

Park Road Bridge Rehabilitation Works, Limerick

Project Background

The aim of the proposed scheme is undertake rehabilitation works at Park Road Bridge, between Canal Bank and Lower Park Road, Limerick. The works will involve the removal of the bridge deck and support beams and replacing them with a new deck and beams at the same location, together with all ancillary site development works.

A Bridge Inspection report was carried out by Punch Consulting Engineers in 2023, which describes the condition of the bridge structure. The report notes areas of deterioration and damage. The assessment concludes that the condition rating of 4; “Damage is critical, and it is necessary to execute repair works at once” and recommends that remedial works must be carried out. Limerick City and County Council appointed consultants to assess and design as appropriate a structural repair scheme for the bridge structure.

Site Location and Ownership

The site is located to the east of Limerick City at Park Road Bridge, between Canal Bank and Lower Park Road, Limerick. The location of the site and proposed development are shown within the planning pack of drawings accompanying the application.

The bridge and area within the red line boundary of the site are in the control of Limerick City & County Council.

Recent Planning History

Subject site

ABP309360-21 - Application approved under Section 177(AE) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 for new bridge development and associated works.

Adjacent Lands to the north of the subject site

In 2004 and 2008 planning permission was granted for the construction of house. (Plan ref: 04770420 and 08770239).

Appropriate Assessment

A Screening for Appropriate Assessment was completed by Ecology Research and Solutions Ltd. and it was concluded that the project has the potential to result in significant effects to the Lower River Shannon SAC.

Ecology Research and Solutions Ltd. have prepared a Natura Impact Statement to inform an Appropriate Assessment (AA), to be undertaken by the competent authority. The NIS concludes that subject to the implementation of all mitigation measures, the project will not, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, result in adverse effects to the integrity and conservation status of European Sites in view of their Conservation Objectives and on the basis of best scientific evidence and there is no reasonable scientific doubt as to that conclusion.

Heritage Conservation

There are no protected structures on the subject site.

The site is not located within an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA).

There are no Recorded Monuments on the site and the site is not located within a Zone of Archaeological Potential.

Flood Risk

Part of the existing bridge is located with a designated flood zone. Having regard to the nature of the proposed development, whereby the existing bridge deck is being replaced and no new structures are being constructed, it is considered that the proposed development would not increase the risk of flooding at the site or elsewhere.



Flood Zone A (Blue) / Flood Zone B (Purple)

Other matters

Prior to the commencement of any works a bat survey will be carried out by a suitably qualified bat expert / ecologist during the appropriate season. This report can be furnished to An Bord Pleanála if required. If any bat species are found to be roosting at the site appropriate measures will be followed and National Parks and Wildlife Service would be contacted regarding licencing.

Construction

An Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan has been submitted in support of the application. The plan outlines the proposed construction methodology and considerations. The proposed hours of work on site will be 07:00hrs to 18:00hrs Monday to Friday unless otherwise specified.