the River Blackwater at Blackwater Bridge. This includes areas classified as *Ancient and Long Established* Woodland (Source: NBDC map viewer). This is part of the Blackwater River (Kerry) SAC (002173)[3]; Lesser horseshoe bat is a qualifying interest of this site. Further east Old Domestic Building, Dromore Wood SAC (000353) is also designated to protect Lesser horseshoe bat. This lies just west of Templenoe, Co. Kerry, 3.7km east of Derreenamacken Bridge. Old Domestic Building, Askive Wood SAC, which is also designated to protect Lesser horseshoe bat, is located ca. 6.7km to the west (002098). The nearest areas of importance for Lesser Horseshoe bat within Kenmare Bay SAC are located close to Kenmare.

The site of most relevance to Derreenamacken Bridge is therefore the Blackwater River (Kerry) SAC. The western boundaries of the Blackwater River (Kerry) SAC extend west from the river to include the townland of Derreenafoyle. Lands between Derreenafoyle and Derreenamacken Bridge are open / upland habitats in character less favoured by Lesser horseshoe bat (NPWS, 2019). Blackwater River (Kerry) SAC has been selected for Lesser horseshoe bat two roosts of international importance (NPWS roost ID. 442 & 642; see Map 5 of NPWS, 2019).

There are a number of pockets of woodland around Derreenamacken Bridge which run west through the townlands of Doon, Derrygarriff and Derreennamucklagh as far west as Lough Fadda. NBDC mapviewer includes numerous records from south of Derreenamacken Bridge in grid square V7766 (Source: National Lesser Horseshoe Bat Database). This includes multiple records from 2000 – 2015 (up to 60 individuals noted as recently as 2015; though 112 were noted during a roost count in January 2010). These individuals roost in a cave formed by natural forces south of the N70 (exact location is confidential and is not included in this report). West of Derrygarriff there are also numerous records of Lesser horseshoe bat from Tahilla River westwards to Sneem.

Lesser horseshoe bats normally forage in woodlands/scrub within 2.5km of their roosts (Schofield, 2008; in NPWS, 2019). The woodlands east of Derreenamacken Bridge is within the 2.5km foraging range for bats roosting in Roost 442: Blackwater River (Kerry) SAC. Map 5 of NPWS (2019) identifies these woodlands as *Potential Foraging Grounds* for bats from Roost 442. They are also within 2.5km of the cave roost south of the N70 (not within the SAC).

As noted, the culvert is characterised as being used intermittently as a resting site/feeding perch by small numbers of bats. Night roosts are considered an integral part of core foraging areas and require protection (Knight and Jones, 2009; in NPWS, 2019). The culvert and arch at Derreenamacken Bridge may also represent a commuting route for passage of bats under the N70 to habitats north of the road. Maintenance of the culverts / bridge is an open and operational state is therefore also potentially important to Lesser horseshoe bat in this area. As noted seven crevices (marked with red paint) are also to be retained for bats, as will any further crevices identified during the pre-works site visit by the Contractors ecologist.

Based on the above, it is reasonable to assume that bats recorded from Derreenamacken Bridge should be viewed as potentially part of the population roosting and foraging within the Blackwater River (Kerry) SAC.

With respect to the works and mitigation measures proposed above, it is the opinion of the authors of this report that, provided the mitigation measures described above are implemented, the works proposed at this bridge will not result in adverse effects on Blackwater River (Kerry) SAC or Kenmare River SAC.

[3] NPWS (2019). *Conservation Objectives: Blackwater River (Kerry) SAC 002173. Version 1.* National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

1.2.2. Conclusions

As noted, a Natura Impact Statement was prepared on behalf of TII[4] as part of Munster Term Maintenance Contract No 3. This considered works proposed at 68 bridges in the Munster region. The NIS can be viewed in full on TII's website. The current Ecology Note addresses a number of queries raised by TII with respect to Derreenamacken Bridge [KY-N70-052.60]; specifically, regarding the discovery of roosting Lesser horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*) at this location.

Following the application of the mitigation measures described above, there will be no residual impacts arising from the proposed works on Lesser horseshoe bat.

