

Colin Murphy

From: O'Donoghue, Paul <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday 11 June 2026 10:29
To: Colin Murphy
Cc: Vincent O'Malley; Christian Nea
Subject: RE: Re. Lismore Bridge 2 (WC-N72-002.00) - Update

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Colin

Received with thanks.

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: Thursday, June 11, 2026 9:15 AM
To: O'Donoghue, Paul [REDACTED]
Cc: Vincent O'Malley <[REDACTED]>; Christian Nea [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Re. Lismore Bridge 2 (WC-N72-002.00) - Update

Paul,

Please see reasoned determination for the proposed works on Lismore Bridge below.

Thank you for providing the additional information on this structure.

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: Thursday 11 June 2026 09:12
To: Colin Murphy [REDACTED]
Cc: Christian Nea [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Re. Lismore Bridge 2 (WC-N72-002.00) - Update

Hi Colin,
Having reviewed your email and the email from AtkinsRéalis, I accept the reasoned determination as set out below.
Sincerely
Vincent

From: Colin Murphy [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday 4 June 2026 15:01
To: Vincent O'Malley [REDACTED]
Cc: Christian Nea [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Re. Lismore Bridge 2 (WC-N72-002.00) - Update

Hi Vincent,

We have received an AA screening from AtkinsRéalis for proposed non-routine maintenance at Lismore Bridge 2 which is situated along the N72, in Lismore, Co. Waterford. I would be grateful if you could review the information below and provide a reasoned determination.

As noted below, the proposed non-routine maintenance involves the repair of the eastern parapet which has been damaged following a vehicular impact. The bridge is a triple-span, masonry arch bridge which carries the N72 over the River Owenashad. The proposed works will occur both above and partially within a watercourse and works are expected to be completed within a maximum period of one working week (5 days). 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 loose stonework from the parapet and to remove debris. 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. The parapet will be repaired and the concrete capping will be restored.

Lismore Bridge 2 lies above the River Owenashad, which lies within the Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC. The bridge is located ca. 220m upstream of the confluence with the River Blackwater, which itself lies ca. 780m downstream of the Blackwater Callows SPA. Therefore, there is hydrological connectivity between the proposed works and two no. Natura 2000 sites. The Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC is designated for a variety of terrestrial, freshwater and marine habitats and species while the Blackwater Callows SPA is designated for 5 SCI species.

Please note I have sought further clarification on the location of Freshwater Pearl Mussel in respect of the proposed works, as this species is a Qualifying Interests of the Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC. AtkinsRéalis have confirmed there are no records of Freshwater pearl mussel on the Owenashad River (thus no pearl mussel in or close to the works area).

AtkinsRéalis have determined that the works will not result in likely significant effects on the aforementioned Natura 2000 sites, either alone or in-combination with other project, given the short duration of the works, the methodology to prevent spillage of material into the river and the non-invasive nature of the in-stream works.

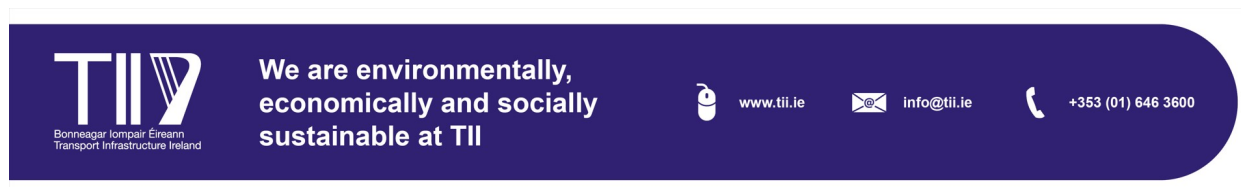
Based on the description of the proposed works and associated methodologies provided by AtkinsRéalis, I agree with the conclusion that the proposed works will not lead to likely significant effects any Natura 2000 site.

