

Colin Murphy

From: O'Donoghue, Paul <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday 3 March 2026 17:36
To: Colin Murphy
Cc: Vincent O'Malley; Christian Nea; Keir Wilson; Jennings, Martin; Schmidt, Alec; Daly, Vincent
Subject: RE: Re. Lemybrien Bridge 2 (WC-N25-012.00) - Non routine maintenance

Colin

Thanks for turning this around so quickly.

Regards

Paul

Paul O'Donoghue BSc MSc PhD MCIEEM CEnV

Associate Director (Ecologist)

[REDACTED]

Unit 2B, 2200 Cork Airport Business Park
Cork, T12 R279, Ireland

AtkinsRéalis

AtkinsRéalis - Baseline / Référence

From: Colin Murphy [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 4:10 PM
To: O'Donoghue, Paul [REDACTED]
Cc: Vincent O'Malley [REDACTED]; Christian Nea [REDACTED]; Keir Wilson [REDACTED]; Jennings, Martin <[REDACTED]>; Schmidt, Alec <[REDACTED]>; Daly, Vincent <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: Re. Lemybrien Bridge 2 (WC-N25-012.00) - Non routine maintenance

Hi Paul,

Please see reasoned determination below for Lemybrien Bridge 2.

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: Tuesday 3 March 2026 12:47
To: Colin Murphy [REDACTED]
Cc: Christian Nea [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Re. Lemybrien Bridge 2 (WC-N25-012.00) - Non routine maintenance

Colin,
Having reviewed the content of your email and attachments, I accept the reasoned determination set out below.
Sincerely
Vincent

Dr Vincent O'Malley
Head of Environmental Policy & Compliance,
Transport Infrastructure Ireland
www.tii.ie

From: Colin Murphy [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday 3 March 2026 11:18
To: Vincent O'Malley [REDACTED]
Cc: Christian Nea [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Re. Lemybrien Bridge 2 (WC-N25-012.00) - Non routine maintenance

Hi Vincent,

We have received an AA screening from AtkinsRéalis for proposed non-routine maintenance at Lemybrien Bridge 2 (WC-N25-012.00) which is situated N25 just north of the village of Lemybrien in Co. Waterford. I would be grateful if you could review the information below and provide a reasoned determination.

As noted below, vegetation has become trapped underneath and upstream of Lemybrien Bridge 2, which is a triple span concrete bridge which carries the N25 over the River Tay. The proposed works will involve the removal of larger vegetation upstream of the bridge using an on-deck grab unit. The grab unit will be positioned within the staging area for the works, on the nearside lane of the N25. Smaller vegetation trapped underneath the arch will be removed manually, requiring in-stream access on foot.. Any vegetation which is too large to be removed by hand will be cut into smaller, manageable pieces using manual trimmers. It is anticipated the works will be completed in one day.

Lemybrien Bridge 2 lies above the River Tay, which does not lie within any Natura 2000 site at the location of the bridge. The river flows into the Celtic Sea ca. 12.1km downstream of the bridge structure, where the Mid-Waterford Coast SPA is adjacent to both sides of the mouth of the river. Therefore, there is hydrological connectivity between the proposed works and one no. Natura 2000 site. The SPA is designated for 4 no. Qualifying Interest species.

As noted below, AtkinsRéalis have determined the works will result in no likely significant effects on the aforementioned Natura 2000 sites due to the short duration (to be completed within one working day) and the methodology to be followed includes precautions against the spillage of materials, the risk of additional debris or pollutants entering the river channel is low. Furthermore, the routine biosecurity measures to be followed ensure that the spread of invasive species will be unlikely to occur.

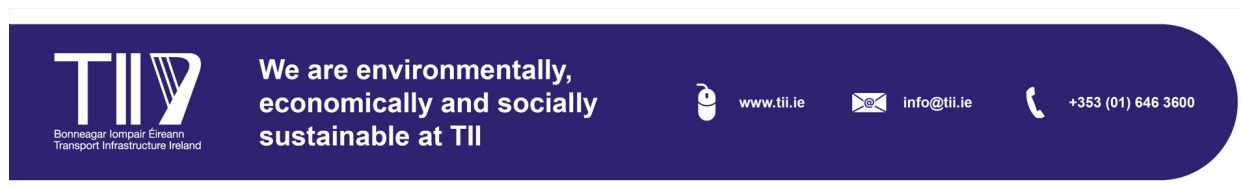
Based on the description of the proposed works and associated methodologies provided by AtkinsRéalis, I agree with the conclusion that the proposed works will not lead to likely significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites.

