

GALWAY TO ATHLONE CYCLEWAY: THIRD PUBLIC CONSULTATION REPORT

Consultation on the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor 2021/2022



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EMERGING PREFERRED ROUTE CORRIDOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION REPORT

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EMERGING PREFERRED ROUTE CORRIDOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION REPORT

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The third period of focused public consultation was held from 8th December 2021 until the 31st of January 2022; and was subsequently extended to the 28th of February 2022. Due to public health guidance in relation to Covid-19, Public Consultation No.3 was held on the online virtual consultation platform. This report sets out the manner in which the consultation was promoted and undertaken, and summarises the feedback received.

The purpose of the third consultation was to present the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor and to gather feedback which would inform the project team in developing a Preferred Route within the corridor.

There was a good response to the third public consultation with 360 responses. The submissions received covered a range of different interests and can be summarised as follows:

- More than 32% supported the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor
- 30% of respondents requested links from the Cycleway to other towns, mainly Athenry
- 20% were opposed to it or had concerns in relation to some part of the project
- Over 17% of submissions were neutral or the respondent gave little to no comment.

There was good engagement from landowners during the consultation. Many landowners had concerns regarding the Cycleway project such as threat of compulsory purchase orders, severance of holdings, disruption to farming activities, anti-social behaviour, environmental impacts, and the lack of communication from the project team.

The following themes emerged in the submissions:

- Accessibility
- Attractions and Historical Features
- Compulsory Purchase Orders
- Consultation Efforts
- Environment
- Farming Impacts
- Health, Wellbeing and Economy
- Link to Athenry and Loughrea
- Privacy and Security

The project team would like to thank all those who submitted feedback and engaged in the public consultations and with the project team. Your feedback provides valuable local knowledge to inform our project team and your efforts are greatly appreciated.

1.1 The Project

The Galway to Athlone Cycleway project will complete a circa 330km car-free corridor connecting Galway and Dublin. It will form an attractive amenity to be enjoyed by local communities and visitors all year round.

The new Cycleway will deliver a memorable experience for cyclists and pedestrians with impactful scenery and points of interest along the way. In addition to public health benefits, it will support local businesses and stimulate new enterprises and jobs through the opportunities for cycling holidays.

The project is being delivered by the Galway, Roscommon, and Westmeath local authorities in partnership with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and the Department of Transport (DoT).

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Public Consultation has been underway since 2020. This local knowledge and insights of communities and stakeholders serves to inform the project team, along with their technical studies.

1.1.1 Emerging Preferred Route Corridor

Route Option 5 has been chosen as the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor as it offers a highly scenic route from Galway to Athlone, with lots to see and do on the way. It travels through a wide variety of landscapes, from the edge of Galway Bay, the Burren Lowlands, the Slieve Aughty mountains, the River Shannon, and the midlands bogs, and will be attractive to domestic and international users.

The Emerging Preferred Route Corridor visits Ballyloughane Beach, Oranmore, Rinville, Clarinbridge, Kilcolgan, Kinvara, Coole Park, Gort, Woodford, Portumna, Meelick, Clonfert, Ballinasloe, Shannonbridge, and Athlone Castle, linking places of interest, established tourism centres, public parks, and outdoor spaces. Figure 1.1 shows the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor.



Figure 1.1 Emerging Preferred Route Corridor

1.2 First Public Consultation (August 2020)

The first Public Consultation for the Galway to Athlone Castle Cycleway project was held in August 2020. The purpose of the consultation was to present the study area to the public and invite them to give their opinions on the Cycleway.

The consultation was very well attended with a total 524 people attending across 5 events. The events were held in Athlone, Ballinasloe, Athenry, Loughrea and Oranmore. Members of the project team were present to discuss the project with the public. The project team emphasised that the project was starting again from a 'clean slate' with no routes proposed at this point. It was also emphasized that there would be strong consultation with landowners throughout the project development and that a key project aim would be to progress the project in collaboration with affected landowners.

Following the consultation events, a large number of submissions were received. Most were individual submissions, with submissions also received from community groups and businesses.

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Most respondents were in support of a Cycleway through the study area. Many were opposed to a route through private lands and would only support a route through public lands or on-road facilities. Many suggested a route along the existing railway line and/or through Ballinasloe.

A report summarising the first public consultation is available to view on the project website. [Galway to Athlone Cycleway: Publications.](#)

1.3 Second Public Consultation (January – March 2021)

Public Consultation No.2 was held over 5 weeks from the 25th of January 2021 until the 1st of March 2021. Due to Covid-19 restrictions the consultation was held on an online virtual consultation platform, along with virtual meetings and telephone engagement.

The Route Corridor Options were developed to connect to likely tourism and leisure attractions and use publicly owned lands were possible. The purpose of the second consultation was to present the Route Corridor Options and obtain feedback on any issues or concerns.

There was a strong response to the Public Consultation with over 11,000 submissions received, 95% of which were supportive of the Cycleway. The majority of responses came through the feedback form which was available on the virtual consultation platform. People also availed of the online virtual consultation booking facility with over 140 calls and virtual meetings held over the consultation period.

Community groups, local organisations, businesses, and individuals submitted feedback on the need for the project, possible routes to be considered, locations, attractions or facilities that would benefit from a Cycleway or attract Cycleway users, issues and concerns. This included many local communities / organisations establishing social media pages and campaign groups to support the project and promote particular route corridor options.

The following themes emerged in submissions:

- Communications and Consultation,
- Community & Rural Development,
- Connectivity and Accessibility,
- Operation and Maintenance,
- Environment including Bogs, Flora and Fauna, Flooding, Wildlife and Woodlands,
- Health and Wellbeing,
- History and Heritage,
- Landowner Considerations including land acquisition, severance, insurance, future buildings and landowner consultation,
- Landscape and Scenery,
- Local Business, Economy and Jobs,
- Privacy,
- Safety and Security,
- Tourism,
- Walkways.

The feedback received was considered in the selection of the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor. A report summarising the second public consultation is available to view on the project website. [Galway to Athlone Cycleway: Publications.](#)

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2 PUBLIC CONSULTATION NO.3

The third period of focused public consultation was held from 8th December 2021 until the 31st of January 2022 and later extended to the 28th of February 2022 to allow more time for people to submit their feedback. Due to public health guidance in relation to Covid-19, Public Consultation No.3 was held on an online virtual consultation platform.

The purpose of the third consultation was to present Route Corridor Option No.5 South Route as the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor and to gather feedback that would inform the project team on identifying a Preferred Route within the corridor.

2.1 Virtual Consultation Room

The consultation was held online and could be accessed through the virtual consultation room on a computer, tablet, or smart phone, at any time throughout the focused period of public consultation.

The virtual consultation platform could be accessed through the Galway to Athlone Cycleway project website, www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com.

2.2 Feedback Forms

Online feedback forms were available through the virtual consultation room or on the project website.

Feedback forms could be returned by freepost to the project office or uploaded online. See Appendix A.

2.3 Appointments

Project Liaison Officers (PLOs) were available to discuss the project through in person meetings, virtual meetings, or by telephone. Appointments could be booked either through the online booking facility available on the website / virtual consultation room or by calling the dedicated project information line 091 509267.

2.4 Project Website

The Project website, www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com, was updated in advance of the third public consultation with new information in relation to the project, including the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor, project progress, latest news, consultations, publications and an FAQ section which was developed based on some of the key topics that arose during previous public consultations. The FAQs are provided in Appendix B.

The virtual public consultation room was available on the website and contained the following information.

- A welcome video on the scheme by the project manager, Cian McGuinness from RPS Consulting Engineers; and a tutorial on how to navigate the virtual room.
- Layout and detailed maps of the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor available to view or download.
- An interactive map of the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor which allows people to view locations throughout the study area and enter their postcodes.
- Public Consultation Number 3 Brochure.
- Online Feedback Form.
- Booking facility for people to book a virtual meeting or call back with a Project Liaison Officer.
- Display boards detailing project information and study area maps.
- Consultation documents can be viewed in Appendix C.
- Maps of the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor, which are provided in Appendix D.

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The following, Figure 2.1 to Figure 2.4 show the Virtual Consultation Room.

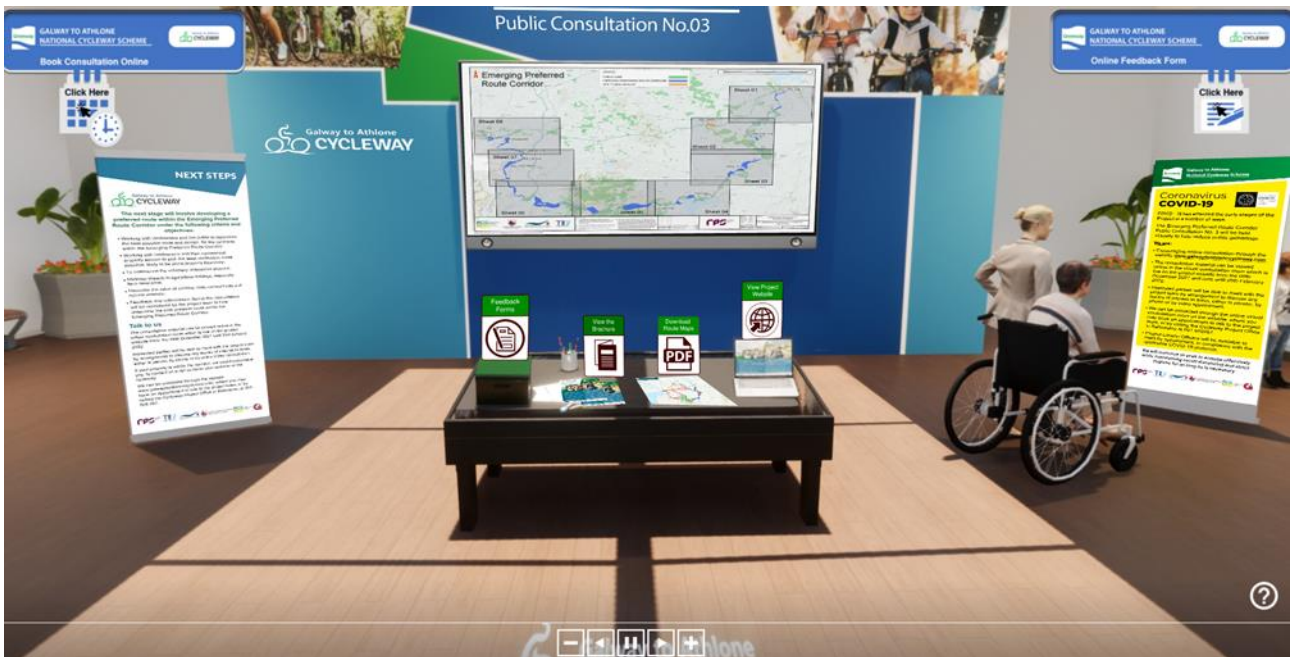


Figure 2.1 Screenshot from www.galwaytoathloneCycleway.com – Virtual Online Portal

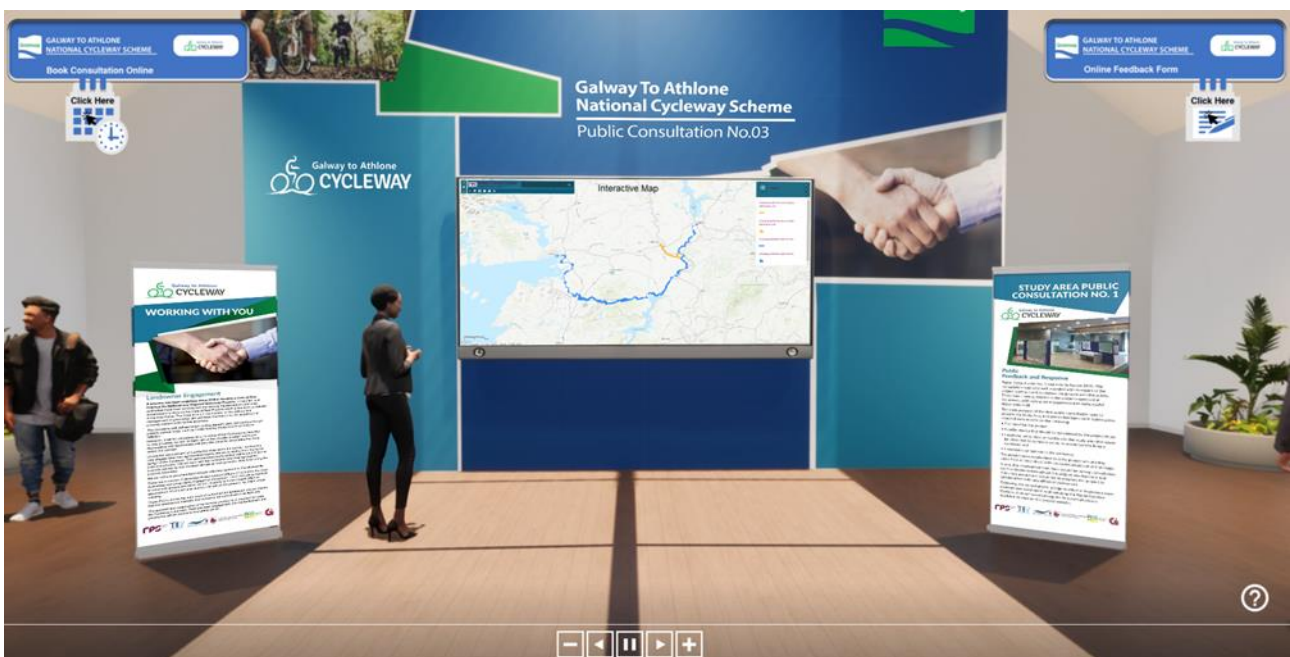


Figure 2.2 Screenshot from www.galwaytoathloneCycleway.com – Interactive Map

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Figure 2.3 Screenshot from www.galwaytoathloneCycleway.com – Booking Facility



Figure 2.4 Screenshot from www.galwaytoathloneCycleway.com – Information Displays

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3 PROMOTION

The third public consultation was promoted extensively, both locally in the areas around the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor and nationally, by the project team.

