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EIA	
Address	Ardcahan Bridge, Co. Cork
Proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Repair and rehabilitation works to the bridge structure;• Installation of a temporary site compound;• Deck works to include resurfacing, deck waterproofing and bridge parapet repair.

Cork County Council is proposing repair and rehabilitation works to Ardcahan Bridge. The proposed works include resurfacing, deck waterproofing and bridge parapet repair works and the installation of a temporary site compound to provide storage and welfare facilities for construction personnel.

EIA Legislative Context

Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as amended

In considering the requirement for Environment Impact Assessment, the proposed development was assessed under Part 1 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as amended. As the proposed development would not fall under any of the relevant classes set out in Part 1 of Schedule 5, mandatory EIA is not required under Part 1 of the Regulations.

The proposed development was further reviewed against the classes of development specified in Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as amended. As the proposed development would not fall under any of the relevant classes set out in Part 2 of Schedule 5, neither mandatory EIA or subthreshold EIA is required under Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as amended.

Roads Act 1993, as amended

Section 50(1)(a) of the Roads Act, 1993 as amended, sets out the categories of road developments in respect of which there is a mandatory requirement to carry out Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):

- I. The construction of a motorway,
- II. The construction of a busway,
- III. The construction of a service area, or
- IV. Any prescribed type of proposed road development consisting of the construction of a proposed public road or the improvement of any existing public road. The prescribed types of road development comprise:
 - (a) The construction of a new road of four lanes, or the realignment or widening of an existing road so as to provide four or more lanes, where such new, realigned or widened road would be eight kilometres or more in length on a rural area, or 500 metres or more in length an urban area (Article 8 the Roads Regulations 1994).
 - (b) The construction of a new bridge or tunnel which would be 100 metres or more in length.

In this case, the proposal does not fall under the prescribed type of road development pursuant to Section 50(1)(a) of Roads Act, 1993 (as amended) that requires mandatory EIA.

Significant effects on the environment

Under section 50(1)(d), a road authority is required to decide whether or not a proposed road development (other than development to which section 50(1)(a) applies) which consists of the construction of a proposed public road or the improvement of an existing public road would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, where it would be located on:

- I. a European Site within the meaning of Regulation 2 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011,
- II. land established/ recognised as a nature reserve within the meaning of sections 15 or 16 of the Wildlife Act, 1976.
- III. land designated as a refuge for fauna or flora under section 17 of the Wildlife Act 1976, or
- IV. land designated as a natural heritage area under section 18 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000.

In this case, Ardcahan Bridge is located within the Bandon River Special Area Of Conservation (site code 002171) which is a European Site. A Habitats Directive Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination has screened in the requirement for a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment and a Natura Impact Statement has been prepared.

Under Section 50(1)(e), in deciding whether a proposed road development would or would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment, the Road Authority is required to take into account the relevant selection criteria specified in Annex III of the EIA Directive.

An Environment Impact Assessment Screening Report, thus, accompanies the current proposal and has been prepared using criteria set out in Annex III of the EIA Directive. The proposal is also accompanied by an Ecological Appraisal Report, Natura Impact Statement, Bat Survey Report, Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and a Construction Environmental Management Plan.

The Environment Impact Assessment Screening Report provides information on the characteristics of the road development proposed and its likely effects on the environment. Having reviewed and considered the drawings and documentation provided with the proposal and having regard to the nature of the proposal, I am satisfied that the proposed repair and rehabilitation works and temporary site compound would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment and, consequently, an environmental impact assessment report is not required.

In making the determination, regard has been had to the criteria set out in Annex III of the EIA Directive including the characteristics of the development and its likely significant effects on the environment, the mitigation measures set out in the Ecological Appraisal Report, Natura Impact Statement and Construction Environmental Management Plan and the lack of adverse effects on the integrity of the qualifying interests (species and habitats) of the Bandon River Special Area Of Conservation (Site Code: 002171) upon implementation of these measures. The Determination is set out in Appendix 1 of this report.



