

## Colin Murphy

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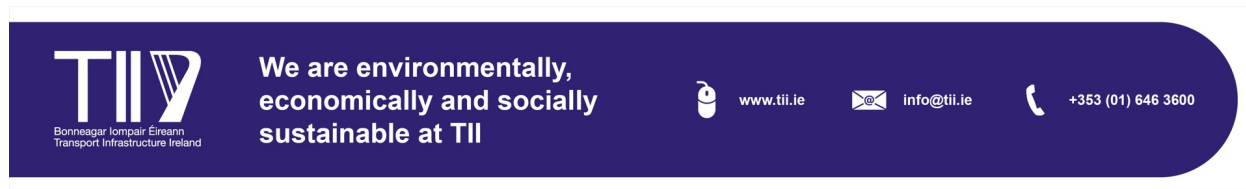
**From:** Colin Murphy  
**Sent:** Thursday 10 April 2025 09:08  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Christian Nea; Vincent O'Malley; Liam Duffy; [REDACTED]; O'Donoghue, Paul  
**Subject:** FW: TO334 Munster Bridges TMC - Non-Routine Maintenance - Loher Bridge (KY-N70-040.40)- TII Comments  
**Attachments:** 5219386DG0059 rev 1 - Loher AA Scr Rpt.pdf

Owen,

Please find reasoned determination below.

Regards,  
Colin Murphy  
Ecologist  
Transport Infrastructure Ireland  
[REDACTED]

Address: [Parkgate Business Centre, Parkgate Place, Parkgate Street, Dublin 8, Ireland, D08 DK10](#)



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**From:** Vincent O'Malley <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday 9 April 2025 17:36  
**To:** Colin Murphy <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Christian Nea <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** FW: TO334 Munster Bridges TMC - Non-Routine Maintenance - Loher Bridge (KY-N70-040.40)- TII Comments

Hi Colin,  
Having reviewed the content of your email, I accept the reasoned determination as set out below.  
Many thanks for preparing this.  
Sincerely  
Vincent

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*Dr Vincent O'Malley*  
*Head of Environmental Policy & Compliance,*  
*Transport Infrastructure Ireland*  
[www.tii.ie](http://www.tii.ie)

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**From:** Colin Murphy <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday 9 April 2025 14:29  
**To:** Vincent O'Malley <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Christian Nea <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** FW: TO334 Munster Bridges TMC - Non-Routine Maintenance - Loher Bridge (KY-N70-040.40)- TII Comments

Hi Vincent,

I have reviewed the revised Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for the proposed non-routine maintenance works on the Loher Bridge Co. Kerry, received from Owen O'Keefe of AtkinsRéalis on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2025. A first draft of the report was received on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2025. TII sought clarification on several items relating to the proposed works and associated methodologies. A revised report was then received on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April in which all TII comments were addressed.

It is detailed in the report that the proposed works will involve the infilling of deep scouring on a stream (Loher Stream) which has occurred over a length of almost 50m downstream of the Loher bridge and reinforcement of the new bed and both banks to prevent further erosion. Approximately 2m downstream of the bridge (i.e. at the end of the bridge apron) the stream flows over a waterfall before continuing downstream towards the coastline.

As noted in the report, the lands bordering the bridge to the northeast are designated as part of the Killarney National Park, Macgillicuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC. This SAC is designated for a variety of terrestrial and aquatic species and habitats. The proposed works do not involve any activities or access on this side of the road, i.e. there will be no works or access within the SAC. The stream discharges to the sea at Ballinskelligs Bay, which is part of the Ballinskelligs Bay and Inny Estuary SAC, c. 1.3km downstream. This SAC is designated primarily for marine influenced salt marsh habitats (Atlantic and Mediterranean) and Petalwort, which is a specialist terrestrial sand dune species.

The Appropriate Assessment Screening Report notes there is no potential for the proposed works to result in likely significant effects on the Killarney National Park, Macgillicuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC. This is

primarily due to all the proposed works being located outside of the SAC. No works will occur upstream of the Loher bridge, which is the area designated as part of the SAC. The physical characteristics of the Loher Stream do not support suitable spawning habitat for the aquatic species of the SAC (Lamprey species and Salmon). In addition, the waterfall presents an impassable barrier for these species to access the upper reaches of the stream. No otter resting, breeding or foraging habitat is present at this location. Likely significant effects are also ruled out on the Ballinskelligs Bay and Inny Estuary SAC due to the hydrological distance (7km), the dilution capacity of Ballinskelligs Bay, the dominance of outward flow from the estuary and the fact that saltmarshes are only periodically inundated. As such, it is deemed the hydrological connection between the proposed works and these habitats is extremely weak.