Promotional activities included direct mail to landowners within the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor, paid media advertisements, press releases, local and national newspaper reports, local radio coverage, website updates, social media promotion, and presentations to elected public representatives. A project update was emailed to over 4,000 people and the consultation brochure was posted to an additional 2500 people, for those who requested to be contacted regarding project news and updates during the previous public consultations.

3.1 Advertisements

The third public consultation was advertised by the project team in local newspapers one week prior to the virtual consultation events commencing. A further round of 'reminder' advertising was placed in January 2022. Table 3.1 below summarises the publications in which ads were placed and the associated dates. The advertisements themselves are provided in Appendix E.

Table 3.1 Event Advertisements

Newspaper	Advertisement Date	Reminder Date
Tuam Herald	08/12/21	22/12/21
Galway Advertiser	09/12/21	23/12/21
Connacht Tribune	09/12/21	23/12/21
Roscommon Herald	07/12/21	21/12/21
Westmeath Independent	08/12/21	22/12/21

The advertisements were also circulated as outlined in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2 Other Advertisements

Newspaper	Advertisement Date
Project Website	08/12/21
Local Radio Stations	08/12/21 and 26/01/22
Galway County Council Public Participation Network (PPN)	08/12/21
Galway, Roscommon and Westmeath County Council Websites	15/12/21
Galway County Council Twitter and Facebook	15/12/21
Roscommon County Council Facebook	29/12/21

3.2 Press Releases

The project team issued a number of press releases to promote the public consultation.

The first press release was sent to local media on Friday 8th December 2021 as follows:

- Galway Bay FM,
- Connacht Tribune,
- Galway Advertiser,
- Tuam Herald,
- Farmers Journal,
- Roscommon Herald,

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- Westmeath Independent,
- Roscommon People,
- Midlands 103,
- Shannonside Radio.

A further press release was issued to the above local media on 26th January 2021 to remind people that the consultation was still underway, the deadline for submissions had been extended to the 28th of February 2022 and to encourage them to make submissions before the deadline. Appendix F contains the press releases issued.

Following the press releases and local engagement extensive media coverage was generated across local and national media. Table 3.3 provides details of the publication dates for online and print newspaper articles regarding the project.

Table 3.3 News Articles

Source	Date	Date	Date	Date
Agriland	10.12.21			
Athlone Advertiser	09.12.21			
Connacht Tribune	09.12.21	14.01.22	04.02.22	06.02.22
Farmers Journal	09.12.21	02.02.22	05.02.22	23.02.22
Galway Daily	08.12.21	22.02.22		
Galway Bay FM	17.01.22			
Midlands 103	27.01.22			
Offaly Express	14.12.21			
Roscommon Herald	07.12.21			
Westmeath Independent	07.12.21	17.12.21	26.01.22	

3.3 Project Team Contact Details

If you have any questions or queries regarding the project, you can contact the Project Team on the contact information shown below.

Project Telephone	091-509 267
Project Email	info@galwaytoathloneCycleway.com
Project Website	www.galwaytoathloneCycleway.com
Virtual Consultation Room	www.galwaytoathloneCycleway.com
Project Postal Address	Galway to Athlone Cycleway Project Office, Society Street, Ballinasloe, Co Galway. H53 T320

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4 PARTICIPATION

There was a good response to the third public consultation with 360 submissions received. The number of submissions received during the second public consultation was considerably higher, possibly due to local community groups requesting people leave feedback advocating for a particular route. Submissions were made to the project team through the online feedback form, email and by post. The breakdown of response methods is shown in Figure 4.1.

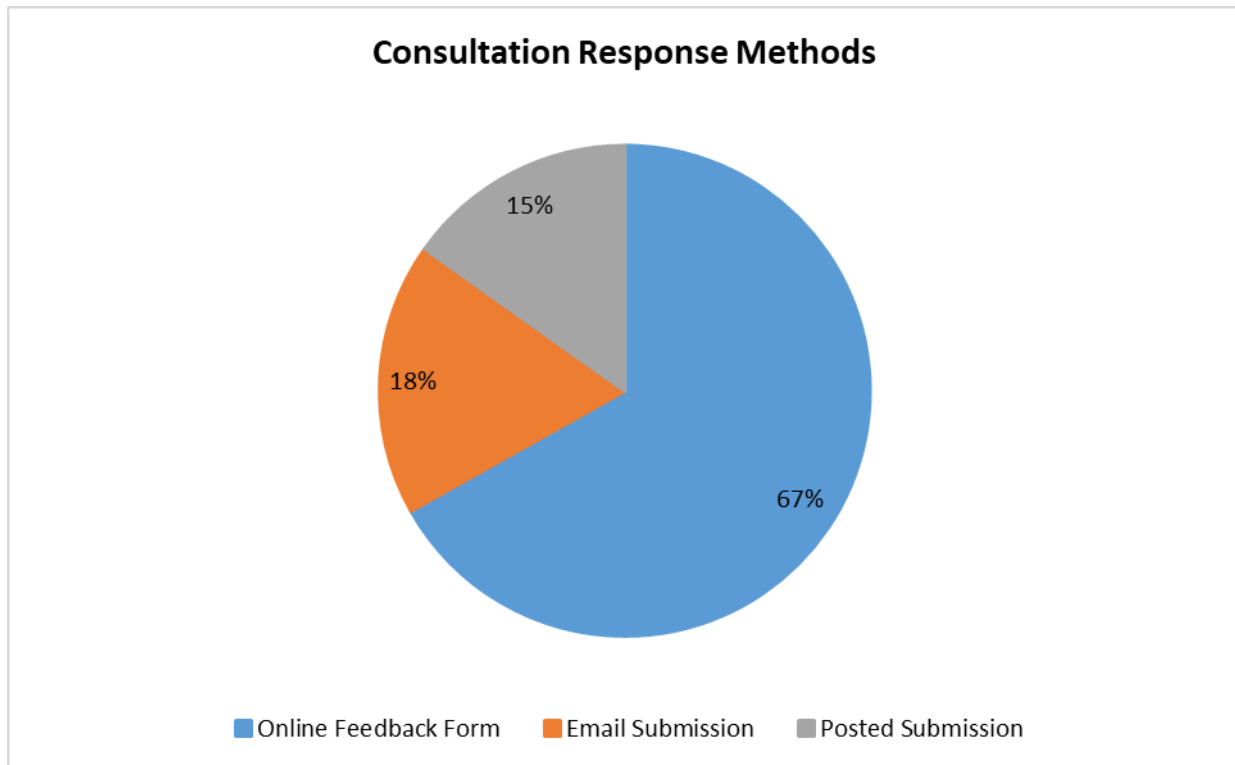


Figure 4.1 Public Consultation Response Methods

4.1 Groups/Other Stakeholders and Petitions

During the third public consultation the project team also received a number of landowner petitions and group submissions. A list of these submissions is shown in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 Submissions from Groups

Group	Summary	Signatures
MÓR Action Group	Supporting the Cycleway Maree to Oranmore	
Safe Routes for Schools	Supports the Proposed Cycleway in Athlone to increase active travel to school	
Kilbeacanty Community Development	Local knowledge on 1916 heritage trails	
Redington Woods Management Company	Opinions and concerns from the residents of Redington Woods	
Bastion Quay Management Company	Would like to assist in enhancing the Cycleway experience, engage to alleviate concerns. Cycleway will support businesses.	
Coastal Action Group	Ballyloughane to Oranmore area Landowner concerns and proposal to route the Cycleway along the Coast Road to the Proposed commuter Cycleway	92 Signatures

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Group	Summary	Signatures
East Galway Greenway Action Group	Concerns of landowners and community from Clonfert to Cloonmoylan. Proposal of using the existing R352 and R356 for the Cycleway	91 Signatures 321 Denial of Access Letters
East Galway Submissions	Landowner concerns regarding the Cycleway and Code of Practice	467 Signatures
Ballinasloe Says No	Welcomes the Proposed link from the Cycleway to Ballinasloe, a great boost for the town.	
Hen Harrier Project	Have conservation concerns which can be alleviated with route selection.	
The Wheels of Athenry	Disappointed Athenry was not included in the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor and request a link to the Cycleway from Athenry	
Galway Green Party	Would like to see a spur from Athenry to the proposed corridor in Oranmore. The Cycleway should serve locals before tourists.	
Clonmoylan Landowners and Residents	Concerns of landowners and community from Clonfert to Cloonmoylan. Proposal of using the existing R352 and R356 for the Cycleway	8 Signatures
Eyrecourt Landowners and Residents	Concerns of landowners and community from Clonfert to Cloonmoylan. Proposal of using the existing R352 and R356 for the Cycleway	54 Signatures
Powers Cross Landowners and Residents	Concerns of landowners and community from Clonfert to Cloonmoylan. Proposal of using the existing R352 and R356 for the Cycleway	4 Signatures
Killeenmunterlane Landowners and Residents	Against the proposed route and farm severance, request that the Cycleway be routed along the existing N67.	3 Signatures
Athenry Tidy Towns Committee	Disappointed Athenry was not on the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor and Request a Link.	
Clarinbridge GAA	In support of Cycleway but not through club grounds, may impact access and development	

4.2 Presentations and Meetings

Prior to the third public consultation, the project team presented the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor at virtual meetings to the Galway County Councillors, Galway City Councillors, Roscommon County Councillors, Westmeath County Councillors and Oireachtas Members. These meetings took place on the 07/12/2021 and were attended as follows.

- Presentation to Galway County Councillors – 29 attendees
- Presentation to Roscommon County Councillors – 9 attendees
- Presentation to Westmeath County Councillors – 9 attendees
- Presentation to Galway City Councillors – 10 attendees
- Presentation to members of the Oireachtas – 18 attendees

5 FEEDBACK RECEIVED

Each submission received by the Galway to Athlone Cycleway project team was reviewed and will be considered by the project team in the development of a Preferred Route within the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor. In reviewing each submission, members of the project team identified the key themes, opinions and concerns raised in relation to the project.

5.1 Sentiment Expressed in the Submissions

Over 30% of submissions were supportive of the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor or the Cycleway project. 20% of the submissions were negative or opposed to some aspect of the project. The majority of negative submissions were concerns from landowners within the corridor, while some were from individuals who were displeased with the route selection.

There was a feeling of disappointment that Athenry was not on the selected corridor. Submissions requesting a link to the Cycleway from Athenry to Oranmore made up 30% of the total submissions.

More than 17% of respondents gave little to no comment, or their comments did not suggest if they were for or against the project.

Table 5.1 below summarises the overall tone expressed in the feedback during the third public consultation.

Table 5.1 Response sentiment from Public Consultation No. 3

Responses Received		
Total Number of Responses	360	
Sentiment Expressed	Positive	32.8%
	Negative	20%
	Neutral/Little to no Comment	17.2%
	Requesting Link to Athenry	30%

5.2 Response to Feedback Form

Respondents were asked a number of questions on the feedback form (online and printed), including their interest in using the Cycleway; whether or not they own property within the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor; and if they would like to receive further information about the project. The following Figure 5.1 to Figure 5.3 summarises the responses to these questions to provide an overview of people’s reactions.

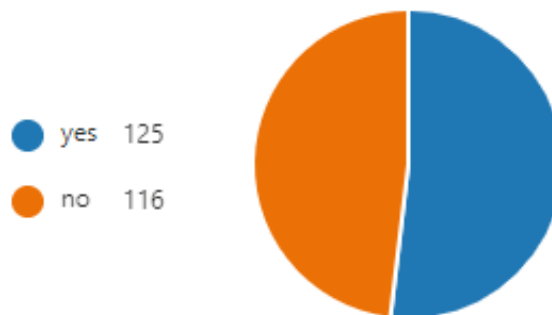


Figure 5.1 Response to ‘Do you live or own property within the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor’

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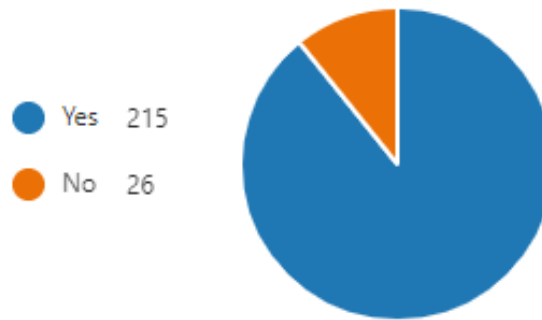


Figure 5.2 Response to 'Would you use the Cycleway'

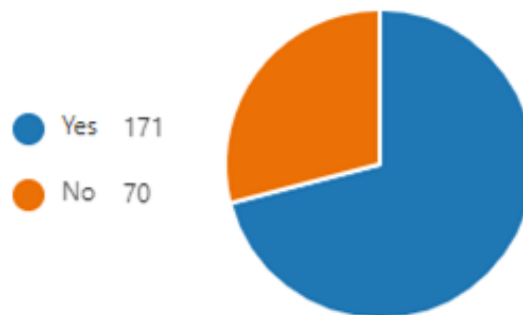


Figure 5.3 Response to 'Do you wish to be contacted regarding project news and updates'

5.3 Emerging Themes

The submissions received will help inform the project team in developing a route within the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor. The feedback received is reported under the following themes.

