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3. BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

3.1. INTRODUCTION

The Limerick City Greenway (UL to NTP) forms part of a larger cycleway plan, the proposed Limerick Cycle Network as outlined in the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS) 2040 and as Objective TR O9 in the Limerick Development Plan (LDP) 2022-2028.

The focus of the LSMATS is to promote cycling as a realistic choice as a mode of transport in the Limerick Metropolitan Area, making it an attractive location for cyclists of all ages and abilities by proposing the development of a consistent, clear, and continuous network of urban and suburban cycle networks throughout the area.

The Limerick City Greenway (UL to NTP) Project will connect at its western extent to the existing Limerick Smarter Travel, Route 2, which involved the upgrade of an existing pathway, 1.5km in length between University of Limerick and the Guinness Bridge along the bank of the River Shannon and connects directly into the city centre. It will also connect to cycle lanes and footpaths on Plassey Park Road.

Consultation is an important element of the design process. The objective of consultation is to ensure that the views and concerns of all stakeholders are taken into account and that information relevant to the project is made known and available during the design and planning process. These engagements have included broad general consultation at the Constraints Study stage and associated Public Information Events as well as circulation of questionnaires and specific rounds of consultation with landowners affected by the proposed project. This chapter outlines the consultations for this project to date.

3.2. PREFERRED ROUTE DEVELOPMENT

For a detailed description and more information about the preferred and alternative routes, please refer to Chapter 2 of this EIA report.

3.2.1. Preferred Primary Route and Links

The preferred Greenway route will extend from the River Groody bridge and extend along an existing paved and unpaved pathway along the southern bank of the River Shannon, providing for entrances and exits from the University of Limerick and the National Technology Park at Castletroy. It will continue along University Road and McLaughlan Road to Plassey Park Road.

3.2.2. Alternative Route Options

Alternative route options include the use of different links as substitutes to sections of the preferred primary route as described above. The following have been under consideration for inclusion as part of the Greenway.

- Link A - the route follows the Mill Race through the UL campus.
- Link G - diverts from the proposed route east of Troy Castle (approx. CH 3190) and continues along the banks of the River Shannon and the River Mulkear through UL Bohemians Rugby Football Club, along Mulcair Drive to Annacotty Village.
- Link C - diverts from Link G alongside the River Mulkear and provides access to the route from Plassey Park Road.
- Link E - an alternative to Link C.

- Link F - leaves Link G and turns towards Johnson & Johnsons Vision Care, at the southern boundary of the UL Bohemians Rugby Football Club then connects to Plassey Park Road.

3.2.3. Constraints Study and Report

A Constraints Study and Report were produced in November 2020. The constraints study examined the key environmental constraints within the study area upon which the construction and installation of a Greenway could have an impact. The purpose of the Constraints Study was to determine constraints that exist, which could affect the design of the path, delay the progress and could influence the cost of the Greenway. The report was based on consultation with statutory consultees, public information events, and collection of a range of environmental and related data and information. A summary of these consultations is provided below.

3.2.3.1. Stakeholder Consultation

Initial consultation in the form of an EIA Scoping document was issued in December 2020 to relevant stakeholders and consultees that the project team identified for this project including:

- Limerick City & County Council,
- University of Limerick,
- The IDA,
- Waterways Ireland;
- Inland Fisheries Ireland,
- Office of Public Works,
- Environmental Protection Agency;
- Dept. of Environment;
- Dept. of Housing, Local Government and Heritage; and,
- An Garda Síochána.

For ease of communications during the project, key stakeholders were assigned into a stakeholder matrix (refer to Figure 3.1) which assisted in differentiating the specific level and type of communications required. This process of assigning stakeholders into the quadrants and their subsequent level of engagement was reviewed during different stages in the project, i.e., Route selection and constraints identification, Initial consultation, Preliminary Design, Surveys, etc. A clear, defined communication pathway for both internal and external stakeholders ensures stakeholder dissatisfaction is minimised and any potential issues are dealt with as early as possible in each stage.

The Greenway traverses a high number of folios; so close liaison with the University of Limerick, the IDA (who represent numerous commercial companies including Johnson & Johnson Vision Care) was established and developed. Communication lines were maintained with local-residents and relevant bodies by way of project updates through the LCCC Project team. A favourable response to the proposals was provided from the stakeholders consulted and all observations, comments and opinions were integrated into the design process.