Having performed screening for Appropriate Assessment in respect of the proposed emergency repair works detailed in the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report received in emails from Paul O'Donoghue dated the 27th of May and 3rd of June, and entitled 'Lismore Bridge 2 (WC-N72-002.00)' and 'Lismore Bridge 2 (WC-N72-002.00) – Update', 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 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
[REDACTED]

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



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From: O'Donoghue, Paul [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday 3 June 2026 16:48
To: Colin Murphy [REDACTED]
Cc: Christian Nea [REDACTED]; Schmidt, Alec [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Re. Lismore Bridge 2 (WC-N72-002.00) - Update

Colin

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Works Location

The works area lies on the boundary between Lismore Bridge 2 (WC-N72-002.00) and Lismore Bridge 1 (WC-N72-001.00) – Lismore Bridge 2 crosses the Owennashad River, while to the south (but contiguous as a structure) Lismore Bridge 1 crosses the main channel of the River Blackwater. The Owennashad River is a tributary of the River Blackwater that joins the main channel of the Blackwater downstream and ca. 220m to the east of Lismore.

The location of proposed works is shown (black arrow) in Figure 1 below. Most of the damaged parapet is located over dry ground (see Plate 1 & 2 below). However, in part the damaged parapet does overlap with the channel of the Owennashad River (see also Plate 1 & 2). As can be seen in Plate 2, however, water levels in the Owennashad River are quite low during low flow conditions – when it would be proposed to undertake works. With respect to potential for negative impacts - worst case scenario – if scaffolding is to be erected inside the parapet one set of legs may need to be placed in the shallow waters of the Owennashad River.



Figure 1 – Location of works on Lismore Bridge 2 (WC-N72-002.00) [Note: Lismore Bridge 12 (WC-N72-001.00) is to the south on the main channel of the R. Blackwater].



Plate 1 – View south towards Lismore Bridge 2 (WC-N72-001.00).



Plate 2 – View of the damaged area, dry works area and the Owennashad River.

Freshwater pearl mussel

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Let me know if this suffices as a clarification or whether you need me to update the full submission.

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

From: Colin Murphy [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2026 9:41 AM
To: O'Donoghue, Paul [REDACTED]; Christian Nea <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Daly, Vincent [REDACTED]; McSweeney, Rian [REDACTED]; Kinsella, Sinead [REDACTED]; Keir Wilson <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: Re. Lismore Bridge 2 (WC-N72-002.00).

Hi Paul,

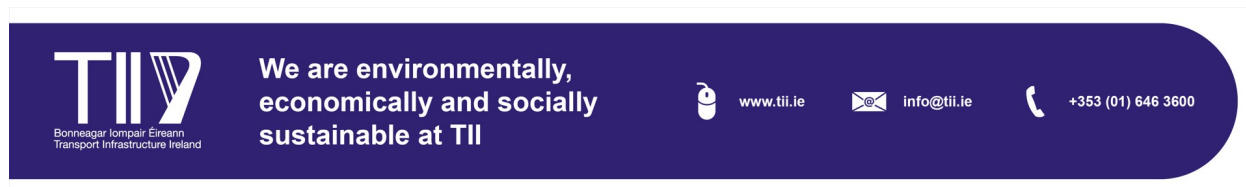
Thanks for issuing the determination in relation to the proposed works below.

I have a query regarding the potential impact of the works on freshwater Pearl Mussel, a QI of the River Blackwater (Cork/Waterford) SAC. The works are located within the SAC and instream works are proposed. FWPM occurs extensively throughout the SAC, within the main Blackwater channels and associated tributaries.

From my reading of the text below, I don't believe the potential impact of the works on FWPM has been discussed in much detail. Could you please review?

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: O'Donoghue, Paul [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday 27 May 2026 16:52
To: Christian Nea [REDACTED]; Colin Murphy [REDACTED]
Cc: Daly, Vincent [REDACTED]; McSweeney, Rian [REDACTED]; Kinsella, Sinead <[REDACTED]>; Keir Wilson <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re. Lismore Bridge 2 (WC-N72-002.00).

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Christian / Colin

Re. Lismore Bridge 2 (WC-N72-002.00).