[4] Atkins (2021). *Munster Term Maintenance Contract No. 3. Year 4 Natura Impact Statement.* Report prepared for Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

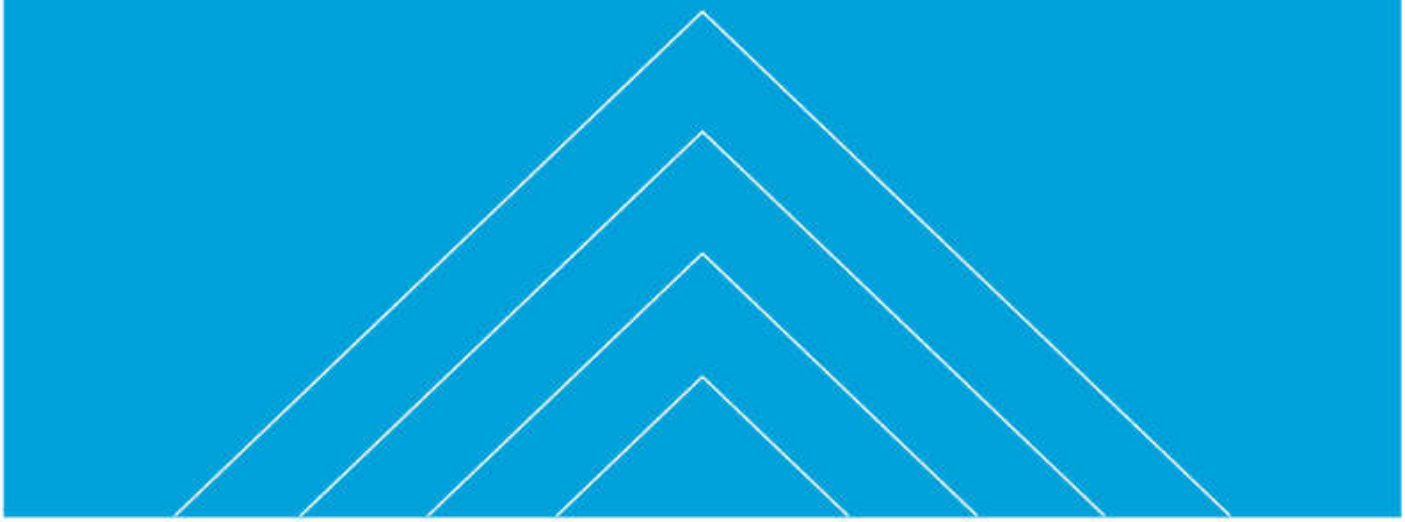
2. References

Atkins (2021). *Munster Maintenance Contract No. 3. Year 4 Natura Impact Statement.* Prepared for Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

NPWS (2013). *Conservation Objectives: Kenmare River SAC 002158. Version 1*. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2019). *Conservation Objectives: Blackwater River (Kerry) SAC 002173. Version 1*. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Appendices



Appendix A. Natura 2000 Sites

Kenmare River SAC (002158)

Site Overview

"*Kenmare River is a long and narrow south-west facing bay situated in the south-west of Ireland. It is a deep, drowned glacial valley, approximately 12 km wide at the mouth and 55 km long. Dursey Island marks the south-west point. The bedrock is mainly Old Red Sandstone with Devonian - Carboniferous marine clastics on the south-west coast. It is deeply fissured in a NE/SW direction. The bedrock is emergent throughout the length of the bay. Exposure to prevailing winds and swells at the mouth diminishes toward the head of the bay. Numerous islands and inlets along the length of the bay provide further areas of additional shelter in which a variety of habitats and unusual communities occur. The coastal fringe is dominated by a mosaic of dry and wet heath, along with patches of blanket bog, coastal grassland and exposed rock. The heath is particularly well developed at Derrynane Bay, which supports a fine dune system. Also present are small areas of deciduous woodland and fresh-water marsh.*

Kenmare River has very high conservation interest, with very good quality examples of large shallow bays, reefs, and marine caves. It has a very wide range of communities from exposed coast to ultra-sheltered areas, and there is an extremely high number (24) of rare and notable species. The sea fan Swiftia pallida *is only known in Ireland from Kenmare River, where it is recorded in several circalittoral sites.* Eunicella verrucosa*, a widespread but locally distributed sea fan, is recorded at two sites in the lower circalittoral reef. At both sites, it occurs with* Swiftia pallida*, the only place where this association is known to occur. Important habitat forming species present are the seagrass,* Zostera marina*, and the coralline algae,* Lithothamnion corallioides*, which form biogenic reefs. Kenmare River is the only area where the brachiopod,* Neocrania anomala*, is commonly found and, unusually, it occurs in exposed areas. There are two good examples of vegetated shingle banks, and at least 6 separate salt meadows, with both Atlantic and Mediterranean types represented. Shifting marram dunes, fixed dunes and dry heath, the latter with the legally protected plant* Simethis planifolia*, are well represented, while a small though significant example of vegetated sea cliffs occurs in the Derrynane area. The site includes many areas of coastal dry heath. There is a long established population of the mollusc* Vertigo angustior *in the dunes at Derrynane. The site includes areas of Calaminarian grassland about Allihies. The site has internationally important summer and winter roosting sites for* Rhinolophus hipposideros*. It also supports important populations of* Lutra lutra *and* Phoca vitulina*. Sterna terns breed on the islands, mainly* S. paradisaea *but* S. hirundo *in some years and* S. albifrons *at least in 1995.*"