G.O'Mahony
Senior Planner
20/03/24

Appendix 1

EIAR Screening Determination		
A. Case Details		
Location	Ardcahan Bridge, Co. Cork	
Proposal	Repair and rehabilitation works to Ardcahan Bridge including resurfacing, deck waterproofing and bridge parapet repair works and installation of a temporary site compound to provide storage and welfare facilities for construction personnel.	
	Yes / No / NA:	Comment
Does the application include information specified in Annex III of the EIA Directive	Yes	The proposal is supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment Screening report.
Other relevant information submitted	Yes	Ecological Appraisal Report, Natura Impact Statement, Bat Survey Report and Construction Environmental Management Plan
Does the application include a NIS and/or other reports to enable AA screening?	Yes	The proposed project would be located within the Bandon River Special Area of Conservation (site code 002171) and is supported by a Natura Impact Statement.
Is an IED/IPC/Waste Licence or Waste Water Discharge Authorisation (or review of licence/authorisation) required from the EPA for the subject development?	No	
If YES has the EPA been consulted?		
Have any other relevant assessments of the effects on the environment been carried out pursuant to other relevant Directives – for example SEA or AA?	No	
B. Examination		
1. Characteristics of proposed development		
<i>(including demolition, construction, operation, or decommissioning):</i>		
	If relevant, briefly describe the characteristics of the development (i.e. the nature and extent)	
(a) The size and design of the whole of the proposed development	The proposal relates to repair and rehabilitation works to Ardcahan Bridge. The proposed works include resurfacing, deck waterproofing and bridge parapet repair works and the installation of a temporary site compound to provide storage, parking and welfare facilities. The temporary site compound would	

	be located approx. 30m southwest of the bridge. No demolition works are proposed. All works would be completed within a short time frame and the compound would be removed from site on completion of the works.
(b) Cumulation with other existing and/or permitted projects that could give rise to cumulative effects	The surrounding land use is primarily agriculture with sporadic rural housing. Ardcahan Quarry is located approx. 0.5km east of Ardcahan Bridge. There are no existing or permitted projects which could give rise to cumulative impacts.
(c) Use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity	The repair and rehabilitation works would require minimal use of natural resources. The provision of the temporary compound would include the construction of hard standing areas which would not be significant. The proposal would also include the localised removal of vegetation and trimming of trees to allow access to the bridge. Mitigation measures set out in the Ecological Appraisal Report, Natura Impact Statement and the Construction Environmental Management Plan would ensure no significant effects on the use of natural resources would arise.
(d) Production of waste	Production of waste would arise as a consequence of site preparation and repair and rehabilitation works. The proposal is accompanied by a Construction Environmental Management Plan which sets out the site management strategy for the proposal. The proposed repair works would not generate excessive waste beyond typical quantities associated with similar projects and all waste would be reused or disposed of to a licenced facility and in accordance with the Construction Environmental Management Plan. Washout areas and associated facilities would be located within the compound area and away from fuel storage areas. Washouts would be separated into solids and liquids and recycled appropriately. On completion of the works, the temporary compound would be removed and the site reinstated.
(e) Pollution and nuisances	Potential impacts on water and air quality could arise in addition to impacts from noise, construction traffic and dust nuisances. Flooding could also impact on water quality during the duration of the repair works. The Construction Environmental Management Plan contains mitigation measures to ensure that risk to water quality would be avoided during flood events and the risk from noise, construction traffic and dust nuisances, which would be a low level risk, would be mitigated. No significant risks to water quality have been identified on implementation of the mitigation measures and best practice methods set out in the Ecological Appraisal Report, Natura Impact Statement and the Construction Environmental Management Plan. Washout and fuel storage areas (bunded) would be located within the compound area and away from the Bandon River. Water quality management measures, monitoring and testing would be carried out for the duration of the works with an Ecological Clerk of Works supervising the works.
(f) the risk of major accidents and/or disasters which are relevant to the project concerned, including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge.	The Construction Environmental Management Plan sets out the site strategy in regard to accidents and disasters and includes an emergency response plan. Implementation of mitigation measures and best practice methods set out in both the Construction Environmental Management Plan and the Natura Impact Statement, in addition to the Ecological Appraisal Report, would ensure no major risk of water pollution would arise.

