

Colin Murphy

From: Christian Nea
Sent: Tuesday 18 March 2025 15:27
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Liam Duffy; Keir Wilson; Vincent O'Malley; Colin Murphy
Subject: FW: Garryglass Bridge (KY-N70-036.00) - Screening for Appropriate Assessment
Attachments: Garryglass Bridge (KY-N70-036.00) - Photos.zip; Garryglass Bridge (KY-N70-036.00) - AA Screening.xlsx; Garryglass Bridge (KY-N70-036-00) - Location (ITM).gpkg

Paul,

Having performed screening for Appropriate Assessment in respect of the proposed maintenance works detailed in the email entitled 'Re: Garryglass Bridge (KY-N70-036.00) - Screening for Appropriate Assessment' and dated the 14th of March 2025, I accept the recommendations of Atkins Réalis that the proposed 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.

Kind regards,

Christian

From: O'Donoghue, Paul [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday 14 March 2025 17:23
To: Christian Nea [REDACTED]
Cc: Daly, Vincent [REDACTED]; O'Keefe, Owen [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Garryglass Bridge (KY-N70-036.00) - Screening for Appropriate Assessment

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Hi Christian,

Re: Garryglass Bridge (KY-N70-036.00) - Screening for Appropriate Assessment

Please find attached an AA Screening spreadsheet for the proposed non-routine maintenance at Garryglass Bridge (KY-N70-036.00) in Co. Kerry. The bridge location is shown in Figure 1 below; see also <https://maps.app.goo.gl/LrFaGdE6i5JQTkdz5>

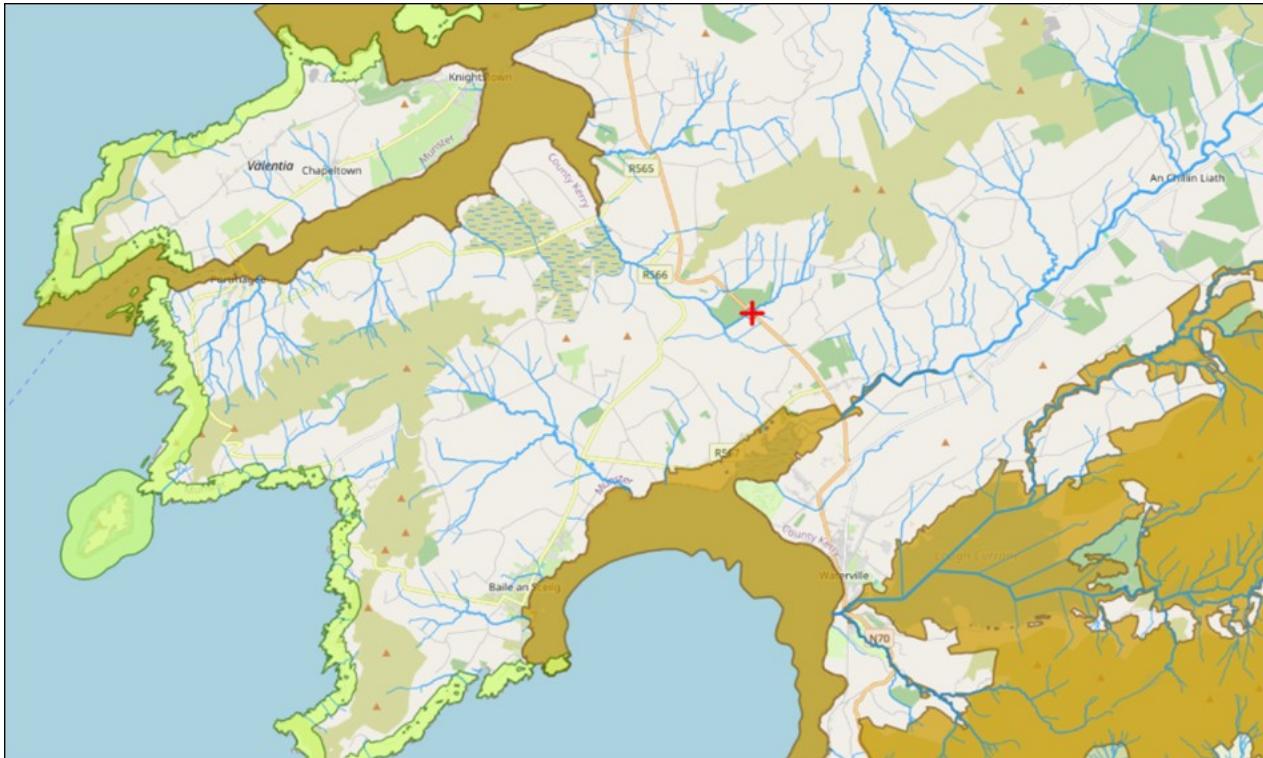


Figure 1 - Location of Garryglass Bridge (KY-N70-036.00) in Co. Kerry (red cross). SACs in brown and SPAs in green. (Source: EPA Water Maps).