Qualifying Interests

- Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]
- Reefs [1170]
- Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]
- Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]
- Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) [1330]
- Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*) [1410]
- Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2120]
- Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]
- European dry heaths [4030]
- *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]

- Calaminarian grasslands of the *Violetalia calaminariae* [6130]
- Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330]
- *Vertigo angustior* (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014]
- *Rhinolophus hipposideros* (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]
- *Lutra lutra* (Otter) [1355]
- *Phoca vitulina* (Harbour Seal) [1365]

Blackwater River (Kerry) SAC

Site Overview

"This large site is situated on the south-western slopes of the Macgillycuddy Reeks in Co. Kerry and overlooks the Kenmare River inlet. The underlying geology of the area is Old Red Sandstone. The site comprises most of the catchment of the Blackwater River system. Two other main rivers, the Kealduff and Derreendarragh, link into the Blackwater and these rivers are characterised by having numerous tributary streams. The rivers rise at altitudes of up to 600 m and flow quite rapidly over their journey of about 10 km to the sea. Water quality is generally good.

*The most frequent habitats within the site are upland grassland and various types of heaths. The grassland is improved to varying extents, especially in the lower parts of the catchment. Common plant species of the less improved grassland include Matgrass (*Nardus stricta*), Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) and Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*). On the more peaty, acidic soils, the grassland grades into dry and wet heaths. Typical plant species of the dry heath include Western Gorse (*Ulex gallii*), Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Bell Heather (*Erica cinerea*) and Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*). The wetter heath areas have a well-developed moss layer, with bog mosses (*Sphagnum *spp.*) being frequent. Other plants of the wet heath include Cross-leaved Heath (*Erica tetralix*), Purple Moor-grass, Deergrass (*Scirpus cespitosus*), Carnation Sedge* (Carex panicea*), Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxitile*) and Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*). Where the peat is deeper blanket bog has developed, though much of this is now cut away. The bog vegetation is typically dominated by Heather, Purple Moorgrass and bog mosses.*

*Deciduous woodland occurs along the upper stretches of the Kealduff River and also along the lower part of the Blackwater River, with smaller patches elsewhere within the site. The principal tree species are Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*), willows (*Salix *spp.*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*), the latter especially along the Blackwater. A scarce plant species which occurs along the Blackwater River is Ivy-leaved Bellflower (*Wahlenbergia hederacea*).*

The rivers within the site have important populations of the Freshwater Pearl Mussel. The Pearl Mussel is a species of high conservation importance due to large declines across its range. This has been due largely to a deterioration in water quality, but also to illegal pearl fishing. The Kerry Slug, another species which is listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive, is also found within this site where suitable habitat exists. The rivers have good populations of Brown Trout, and provide spawning grounds for Sea Trout and Salmon. Overall, the site is considered of high importance for the conservation of the Salmon. Otter occurs throughout the site.

Another important species which occurs within the site is the Lesser Horseshoe Bat. A derelict stone building at Derreenafoyle is used as a nursery site by the bat and in July 1996, approximately 150 bats were counted in the roost site, which makes it of international importance. The site is close to woodland and scrub which provide both suitable foraging habitat and shelter for bats to commute between this site and the winter hibernation site(s). The site is visited at times by a number of bird species of conservation importance, notably Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Hen Harrier and Chough. All of these species are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. The main land uses within the site are agriculture (mostly grazing) and forestry. Some of the upland grassland and heath areas have been over-grazed in the past, while the intensity of afforestation within the catchment threatens water quality. This site is of high conservation value owing to the occurrence of a number of fauna species which are listed on Annex II of the E.U.

Habitats Directive. The site also supports good examples of dry heath, a habitat that is listed on Annex I of this Directive.

Qualifying Interests

- European dry heaths [4030]
- *Geomalacus maculosus* (Kerry Slug) [1024]
- *Margaritifera margaritifera* (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]
- *Salmo salar* (Salmon) [1106]
- *Rhinolophus hipposideros* (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]
- *Lutra lutra* (Otter) [1355]

Appendix B. Summary information on Derreenamacken Bridge

Table B.1 Summary details of bridges requiring Appropriate Assessment.

County	Structure ID	Structure Name	Townlands	Road / River Bridge	Watercourse Name (EPA)	Water Framework Directive Sub Catchment	GPS Co-ordinates (ITM)	
Kerry	KY-N70-052.60	Derreenamacken Bridge	Derreenafoyle	River	Derreenamackan	Kealduff_SC_010	477745	567042

Table B.2 Bridge location relative to European sites and surface water connectivity.