AtkinsRéalis have been requested to undertake Stage 1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment in anticipation of the proposed non-routine maintenance at Lismore Bridge 2 (WC-N72-002.00), which is situated along the N72, just north of Lismore in County Waterford (Figure 1). The proposed non-routine maintenance involves the repair of the eastern parapet. The parapet has become damaged, with some debris falling into the watercourse. The aim of the proposed works is to restore the structural integrity of the bridge and are not related to or directly associated with the management of any Natura 2000 site(s).

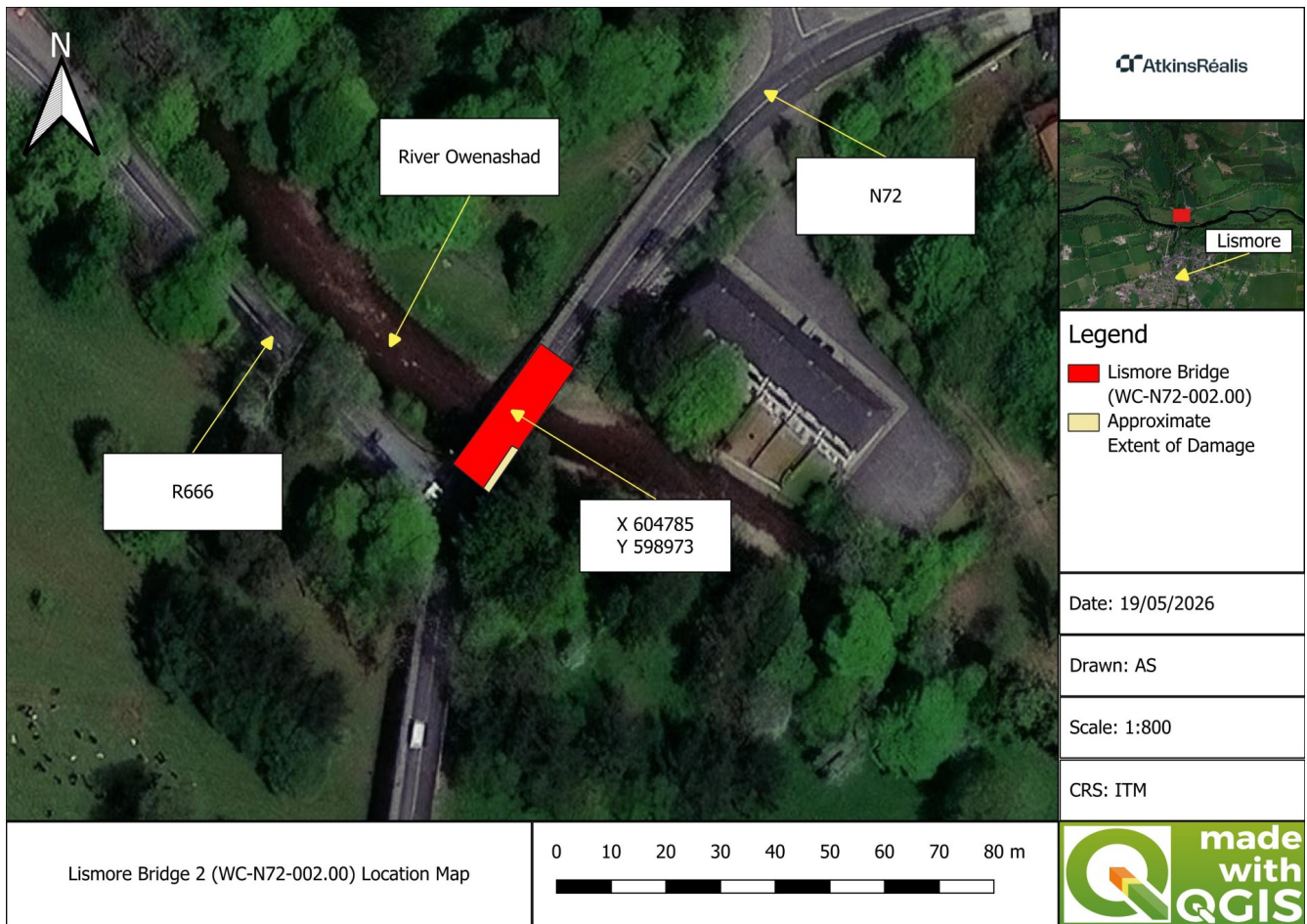


Figure 1: Location of Lismore Bridge 2 (WC-N72-002.00) on the N72 north of Lismore, Co. Waterford.