- Accessibility
- Attractions and Historical Features
- Compulsory Purchase Orders
- Consultation Efforts
- Environment
- Farming Impacts
- Health, Wellbeing and Economy
- Link to Athenry and Loughrea
- Privacy and Security

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5.4 Compulsory Purchase Orders

Many Landowners expressed their opposition to the use of compulsory purchase orders. Some landowners indicated they wanted the use of public land for the Cycleway, to avoid the use of private land.

Some respondents put forward concerns that if private lands are used for the Cycleway this might cause divisions between landowners. This view was expressed where people were concerned regarding the differences that may arise between landowners who are amenable to having the Cycleway on their lands and those who are opposed to it crossing their property.

5.5 Farming Impacts

Farmers expressed their concerns about the possible impact the Cycleway might have on farming activities. They stated that farming is people's livelihood. They put forward views that the Cycleway should not sever land which is being actively farmed as doing so could have negative impacts on farming activities and future expansion.

Submissions from landowners along the route also cited concerns regarding the effect of the route on land valuation and rising insurance costs.

Respondents suggested that routing the Cycleway along existing local, regional and national roads could connect towns, reduce severance and enable cyclists to feel safer next to public roads. Some submissions claimed that routing the Cycleway along existing roads (such as the R356 in Eyrecourt, R352 in Portumna, N67 Kilcolgan and Coast Road Oranmore to Galway) could benefit people in communities as well as tourism.

Some landowners said they are opposed to the provision set out in the Code of Practice for landowners to grant access to their property for inspection and maintenance of fencing.

5.6 Accessibility

Some respondents were concerned about the lack of public transport in villages and towns along the proposed route corridor, while bigger towns such as Athenry, Loughrea and Ballinasloe have the transport infrastructure to support the project and were overlooked.

Submissions highlighted the need for electric charge points, restroom facilities and wheelchair accessibility.

5.7 Links to Athenry and Loughrea

Many submissions advocated for a spur to connect both Athenry and Loughrea to the Cycleway.

Of the 360 total submissions, 106 (29.4%) were in favour of a link to Athenry, citing that Athenry has the public transport in place to suit tourists and Cycleway users.

It is worth noting that a website was created and shared on social media encouraging people to support a spur to Athenry and to provide this supportive feedback to the public consultation. Respondents commented on the benefits Athenry could bring to the Cycleway in terms of scenery, facilities, attractions, and public transport. They also asserted that the Cycleway could bring benefits to the town by improving health, safety for cyclists and creating a sustainable transport option for commuters to Oranmore and Galway.

People suggested that such a spur could be shorter than the proposed Ballinasloe link; would be strategic; a good investment; and could connect future Greenway projects to the Cycleway.

5.8 Attractions and Historical Features

Respondents cited support for the historical features and villages that the Cycleway will 'bring life to', such as Shannonbridge, Ballinasloe, Portumna, Woodford, Kinvara and Clarinbridge. Historical features included Clontuskert Abbey, Portumna Workhouse, Portumna Castle and Woodfords Iron Forge.

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Respondents welcomed the Cycleway in their area or town and stated strong satisfaction with the possibility of cycling to local attractions such as Rinville Park, Coole Park, Portumna Forest and Portumna Castle.

5.9 Health, Wellbeing and Economy

Respondents displayed support for the benefits the Cycleway will bring to towns and villages, including creating opportunities and helping businesses grow.

Other submissions suggested that towns that are not on the proposed Cycleway will have missed out on the opportunity of increased tourism.

Respondents expressed support for the benefits the Cycleway will bring to wellbeing, mental health and physical health. Submissions said that the Cycleway would offer a safe place to exercise and enjoy with the family; and asserted that public roads are not safe for cycling.

5.10 Environment

The importance of protecting eco-systems and wildlife was reflected in submissions. Respondents highlighted their concerns about the negative impact the Cycleway could have on wildlife, protected sites, archaeological and historical monuments; and suggested that alternative routes or appropriate assessments are needed to minimise those impacts.

Submissions highlighted areas along the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor which are prone to flooding, such as coastal areas, Coole Park and along the Shannon.

Some respondents put forward views that the Cycleway could be used to commute to nearby towns and villages and suggested that this could reduce the number of cars on roads and, in turn, reduce carbon emissions.

5.11 Privacy and Security

Landowners on the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor highlighted their concerns that increased footfall close to their property could impact their privacy; increase rural crime; and increase anti-social behaviour.

Submissions also contained concerns about increased traffic in rural areas due to the Cycleway.

5.12 Consultation Process

Respondents requested more public and landowner consultation such as meetings and telephone calls.

They cited the need for more clarity and more detailed drawings of the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor.

Submissions suggested that some landowners who received project correspondence advising that they may be affected by the proposed corridor. have yet to be contacted by the project team.

Some submissions asked for the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor to be disregarded until after landowner engagement is completed.

Some landowners used the feedback form to ask for additional information on the project or to request a call back or consultation with a member of the project team.

6 LANDOWNER ENGAGEMENT

The project team for the proposed Galway to Athlone Cycleway is committed to engaging with farmers and landowners within the Preferred Route Corridor to inform the team on identifying a Preferred Route within the selected corridor.

6.1 Landowner Letters

In December 2021, all landowners within the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor were sent a letter and project brochure by post. The Landowner letter is provided in Appendix G.

(Residents who were unlikely to have their properties effected by the Cycleway were not contacted at this stage.)

6.2 Landowner Consultations

6.2.1 Landowner Consultation Prior to Public Consultation No.3

In April 2021, the project team sent a letter and landowner leaflet, by post, to over 8,500 landowners outlining the process for engagement with them.

Landowners were identified via folio numbers within the study area available from the Property Registration Authority of Ireland (www.prai.ie).

Project Liaison Officers (PLOs) from Galway, Roscommon and Westmeath County Councils were available to liaise and engage with affected farmers and landowners on any matters relating to the proposed Greenway. From 4th May 2021 onwards, once public health guidance permitted, the PLOs visited farmers and landowners in the Consultation Areas to explore possible corridor options and talk through any issues or concerns. From May to December the project team made / received over 550 telephone calls; and carried out over 650 face-to-face meetings with landowners across all five Route Corridor Options.

6.2.2 Public Consultation No. 3

When the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor was announced in December 2021, Project Liaison Officers were available to meet with potentially impacted landowners.

During Public Consultation No. 3, i.e. from December 2021 to March 2022, PLO's have engaged with landowners through 280 telephone calls, face-to-face meetings and virtual meetings. This includes both individual and group meetings.

6.3 Denial of Access

The project team received a number of identical form letters stating that the signee is refusing access to any Council, body, agency, company, contractor, individual or employee to enter their property for the purpose of any activity, action, or process connected with the Cycleway project. The signees were from throughout Galway, mainly Stoneyisland, Portumna, Eyrecout and Clonfert. It is important to note that the majority of these letters, denying access, were signed by landowners from outside the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor.

6.4 Code of Best Practice

A Code of Best Practice for National and Regional Greenway Projects was published by the Government on the 17th of December 2021. The Code sets out the process for the delivery and management of Greenways and provides information on the acquisition of privately owned lands for Greenways. The PLOs brought this Code of Practice to the attention of landowners throughout their engagement.

7 CONCLUSION

Overall, there was good support for the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor with many respondents providing supportive feedback on the benefits it will bring to their communities in terms of health and economic growth.

There were many suggestions to link the Cycleway to nearby schools, GAA grounds and towns / villages along the final route.

Many farmers and landowners within and around the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor participated in the public consultation. Landowners expressed their concerns about possible compulsory purchase orders, severance of holdings, disruption to farming activities, anti-social behaviour, increased rural crime, environmental impacts and the need for more communications from the project team. Many landowners suggested to route the Cycleway along existing infrastructure to avoid severance and to make the Cycleway more accessible to local communities. However, other respondents stated that the Cycleway would offer a safe place to exercise and enjoy with the family and that the public roads are not safe for cycling.

The project team appreciate all consultation and feedback over the consultation period. The project team will analyse the feedback received, and will also continue to work with landowners over the coming months, to identify a Preferred Route within the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor.

Appendix A

Feedback Forms

EMERGING PREFERRED ROUTE CORRIDOR QUESTIONNAIRE / CEISTNEOIR FAOIN GCONAIR BHEALAIGH IS DEALRAITHÍ A ROGHNÓFAR



We welcome your local information / *Cuirimid fáilte roimh d'fhaisnéis áitiúil*

1. Name / Ainm	Email / Ríomhphost
Address / Seoladh	Telephone / Uimhir Ghutháin
	Eircode / Éirchód

2. Do you live or own property within the Emerging Preferred Route corridor?
An bhfuil cónaí ort nó an bhfuil úinéireacht agat ar mhaoin laistigh den Conair Bhealaigh is Dealraithí a Roghnófar?

Yes Tá / Is Liom No Níl / Ní Liom

3. Would you use the Cycleway?
An mbainfeá úsáid as an Rotharbhealach?

Yes / Tá No / Níl

4. We welcome your feedback on any information about the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor that would inform the project team on developing a route within the corridor. (please use additional paper and include supporting documents / images / maps if you wish).
Fáiltimid roimh d'aiseolas ar aon fhaisnéis faoin gConair Bhealaigh is Dealraithí a Roghnófar a chuirfeadh foireann an tionscadail ar an eolas faoi bhealach a fhorbairt laistigh den chonair. (bain úsáid as páipéar breise le do thoil agus cuir cáipéisí / íomhánna / léarscáileanna tacaíochta san áireamh más mian leat)

5. Signature / Siniú

Please complete the feedback form and return by email or Freepost to:

Líon amach an fhoirm aiseolais agus seol ar ais ar ríomhphost nó ar an Saorphost í chuig:

Email/Ríomhphost: info@galwaytoathlonecycleway.com

Freepost: Galway to Athlone Cycleway Project Office, Society Street, Ballinasloe, County Galway, Ireland, H53 T320.

Saorphost: Oifig Thionscadal an Rotharbhealaigh ó Ghaillimh go Baile Átha Luain, Sráid an Chumainn, Béal Átha na Sluaighe, Contae na Gaillimhe, Éire, H53 T320.

Please tick this box if you wish to be contacted regarding project news and updates.

Cuir tic sa bhosca seo más mian leat go ndéanfaí teagmháil leat maidir leis an tionscadal agus an nuacht is déanaí a bhaineann leis.

Data Protection: By providing my details in this feedback form, I consent to the use of my personal data in accordance with Westmeath County Council's Privacy Notice which is available at: www.westmeathcoco.ie/en/ourservices/yourcouncil/privacy/privacynotice

Cosaint Sonraí: Trí mo chuid sonraí a thabhairt san fhoirm aiseolais seo, toillim go n-úsáidfí mo chuid sonraí pearsanta i gcomhréir le Fógra Príobháideachta Chomhairle Chontae na hIarmhí atá ar fáil ar www.westmeathcoco.ie/en/ourservices/yourcouncil/privacy/privacynotice

Appendix B

FAQ's

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What happens after this consultation finishes on 31st January

The Project Team will assess the response from the Consultation, and, health restrictions permitting, visit landowners in the consultation areas to further discuss the project. These visits and further dialogue will inform the selection of the route of the cycleway within the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor. The January 31st date is the deadline for responses from the general public. Discussions with landowners and farmers in the corridor will progress throughout 2022. However, input from landowners and farmers prior to 31st January is very welcome and can guide the latter discussions.

2. Land Acquisition

As a key objective we aim to route the proposed greenway through publicly owned lands and avoid directly impacting farms and other properties where possible. Given the length of linear projects of this nature, the ultimate route of the proposed greenway will also travel through portions of land and property that are in private ownership. Where this is likely to occur, we will liaise with the landowner / farmer in advance to pick the least disruptive route possible, such as along the farm boundary. Where private land is needed for the cycleway, we will strive to agree a purchase of the lands by voluntary agreement on acceptable terms with the landowner / farmer. All land for the cycleway will be purchased rather than through use of permissive access.

3. Insurance/Indemnities

The Council will indemnify the landowner / farmer against all actions, claims and demands arising from the acquisition of the land for the construction and use of the cycleway.

4. Fencing/Maintenance

Where necessary, stockproof fences shall be provided to assist in preventing trespass and for the protection of members of the public and animals. Fencing and boundary treatment will be discussed and agreed with the landowner / farmer and provided and maintained by the Council.

5. Farm Severance

We are confident that in the vast majority of cases, it will be possible to route the cycleway along farm boundaries and avoid severance.

6. Road or Farm Crossings

We will make every effort to avoid crossing any private access roads / driveways. If a crossing is unavoidable it is important that pedestrians and cyclists give way to property owners using the private access road / driveway and the crossing will, therefore, be constructed to include a staggered chicane and warning signs on the greenway leading to the private road / driveway.