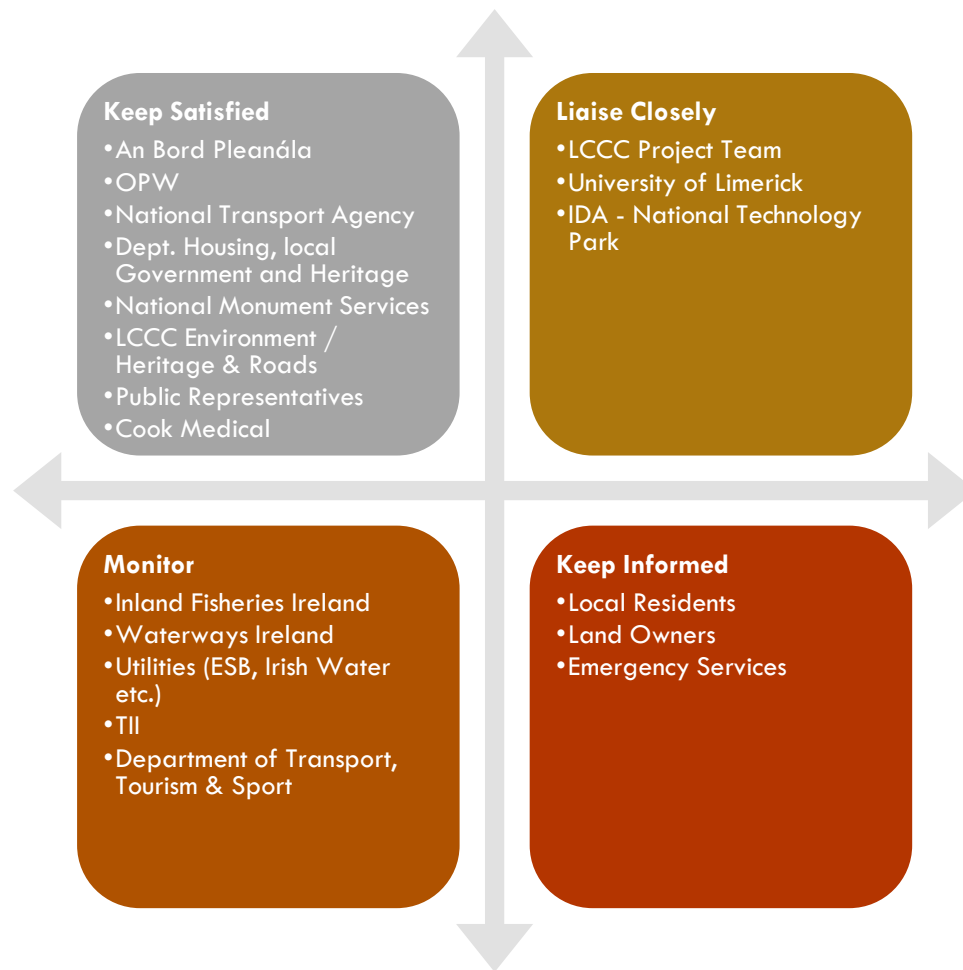


Figure 3.1 Consultation stakeholder matrix

3.2.3.2. Consultation with An Bord Pleanála

A pre-planning consultation meeting was held with An Bord Pleanála (the Planning Authority), and representatives of Limerick City and County Council (LCCC, the prospective applicant), and Ryan Hanley on 13th October 2022.

A second pre-planning consultation meeting was held with An Bord Pleanála on 11th November 2024.

3.2.3.3. Consultation with Elected Representatives

Presentations about the proposed design were provided to elected representatives on 21st July 2021 and 13th October 2022.

3.2.3.4. Public Information Day & Virtual Consultation Room

A public information event took place on 4th of August 2022 at the Kilmurry Village Hall in the University of Limerick campus. The project team's objectives for the Public Information Day was:

- To inform the public about the proposed Limerick City Greenway (UL to NTP);
- Inform the public of the process and answer questions; and
- Invite submissions on the design process.

A virtual consultation room was set up to allow community and public a chance access project material as well as to provide feedback and comments on the proposed design. Refer to Figure 3.2.



Figure 3.2 Limerick City Greenway Virtual Room



Figure 3.3 Limerick City Greenway Public Consultation event

3.2.3.5. Landowner Consultations

The proposed Greenway passes through public and private lands. The number of private properties that the proposed Greenway passes through has been kept to a minimum in order to minimise the number of land use agreements to be arranged to facilitate the works. Folios are registered to the following:

- Individual landowners;
- The University of Limerick (UL);
- Shannon Commercial Enterprises Designated Activity Company;
- The IDA (with lease agreements to companies including Johnson & Johnson Vision Care); and
- Limerick City and County Council (LCCC).

There are leaseholds and sublease-holds, owned by UL, a leasehold held by Holmes, O'Malley and Sexton Solicitors and sublease-hold held by Plassey Campus Centre Limited.

In advance of submission for planning for the proposed Greenway to An Bord Pleanála (APB), the design proposal was communicated to freeholders and tenants and when applicable, an agreement of no objection was received in writing from the freeholders and tenants regarding the proposed plans for the Limerick City Greenway (UL to NTP). Engagement with freeholders and tenants was carried out as early as possible, once the design was established, to ensure agreement is secured pre-planning and that feedback from stakeholders was collected and incorporated into the final detailed design.

Due to the non-invasive nature of the proposed Greenway and the amenity value it will add to the area, it is proposed that lands required for the proposed Greenway will be acquired by agreement, with land purchase if this cannot be achieved.