<p>(g) Risks to human health (for example due to water contamination or air pollution).</p>	<p>Potential effects would be limited to site preparation and repair and rehabilitation works and include potential effects on water and air quality. The Construction Environmental Management Plan contains mitigation measures to address such effects. No significant risks have been identified on implementation of the mitigation measures and best practice methods set out in the Ecological Appraisal Report and the Natura Impact Statement.</p>
<p>2. Location of proposed development</p>	
<p>The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by the proposed development:</p>	<p>If relevant, briefly describe the characteristics of the location.</p>
<p>(a) the existing and approved land use</p>	<p>Ardcahan Bridge spans the R587 over the River Bandon and is located in a primarily agricultural area with sporadic rural housing in the surrounding rural area. The proposed project would be located within the Bandon River Special Area of Conservation (site code 002171) with qualifying interests (species and habitats) including freshwater pearl mussel, brook lamprey, '<i>water courses of plain to montane levels with Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation</i>' and '<i>Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior</i>'. Ardcahan Bridge is located in an area susceptible to flooding, as set out in the Cork County Development Plan, 2022.</p>
<p>(b) the relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground;</p>	<p>The proposal relates to the repair and rehabilitation of an existing bridge with the provision of a temporary site compound for the duration of the works. Given the limited scale and duration of the works and the implementation of best practice and mitigation measures set out in the Ecological Appraisal Report, Natura Impact Statement and the Construction Environmental Management Plan, the proposal would be unlikely to have significant effects on the relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources in the area and its underground.</p>
<p>(c) the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths; (ii) coastal zones and the marine environment; (iii) mountain and forest areas; (iv) nature reserves and parks; (v) areas classified or protected under national legislation; Natura 2000 areas designated by Member States pursuant to Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC; (vi) areas in which there has already been a failure to 	<p>Ardcahan Bridge and the proposed temporary site compound are located within the Bandon River Special Area of Conservation (site code 002171). Riparian habitats are present adjacent to the bridge.</p> <p>The Ecological Appraisal Report, Natura Impact Statement and Construction Environmental Management Plan set out mitigation measures and controls to be implemented which would ensure that no significant impacts would arise from the proposed works on the absorption capacity of the natural environment.</p> <p>Ardcahan Bridge is not located in a densely populated area nor is it located in a high value landscape. The proposed development would not have any significant visual impacts on the landscape and the site compound would be removed on completion of the repair and rehabilitation works.</p> <p>Ardcahan Bridge is not a protected structure and is not included on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. There are no known archaeological sites within the site of the proposed development.</p>

<p>meet the environmental quality standards, laid down in Union legislation and relevant to the project, or in which it is considered that there is such a failure;</p> <p>(vii) densely populated areas;</p> <p>(viii) landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance.</p>	
<p>3. Type and characteristics of potential impacts</p>	
<p>The likely significant effects of projects on the environment must be considered in relation to criteria set out in points 1 and 2 of this Annex, with regard to the impact of the project on the factors specified in Article 3(1), taking into account:</p>	
<p>a) the magnitude and spatial extent of the impact (for example geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)</p>	<p>The magnitude and spatial extent of impacts arising from the repair and rehabilitation works would be localised, limited in duration and limited to the bridge, the temporary site compound and its immediate vicinity. The site of the compound would be restored on completion of the repair and rehabilitation works.</p> <p>No significant risks to water quality have been identified on implementation of the mitigation measures and best practice methods set out in the Ecological Appraisal Report, Natura Impact Statement and the Construction Environmental Management Plan. Water quality management measures, monitoring and testing would be carried out for the duration of the works and an Ecological Clerk of Works would supervise the works.</p>
<p>(b) the nature of the impact</p>	<p><i>Human Beings, Population and Human Health</i></p> <p>The nature of impacts which could arise in regard to noise, dust, emissions from the operation of machinery and traffic disturbance would be slight, temporary and limited in duration.</p> <p><i>Biodiversity</i></p> <p>Potential impacts arising from vegetation clearing and tree trimming would be minor, localised and would take place under the supervision of an ecologist and would be in line with the mitigation measures set out in the Ecological Appraisal Report and Natura Impact Statement.</p> <p>The proposed works could give rise to potential impacts on water quality and on the qualifying interests (species and habitats) of the Bandon River Special Area of Conservation by way of pollution from hydrocarbons, wash-out facilities, contaminants and sedimentation entering the river during the period of repair works. The invasive species, Winter Heliotrope, is present in the vicinity of the site and its spread, in addition to other invasive species, could arise during the duration of the repair works.</p> <p><i>Land, Soil, Water, Air and Climate</i></p> <p>Water quality impacts could arise from hydrocarbons, wash-out facilities, contaminants and sedimentation. Impacts on soil and land could include the use of agricultural land for the temporary site compound and the laying of aggregate as a base for the compound. Noise, dust and exhaust emissions could arise from the</p>