Figure 2: Damaged section of parapet.



Figure 3: Debris within the River Owenashad.

Proposed Works

The eastern parapet of Lismore Bridge 2 (WC-N72-002.00) has been damaged following a vehicular impact. The bridge is a triple-span, masonry arch bridge which carries the N72 over the River Owenashad. The Contractor has been commissioned by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to restore the parapet to a structurally-sound condition. The full scope of works is as follows: -

- i. Removal of debris and damaged masonry from the River Owenashad, to be done by manual means.
- ii. Repair of 7.5m of damage parapet measuring between 0.60m and 0.90m in height x 0.42 in width.
- iii. Restoration of concrete capping to section of damaged parapet following repair.

The proposed works will occur both above and partially within a watercourse. The Contractor is expected to mobilise in late May / early June 2026, and the proposed works are expected to be completed within a maximum period of one working week (5 days). Access to the site of the proposed works will be from the N72, 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 loose stonework from the parapet and to remove debris. 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 (adapted from Risk Assessment and Method Statement (RAMS) document)

Pre-Works

1. Contractor to liaise with the landowner for access and notify relevant stakeholders (IFI, TII, WCC, etc.) prior to the commencement of any works.
2. Gardaí and Waterford County Council Area Engineer to be notified of the works prior to commencement.
3. Review and prepare Temporary Traffic Management (TTM) requirements .
4. Procure necessary materials and equipment.

Temporary Traffic Management (TTM)

1. Prior to the commencement of any works, the TTM system will be set up in accordance with the approved TTM drawing(s).
2. A lane closure will be required for the duration of the works. This will be setup for recovery of damaged masonry and parapet repair works. The TTM will be in place throughout the works.
3. TTM will be set up in accordance with the Subcontractor's RAMS.

Parapet Masonry Repairs

1. The elements of damaged masonry and debris are to be recovered and removed from the watercourse in advance of scaffold setup. Once the watercourse is clear, the scaffold material will be offloaded at the work location. Scaffold gang (with qualified CSCS training) will then build out the access platforms while following their specific RAMS. On completion, the scaffold will be inspected and tagged for use. Routine inspections of the scaffold to take place including checking of sole plates and condition of bearing to solid footing.
2. The mason will set up controls such as tarpaulin/polythene to catch debris. All loose/damaged stone and mortar will be removed as needed back to sound construction or the extent identified within the scope of works prior to commencing rebuild work. Stone that can be introduced back into the rebuild will be kept and a best source match used to make up any quantity shortfall if necessary.
3. Mortar will be mixed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and specification. A conventional cement mixer can be used although for larger projects a paddle mixer is preferable. Measuring the material for mixing is to be done with a gauging box or bucket for consistency with quantities.
4. Lime mortar to be mixed in accordance with Table 24/4 as outlined in the RAMS document (Mix (a): 1 Lime:2 ½ Sand for NHL5). Lime mortars mixed in drum mixers can be prone to balling. Procedure for mixing to reduce this potential: 1. Start with an empty mixer 2. Add 1 part sand 3. Mix in 1 part lime 4. Followed by 1 ½ part sand 5. Mix dry for at least 5 minutes 6. After 5 minutes slowly add water until the desired consistency is reached, it is very important not to drown the mix by adding too much water 7. Once the desired consistency is reached, mix for a further 20 minutes.
5. The mix, to begin with, should appear rather dry but as mixing time increases, the render will become much 'fatter'. If too much water is added, the risk of shrinkage will increase and the final strength will be reduced. Do not use plasticisers or waterproofing substances.
6. If the walls are dry, damp down to reduce the effects of suction. This is noted above in the joint preparation prior to pointing.
7. Weather conditions to be monitored. A temperature of at least 5°C is needed to work with the NHL 5 mortar and construct the masonry wall. Suitable control measures shall be put in place such as correct storage of materials and use of hessian and polythene where low temperatures are expected/experienced.
8. When sustained rainfall is forecast or encountered, the mason shall set up suitable polythene 'tenting' to protect works from washing out during pointing/rebuilding. Completed work for the day to be protected with polythene overnight ensuring it is correctly weighed or tied down. Where temperatures of less than 5°C are expected, the build shall be protected overnight using hessian roll and polythene. After the wall is built, it should be covered with hessian and waterproof polythene/tarpaulin for 2 weeks. Insulating blankets will also be needed if temperatures are forecast to drop below 0°C for the first 3-5 days.
9. Refer to Appendix 24/1 of Project Specification and CC-SCD-02407 for Principles Of Stonemasonry to be adhered to during construction, for example: 1. Through stones at 900mm centres horizontally (or 600mm to 1200mm) and at 450mm vertically 2. Joint widths of 6-16mm 3. 2 but not 3 for vertical joints 4. One on two and two on one 5. Natural bedding plane laid into wall 6. Use of sneaks & pinnings to help reduce joint widths.
10. Once complete, the mason will remove the tarpaulin and dispose of any remaining debris off-site. The TTM will be removed and the works inspected by JCEL Engineer including upload of photos to the project Procore album.