3.2.4. Public Information Sharing Event - Responses

The overall response was positive as the public were satisfied with the proposals presented. Concerns and suggestions offered by the public largely related to personal safety while using the route and to the appearance of the route.

Concerns and suggestions related to personal safety while using the route included the following:

- Provision of lighting along the route;
- Clearing back of overgrown vegetation;
- Provision of railing to prevent falls into the river;
- Security and/or policing of the route to reduce potential for anti-social behaviour;
- Restrict use of motorised vehicles and provision of a speed limit;
- The separation of and provisions for both cyclist and pedestrian;
- Clear signage; and
- Improved route surface.

Concerns and suggestions related to the appearance of the route included the following:

- Provision of benches;
- Provision of rubbish bins;
- Provision of a playground;
- Improve dog control;
- Provision of end of route facilities and destinations of interest;
- Clear back areas of overgrowth and trim trees to open up the view to the river;
- Maintain the routes “wilderness”; and
- Ensure flora and fauna is not disturbed.

3.2.5. Consultation Feedback: Consultation Feedback- Constraints Study Report

As part of the constraints study, information was gathered on engineering, socio-economic, environmental, cultural heritage and geotechnical constraints. Environmental constraints were investigated under the following headings:

- Population and Human Health
- Ecology
- Water
- Land use, Soils and Geology
- Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage
- Landscape & Visual
- Air, Noise and Climate
- Material Assets

Under each heading, the assessment methodology was first outlined followed by a description of the defined Study Area or ‘receiving environment’. This allowed a full assessment of the potential constraints and a comprehensive consideration of options. Finally, a summary of the key constraints and implications for the proposed project was noted. The key constraints for each of the headings above were carefully considered in the early phases of the project to ensure that the design was developed in line with the constraints.

The Constraints Study, which was completed in late 2020, was the initial means of characterising the environment of the study area which would later inform the Scoping Report and the final EIAR. The scope of the Constraints Study was generally broad, looking at all environmental constraints. **Table 3.1** provides a summary of the key constraints identified in the Constraints Study Report.

Table 3-1: Summary of constraints for the Limerick City Greenway

Environmental Constraints	Summary of key constraints
Population and Human Health	<p>The proposed project took into consideration the proposed zoning objectives set out in the Castletroy Local Area Plan 2019-2025 (which has been superseded by the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028), and in particular not impact on areas zoned residential which are likely to be developed with housing to support the growing population in the area.</p>
	<p>In designing the proposed Greenway, the value (both cultural and economic) of any buildings (Residential, Retail, etc) likely to be adversely affected by the Greenway should be taken into account. In addition, adverse impacts on buildings or structures of conservation interest should be minimised or avoided where possible.</p>
	<p>The design of the Greenway should ensure that the public amenity value of the study area is not diminished. Impacts on the public amenity areas adjacent to the rivers such as riverside walks and in particular fishing access areas should be considered and minimised or mitigated.</p>
	<p>Significant effects on long term pollution in the area are not anticipated for the proposed project.</p>
	<p>The proposed project will likely improve tourism potential in the area and as such is not anticipated pose a constraint in this regard.</p>
	<p>The proposed project supports the policy of the council in relation to transport of reducing dependency on cars and promoting the development of the Smarter Travel Network within the area and as such is not anticipated to pose a constraint in this regard.</p>
Ecology	<p>The sensitivity of the waterbodies and designated sites within the study area has no significant detail. These will need to be addressed to ensure that the negative effects are minimised and mitigated.</p>
	<p>The design should take into consideration the breeding or resting locations for otter. When the detailed design of the proposed Greenway is selected, affected areas may require additional survey to determine the level of otter activity and if any breeding or resting places are present within and adjacent to the footprint of the works. Works could result in the damage or destruction of resting places and</p>

Environmental Constraints	Summary of key constraints
	<p>appropriate mitigation will be required to ensure no long-term adverse impacts on local otter populations. Appropriate licences may also be required from NPWS in relation to any works on or around otter breeding or resting places.</p>
	<p>The Greenway design should take into consideration the potential impacts from loss of riparian habitat which provides food, cover and shade and helps to stabilise riverbanks. Significant impacts on fish populations and macroinvertebrates populations could occur due to such loss of habitat.</p>
	<p>The mobilisation of high levels of silt from construction beside rivers can impact spawning habitats. Excessive siltation can cause eggs and fry to be smothered. Spawning salmonids and lamprey are likely to avoid traditional spawning areas due to excessive silt deposits.</p>
	<p>The riverine corridor and vegetated fringe of the study area watercourses provides suitable habitats for nesting birds and also within the river walls and may provide a number of cracks and crevices suitable for nesting birds. If possible, vegetation clearance associated with the works and any works to existing walls, should be conducted outside of the breeding bird season (March to August inclusive) to protect any nests that may be present. If this is not possible, working areas should first be searched by a suitably qualified ecologist for the presence of any nests. If found, the nests should not be disturbed until the chicks have fledged and the nest is deemed inactive. A possible ecological opportunity as part of these works will be to include nesting boxes.</p>
	<p>Trees along the River Shannon, and the old buildings and bridges provide potential roosting opportunities for bats, with the surrounding habitat providing good foraging and commuting routes. Options that require the removal of mature trees or works to riverine built structures with the potential to support roosting bats shall be assessed for bat potential. The optimum time to carry out bat surveys is May-August inclusive. If bats are found to be present the surveys will determine the species, numbers, access points and type of roost. If a hibernation roost or maternity roost is found, they shall not be disturbed during the hibernation or maternity periods.</p>
	<p>It must be ensured that there are no significant impacts on the Natura 2000 sites (SAC/SPA), namely the Lower River Shannon SAC and the River Shannon and River</p>