The bridge is located on a watercourse with the EPA name "AN_TULAIGH" in the WFD Sub-Catchment "BOOLA_SC_010". The bridge is not within any European site but is hydrologically connected to the Valencia Harbour/Portmagee Channel SAC (site code: 002262), which is situated c. 4.9km downstream of the bridge. There is no hydrological connectivity to any other SAC. The nearest SPA is the Iveragh Peninsula SPA (site code: 004154), which is situated c. 8km (straight-line distance) to the north-west. However, the habitats in the vicinity of the bridge are not likely to support any ex-situ birds of special conservation interest in this SPA.

The qualifying interests (QIs) of the Valencia Harbour/Portmagee Channel SAC are as follows: -

- 'Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide' (1140)
- 'Large shallow inlets and bays' (1160)
- 'Reefs' (1170)

Source: NPWS (2012) *Conservation Objectives: Valencia Harbour/Portmagee Channel SAC (002262)*. Version 1.0. National Parks & Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

The National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) database for Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) does not include any records for this species in this watercourse or WFS Sub-Catchment, and the bridge is not within a *Margaritifera*-sensitive Area. There are also no records in either the NPWS or National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) databases for White-clawed Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) in this catchment, and this catchment is not affected by aphanomycosis ("crayfish plague").

There are no records of invasive non-native plant species restricted under Regulation 49 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. No. 477/2011) (as amended), e.g. Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica* syn. *Fallopia japonica*), Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) or Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), within the immediate environs of the bridge or within 1km. The non-native species Montbretia (*Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora*) is abundant on the riverbanks upstream and downstream of the bridge. However, this species is not subject to any legal restrictions and is not considered a 'High-impact' invasive species in O'Flynn et al. (2014). [O'Flynn, C., Kelly, J. and Lysaght, L. (2014). Ireland's invasive and non-native species – trends in introductions. *National Biodiversity Data Centre Series 2*, Waterford.]

In 2020, the bridge was subject to an assessment of its potential to support roosting bats. This assessment found that open joints in masonry of the clapper culvert sections of the bridge provided potential bat roost features. The proposed non-routine maintenance works will not interact with any potential bat roost features.

Proposed works: *"The masonry parapet is to be rebuilt to match the existing construction. The damage to the parapet measures as follows section 1: (2.84m x 0.98m high x 0.43m thick) Section 2: (2m x 0.45m high x 0.43m thick) Section 3: (1.8m x 0.21m high x 0.43m thick). All dislodged masonry which is deposited in the stream channel is to be removed and reused within the works where feasible. Any imported stone is required to match the existing and material proposals are to be submitted for approval by AtkinsRéalis. A new pole and mounted W 183 barrier board installed to replace the damaged sign. The damaged sign and pole is to be removed off site and disposed of. A new bridge ID plate is to be fixed to the parapet. Note TII have advised that a pavement contract may be starting in the coming weeks so engagement with this contractor is required if our works need to be undertaken within their works area."*

Please find the following attached to this email:

1. Garryglass Bridge (KY-N70-036.00) - AA Screening.xlsx
2. Garryglass Bridge (KY-N70-036.00) - Photos.zip
3. Garryglass Bridge (KY-N70-036-00) - Location (ITM).gpkg

The second tab in the AA Screening spreadsheet shows the AA Screening for Year 2 (2024) Routine Maintenance at this bridge.

The works will be undertaken c. 4.9km upstream of a European site and will include access to the watercourse and works over water. However, given the nature and limited extent of these works, as well as the hydrological distance to the European site and the sensitivities of its QIs, there will be no significant effects on the European site.

Please don't hesitate to contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

Paul

Paul O'Donoghue BSc MSc PhD MCIEEM CEnv

Associate Director (Ecologist)

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