	<p>operation of machinery during the site operation period.</p> <p><i>Material Assets</i></p> <p>General nuisance from traffic congestion during the site operation works could arise.</p> <p><i>Landscape & Cultural Heritage</i></p> <p>Impacts on the landscape could include the use of agricultural land for the temporary site compound. The proposal would not impact on known archaeological sites or cultural landscapes.</p>
(c) the transboundary nature of the impact;	Transboundary effects are not applicable to the proposed development.
(d) the intensity and complexity of the impact;	<p><i>Human Beings, Population and Human Health</i></p> <p>Potential impacts that could arise during the site preparation and remedial repair works would be minor, temporary and localised in nature. Mitigation measures and controls are set out in the Construction Environmental Management Plan. On completion of the works, the improved structural integrity of the bridge would have a positive impact on human health.</p> <p><i>Biodiversity</i></p> <p>Potential impacts on biodiversity from tree trimming and vegetation clearance would be minor, temporary and of low intensity. The compound would be sited on agricultural lands and would be restored on completion of the proposed works allowing the site to revegetate.</p> <p>During the repair and rehabilitation works, there is potential for contaminants to enter the Bandon River. Potential impacts on water quality would be avoided on implementation of the mitigation measures and controls set out in the Ecological Appraisal Report, Natura Impact Statement and the Construction Environmental Management Plan. Water quality management measures, monitoring and testing would be carried out for the duration of the works and an Ecological Clerk of Works would supervise the works. The mitigation measures proposed would ensure the risk of the spread of invasive species, including Winter Heliotrope, would be avoided.</p> <p><i>Land, Soil, Water, Air and Climate</i></p> <p>Noise, dust and exhaust emissions that could arise from the operation of machinery during the site operation period would be temporary, localised and of low intensity.</p> <p><i>Material Assets</i></p> <p>Impacts that could arise from traffic disruption during the site operation works would be low in intensity and temporary in nature. Mitigation measures and controls are set out in the Construction Environmental Management Plan.</p> <p><i>Landscape & Cultural Heritage</i></p> <p>The site compound is temporary and would have a minimal impact on the landscape which is not a designated high value landscape. No impacts would arise in respect to known archaeological sites or cultural landscapes.</p>
(e) the probability of the impact;	<p><i>Human Beings, Population and Human Health</i></p> <p>Nuisance impacts associated with the site preparation and remedial repair works could arise but would be temporary and of a</p>