Environmental Constraints	Summary of key constraints
	<p>Fergus Estuaries SPA. The Shannon River is directly adjacent to the proposed works. There is potential to negatively affect the status of these designated sites.</p> <p>Himalayan balsam and Giant Hogweed are listed as invasive plants under the EC (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477/2011). These regulations prohibit the introduction and dispersal of these species. Therefore, the works associated with the Greenway in areas where invasive species are present must use appropriate measures to ensure their containment. Appropriate measures should be taken to ensure that the spread of these invasive species is not initiated or extended by any proposed works. An Invasive Species Management Plan will be required for the treatment of Giant Hogweed and Himalayan balsam (and other invasive species) in a safe and environmentally acceptable manner.</p>
Water	<p>The design of the proposed Greenway should take into account the main objectives of the Water Framework Directive River Basin District Management Plan (RBDMP) by ensuring that any works proposed do not result in the deterioration of water quality of any watercourse in the study area and where possible contribute to the achievement of “good” status within the study area.</p> <p>The construction phase of the Greenway has the potential to impact on the water quality of the study area watercourses through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Release or run-off of suspended solids from site preparation or development of construction materials ▪ Accidental release of cement or contaminated materials from the site to watercourses ▪ Unintentional discharge of oil/diesel from the worksite to watercourses <p>The design of the Greenway will include consideration of routes with minimum flood risk to ensure the Greenway can remain in use, where possible.</p> <p>The construction materials which will form part of the design will be chosen to minimise impact on flood storage volume of the River Shannon.</p> <p>A Construction Environmental Management Plan should be prepared before commencement of any construction works.</p>

Environmental Constraints	Summary of key constraints
	<p>The removal and disposal of any river/estuarine sediment should follow the guidelines for handling waste under the Waste Management Acts as amended. A strict chain of custody must accompany all excavated materials taken off site for disposal.</p>
Soils and Geology	<p>Permanent or temporary removal of soils/excavation of bedrock may be necessary during the construction of the Greenway which could potentially impact bedrock and alter drainage patterns. Ground conditions within the study area will be identified through geotechnical investigation during the next stage of the Greenway development.</p>
	<p>Significant effects on Geological Heritage are not anticipated for the proposed project.</p>
	<p>Significant effects on Economic Geology are not anticipated for the proposed project.</p>
	<p>There is potential risk of contamination of groundwater through spills or leaks from hazardous substances used on site during construction. Best site practice should be implemented on site and appropriate mitigation measures should be implemented where works are hydrologically connected to groundwater bodies.</p>
Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage	<p>Given the provisions of the National Monuments Acts, no disturbance to, or interference with, any known archaeological sites can take place without prior Notification, assessment and consultation with the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage (DoHLGH). This should be conducted through the established consultation process via the Development Applications Unit (DAU) as part of planning.</p>
	<p>Refer to Chapter 12 in this EIA report provides details on archaeological sites/monuments within the study area. Each site/monument is assigned a Zone of Archaeological Potential (ZAP) within which works should not be undertaken without prior consent of the Minister of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.</p>
	<p>These sites include the Castletroy castle complex (RMP: LI006-017001- 017003) where works may directly impact the archaeological & visual integrity of the site.</p>

Environmental Constraints	Summary of key constraints
	<p>The riverine environment of the River Shannon within the study area has high archaeological potential and adjacent greenfield areas where works are proposed have potential for previously unrecorded sub-surface archaeology.</p>
	<p>Additionally, there are five Protected Structures within the study area. These include the Plassey Mills Complex, Plassey House and Castletroy. Refer to Chapter 12 in this EIA report.</p>
	<p>An Archaeological Impact Assessment should be carried out for the proposed Greenway. This may include a programme of advance archaeological testing and/or monitoring of Site Investigations as required</p>
	<p>An Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment of Plassey Mills complex should be carried out for the proposed Greenway</p>
	<p>All impacts on identified heritage – including areas to which local lore is connected – and their immediate environs, should be avoided where possible in the design of the proposed Greenway.</p>
	<p>Where avoidance by design is not possible then archaeological investigations may be required for identified areas of archaeological potential which would be directly impacted by the proposed Greenway.</p>
	<p>Advance investigations should be undertaken at design stage to facilitate mitigation design and allow adequate time to evaluate and record any archaeological features or deposits that may be encountered.</p>
	<p>Any ground disturbance works associated with the proposed project should be further assessed for archaeological potential. Appropriate mitigation should be determined during the design phase in consultation with the National Monuments Service (DoHLGH).</p>
	<p>All Protected Structures have statutory protection and design avoidance of these features and their settings should be employed where possible.</p>
	<p>Limerick City & County Council Heritage and Conservation offices should be consulted at an early stage of project development.</p>

