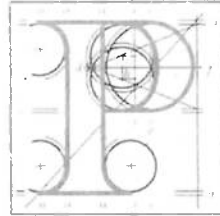


Our Case Number: ABP-322037-25



**An
Coimisiún
Pleanála**

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Development Applications Unit
Government Offices
Newtown Road
Wexford
Co. Wexford
Y35 AP90

Date: 09 December 2025

Re: Proposed rehabilitation works on Park Road Bridge, Limerick
at Park Road Bridge, between Canal Bank and Lower Park Road, Limerick.

Dear Sir / Madam,

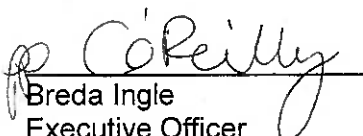
An Coimisiún Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

Please note that the proposed development shall not be carried out unless the Commission has approved it with or without modifications.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Commission at laps@pleanala.ie

Please quote the above mentioned An Coimisiún Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Commission.

Yours faithfully,


Breda Ingle
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737291

AA02

Teil
Glao Áitiúil
Facs
Láithreán Gréasáin
Riomhphost

Tel
LoCall
Fax
Website
Email

(01) 858 8100
1800 275 175
(01) 872 2684
www.pleanala.ie
communications@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Attachments:

ABP-322037-25 177AE Park Road Bridge Limerick Fi.pdf

From: Diarmuid Buttimer (Housing) <Diarmuid.Buttimer@npws.gov.ie>**Sent:** Monday 8 December 2025 14:35**To:** Appeals2 <appeals@pleanala.ie>**Cc:** LAPS <laps@pleanala.ie>**Subject:** 177AE Park Road Bridge rehabilitation works

Caution: This is an **External Email** and may have malicious content. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact the ICT Helpdesk.

A Chara,

Attached please find the Heritage observations/recommendations of the Department in relation to the aforementioned Appeal Referral.

Can you please confirm receipt of same?

Kind Regards,
Diarmuid

Diarmuid Buttimer
Executive Officer

An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Aonad na nIarratas ar Fhorbairt

Development Applications Unit

Oifigí an Rialtais

Government Offices

Bóthar an Bhaile Nua, Loch Garman, Contae Loch Garman, Y35 AP90

Newtown Road, Wexford, County Wexford, Y35 AP90

Diarmuid.Buttimer@npws.gov.ie

Manager.DAU@npws.gov.ie



Your Ref: **ABP-322037-25**

Our Ref: 177AE Park Road Bridge Limerick
(Please quote in all related correspondence)

8 December 2025

An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Via email to appeals@pleanala.ie ; laps@pleanala.ie

177AE: Limerick City and County Council: proposed rehabilitation works on Park Road Bridge, between Canal Bank and Lower Park Road, Limerick: Park Road Bridge, between Canal Bank and Lower Park Road, Limerick.

A chara

I refer to correspondence received in connection with the above following Further Information Received. Outlined below are heritage-related observations/recommendations of the Department under the stated headings co-ordinated by the Development Applications Unit.

Archaeology (Underwater Unit)

It is noted that the UAIA concludes that 'Although neither Park Road Bridge nor the adjacent lock and canal are included in the Record of Monuments and Places, Sites and Monuments Record, Record of Protected Structures, or the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, they nonetheless constitute significant cultural heritage assets. Together, these structures represent an important surviving component of Limerick's 18th-century industrial infrastructure, forming part of the wider Limerick Navigation and Park Canal, one of the earliest engineered waterways in Ireland' (UAIA, Section 8). Accordingly, the proposed development area may be considered an area of high underwater cultural heritage potential. Section 3 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1987 is the primary piece of legislation for the protection of wrecks over 100 years old and archaeological objects underwater, irrespective of age. Wrecks that are less than 100 years old and archaeological objects underwater or the potential location of such a wreck or archaeological object can also be protected under Section 3 of the 1987 (Amendment) Act.

It should be noted that the *Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage* (Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the Islands 1999, see section 3.6.1(3) and 3.6.4) sets out national policy on the protection of the archaeological heritage in the course of development. It includes emphasis on the non-renewable nature of the archaeological heritage, the need to always consider its preservation in-situ as the first



option, and also the need to carry out appropriate levels and forms of archaeological assessment in advance of development:

‘There should always be a presumption in favour of avoiding developmental impacts on the archaeological heritage. Preservation in situ must always be the first option to be considered rather than preservation by record in order to allow development to proceed, and preservation in-situ must also be presumed to be the preferred option’ (Section 3.4).

It is further noted in the submitted UAIA that ‘the proposed works to Park Road Bridge will involve both direct and indirect interventions to the existing historic structure. The parapet walls will be retained but cleaned of vegetation and biological growth. Repointing will be undertaken on both sides of the parapet walls. The works also include the installation of new reinforced concrete Y-beams with structural topping, a new road surface and deck, and the insertion of hollow bars drilled into the bridge fabric to ensure structural stability and integrity. No archaeological material earlier than the canal construction is expected to be uncovered, as the proposed works relate entirely to the refurbishment and stabilisation of the existing bridge. The archaeological potential of the site is therefore limited, and no subsurface excavation or ground disturbance is proposed’. A suite of mitigation measures, including archaeological monitoring and conservation interventions are recommended, which the Department concurs with.

In light of the above, the Department recommends the following CONDITIONS are attached to any permission for the development should it be granted by An Coimisiún Pleanála. Note that these recommended conditions align with Sample Conditions C.4 & C.5 as set out in OPR Practice Note PN03: Planning Conditions (October 2022), with appropriate site-specific additions/adaptations based on the particular characteristics of this development.

Archaeological Requirements:

1. All mitigation measures in relation to archaeology and cultural heritage as set out in Section 8 of the Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment (Mizen Archaeology Ltd; date September 2025) shall be implemented in full, except as may otherwise be required in order to comply with the conditions of this Order.
2. The Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) shall include the location of any and all archaeological or cultural heritage constraints relevant to the proposed development as set out in the Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment (Mizen Archaeology, Sept. 2025) and by any subsequent archaeological investigations associated with the project. The CEMP shall clearly describe all identified likely archaeological impacts, both direct and indirect, and all mitigation measures to be employed to protect the archaeological or cultural heritage environment during all phases of site preparation and construction activity.
3. The planning authority and the Department shall be furnished with a final archaeological report describing the results of all archaeological monitoring and any archaeological investigative work/excavation required, following the completion of all



archaeological work on site and any necessary post-excavation specialist analysis. All resulting and associated archaeological costs shall be borne by the developer.

Reason: To ensure the continued preservation (either *in situ* or by record) of places, caves, sites, features or other objects of archaeological interest.

You are requested to send any further communications to this Department's Development Applications Unit (DAU) at manager.dau@npws.gov.ie, where used, or to the following address:

The Manager
Development Applications Unit (DAU)
Government Offices
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

Is mise le meas,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diarmuid Buttimer', is written over a circular stamp or seal.

Diarmuid Buttimer
Development Applications Unit
Administration