Having performed screening for Appropriate Assessment in respect of the proposed emergency repair works detailed in the Appropriate Assessment Screening received in an email from Paul O'Donoghue on the 2nd of March 2026, and entitled 'Lemybrien Bridge 2 (WC-N25-012.00) - Non routine maintenance', I accept the recommendation of AtkinsRéalis that the proposed works, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would not be likely to have a significant effect on any Natura 2000 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 Natura 2000 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'Donoghue, Paul [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday 2 March 2026 12:19
To: Christian Nea [REDACTED]
Cc: Colin Murphy [REDACTED]; Daly, Vincent [REDACTED] >; Jennings, Martin [REDACTED] >; Schmidt, Alec [REDACTED] Keir Wilson [REDACTED] >
Subject: Re. Lemybrien Bridge 2 (WC-N25-012.00) - Non routine maintenance

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Re. Lemybrien Bridge 2 (WC-N25-012.00).

AtkinsRéalis have been requested to undertake Stage 1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment in anticipation of the proposed non-routine maintenance at Lemybrien Bridge 2 (WC-N25-012.00), which is situated along the N25 just north of the village of Lemybrien (Figure 1). The proposed non-routine maintenance involves the removal of debris from the watercourse, which is trapped underneath and on the upstream side of the bridge structure. The proposed works are not related to or directly associated with the management of any Natura 2000 site(s).



Figure 1: Location of Lemybrien Bridge 2 (WC-N25-012.00) on the N25 north of Lemybrien, Co. Waterford.



Figure 2: Debris trapped on upstream side of the bridge.



Figure 3: Debris trapped underneath one of the arches of the bridge.

Proposed Works

Vegetation has become trapped underneath and upstream of Lemybrien Bridge 2 (WC-N25-012.00), Co. Waterford. The bridge is a triple-span, concrete bridge which carries the N25 over the River Tay. The Contractor has been commissioned by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to remove the trapped vegetation (see Figure 2, Figure 3). The full scope of works is as follows: -

- Removal of vegetation trapped at the upstream elevation of the bridge structure.
- Removal of vegetation trapped underneath one no. arch of the bridge structure.

The proposed works will occur over water and within a watercourse. The Contractor is expected to mobilise in early March 2026, and the proposed works are expected to be completed within a day. Access to the site of the proposed works will be from the N25, where the road will be closed to traffic from the nearside lane to facilitate access and create a staging area for the works. All plant and materials will be removed from the site upon the conclusion of the works.

Part of the proposed works will require the use of tools and machinery adjacent to the river channel. Entry into the watercourse will be required on foot to retrieve trapped vegetation from within the arch. Oil absorbent booms and pads, grab ropes and silt trapping booms will be on-site as standard to ensure that there is no input of additional debris or pollutants into the river arising from the proposed works in the event of an oil leak or if silt is disturbed within the river channel. Forecasts and water levels will also be consulted prior to commencing works to ensure that the watercourse can be safely access and reduce the risk of disturbing sediment.

Methodology

Pre-Works

1. Prior to any works, JONS Engineer will liaise with the landowner(s) for access and consult relevant stakeholders as required (i.e. Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI), Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), Waterford City & County Council (WCC), etc.).
2. Notify Gardaí & Waterford City & County Council Area Engineer.
3. Review & prepare Temporary Traffic Management (TTM) requirements.
4. Procurement of materials & equipment.

TTM

1. Before any vegetation removal works commences, TTM system will be setup in accordance with approved TTM drawing.
2. A lane closure will be required for the duration of the works. This will be setup for recovery and processing of vegetation removed from the water course.
3. The TTM will be in place on a daily basis. If TTM is required to be in place overnight, WCC will be notified and temporary lighting in place to aid motorists.
4. TTM set up in accordance with Subcontractors RAMS.

Vegetation Removal

1. Large vegetation trapped at the upstream elevation will be removed from the watercourse using an on-deck grab unit. The grab unit will be positioned within the staging area for the works, on the nearside lane of the N25.
2. Smaller vegetation trapped underneath the arch will be removed manually, requiring in-stream access on foot.. Any vegetation which is too large to be removed by hand will be cut into smaller, manageable pieces using manual trimmers
3. Once vegetation is removed from the watercourse, it will be cut into manageable pieces on within the staging area to facilitate faster loading for off-site disposal. Removed vegetation will be loaded onto a truck for disposal off site.