Concrete Capping

1. Shutters/formwork to suit wall profile, coated with release agent to aid stripping, and set in place.
2. Temporary formwork ties will be used through the wall using threaded dywidag bars secured with plates and spinners (nuts). Plastic sleeves and cones will be used at these locations. After the formwork has been struck, these will be plugged with concrete repair mortar (Eg. HB45).
3. Complete pre-pour inspection prior to casting (FM-1700-3).
4. Concrete will be delivered via readymix truck, placed via chute and in a uniform manner along the wall length in ~500mm lifts. The poker and drive unit along with miscellaneous hand tools will be used to place the concrete with the vibrating poker aiding any trapped air to rise to the surface creating a compact finish and prevent cavities. Top of wall finished with hand trowel after concrete has sufficiently hardened and moisture has disappeared.
5. Concrete placement shall be at ambient temperature of min 5°C or 3°C on a rising thermometer. In the case of adverse weather conditions, the concrete shall be covered with blankets/polythene in order to protect it and maintain concrete temperature during initial curing.
6. The following day or after minimum period, the formwork will be struck from the wall and cleaned. Photos will be taken of finished work and uploaded to the relevant Procore album.

7. Once the parapet/wingwall is complete, the scaffold can then be removed. The scaffold gang will access within the lane closure and load out the scaffold as it is taken down.
8. All redundant material and debris will be cleaned up and removed from site.

Demobilisation

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

Ecological Constraints

Lismore Bridge 2 lies above the River Owenashad, which lies within the Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC. The bridge is located ca. 220m upstream of the confluence with the River Blackwater, which itself lies ca. 780m downstream of the Blackwater Callows SPA. Therefore, there is hydrological connectivity between the proposed works and two no. Natura 2000 sites.

The River Blackwater (Cork/Waterford) SAC (site code: 002170) comprises of the freshwater stretches of the River Blackwater as far upstream as Ballydesmond, the tidal stretches as far as Youghal Harbour and many tributaries, the larger of which include the Licky, Bride, Flesk, Chimneyfield, Finisk, Araglin, Awbeg (Buttevant), Clyda, Glen, Allow, Dalua, Brogeen, Rathcool, Finnow, Owentaraglin and Awnaskirtaun. The SAC is designated for 18 no. Qualifying Interests, namely 'Estuaries' [1130], 'Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide' [1140], 'Perennial vegetation of stony banks' [1220], 'Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand' [1310], 'Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima*)' [1330], 'Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*)' [1410], 'Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation' [3260], 'Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles' [91A0], 'Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (Alno-Padion, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*)' [91E0], '*Margaritifera margaritifera* (Freshwater Pearl Mussel)' [1029], '*Austropotamobius pallipes* (White-clawed Crayfish)' [1092], '*Petromyzon marinus* (Sea Lamprey)' [1095], '*Lampetra planeri* (Brook Lamprey)' [1096], '*Lampetra fluviatilis* (River Lamprey)' [1099], '*Alosa fallax fallax* (Twaité Shad)' [1103], '*Salmo salar* (Salmon)' [1106], '*Lutra lutra* (Otter)' [1355] and '*Vandenboschia speciosa* (Killarney Fern)' [6985] (see - <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/002170>).