7. Screening/Privacy

Dublin | Cork | Galway | Sligo

rpsgroup.com

RPS Group Limited, registered in Ireland No. 91911
 RPS Consulting Engineers Limited, registered in Ireland No. 161581
 RPS Planning & Environment Limited registered in Ireland No. 160191
 RPS Engineering Services Limited, registered in Ireland No. 99795
 The registered office of each of the above companies is West Pier
 Business Campus, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, A96 N6T7



The cycleway will be routed to stay away from houses or farm buildings as far as possible. Where necessary, screening such as hedges, fences or other suitable screening will be used to provide adequate privacy.

8. Planning Permissions/Future Development

A cycleway should not impose any new planning restrictions on adjoining farmland. Should a farmer / landowner adjoining the greenway, having had land acquired for the greenway, wish to expand his landholding by acquiring or long-term leasing another property adjoining the other side of the greenway, the Council / Local Authority will consider appropriate access arrangements to connect the two farm properties alongside the greenway.

9. Nuisance/Crime/Anti-Social Behaviour

The Greenway will be designed, managed, and maintained by the council who will put appropriate measures in place and work closely with key stakeholders, like the Gardaí, in keeping with experience gained on other greenway projects. Experience to date from other greenways around the country is that there hasn't been anti-social instances and the greenways tend to be managed by passive surveillance of the users.

10. State-Owned Land

We will make every effort to minimise the number of private land holdings directly affected by the proposed greenway. The Emerging Preferred Route Corridor utilises large amounts of state owned land, including land owned by Coillte, Bord na Mona, ESB and other state agencies.

11. Restrictions on Future Activities

A cycleway should not impose any new restrictions on adjoining farmland in relation to normal agricultural activities.

12. Disease Control/Dogs

The Council will comply with any Regulations in connection with the Department of Agriculture Disease Eradication Scheme. Walking of dogs will only be permitted if the dog is on a lead.

13. Assessment of Compensation

It is envisaged that the majority of Voluntary Land Acquisition and / or Compensation Agreements will be achieved by directly negotiated means. It is, however, acknowledged that this may not always be possible and, accordingly, the parties can avail of a Mediation Process or similar processes if needed. It is intended to introduce an advanced payment once a Voluntary Land Acquisition Agreement is executed and the focus will be on ensuring the rights of landowners / farmers are fairly treated throughout the process.

14. Agronomists

Where a landholding / farm is affected by the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor, the Council will pay for an independent agronomist to assist the landowner / farmer in the process.

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15. Code of Practice setting this out in writing prior to implementation

A Code of Practice for the development of greenways is in preparation and will set out the processes to be followed by the Council and its obligations in the proper and fair treatment of all landowners / farmers.

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rpsgroup.com

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RPS Consulting Engineers Limited, registered in Ireland No. 161581
RPS Planning & Environment Limited registered in Ireland No. 160191
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Appendix C

Consultation Documents

PUBLIC CONSULTATION NO.3
COMHAIRLIÚCHÁN POIBLÍ
UIMH. 3

DECEMBER / NOLLAIG
2021

Emerging Preferred Route Corridor
An Chonair Bhealaigh is
Dealraithí a Roghnófar



Website Link



Nasc chuig
Láithreán Gréasáin

The Galway to Athlone Cycleway is for local communities. It will:

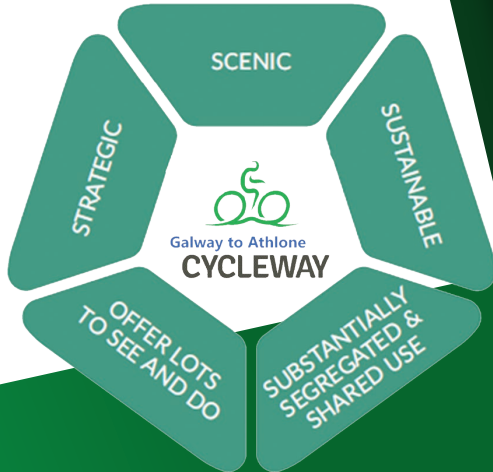
- Support local businesses and jobs - such as local shops, cafes, pubs, cycling businesses, B&Bs, camping sites, hotels and hostels.
- Provide safe, traffic-free cycling and walking routes for everyone to enjoy.
- Provide a valuable local amenity for communities to walk or cycle.
- Deliver a quality and memorable visitor experience with great scenery and points of interest.
- Complete a circa 330km car-free corridor between Galway and Dublin, linking the Atlantic coast to the East coast.

We welcome any information that would inform the project team finalising the Cycleway route within the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor.

Tá an Rotharbhealach ó Gaillimh go Baile Átha Luain do phobail áitiúla. Déanfaidh sé:

- Tacú le gnólachtaí agus poist áitiúla - amhail siopaí áitiúla, caiféanna, tithe tábhairne, gnólachtaí rothaíochta, leaba is bricfeasta, suíomhanna campála, óstáin agus brúnna.
- Bealaí sábháilte rothaíochta agus siúil gan trácht a sholáthar do gach duine chun taitneamh a bhaint astu.
- Saoráid áitiúil luachmhar a sholáthar do phobail chun siúl nó rothaíocht.
- Eispéireas ardchaighdeáin agus speisialta do chuariteoirí a chur ar fáil le radharcra agus pointí spéisiúla iontacha.
- Conair circa 330km saor ó charr idir Gaillimh agus Baile Átha Cliath a chomhlánú, ag nascadh cósta an Atlantaigh leis an gcósta Thoir.

Fáiltimid roimh aon fhaisnéis a chuirfeadh an fhoireann tionscadail ar an eolas agus iad ag cur bailchríoch ar bhealach an Rotharbhealaigh laistigh den Chonair Bhealaigh is Dealraithí a Roghnófar



PROJECT VISION FÍS AN TIONSCADAIL

Part of Ireland's longest Cycleway

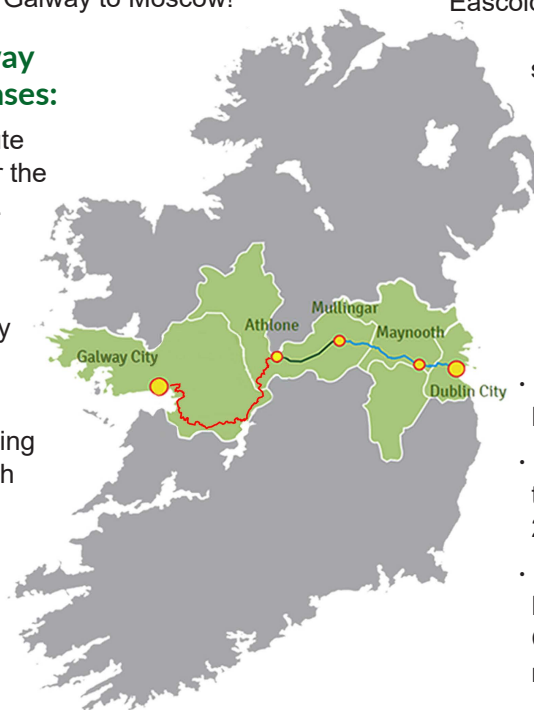
The Department of Transport is developing National and Regional Greenways across Ireland to enhance tourism and contribute to rural development.

The new Galway to Athlone Cycleway is a large section of the even bigger circa 330km Galway to Dublin Cycleway - Ireland's longest Cycleway to date.

The Galway to Dublin Cycleway will be a world class amenity for pedestrians, cyclists and wheelchair users to enjoy - locals and tourists alike. It will facilitate the first leg of the international EuroVelo network of long-distance cycling trails in Europe linking Galway to Moscow!

Galway to Dublin Cycleway is being developed in phases:

- The Emerging Preferred Route Corridor is now on display for the Galway to Athlone Cycleway.
- 107km open between Athlone and Maynooth.
- Construction of new cycleway bridge over the Shannon, due to be complete in 2023.
- Two major urban sections being developed between Maynooth and Dublin City and from Ballyloughane to Galway City.



— Route adjacent to Royal Canal
— Old rail trail
— Emerging Preferred Route Corridor

Cuid den Rotharbhealach is faide in Éirinn

Tá Glasbhealaí Náisiúnta agus Réigiúnacha á bhforbairt ag an Roinn Iompair ar fud na hÉireann chun turasóireacht a fheabhsú agus chun cur le forbairt tuaithe.

Is píosa mór den Rotharbhealach níos faide de thuairim is 330km idir Gaillimh agus Baile Átha Cliath - an Rotharbhealach is faide in Éirinn go dtí seo - é an Rotharbhealach ó Ghaillimh go Baile Átha Luain.

Taitneamhacht de scoth an domhain a bheidh sa Rotharbhealach ó Ghaillimh go Baile Átha Cliath chun go mbainfidh coisithe, rothaithe agus daoine i gcathaoireacha rothaí sult as - muintir na háite agus turasóirí araon. Éascóidh sé an chéad chuid de líonra idirnáisiúnta EuroVelo de chonairí fadraona rothaíochta san Eoraip - ag ceangail Gaillimh le Moscó!

Tá Rotharbhealach na Gaillimhe go Baile Átha Cliath á fhorbairt i gcéimeanna:

- Tá an Chonair Bhealaigh is Dealraithí a Roghnófar ar taispeáint anois do Rotharbhealach na Gaillimhe go Baile Átha Luain.
- 107km oscailte idir Baile Átha Luain agus Maigh Nuad.
- Droichead nua rotharbhealaigh a thógáil thar an tSionainn, le bheith críochnaithe in 2023.
- Dhá mhór-chuid uirbeacha á bhforbairt idir Maigh Nuad agus Cathair Bhaile Átha Cliath agus ó Bhaile an Locháin go Cathair na Gaillimhe.

EMERGING PREFERRED ROUTE CORRIDOR AN CHONAIR BHEALAIGH IS DEALRAITHÍ A ROGHNÓFAR



An interactive map of the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor is available to view in the Virtual Consultation Room at www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com

Is féidir féachaint ar léarscáil idirghníomhach de na Roghanna Conair Bhealaigh sa Seomra Comhairliúcháin Fíorúil ar www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com

Emerging Preferred Route Corridor

The Emerging Preferred Route Corridor has been chosen as it offers a highly scenic route from Galway to Athlone, with lots to see and do on the way. It travels through a wide variety of landscapes, from the edge of Galway Bay, the Burren Low Lands, the Slieve Aughty mountains, the river Shannon and the midlands bogs, and will be attractive to domestic and international users.

It visits Ballyloughane Beach, Oranmore, Rinville, Clarinbridge, Kilcolgan, Kinvara, Coole Park, Gort, Woodford, Portumna, Meelick, Clonfert, Ballinasloe, Shannonbridge and Athlone Castle, linking places of interest, established tourism centres, public parks and outdoor spaces.

We now wish to work with landowners and the public to determine the best route and design for the Cycleway within the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor.

We welcome your local information

The consultation material can be viewed online in the virtual consultation room which is live on the project website from the 08th December 2021 until the 28th of February 2022.

Interested parties will be able to talk with the project team by appointment to discuss any issues of interest to them, either in person, by phone or virtually.

We can be contacted through the website, where you may book an appointment to talk to the project team, or by calling the Cycleway Project Office in Ballinasloe at 091 509 267.

An Chonair Bhealaigh is Dealraithí a Roghnófar

Roghnaíodh An Chonair Bhealaigh is Dealraithí toisc go dtugann sé radharcra álainn ó Ghailimh go Baile Átha Luain, le go leor le feiceáil agus le déanamh ar an mbealach. Taistealaíonn sé trí réimse leathan tírdhreacha, ó imeall Chuan na Gaillimhe, Tailte Íseal na Boirne, sléibhte Shliabh Eachtaí, abhainn na Sionainne agus portaigh lár na tíre, agus beidh sé tarraingteach d'úsáideoirí baile agus idirnáisiúnta.

Tugann sé cuairt ar Thrá Bhaile an Locháin, Órán Mór, Rinn Mhíl, Droichead an Chláirín, Cill Cholgáin, Cinn Mhara, Páirc na Cúile, An Gort, An Ghráig, Port Omna, Míleac, Cluain Fearta, Béal Átha Luain, ag nascadh áiteanna spéisiúla, ionaid turasóireachta seanbhunaithe, páirceanna poiblí agus spásanna lasmuigh.

Is mian linn anois oibriú le húinéirí talún agus leis an bpobal chun an bealach agus an dearadh is fearr a chinneadh don Rotharbhealach laistigh den Chonair Bhealaigh is dealraithí a roghnófar

Cuirimid fáilte roimh do chuid faisnéise áitiúla

Is féidir an t-ábhar comhairliúcháin a fheiceáil ar líne sa seomra comhairliúcháin fíorúil atá beo ar láithreán gréasáin an tionscadail ón 08 Nollaig 2021 go dtí an 28 Feabhra 2022.

Beidh páirtithe leasmhara in ann labhairt le foireann an tionscadail trí choinne chun aon saincheistanna is díol spéise dóibh a phlé, go pearsanta, ar an bhfón nó go fíorúil.

Is féidir teagmháil a dhéanamh linn tríd an láithreán gréasáin, áit ar féidir leat coinne a chur in áirithe chun labhairt le foireann an tionscadail, nó trí ghlaoch a chur ar an Oifig Tionscadail na Rotharbhealaigh i mBéal Átha na Sluaighe ag 091 509 267.