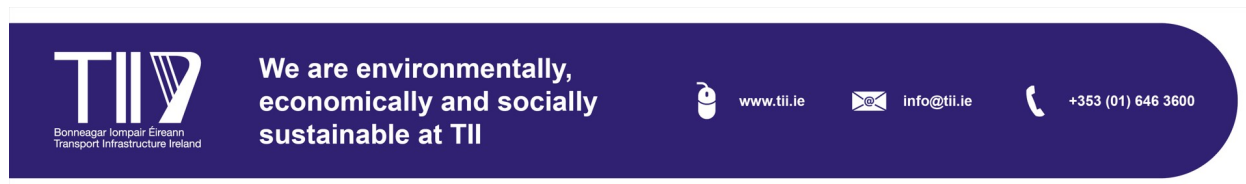
Based on the description of the proposed works and associated methodologies provided by AtkinsRéalis, I agree with the conclusion that the proposed works will have no significant effect on any European site.

As such, I recommend that the following reasoned determination can be made in relation to non-routine maintenance works at Loher Bridge:

*“Having performed screening for Appropriate Assessment in respect of the proposed reactive maintenance works detailed in the email containing the Appropriate Assessment Report received from Owen O’Keefe dated the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2025, and entitled ‘O334 Munster Bridges TMC - Non-Routine Maintenance - Loher Bridge (KY-N70-040.40) - TII Comments’, I accept the recommendation of AtkinsRéalis 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.”*

Regards,  
Colin Murphy  
Ecologist  
Transport Infrastructure Ireland

Address: [Parkgate Business Centre, Parkgate Place, Parkgate Street, Dublin 8, Ireland, D08 DK10](#)



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**From:** O'Keefe, Owen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday 4 April 2025 15:31  
**To:** Colin Murphy <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Christian Nea <[REDACTED]>; Paul ODonoghue <[REDACTED]>; Daly, Vincent <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Re: TO334 Munster Bridges TMC - Non-Routine Maintenance - Loher Bridge (KY-N70-040.40)- TII Comments

You don't often get email from [owen.okeefe@atkinsrealis.com](mailto:owen.okeefe@atkinsrealis.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi Colin,

Please see revised version attached with your comments addressed.

Kind regards,

**Owen O'Keefe** (he/him) BSc (Hons) MCIEEM

Senior Ecologist  
Infrastructure, Ireland

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

AtkinsRéalis

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**From:** O'Keefe, Owen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** 02 April 2025 3:08 PM  
**To:** Colin Murphy <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Christian Nea <[REDACTED]>; O'Donoghue, Paul <[REDACTED]> Daly, Vincent

[REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: TO334 Munster Bridges TMC - Non-Routine Maintenance - Loher Bridge (KY-N70-040.40)- TII Comments

Hi Colin,

Thanks for this. I will revert to you by the end of this week with responses to your comments.

Kind regards,

**Owen O'Keefe** (he/him) BSc (Hons) MCIEEM

Senior Ecologist

Infrastructure, Ireland

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**AtkinsRéalis**

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**From:** Colin Murphy [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 01 April 2025 2:31 PM

**To:** O'Keefe, Owen [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Christian Nea [REDACTED]; O'Donoghue, Paul [REDACTED]

**Subject:** TO334 Munster Bridges TMC - Non-Routine Maintenance - Loher Bridge (KY-N70-040.40)- TII Comments

Hi Owen,

Apologies for the delay in responding to you.

I've reviewed the AASR you prepared for the non-routine maintenance works at Loher Bridge and added some comments/queries within the report.

Due to the significant extent of the works proposed and the close proximity to European Sites, some clarifications are likely required within the report. I would appreciate if you could review and revert within the necessary amendments.

If you believe a call would be helpful to discuss the works, I'm available Thursday after 16:00 or Friday.

Regards,

Colin Murphy

Ecologist

Transport Infrastructure Ireland

[REDACTED]  
Address: [Parkgate Business Centre, Parkgate Place, Parkgate Street, Dublin 8, Ireland, D08 DK10](#)

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