The Blackwater Estuary SPA (site code: 004028) comprises the stretch of the River Blackwater that runs in a west to east direction between Fermoy and Lismore in Counties Cork and Waterford, a distance of almost 25 km. The SPA is designated for 5 Qualifying Interests, namely 'Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*)' [A140], 'Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)' [A142], 'Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)' [A149], 'Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*)' [A156], 'Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*)' [A157], 'Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)' [A160], 'Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)' [A162], 'Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*)' [A855] and 'Wetland and Waterbirds' [A999] (see - <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/spa/004028>).

The water quality of the River Owenashad was last monitored under the Water Framework Directive (2019-2024) through monitoring and was assessed as 'Good', although shortly downstream of the bridge structure this status changes to 'Moderate'. A Q-Value score was obtained from a monitoring station at the bridge structure, receiving a score of 4 / 'Good' in 2024.

There are no records of any protected aquatic species within the immediate vicinity of the bridge structure. Otter (*Lutra lutra*) has been recorded within 2km of the bridge, on the main Blackwater channel. Otter is impacted by direct disturbance and impacts to water quality. In relation to direct impacts, there is no suitable habitat for holting within the vicinity of the bridge. The surrounding terrestrial habitat largely consists of flat, grassy banks with limited areas of dense vegetation, which has low suitability for couching. In relation to water quality impacts, the primary risk relates to disturbance of the riverbed. 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 on-foot access without the use of any power tools or heavy machinery from within the watercourse. The damaged blockwork to be removed largely sits above the water column and on the riverbank, which further reduces risk of any disturbance to the riverbed.

Records of other protected species include Daubenton's Bat (*Myotis daubentonii*), Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus sensu lato*), Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) and Pine Marten (*Martes martes*). There bridge structure has no suitable crevices to host any bat species and the lack of works to the arch further reduces any risk of disturbance. The bridge structure was previously assessed for the presence of roosting bat species and given a low roost potential score. Canadian Waterweed (*Elodea canadensis*), Three-cornered Garlic (*Allium triquetrum*), Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*), Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*), Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), American Mink (*Neovison vison*), Grey Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), all third schedule invasive species, were previously recorded within 2km of the bridge structure. However, while not recorded at the bridge, routine biosecurity measures will still be followed ensure that the inadvertent spread of such species is avoided.

As stated previously, otter has been recorded within 2km of the bridge structure and otter is known to be present in the River Blackwater catchment and is a QI of the River Blackwater (Cork/Waterford) SAC. Risk of disturbance to otter present within the watercourse is

minimal due to the location of the proposed works, and the limited scope and duration of proposed works. Additionally, the removal of the damaged blockwork and debris will act as a positive intervention by removing a debris from within the watercourse, which can also capture further debris and in time silts.

Attached to this Stage 1 Screening are: -

- Bridge Location – Lismore Bridge 2 (WC-N72-002.00) [GIS.zip](#)
- AA Screening – Lismore Bridge 2 (WC-N72-002.00) NRM AA Screening.xlsx
- Photos of Damage– Photos_ [WC-N72-002.00.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 two no. Natura 2000 sites, the Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC and the Blackwater Estuary SPA. In-stream works is limited to the removal of damaged parapet blockwork from the watercourse - access limited to on-foot to briefly remove debris and damaged blockwork (as shown in attached photos).

Given that the works are of a short duration (to be completed within one week maximum) 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*) is present within the Blackwater catchment. However, the non-invasive nature of the in-stream works (access limited to on-foot to briefly remove debris and damaged blockwork – any larger elements would be lifted from above – i.e. from the road surface), large size of the river and multi-arch structure (carrying a busy road) is such that no severance of upstream / downstream movement is predicted. Works will be during daylight hours, with no overnight lighting to be left in place.

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.

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