Environmental Constraints	Summary of key constraints
	The National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage should be consulted at an early stage of the Greenways development.
Landscape/ Air/Noise and Vibration/ Climate Change	The design of the Greenway will minimise disturbance on existing hedgerows, trees, stone walls in the area as they form defining features of the landscape character of the area and are under pressure from population growth.
	Where trees felling is required to facilitate the Greenway's construction, planting schemes should be included to compensate for the loss of existing trees in the area.
	The proposed Greenway offers a recreational facility suitable for the zone in which it is proposed (where other sporting facilities such as pitches cannot be developed). In developing the Greenway along the banks of the river it will be important to protect and enhance the existing landscape character of the area by preserving natural vegetation.
	The design of the Greenway will include the development of viewing points as part of the Greenway route which will improve the amenity value of the area.
	It is recommended that mitigation measures be put in place to reduce the impacts on air quality and the noise environment during the construction phase of the Greenway.
	It is recommended that the effects of vibration during the construction phase be considered in the design process.
	The design should take into consideration any noise/vibration sensitive receptors such as residence, schools and retirement homes located in proximity to the study area.
	Meteorological and climatological data should be consulted in the engineering design process.
	The potential impacts of Climate change should be assessed with regards to the prediction of flood risk and should be taken into account in the design of the proposed Greenway.

Environmental Constraints	Summary of key constraints
Material Assets	<p>It is recommended that the existing and proposed location of overhead lines, watermains and underground services in the vicinity of any proposed Greenway be ascertained as part of the Engineering Study. It is recommended that Limerick City & County Council and other utility providers with services in the area be consulted regarding the location and priority of existing and proposed services.</p> <p>It is recommended that Limerick City & County Council, National Roads Authority and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) be consulted in relation to any effects on traffic management on roads infrastructure in the vicinity of the study area in relation to the proposed cycleway. A Road Safety Audit should be carried out where the Greenway interface with roads.</p>

3.2.1. Consultation with State Agencies – Responses

There have been favorable responses to the proposals from UL and the IDA who are the principal landowners along the proposed Greenway route. The project team has taken on board all previous comments made during the consultation process.

There has been very little response from state agencies/bodies except to acknowledge the project. The OPW has recommended Section 50 assessments be carried out for all proposed drains and culverts along the route and that assessment will be carried out in Q1 2025. LCCC is engaged in ongoing communications with the NTA because they are funding this project.

Table 3- 2: Stakeholder Register

Date	Stakeholder	Document	Response
13/05/2021	LCCC Heritage	EIA Scoping Report	Recommended to engage Archaeologist and Architectural Conservation officer
03/06/2021	LCCC Archaeologist	EIA Scoping Report	Met Sarah on site to discuss the proposed Greenway and took on board her recommendations
04/06/2021	LCCC Architectural Conservation	EIA Scoping Report	Met Tom on site and he recommended conservation of Bridge 2. Asked if Plassey Mills and Troy Castle could also be conserved as part of the project
18/06/2021	Waterways Ireland	Letter, Design drawings, and EIA Scoping Report	No response

18/06/2021	Office of Public Works	Letter, Design drawings, and EIA Scoping Report	No response
18/06/2021	National Parks & Wildlife Service	Letter, Design drawings, and EIA Scoping Report	No response
18/06/2021	Inland Fisheries Ireland	Letter, Design drawings, and EIA Scoping Report	No response
18/06/2021	An Garda Siochana	Letter, Design drawings, and EIA Scoping Report	No response
21/06/2021	IDA Castletroy	Letter and EIA Scoping Report	Multiple responses. Primarily concerned about route along Mulcair River behind J&J campus. Coordination with IDA flood defence engineers
21/06/2021	UL Facilities	Letter and EIA Scoping Report	Multiple. Met Ger Manning on site on two occasions and presented the project to his Facilities team.
11/08/2022	An Bord Pleanála	Cover Letter, Planning Report, Site Location plan, Design and Cross Sections drawings, 3d photomontages	Met with ABP in October 2022
19/10/2022	President of UL	Letter explaining the route through UL	No response
18/11/2022	ESB	Letter explaining the project and locations of proposed connections to the ESB network	No response
20/06/2024	Breda Ingle	Update for planning application ABP-314351-22	Provided a timeline to ABP for submission in Q3 2024
26/08/2024	Office of Public Works	Query about Section 50 requirement for culverts	Response received. Section 50 assessment required throughout.
07/01/2025	IDA Castletroy	Stakeholder letter and Location map	No response
07/01/2025	UL Facilities	Stakeholder letter and Location map	No response
07/01/2025	Failete Ireland	Stakeholder letter and Location map	No response
07/01/2025	Waterways Ireland	Stakeholder letter and Location map	No response
07/01/2025	Inland Fisheries Ireland	Stakeholder letter and Location map	No response
07/01/2025	Environmental Protection Agency	Stakeholder letter and Location map	No response
07/01/2025	Dept. of Environment	Stakeholder letter and Location map	No response
07/01/2025	Dept. of Housing, Local Government and Heritage	Stakeholder letter and Location map	No response
07/01/2025	ESB	Stakeholder letter and Location map	No response
07/01/2025	Eirgrid	Stakeholder letter and Location map	No response

