

An Coimisiún Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,
D01 V902

09/10/2025

241164/PL/ACP1

Re: Case Number: ABP-322037-25
Request for Further Information for Proposed works at Park Road Bridge, Limerick.

On behalf of our Client, Limerick City & County Council, in response to the Request for Further Information dated 14/07/2025, we enclose supplemental information addressing the below points. [PUNCH response in blue.](#)

Item 1 Information to Address Section 177AE(6)(a)

- (a) The application documentation submitted to the Commission fails to satisfactorily address parts (i), (ii) and (iii) above and you are requested to provide information to facilitate the Commission in its consideration of this requirement of the approval application. Parts (i) and (iii) may be adequately addressed in responding to Question no. 2-5 below.

[Refer to Mizen Archaeology and Ecology Research & Solutions Ltd submissions.](#)

- (b) Documentation in relation to Part (ii) should include reference to the historical significance of the structure to be repaired and any other matters relating to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area which may be relevant.

[Park Road Bridge was constructed in Circa 1799 over Park Canal as part of Limerick City's water navigation system. The bridge originally had a humped-back, whose configuration allowed the passage of canal boats. In 1960, to allow vehicles to pass over the bridge, the hump was removed with the introduction of a flat concrete deck supported on steel beams.](#)

[Strengthening works are required to rehabilitate this flat deck element and supporting beams of the bridge and ancillary repointing and vegetation control will be undertaken to the masonry bridge structure as shown on the proposed works drawings.](#)

[With reference to ABP-309360-21: Approval Grant \(also see Item 3\), these works formed part of the associated works under the New Bridge Development, and all documentation may be cross referenced.](#)

[Park Bridge Strengthening](#)

[A temporary work platform would be erected at the underside of the bridge to provide access. The temporary beam currently supporting the bridge would be replaced by a permanent steel beam. The existing beams would be shot blast and repainting and the temporary decking removed. Masonry would be cleaned of vegetation and joints repointed as necessary. \(Ref: ABP 3039360-21, Inspector's Report P6\)](#)

[Note: Concrete beams proposed as alternate to replacement steel beams under current proposal.](#)

Item 2 Submissions & Observations

- (a) All submissions received by An Coimisiún Pleanála on the case have been previously forwarded to yourselves. You are invited to make a response to all submissions made from the Development Applications Unit, on behalf of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the Inland Fisheries Ireland, and the observation from Cáit Ní Cheallacháin.

Inland Fisheries Ireland

The project will include an Ecology Clerk of Works to supervise the construction phase of the project and ensure that the Contractor's Construction Environmental Management Plan is adhered to for the duration of the works.

The Contractor's Method Statement for the execution of the Works will be agreed with the IFI in advance of mobilizing to site to allow sufficient time for the IFI to review the works methodology and amend should they require modifications for agreement.

Cait ni Cheallachain, Conservation Architect

Updated drawings have addressed the concerns raised under this submission. The spandrel and parapet walls of the bridge will be repointed with NHL lime mortar in accordance with the Engineer's Specification.

Where existing cement mortar is readily removeable, it will be replaced with NHL lime mortar. In situations where its removal would damage surrounding stonework, it will be left in place so as not to adversely affect the aesthetic of the bridge further.

The application (and associated reports) does not adequately consider/assess the cumulative impact/in-combination effects of the following projects and plan:

- **ABP-309360-21: Approval granted for a proposed new bridge development between South Canal Bank and Lower Park Road, Limerick.**

This Development is not seen as a priority and is a medium/long-term priority project at present. Park Road Bridge strengthening works formed part of the associated works under the new Bridge Development (also see Item 1(b)).

Item 3 Cumulative Impact/In-combination Effects

- **It is noted that Waterways Ireland intends to seek permission for Limerick Navigation and Park Canal 5-year Maintenance Works along the Abbey River and Shannon River Navigation from Quay Lock to Ardnacrusha Tail Race junction and the Park Canal which consists of essential maintenance works along the Shannon Navigation and Park Canal.**

Consultation will be undertaken with Waterways Ireland to ensure works are coordinated to be undertaken outside period of any maintenance works in the vicinity of Park Road Bridge.

Item 6 Additional Consultation

- (b) Documentation submitted with the application indicates that two watermain pipes will have to be diverted, one a cast iron pipe, the other an asbestos pipe and following completion of works, will be re-attached to the bridge. Uisce Eireann have not been consulted in respect of the proposals. Having regard to the foregoing, it is considered appropriate that you consult with Uisce Eireann with respect to your proposals. Evidence of this consultation should be submitted with your response. You are requested to forward a complete set of application documents to Uisce Eireann for submissions/observations. As well as responding to this request from An Coimisiún Pleanála the applicant is also requested to send any further communications to Uisce Eireann.

Correspondence with Uisce Eireann enclosed with submission.