WORKING WITH YOU AG OBAIR LEAT

Landowner Engagement

A process has been underway since 2019 to develop a Code of Best Practice for National and Regional Greenway Projects. TII and the local authorities have been working with the farming representatives and other stakeholders to develop the Code of Best Practice which is due to be completed in the near future. The Code sets out the process for the delivery and management of Greenways and provides information on the acquisition of privately owned lands for the Greenway.

The corridor is well defined where routing appears clear, for example through publicly owned lands, such as Coillte forestry tracks and Bord na Móna railways.

However, it will be necessary to build some of the Cycleway on land that is now privately owned. In these areas the corridor is wider and future discussions with landowners will form the basis for developing the route within the corridor.

During the development of a preferred route within the corridor, landowners may engage their own agronomist/property adviser to advise them during the design of the Cycleway. This agronomist/property adviser will be paid for by the project promoters. We will work with the landowner and their agronomist/property advisor to pick the least disruptive route possible, likely to be along the property boundary.

We will strive to purchase land through voluntary agreement, if at all possible.

There are a number of dedicated Project Liaison Officers (PLO's) from the Local Authorities and Consultants. The PLO's will be available to meet with landowners either on their property or in the Project Office by appointment. PLO's are also available to talk on the phone or by online virtual meeting.

These PLO's will be the main point of contact for the landowner, and will ensure that the landowners interests and concerns are considered in all decisions.

The goodwill and cooperation of the farming community is important to make the Cycleway a success. Real and open engagement with the landowners and community will be central to everything we do.

Rannpháirtíocht le hÚinéirí Talún

Tá próiseas ar bun ó 2019 chun Cód Dea-Chleachtais a fhorbairt do Thionscadail Glasbhealaigh Náisiúnta agus Réigiúnacha. Bhí TII agus na húdaráis áitiúla ag obair leis na hionadaithe feirmeoireachta agus le páirtithe leasmhara eile chun an Cód Dea-Chleachtais a fhorbairt a bheidh le críochnú go luath. Leagtar an próiseas ina ndéantar glasbhealach a chur ar fáil agus a bhainistiú amach sa Chód agus cuirtear eolas ar fáil ann maidir le talamh príobháideach a cheannach don Ghlasbhealach.

Tá an chonair sainmhínithe go maith nuair is cosúil go bhfuil an bealach soiléir, mar shampla trí thailte faoi úinéireacht phoiblí, mar rianta foraoiseachta Coillte agus iarnróid Bhord na Móna.

Mar sin féin, beidh sé riachtanach cuid den Rotharbhealach a thógáil ar thalamh atá faoi úinéireacht phríobháideach anois. Sna ceantair seo tá an chonair níos leithne agus beidh plé le húnéirí talún amach anseo mar bhunús chun an bealach laistigh den dorchla a fhorbairt.

Le linn dóibh an bealach is fearr a fhorbairt laistigh den chonair, féadfaidh úinéirí talún a n-agraanamái/comhairleoir maoine féin a fhosú chun comhairle a thabhairt dóibh le linn dheardh an Rotharbhealaigh. Íocfaidh tionscnóirí an tionscadail an t-agraanamái/comhairleoir maoine seo. Oibreimid leis an úinéir talún agus lena agramanamái/comhairleoir maoine chun an bealach is lú a chuireann isteach air a roghnú, ar dóigh dó a bheith feadh teorainn na maoine.

Déanfaimid ár ndícheall talamh a cheannach trí chomhaontú deonach, más féidir.

Tá roinnt Oifigigh Idirchaidrimh Tionscadail tiomnaithe (PLOanna) ó na húdaráis Áitiúla agus Comhairleoirí. Beidh na PLOanna ar fáil chun bualadh le húnéirí talún ar a gcuid maoine nó san Oifig Tionscadail trí choinne. Tá PLOanna ar fáil freisin chun labhairt ar an bhfón nó trí chruinniú fíorúil ar líne.

Beidh na PLOanna seo ina bpríomhphointí teagmhála ag an úinéir talún agus cinnteoidh siad go ndéanfar leas agus inní na húnéirí talún a mheas agus cinntí á ndéanamh.

Tá dea-thoil agus comhoibriú an phobail feirmeoireachta tábhachtach chun go n-éireoidh leis an Rotharbhealach. Beidh rannpháirtíocht cheart agus oscailte leis na húnéirí talún agus leis an bpobal lárnach i ngach rud a dhéanaimid.

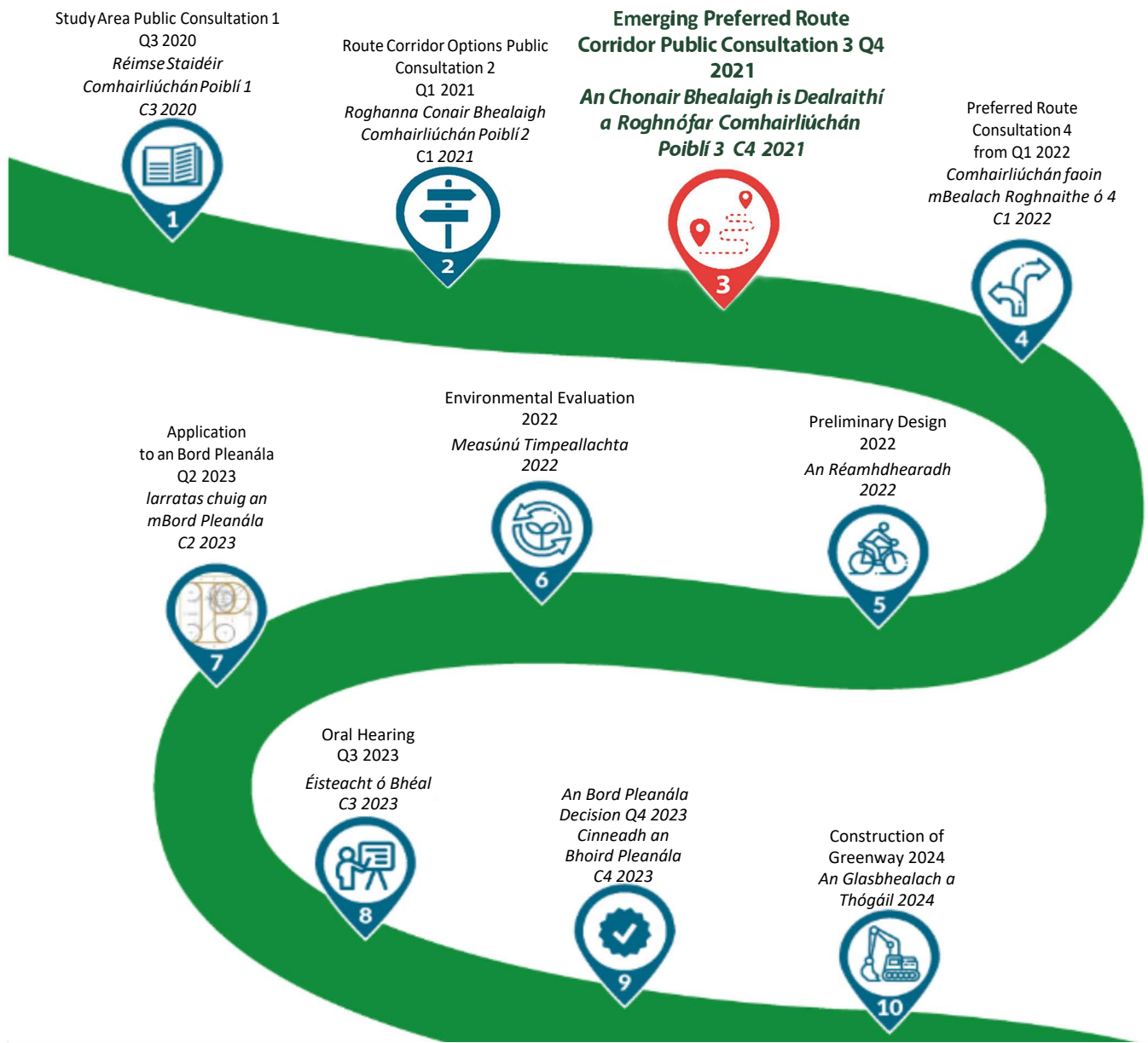
STAGES OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION CÉIMEANNA AN CHOMHAIRLIÚCHÁIN PHOIBLÍ



Study Area Public Consultation	<i>Réimse Staidéir Comhairliúchán Poiblí</i>	➔	August/Lúnasa 2020
Route Corridor Options Public Consultation	<i>Roghanna Conair Bhealaigh Comhairliúchán Poiblí</i>	➔	Jan-Feb <i>Eanair-Feabhra</i> 2021
Emerging Preferred Route Corridor Public Consultation	<i>An Chonair Bhealaigh is Dealraithí a Roghnófar Comhairliúchán Poiblí</i>	➔	08th Dec 2021-28th Feb 2022 / 08 Nollaig 2021-28 Feabhra 2022
Preferred Route Consultations with Individual Landowners	<i>Bealach Roghnaithe Comhairliúcháin le Húinéirí Talún Aonair</i>	➔	from Jan/ó <i>Eanair</i> 2022

WE ARE HERE

IS ANSEO





Galway to Athlone

CYCLEWAY



Galway to Athlone
National Cycleway Scheme

**PUBLIC
CONSULTATION NO. 3**

DECEMBER 2021

**Emerging Preferred
Route Corridor**



Website Link



The Galway to Athlone Cycleway is for local communities. It will:

- Support local businesses and jobs - such as local shops, cafes, pubs, cycling businesses, B&Bs, camping sites, hotels and hostels.
- Provide safe, traffic-free cycling and walking routes for everyone to enjoy.
- Provide a valuable local amenity for communities to walk or cycle.
- Deliver a quality and memorable visitor experience with great scenery and points of interest.
- Complete a circa 330km car-free corridor between Galway and Dublin, linking the Atlantic coast to the East coast.

We welcome any information that would inform the project team finalising the Cycleway route within the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor.

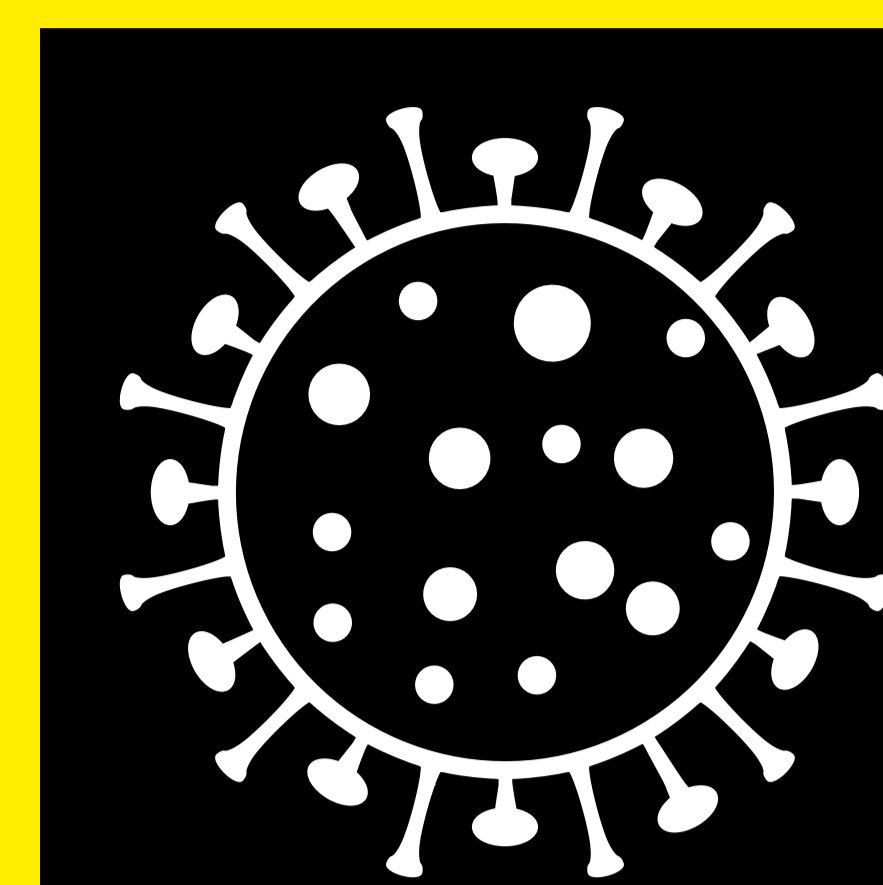


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Galway County Council





Coronavirus COVID-19



Coronavirus
COVID-19
Public Health
Advice

COVID - 19 has affected the early stages of the Project in a number of ways.

The Emerging Preferred Route Corridor Public Consultation No. 3 will be held virtually to help reduce public gatherings.

We are:

- Encouraging online consultation through the website www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com
- The consultation material can be viewed online in the virtual consultation room which is live on the project website from the 08th December 2021 and runs until 28th February 2022.
- Interested parties will be able to meet with the project team by arrangement to discuss any issues of interest to them, either in person, by phone or by video appointment.
- We can be contacted through the online virtual consultation room on the website, where you may book an appointment to talk to the project team, or by calling the Cycleway Project Office in Ballinasloe at 091 509267.
- Project Liaison Officers will be available to meet by appointment, in compliance with the applicable COVID-19 protocols.