07/01/2025	Uisce Eireann	Stakeholder letter and Location map	No response
07/01/2025	An Taisce	Stakeholder letter and Location map	No response
25/03/2025	An Bord Pleanála	LCG determination for EIA report	No response
25/03/2025	LCCC Ecologist	Stakeholder letter and Location map	No response
25/03/2025	LCCC Archaeologist	Stakeholder letter and Location map	No response
25/03/2025	LCCC Conservation Officer	Stakeholder letter and Location map	No response
29/04/2025	OPW	OPW letter and Map	No response
30/04/2025	An Bord Pleanála	Letter and 2nd pre-application consultation meeting minutes, request to close pre-consultation process	Response received on 20 th May 2025. Pre-consultation process closed.
20/05/2025	NPWS (DAU)	Letter re Bats and Public lighting, Location map	No response
17/06/2025	Rosa Donovan (Fisherman cottages)	Rosa Donovan letter with flood relief text and relevant drawings	No response
17/06/2025	Inland Fisheries Ireland	Letter regarding proposed construction works at riverbanks	No response
July 2025	IDA Castletroy	Letter notifying Stakeholder that Planning Application has been issued to ACP	Not yet issued to Stakeholder
July 2025	UL Facilities	Letter notifying Stakeholder that Planning Application has been issued to ACP	Not yet issued to Stakeholder
July 2025	Faite Ireland	Letter notifying Stakeholder that Planning Application has been issued to ACP	Not yet issued to Stakeholder
July 2025	Waterways Ireland	Letter notifying Stakeholder that Planning Application has been issued to ACP	Not yet issued to Stakeholder
July 2025	Inland Fisheries Ireland	Letter notifying Stakeholder that Planning Application has been issued to ACP	Not yet issued to Stakeholder
July 2025	Environmental Protection Agency	Letter notifying Stakeholder that Planning Application has been issued to ACP	Not yet issued to Stakeholder
July 2025	Dept. of Environment	Letter notifying Stakeholder that Planning Application has been issued to ACP	Not yet issued to Stakeholder
July 2025	Dept. of Housing, Local Government and Heritage	Letter notifying Stakeholder that Planning Application has been issued to ACP	Not yet issued to Stakeholder
July 2025	ESB	Letter notifying Stakeholder that Planning Application has been issued to ACP	Not yet issued to Stakeholder
July 2025	Eirgrid	Letter notifying Stakeholder that Planning Application has been issued to ACP	Not yet issued to Stakeholder

July 2025	Gas Networks Ireland	Letter notifying Stakeholder that Planning Application has been issued to ACP	Not yet issued to Stakeholder
July 2025	Uisce Eireann	Letter notifying Stakeholder that Planning Application has been issued to ACP	Not yet issued to Stakeholder
July 2025	An Taisce	Letter notifying Stakeholder that Planning Application has been issued to ACP	Not yet issued to Stakeholder
July 2025	Fire Service	Letter notifying Stakeholder that Planning Application has been issued to ACP	Not yet issued to Stakeholder
July 2025	HSE Ambulance	Letter notifying Stakeholder that Planning Application has been issued to ACP	Not yet issued to Stakeholder
July 2025	An Garda Siochana	Letter notifying Stakeholder that Planning Application has been issued to ACP	Not yet issued to Stakeholder
July 2025	UL Director of the Buildings and Estates department	Letter notifying Stakeholder that Planning Application has been issued to ACP	Not yet issued to Stakeholder
July 2025	OPW	Letter notifying Stakeholder that Planning Application has been issued to ACP	Not yet issued to Stakeholder
July 2025	Clare County Council	Letter notifying Stakeholder that Planning Application has been issued to ACP	Not yet issued to Stakeholder
July 2025	TII	Letter notifying Stakeholder that Planning Application has been issued to ACP	Not yet issued to Stakeholder
July 2025	NTA	Letter notifying Stakeholder that Planning Application has been issued to ACP	Not yet issued to Stakeholder
July 2025	Arts Council	Letter notifying Stakeholder that Planning Application has been issued to ACP	Not yet issued to Stakeholder
July 2025	Heritage Council	Letter notifying Stakeholder that Planning Application has been issued to ACP	Not yet issued to Stakeholder
July 2025	Southern Regional Assembly	Letter notifying Stakeholder that Planning Application has been issued to ACP	Not yet issued to Stakeholder
July 2025	Department of Transport	Letter notifying Stakeholder that Planning Application has been issued to ACP	Not yet issued to Stakeholder
July 2025	Dept. of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media	Letter notifying Stakeholder that Planning Application has been issued to ACP	Not yet issued to Stakeholder
July 2025	Commissioner of Public Works in Ireland	Letter notifying Stakeholder that Planning Application has been issued to ACP	Not yet issued to Stakeholder