Structure ID	Structure Name	River	WFD Subcatchment	Within SAC	SAC Name	Within SPA	SPA Name	Hydrological link to SAC	Hydrological Link to SPA
KY-N70-052.60	Derreenamacken Bridge	Derreenamackan	Kealduff_SC_010	No	N/A	No	N/A	Kenmare River SAC ca. 150m d/s of bridge 1.2km west of Blackwater River (Kerry) SAC	No

Table B.3 Review of Structures with respect to Otter.

Structure ID	Within SAC where Otter is a QI	Hydrological link to SAC	Field Surveys undertaken by an Ecologist	Photo (showing both upstream & downstream)	Comment
KY-N70-052.60 Derreenamacken Bridge	No	Kenmare River SAC ca. 150m d/s of bridge Blackwater River (Kerry) SAC is ca. 1.2km east of the bridge	Yes (2021)	  	No mention of otter in the bat survey report. Immediate environs of bridge sub-optimal location for an otter holt. [Lesser horseshoe bat were recorded at this structure]

Appendix C. Derogation Licence

An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtas Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

Licence No.: DER/BAT 2022 – 51 (Amended 31/08/2022)

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (BIRDS AND NATURAL HABITATS) REGULATIONS, 2011 (S.I. No 477 of 2011)

DEROGATION LICENCE

Granted under Regulation 54 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, hereinafter referred to as "the Habitats Regulations".

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by Regulation 54 of the Habitats Regulations hereby grants to **Cunmor Construction Ltd** supervised by **Caroline Shiel**, a licence. It is stated that:

(A) In the interests of protecting wild flora and fauna and conserving natural habitats.

(B) There is no satisfactory alternative, and the action authorised by this licence will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of **bats** referred to below at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.

The licence is issued in respect of the following **bat species**:

- **lesser horseshoe bat** ***Rhinolophus hipposideros***

. This licence authorises the following:

(a) Roost disturbance;

(b) Damage or destruction of breeding sites or resting places;

(c) Actions authorised within the licence

This licence is subject to the terms and conditions set out overleaf.

Terms and Conditions

1. This licence is granted solely to allow the activities specified in connection with the **repair/restoration works** located at **Derreenamacken Bridge, Kenmare, Co. Kerry** for **Cunmor Construction Ltd.**

2. All activities authorised by this licence, and all equipment used in connection herewith, shall be carried out, constructed and maintained (as the case may be) so as to avoid unnecessary injury or distress to any species of **BAT**.

3. This licence may be modified or revoked, for stated reasons, at any time.

4. The mitigation measures outlined in the application report (**Derreenamacken Bridge derogation application , pgs.7-8**), together with any changes or clarification agreed in correspondence between NPWS and the agent or applicant, are to be carried out. Strict adherence must be paid to all the proposed measures in the application.

5. No work can begin before **September 15th 2022** and must be completed by **October 15th 2022.**

6. The works will be supervised by a licensed bat specialist **Caroline Shiel.**

7. This licence shall be produced for inspection on a request being made on that behalf by a member of An Garda Síochána or an authorised NPWS officer appointed under Regulation 4 of the Habitats Regulations.

8. The local National Parks and Wildlife Service field officer **Declan O'Donnell,** [redacted] should be contacted prior to the commencement of any activity, and if bats are detected on site during the course of the work, under the terms of this licence.

9. A report shall be submitted to Wildlife Licensing Unit, National Parks and Wildlife Service Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, R. 2.03, 90 North King Street, Smithfield, Dublin 7, D07 N7CV on completion of the actions which this licence authorises, describing the activities carried out in pursuance of this licence.

10. Prior to repair works commencing in 2022 the bridge should be resurveyed to ensure no bats are roosting in the structure.

11. Both upstream and downstream accesses to the clapper culverts are to be retained to allow bats continued access to the structures.

12. Removal of trees in the vicinity of the bridge and along the watercourse should be kept to a minimum.

13. The seven crevices marked with red paint should be retained for bats.

Claire Crowley
(a person authorised by the Minister to sign on his behalf)

31/08/2022

Wildlife Licensing Unit
National Parks and Wildlife Service
Housing, Local Government and Heritage
R. 2.03
90 North King Street
Smithfield
Dublin 7
D07 N7CV

NOTES (1 to 2).

- This licence is granted for the period specified and subject to compliance with the conditions specified. Anything done other than in accordance with the terms of this licence may constitute an offence.

- This licence applies to **bats** and to no other species.

WS Atkins Ireland Limited
Unit 2B
2200 Cork Airport Business Park
Cork
T12 R279