	<p>low level.</p> <p><i>Biodiversity</i></p> <p>Probable impacts on biodiversity and on mammals, bats, birds and aquatic species arising from the repair works, the compound and localised tree trimming/ vegetation clearance would be low upon implementation of the mitigation measures and controls set out in the Ecological Appraisal Report, Natura Impact Statement and Construction Environmental Management Plan.</p> <p>The probability of impacts on water quality would be avoided on implementation of the mitigation measures and controls set out in the Ecological Appraisal Report, Natura Impact Statement and the Construction Environmental Management Plan. Water quality management measures, monitoring and testing would be carried out for the duration of the works and an Ecological Clerk of Works would supervise the works.</p> <p>The probability of impacts from the spread of the invasive species would be unlikely to occur on implementation of the appropriate mitigation and best practice measures set out in the Ecological Appraisal Report, Natura Impact Statement and the Construction Environmental Management Plan.</p> <p><i>Land, Soil, Water, Air and Climate</i></p> <p>The probability of impacts arising from noise, dust and exhaust emissions would be unlikely to occur on implementation of the mitigation and best practice measures set out in the Construction Environmental Management Plan.</p> <p><i>Material Assets</i></p> <p>The probability of impacts arising from traffic disruption during the site operation works would be unlikely to occur, given the mitigation and best practice measures set out in the Construction Environmental Management Plan.</p> <p><i>Landscape & Cultural Heritage</i></p> <p>Any probable visual impact that may arise in regard to the site compound would be temporary and would have a minimal impact on the landscape. No impacts would arise in respect to known archaeological sites or cultural landscapes.</p>
(f) the expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact	<p><i>Human Beings, Population and Human Health</i></p> <p>Slight nuisance impacts which could arise would be temporary and of a low level associated with the minimal repair and rehabilitation works proposed. The impacts would be reversible as the site compound would be removed on completion of the works and the site restored to its original agricultural use.</p> <p><i>Biodiversity</i></p> <p>Potential impacts on biodiversity would be temporary and of limited impact. Impacts arising from tree trimming and vegetation clearance would be limited to facilitate access to the bridge during the repair and rehabilitation works.</p> <p>Any potential impacts on water quality would be limited to the short duration of the repair and rehabilitation works. Such impacts would be unlikely to occur as the proposal would incorporate controls, best practice and mitigation measures set out in the Ecological Appraisal Report, Natura Impact Statement and the Construction Environmental Management Plan. Water quality</p>

	<p>management measures, monitoring and testing would be carried out for the duration of the works and an Ecological Clerk of Works would supervise the works.</p> <p>The implementation of mitigation measures and controls, as set out in the Ecological Appraisal Report, Natura Impact Statement and Construction Environmental Management Plan, would ensure the spread of invasive species would be unlikely to occur.</p> <p><i>Land, Soil, Water, Air and Climate</i></p> <p>Impacts arising from noise, dust and exhaust emissions would be minor, of low intensity and reversible on completion of the proposed repair and rehabilitation work.</p> <p><i>Material Assets</i></p> <p>Any impacts would be limited to the short duration of the repair and rehabilitation works and would be reversible.</p> <p><i>Landscape & Cultural Heritage</i></p> <p>Any visual impact which would arise in regard to the site compound would be temporary, reversible and would have minimal impact on the landscape. No impacts would arise in respect to known archaeological sites or cultural landscapes.</p>
(g) cumulation of the impact with the impact of other existing and/or approved projects;	No cumulative impacts would be likely to occur.
(h) the possibility of effectively reducing the impact.	<p><i>Human Beings, Population and Human Health</i></p> <p>The mitigation measures and best practice controls set out in the Construction Environmental Management Plan would effectively avoid any potential impacts.</p> <p><i>Biodiversity</i></p> <p>Impacts on biodiversity and water quality would be unlikely to occur on implementation of the controls, best practice and mitigation measures set out in the Ecological Appraisal Report, Natura Impact Statement and the Construction Environmental Management Plan.</p> <p><i>Land, Soil, Water, Air and Climate</i></p> <p>Mitigation measures and best practice controls are set out in the Construction Environmental Management Plan which would effectively avoid any potential nuisance impacts.</p> <p><i>Material Assets</i></p> <p>None required.</p> <p><i>Landscape & Cultural Heritage</i></p> <p>None required.</p>
C. Determination	
<p>Having regard to the above, the accompanying information and in particular to the limited nature and scale of the proposal, by itself and in combination with other plans and projects, it is considered that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report is not required.</p>	
D. Main Reasons and Considerations	

Having regard to the above and the following:

- (a) the limited nature, scale and extent of the proposed development which relates to repair and rehabilitation works to Ardcahan Bridge including the installation of a temporary site compound,
- (b) the conclusions of the Natura Impact Statement that the proposed bridge remediation works and temporary compound would not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the qualifying interests (species and habitats) of the Bandon River Special Area of Conservation,
- (c) the mitigation measures outlined in the Ecological Appraisal Report, Natura Impact Statement, Bat Survey Report and the Construction Environmental Management Plan,
- (d) the accompanying documentation including the Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report,

it is considered that the proposed development would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment and an environmental impact assessment report is, therefore, not required.