4. Care will be taken to dispose of the removed vegetation in a responsible manner, following standard biosecurity guidelines, particularly in relation to invasive alien plant species.

Demobilisation

1. Prior to demobilisation, any excessive material will be removed from site. The structure will be available for inspection / acceptance for approval, and all cones, signage and equipment will be taken off site.

Ecological Constraints

Lemybrien Bridge 2 lies above the River Tay, which does not lie within any Natura 2000 site at the location of the bridge. The river flows into the Celtic Sea ca. 12.1km downstream of the bridge structure, where the Mid-Waterford Coast SPA is adjacent to both sides of the mouth of the river. Therefore, there is hydrological connectivity between the proposed works and one no. Natura 2000 site.

The Mid-Waterford Coast SPA -A encompasses the areas of high coast and sea cliffs in Co. Waterford between Newtown Cove to the east and Ballyvoyle to the west. The SPA is designated for 4 no. Qualifying Interest species, namely 'Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)' [A017], 'Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*)' [A103], 'Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)' [A184], 'Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*)' [A346] (see - <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/000534>). The water quality of the River Tay was monitored under the Water Framework Directive (2019-2024) and assessed as 'High'. A Q-Value score was obtained from a monitoring station at the bridge structure, receiving a score of 4-5 High in 2004.

The River Tay contains records of Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) and there are records of Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) ca. 3km downstream of the bridge structure. Records of Otter (*Lutra lutra*) have also been recorded within 1km of the bridge structure. However, all necessary precautions are to be taken to prevent any unnecessary disturbance to the riverbed. Direct access to the watercourse will be limited to a period of several hours within a single day and will only require on-foot access without the use of any power tools or heavy machinery from within the watercourse. The vegetation to be removed largely sits above the water column, which further reduces risk of any disturbance to the riverbed.

Records of other protected species include Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*) – no suitable habitat within the river. No third schedule invasive species have been recorded within 1km of the bridge structure. Regardless, the routine biosecurity measures to be followed ensure that the inadvertent spread of such species is avoided. The bridge structure was previously assessed for the presence of roosting bat species and given a low roost potential score. As stated previously, otter is known to be present in the River Tay within the vicinity of the bridge structure but is not a Qualifying Interest of the relevant Natura 2000 site. Risk of disturbance to otter present within the watercourse is minimal due to the limited scope and duration of proposed works. The removal of the vegetation will act as a positive intervention by removing a debris barrier from within the watercourse, which can act as a barrier and capture further debris and in time silts.

Attached to this Stage 1 Screening are: -

- Bridge Location – Lemybrien Bridge 2 (WC-N25-012.00) [GIS.zip](#)
- AA Screening – Lemybrien Bridge 2 (WC-N25-012.00) Non-Routine Maintenance AA Screening.xlsx
- Photos of Damage– Photos_ [WC-N25-012.00.zip](#)

[Note: The 2nd tab of the attached spreadsheet shows the most recent AA Screening from 2026].

Screening Determination

Hydrological connectivity exists between the proposed works and one no. Natura 2000 site, the Mid-Waterford Coast SPA. In-stream works involve the removal of vegetation from the upstream elevation and beneath the arch. Given that the works are of a short duration (to be completed within one working day) and the methodology to be followed includes precautions against the spillage of materials, the risk of additional debris or pollutants entering the river channel is low. Furthermore, the routine biosecurity measures to be followed ensure that the spread of invasive species will be unlikely

to occur. Otter (*Lutra lutra*) and Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) are both present within the watercourse, but the non-invasive nature of the in-stream works (access limited to on-foot underneath the arch) and the methodology to be followed ensure that otter, other aquatic species of interest such as freshwater pearl mussel, and the Qualifying Interests of the Mid-Waterford Coast SPA will not be impacted by the proposed works.

This Stage 1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment is based on the best available scientific information. If the scope of the proposed works changes, a new screening determination may be required. It is concluded that the works, as currently proposed, will result in no likely significant effects on the aforementioned Natura 2000 sites, either alone or in combination with other projects. Thus, it is recommended that it is not necessary for the proposed project to proceed to Appropriate Assessment.

Regards

Paul

Paul O'Donoghue BSc MSc PhD MCIEEM CEnV

Associate Director (Ecologist)

[REDACTED]

Unit 2B, 2200 Cork Airport Business Park
Cork, T12 R279, Ireland

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AtkinsRéalis - Baseline / Référence

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