We will continue to seek to engage effectively while maintaining social distancing and strict hygiene for as long as is necessary



PROJECT VISION



Part of Ireland's longest Cycleway

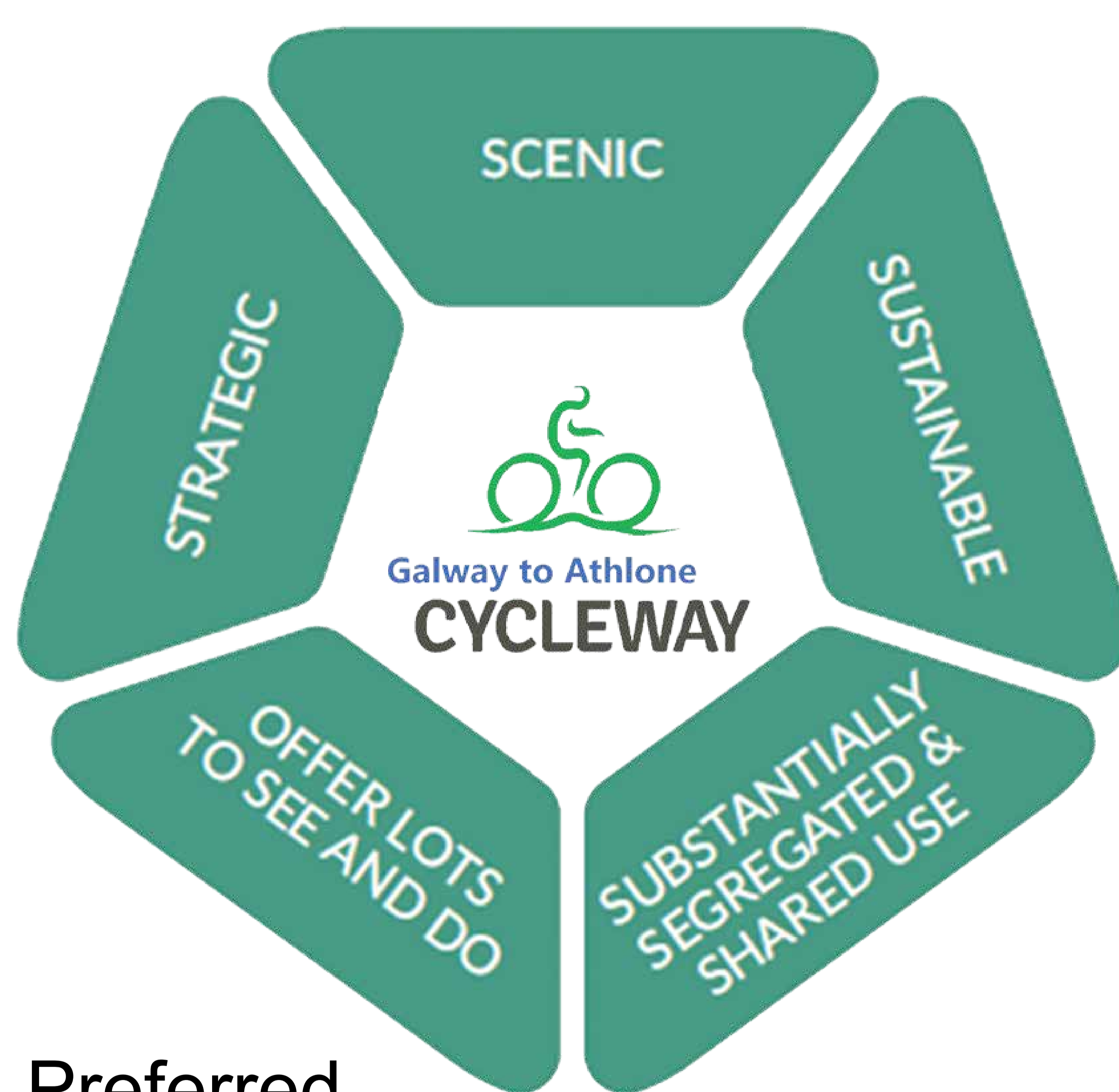
The Department of Tourism, Transport and Sport is developing National and Regional Greenways across Ireland to enhance tourism and contribute to rural development.

The new Galway to Athlone Cycleway is a large section of the even bigger circa 330km Galway to Dublin Cycleway - Ireland's longest Cycleway so far.

The Galway to Dublin Cycleway will be a world class amenity for pedestrians, cyclists and wheelchair users to enjoy - locals and tourists alike. It will even facilitate the first leg of the international EuroVelo network of long-distance cycling trails in Europe and will link Galway to Moscow!

Galway to Dublin Cycleway is being developed in phases:

- Galway to Athlone Cycleway - Emerging Preferred Route Corridor is now on display.
- 107km open between Athlone and Maynooth.
- Construction of new cycleway bridge over the Shannon, due to be completed in 2023.
- Two major urban sections being developed between Maynooth and Dublin city and from Ballyloughane to Galway City.



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Roscommon County Council



STAGES OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION



WE ARE HERE

Study Area Public Consultation	→	August 2020
Route Corridor Options Public Consultation	→	Jan/Feb 2021
Emerging Preferred Route Corridor Public Consultation	→	Dec/Jan 2021/2022
Preferred Route Consultations with individual landowners	→	from Jan 2022

Study Area Public Consultation 1
Q3 2020



Route Corridor Options Public Consultation 2
Q1 2021



Emerging Preferred Route Corridor Public Consultation 3
Q4 2021



Preferred Route Consultation 4
Q2 2022



Application to An Bord Pleanála
Q2 2023



Environmental Evaluation
2022



Preliminary Design
2022



Oral Hearing
Q3 2023



An Bord Pleanála Decision
Q4 2023



Construction of Greenway
2024



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Roscommon County Council



CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RURAL IRELAND

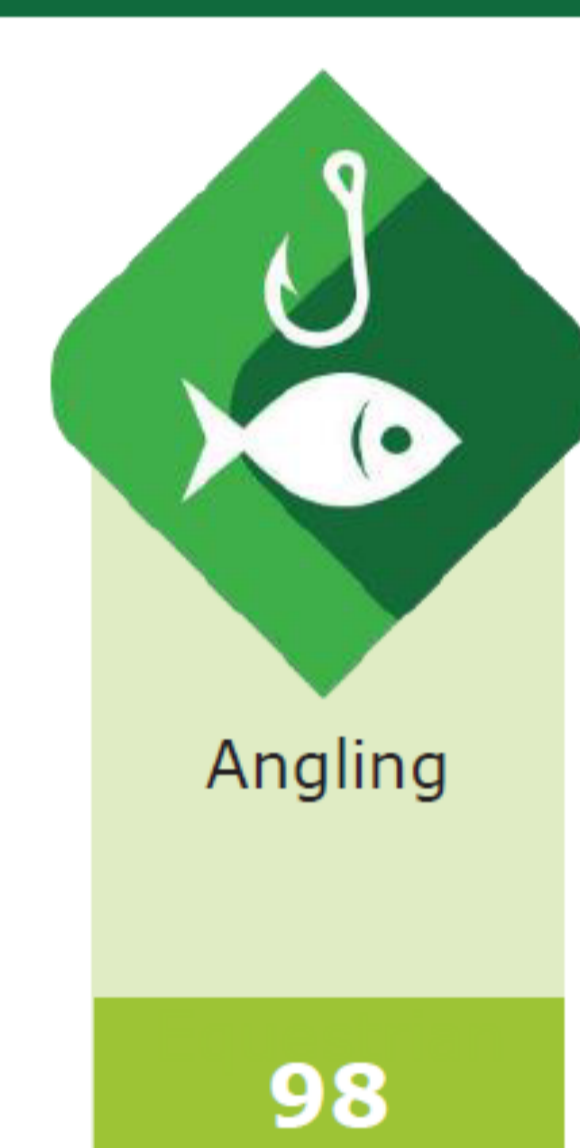
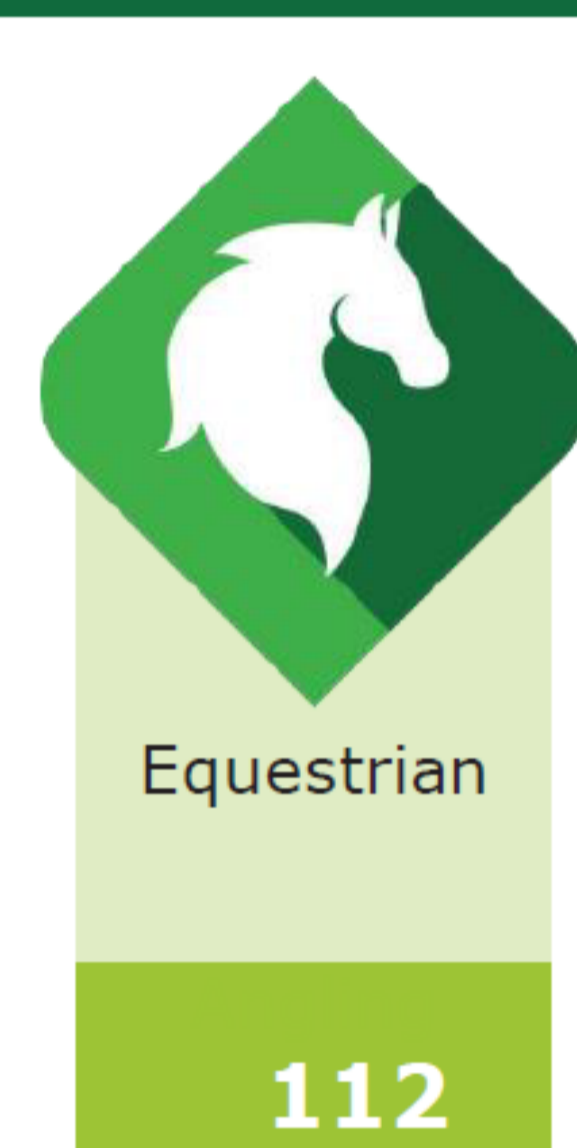
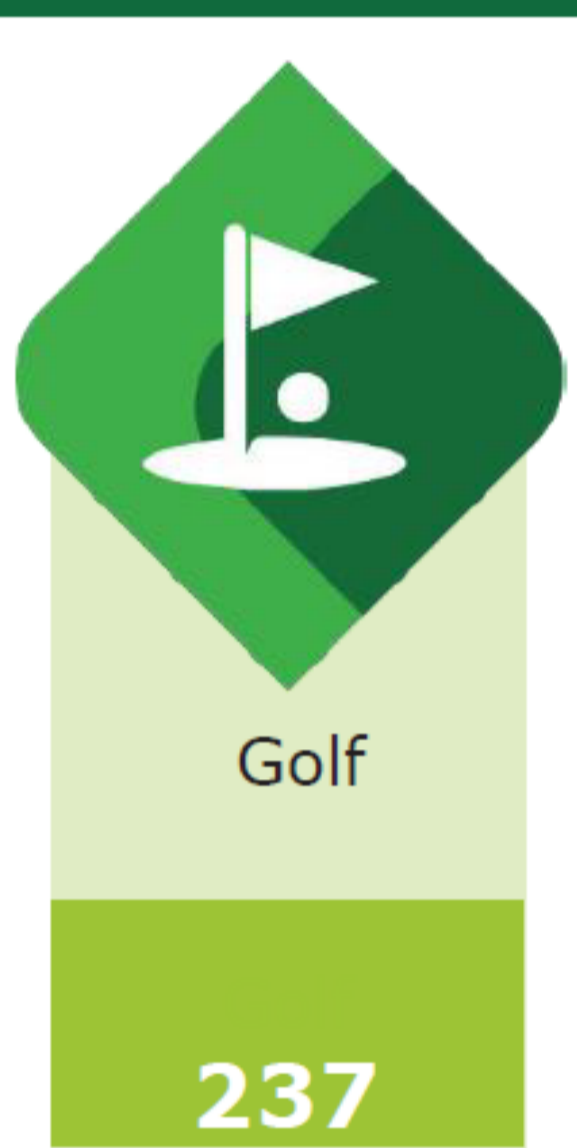
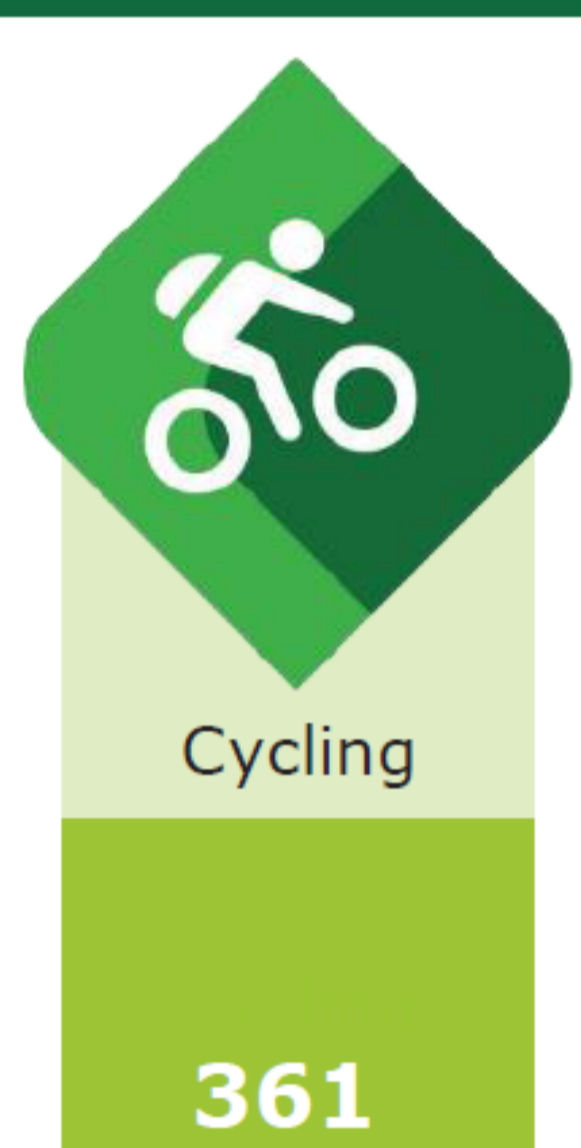
WHO WILL USE THE CYCLEWAY?