3.3. EIAR SCOPING

Scoping is carried out in accordance with the 'Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects - Guidance on Scoping' (EPA, 2017), 'Advice Notes on Current Practice in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements' (EPA, 2015), 'Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment' (DoHPLG, 2018) and "Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR) (EPA, 2022). Scoping is the process of determining the content, depth and extent of topics to be covered in the environmental information to be submitted to a competent authority for projects that are subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). This process is conducted by contacting the relevant authorities and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) with interest in the specific aspects of the environment likely to be affected by the proposal. These organisations are invited to submit comments on the scope of the EIA and EIAR and the specific standards of information they require. Comprehensive and timely scoping helps ensure that the EIAR refers to all relevant aspects of the proposed development and its potential effects on the environment and provides initial feedback in the early stages of the project, when alterations are still easily incorporated into the design. In this way scoping not only informs the content and scope of the EIA, it also provides a feedback mechanism for the proposal design itself.

3.3.1. Informal Scoping Report

An EIA scoping report, introducing the proposed Limerick City Greenway (UL to NTP) by providing details of the projects preferred route, was prepared by Ryan Hanley and circulated in March 2021. A copy of the Scoping Report, along with the preliminary drawings for the Greenway, was issued to all relevant stakeholders that have been identified as likely concerned by the project. Refer to Table 3-2.

The information provided in the scoping report was based on information gathered during earlier stages of the project including the constraints and options stages, existing environmental databases, reports and mapping.

3.4. CUMULATIVE ASSESSMENT

The EIA Directive and associated guidance documents requires that the description of likely significant effects of a project includes an assessment of cumulative impacts that may arise. The factors to be considered in relation to cumulative effects include, inter alia, population and human health, ecology and biodiversity, water, land use, soils, geology, archaeology, architecture, cultural heritage, landscape, visual, air, noise, climate and material assets as well as the interactions between these factors. Each chapter of this EIAR has included a cumulative impact assessment section, which provides a thorough assessment of the potential for cumulative effects resulting from each factor of this project.

3.5. IN COMBINATION ASSESSMENT

The potential impacts arising from the proposed Greenway when considered in combination with other relevant plans and projects has been carried out in each chapter, with the purpose of identifying what influence the proposed development will have on the surrounding environment when considered in combination with relevant permitted, proposed and constructed projects in the vicinity of the proposed site.

The material was gathered through a search of relevant online Planning Registers, reviews of relevant environmental documents, other phases of Greenway & cycle route projects, planning applications & drawings, and served to identify past and future projects, their activities and their potential environmental impacts.

In general, projects which have the potential for cumulative effects are referred to where relevant, in the individual chapters of this report. A summary of relevant plans and projects which have the potential to cause cumulative effects, and which are relevant to every chapter, are included in Table 3-3.

Table 3-3: Summary of relevant plans and projects

Plans and Projects			Description
Limerick	Development	Plan	<p>The Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028 (LDP) envisages Limerick as the principal focus within the region, with the potential to generate and be the focus of significant employment and housing growth.</p> <p>The LDP is underpinned by a strategic vision intended to guide the sustainable future growth of Limerick.</p> <p>At the core of the vision is cohesive and sustainable communities, where cultural, natural and built environment is protected. The vision embraces inclusiveness and a high quality of life for all, through healthy place-making and social justice, including the ongoing development of the Regeneration Areas and disadvantaged communities. An integrated approach will align housing and public transport provision. Human and environment wellbeing including climate adaptation are at the core of the vision.</p> <p>The strategic vision of the LDP reads as follows:</p> <p>“By 2030, Limerick will become a green City region on the Shannon Estuary connected through people and places. This will be achieved through engagement, innovation and resilient urban development and self-sustaining rural communities”</p> <p>The following are the interlinked strategic objectives of the Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Grow Limerick’s economy and create opportunity through maximising the potential for development through the promotion and enhancement of the competitive advantages of Limerick, including its strategic location, connectivity and accessibility to international markets, a skilled workforce and a high quality of life. ▪ Transition to an environmentally sustainable carbon neutral economy. ▪ Ensure new residential development is of the highest quality, enabling life cycle choices and physical, community, recreation and amenity infrastructure are provided in tandem, to create sustainable, healthy, inclusive and resilient communities.