VISITORS

Despite our underdeveloped profile as a cycle destination, 450,000 overseas visitors to Ireland included a cycle trip in their holidays in 2018, this is a threefold increase since 2009. Projected annual growth for cycling tourism is 4% per annum to 2028. Cycling has become the second highest activity to walking and hiking in Ireland.



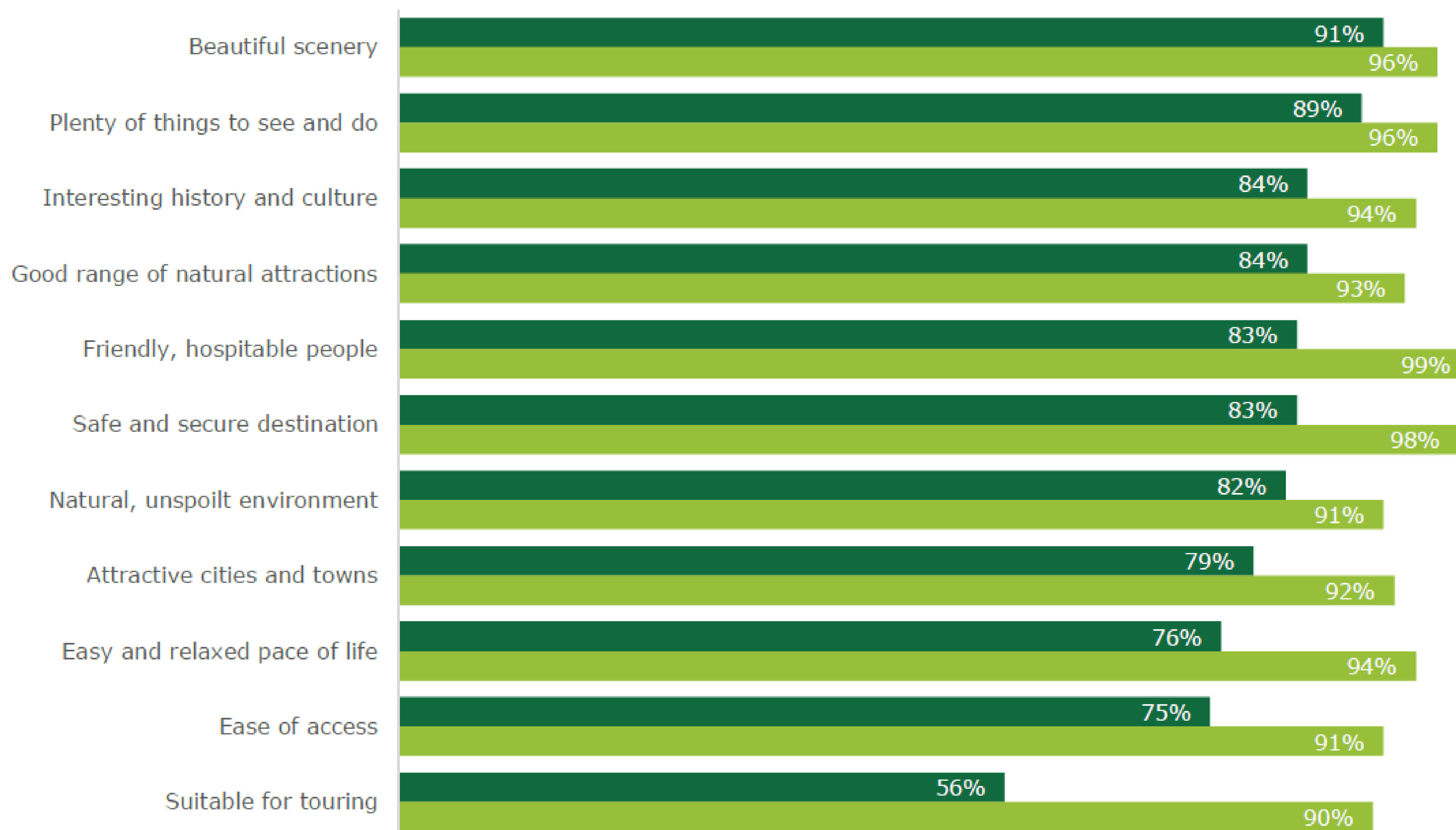
What activities did they engage in? (000's)



Source: Fáilte Ireland estimates based on Survey of Overseas Travellers

Visitors will choose a holiday destination based on what they will see and do. It is important for an attractive destination that the route allows visitors to experience frequently incorporated interesting places to visit with a varied scenery as too much of the same thing will become boring. A significant portion of visitors are in a group or family which contain children and will prefer a relaxed pace and a safe traffic free Cycling destination.

Importance and rating of destination issues among overseas holidaymakers (%)



Source: Fáilte Ireland's Tourism Experience Post Survey 2019

- What factors are important to holidaymakers when considering Ireland for their holiday
- Holidaymakers' satisfaction with aspects of their experience of Ireland

The Great Western Greenway - Ireland's first Greenway, was completed in 2011 and attracted 144,000 users that year which increased to 211,000 users by 2016. This generated €1.065m to the local economy and had a payback period of 6 years.

BENEFITS FOR COMMUNITY AND REGION - HEALTH AND WELL BEING

The health of our population is also a major focus. Inactivity and sedentary behaviours are associated with numerous chronic diseases.

Greenways provide an excellent opportunity for Irish people to participate in healthy outdoor activity.

TYPE OF CYCLEWAY USERS

1. Touring Cyclists

Visitors journeying from place to place over long distance.

2. Leisure Cyclists & Walkers

Individuals, families and groups cycling and walking for recreation, fun and fitness interest.

3. Commuters

Local people living, studying and working adjacent to route.

National Physical Activity Plan for Ireland- Get Ireland Active

“Physical inactivity is a demonstrated clear risk to health and wellbeing in Ireland. Physical inactivity and sedentary behaviours are associated with numerous chronic diseases. With people no longer as physically active as they should be, there are many threats to our health and wellbeing from being inactive”



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council



Comhairle Contae Ros Comáin
Roscommon County Council



CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RURAL IRELAND

WHO CAN GET INVOLVED?



The Galway to Athlone Cycleway depends on the whole community to make it a reality and a memorable experience for those who will use it.

People who own land along the route, the farming community, local B&Bs, hotels, hostels and camping sites all have an important role in its success.

Local shops, pubs, supply stores and Post Offices all stand to benefit from the opportunities that come with increased visitor numbers.

Community groups and interests are vital to the creation of new ideas that can help tourism information centres and services.



Ideas with Opportunities...



- Farmers
- Landowners
- Local Shops
- Local Hotels and B&Bs
- Heritage Centres
- Sports & Recreation Facilities
- Arts & Cultural Groups
- Transport Service Providers



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council



Comhairle Contae Ros Comáin
Roscommon County Council



WORKING WITH YOU



Landowner Engagement

A process has been underway since 2019 to develop a Code of Best Practice for National and Regional Greenway Projects. TII and the local authorities have been working with the farming representatives and other stakeholders to develop the Code of Best Practice which is due to be completed in the near future. The Code sets out the process for the delivery and management of greenways and provides information on the acquisition of privately owned lands for the greenway.

The corridor is well defined where routing appears clear, for example through publicly owned lands, such as Coillte forestry tracks and Bord na Móna railways.

However, it will be necessary to build some of the Cycleway on land that is now privately owned. In these areas the corridor is wider and future discussions with landowners will form the basis for developing the route within the corridor.

During the development of a preferred route within the corridor, landowners may engage their own agronomist/property adviser to advise them during the design of the Cycleway. This agronomist/property adviser will be paid for by the project promoters. We will work with the landowner and their agronomist/property adviser to pick the least disruptive route possible, likely to be along the property boundary.

We will strive to purchase land through voluntary agreement, if at all possible.

There are a number of dedicated Project Liaison Officers (PLO's) from the Local Authorities and Consultants engaged on the project. The PLO's will be available to meet with landowners either on their property or in the Project Office by appointment. PLO's are also available to talk on the phone or by online virtual meeting.

These PLO's will be the main point of contact for the landowner, and will ensure that the landowners interests and concerns are considered in all decisions.

The goodwill and cooperation of the farming community is important to make the Cycleway a success. Real and open engagement with the landowners and community will be central to everything we do.

STUDY AREA PUBLIC CONSULTATION NO. 1



Public Feedback and Response

Public Consultation No. 1 was held in August 2020. The consultation was very well attended with members of the project team present to discuss the project with the public. There was a strong interest in the project expressed at the events, with very good engagement and many useful discussions held.

The main purpose of this first public consultation was to present the Study Area and obtain feedback on it. Submissions received were mainly on the following:

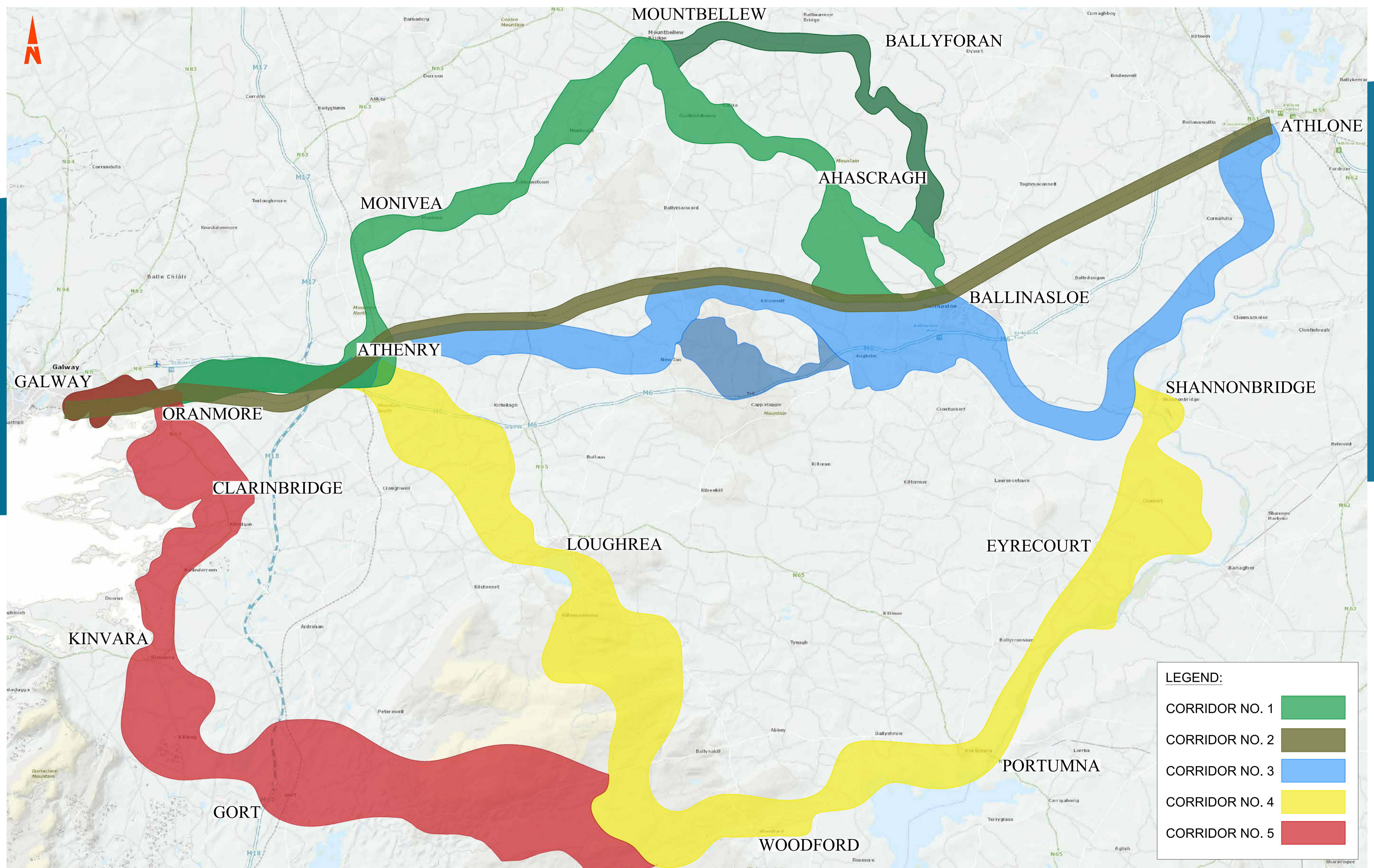
- The need for the project;
- Possible routes that should be considered by the project team;
- Locations, attractions or facilities in the study area that could be attractive to cycleway users, or would benefit from a cycleway; and
- Constraints or barriers to the cycleway.