Plans and Projects	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect the unique character of Limerick. Support and facilitate revitalisation and consolidation of the City, towns and villages, through public realm and place-making initiatives. Address vacancy and dereliction to create compact attractive, vibrant and safe environments in which to live, work, visit and invest. Ensure the highest quality of public realm and urban design principles are applied to all new developments, including the construction of landmark buildings in appropriate locations. ▪ Create a competitive environment in which to do business. Promote, support and enable sustainable and economic development, enterprise and employment generation. Focus in particular on areas which are accessible by public and sustainable modes of transport. Enable settlements and rural areas to become self-sustaining through innovation and diversification of the rural economy. ▪ Reduce car dependency and promote and facilitate sustainable modes of transport. Prioritise walking, cycling and public transport. Provide an appropriate level of road infrastructure, road capacity and traffic management, to support existing and future development and enhance connectivity. ▪ Protect, enhance and ensure the sustainable use of Limerick's key infrastructure, including water supplies and wastewater treatment facilities, energy supply including renewables, broadband and transportation. ▪ Protect, enhance and connect areas of natural heritage, green infrastructure and open space for the benefits of quality of life, biodiversity, protected species and habitats, while having the potential to facilitate climate change adaptation and flood risk measures. ▪ Protect, conserve and enhance the built and cultural heritage of Limerick, through promoting awareness, utilising relevant heritage legislation and ensuring good quality urban design principles are applied to all new developments. The principle that well planned and integrated development enhances the sustainability, attractiveness and quality of an area should be at the centre of any proposal.

Plans and Projects	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support growth in the tourism sector in Limerick and capture key opportunities to grow the sector based around four key drivers – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Waterways, ○ Activities, ○ Heritage, ○ Arts and Culture, <p>in an urban and a rural environment.</p>
Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS)	<p>This Strategy sets out the framework for the delivery of the transport system required to further the development of the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area as a hub of cultural and social development and regeneration; as the economic core for the Mid-West; as an environmentally sustainable and unified metropolitan unit; as a place where people of all ages can travel conveniently and safely; and a place that attracts people, jobs and activity from all over Ireland and beyond.</p>
Limerick County Council planning register	<p>The review of the Limerick County Council online planning register was undertaken and documented relevant general development planning applications within the study area, most of which relate to recent upgrades and improvements to manufacturing and healthcare facilities in the National Technology Park as well as some extension works on Mulcair drive; some of which are outlined below. These applications have also been taken account on describing the baseline environment and in the relevant assessments.</p> <p>Permission sought in 2018 for a ten-year planning permission for a multipurpose manufacturing building, warehouse and auxiliary infrastructure (Planning Ref: 181020)</p> <p>Permission sought in 2019 for first floor office area over existing production area at J&J facility. (Planning Ref: 2051782)</p> <p>Permission sought in 2019 for extension to main J&J building extending the main production area, replacement of existing tanks etc (Planning Ref: 157046)</p> <p>Permission sought in 2020 for extension to existing common room mezzanine at Millstream Building in UL (Planning Ref: 181263)</p> <p>Permission sought in 2020 for the construction of a new temporary pre-fabricated multi-sensory room and all associated ancillary site works at St. Vincent's School (Planning Ref: 2076)</p>

Plans and Projects	Description
	<p>Permission sought for a new site entrance from Plassey Road and parking (Planning Ref: 191027)</p> <p>Permission sought in 2021 for single story extensions to existing J & J building, construction of waste storage yard etc (Planning Ref: 211275)</p> <p>Permission sought by J&J in 2021 for removal of existing ditch, erection of fence, tree planting, landscape works, extension of walking amenity etc (Planning Ref: 2113902)</p> <p>Permission sought by J&J in 2021 for erection of fence & gate to the northern boundary of the Vision care site (Planning Ref: 211792)</p> <p>Permission sought by J&J in 2021 for a water recycling plant, storage tanks, access road, perimeter fence and ancillary site works (Planning Ref: 211793)</p> <p>Permission sought in 2022 for the repairs to the pontoon and gangway adjacent to UL boat house (Planning Ref: 22281)</p> <p>Permission sought in 2023 by the University of Limerick for the redevelopment of an existing sports pitch just east of Kilmurry Student Village (Planning Ref: 2360712)</p> <p>Permission sought by UÉ in 2023 for Castletroy WWTP upgrade (Planning Ref: 23316168)</p> <p>Permission sought by the IDA in 2025 for proposed surface water drainage and flood defences (Planning Ref: 25/60477)</p>

3.6. REFERENCES

Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (August 2018) Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on Carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment. DHPLG, Dublin.

Environmental Protection Agency (2017) Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects - Guidance on Scoping. EPA, Wexford.

Environmental Protection Agency (2015) Advice Notes on Current Practice in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements. EPA, Wexford.

Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR) (2022), EPA.

Limerick City and County Council, National Transport Authority (2019). Limerick Metropolitan Cycle Network Study.

Ryan Hanley (2020). Constraints Study Report.