The project team emphasised that the project was starting again from a 'clean slate', with no routes proposed at that stage.

It was also emphasized that there would be strong consultation with landowners throughout the project development and that a key project aim would be to progress the project in collaboration with any affected landowners.

Following the consultations, a large number of responses were received and considered in developing the Route Corridor Options. A report summarising the first consultation is available to view on the project website.

ROUTE CORRIDOR OPTIONS PUBLIC CONSULTATION NO.2



Public Feedback and Response

Public Consultation No.2 was held over 5 weeks from the 25th of January 2021 until the 1st March 2021. Due to Covid-19 restrictions the consultation was held on the online virtual consultation platform, along with virtual meetings and telephone engagement.

The Route Corridor Options were developed to connect to likely tourism and leisure attractions, and use publicly owned lands where possible. The purpose of the second consultation was to present the Route Corridor Options and obtain feedback on any issues or concerns.

There was a strong response to the Public Consultation with over 11,000 submissions received, 95% of which were supportive of the cycleway.

The feedback received was considered in the selection of the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor. A report summarising the second consultation is available to view on the project website.

In April landowner letters and leaflets were sent to over 10,000 landowners to outline the process for landowner engagement. After Covid-19 restrictions were lifted in May 2021, Project Liaison Officers (PLO) consulted with landowners across all 5 Route Corridor Options. Feedback from landowners informed the project team of any issues or concerns they have and was considered in selecting the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor.

Emerging Preferred Route Corridor

An interactive map of the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor is available to view in the Virtual Consultation Room at www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com



Emerging Preferred Route Corridor

The Emerging Preferred Route Corridor has been chosen as it offers a highly scenic route from Galway to Athlone, with lots to see and do on the way. It travels through a wide variety of landscapes, from the edge of Galway Bay, the Burren Low Lands, the Slieve Aughty mountains, the river Shannon and the midlands bogs, and will be attractive to domestic and international users.

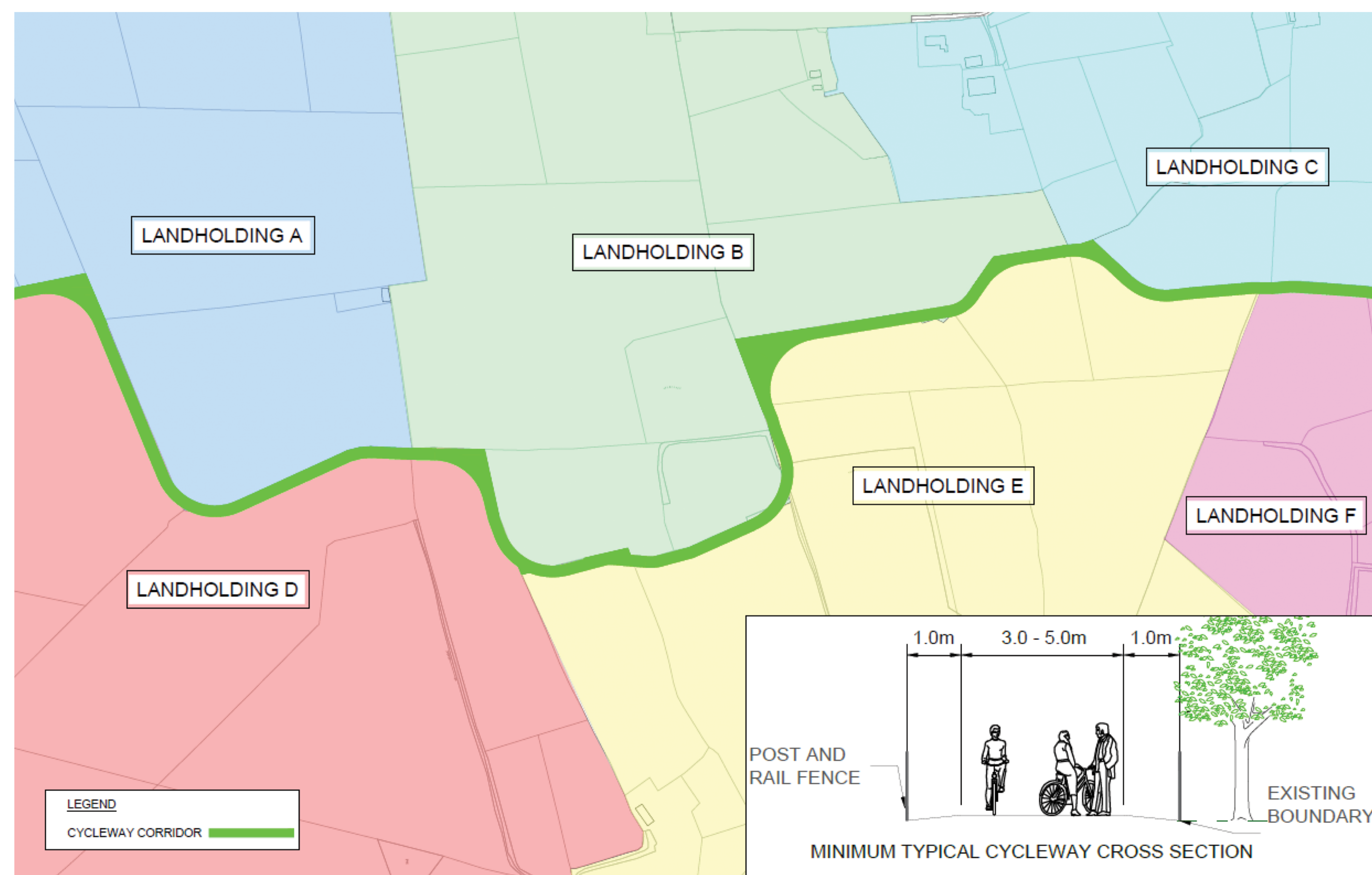
It visits Ballyloughane Beach, Oranmore, Rinville, Clarinbridge, Kilcolgan, Kinvara, Coole Park, Gort, Woodford, Portumna, Meelick, Clonfert, Ballinasloe, Shannonbridge and Athlone Castle, linking places of interest, established tourism centres, public parks and outdoor spaces.

The route corridor has been developed to be well defined where routing appears clear, for example through state owned lands such as Coillte forestry tracks and Bord na Móna railways. Elsewhere the corridor is wider and future discussions with landowners will form the basis for developing a route within the corridor.

We now wish to work with landowners and the public to determine the best route and design, for the Cycleway within the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor.

Minimising Land Severance

Where private land is needed for the cycleway, we will strive to purchase it through voluntary agreement and avoid any land severance, if at all possible, by following existing boundaries. A sample of how the cycleway might navigate through private land in agreement with affected landowners is shown below.



WE WELCOME YOUR LOCAL INFORMATION



We now wish to work with landowners and the public to determine the best route and design for the Cycleway within the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor

The purpose of this consultation is to examine and receive feedback on the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor and to assist in the process of developing a route within the corridor.

We welcome any information that would inform the project team finalising the Cycleway route within the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor.

All information, including an interactive map of the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor and the consultation questionnaire, is available to view in the online Virtual Consultation Room which is live on the project website.

The cycleway project team is available to answer any questions and provide information to assist you with your submission. To arrange a call, online consultation or to meet with a member of the project team, please contact us by phone, email or via the online meeting booking facility. Online bookings will be facilitated from the 08th December 2021 until the 28th February 2022.



You can make submissions or observations by:

Email:

info@galwaytoathlonecycleway.com

Website:

www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com

Phone No: (091) 509 267

Please contact us to arrange a meeting



Project News and updates will be available on www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com



Freepost
Galway to Athlone
Cycleway Project Office,
Society Street,
Ballinasloe,
Co. Galway,
Ireland,
H53 T320

NEXT STEPS



The next stage will involve developing a preferred route within the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor under the following criteria and objectives:

- Working with landowners and the public to determine the best possible route and design, for the cycleway within the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor;
- Working with landowners and their agronomist/property adviser to pick the least obstructive route possible, likely to be along property boundary;
- To commence the voluntary acquisition process.
- Minimise impacts to agricultural holdings, especially farm severance;
- Maximise the value of existing state-owned lands and natural amenity;
- Feedback and submissions during this consultation will be considered by the project team to help determine the best possible route within the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor.

Talk to us

The consultation material can be viewed online in the virtual consultation room which is live on the project website from the 08th December 2021 until 28th February 2022.

Interested parties will be able to meet with the project team by arrangement to discuss any issues of interest to them, either in person, by phone or by online video consultation.

If your property is within the corridor, we would encourage you to contact us to let us know your opinion on the cycleway.

We can be contacted through the website www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com, where you may book an appointment to talk to the project team, or by calling the Cycleway Project Office in Ballinasloe at 091 509 267.



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Galway County Council



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Roscommon County Council

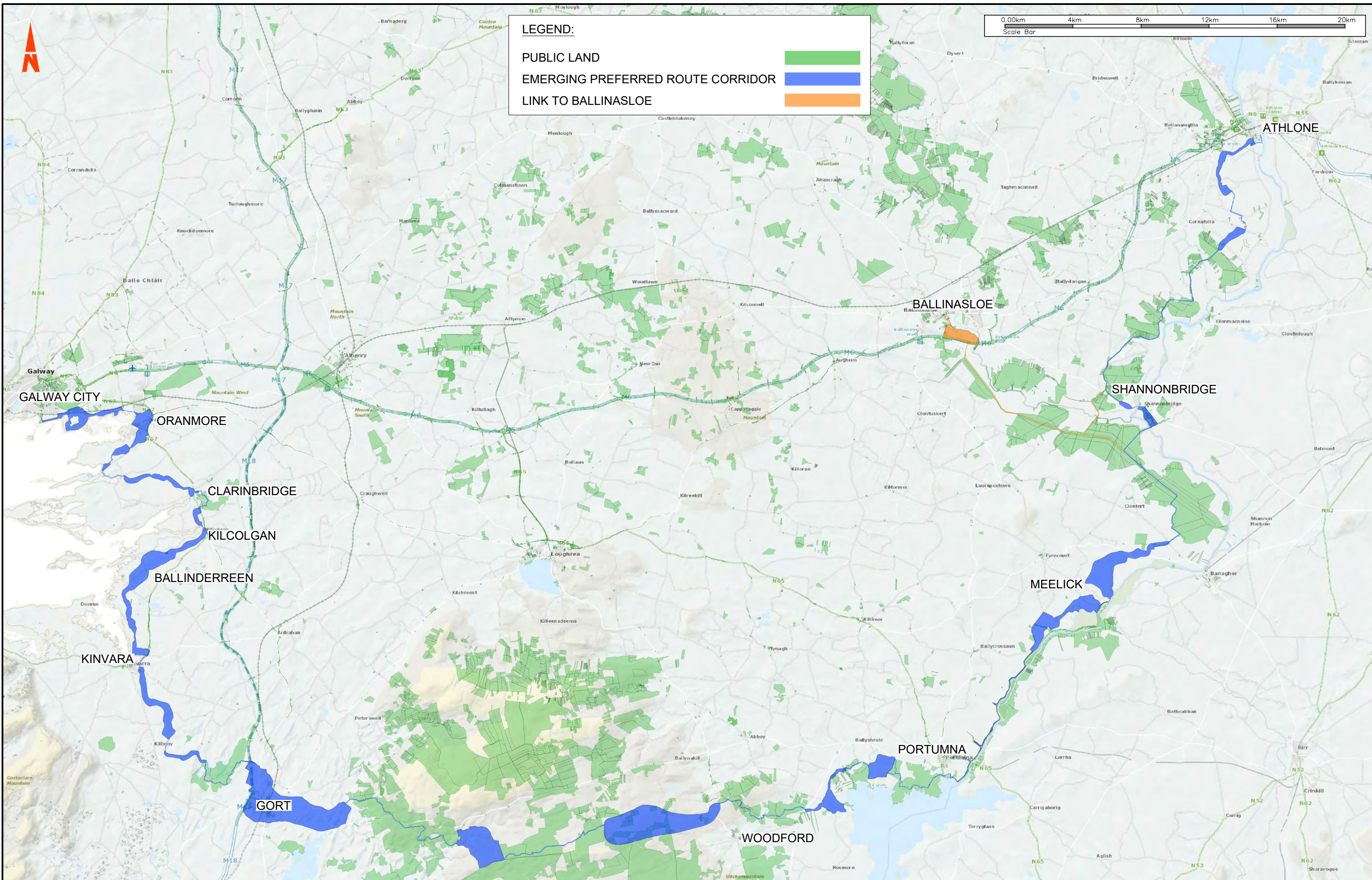
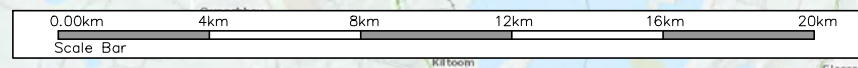


Appendix D

Emerging Preferred Route Corridor

LEGEND:

- PUBLIC LAND
- EMERGING PREFERRED ROUTE CORRIDOR
- LINK TO BALLINASLOE



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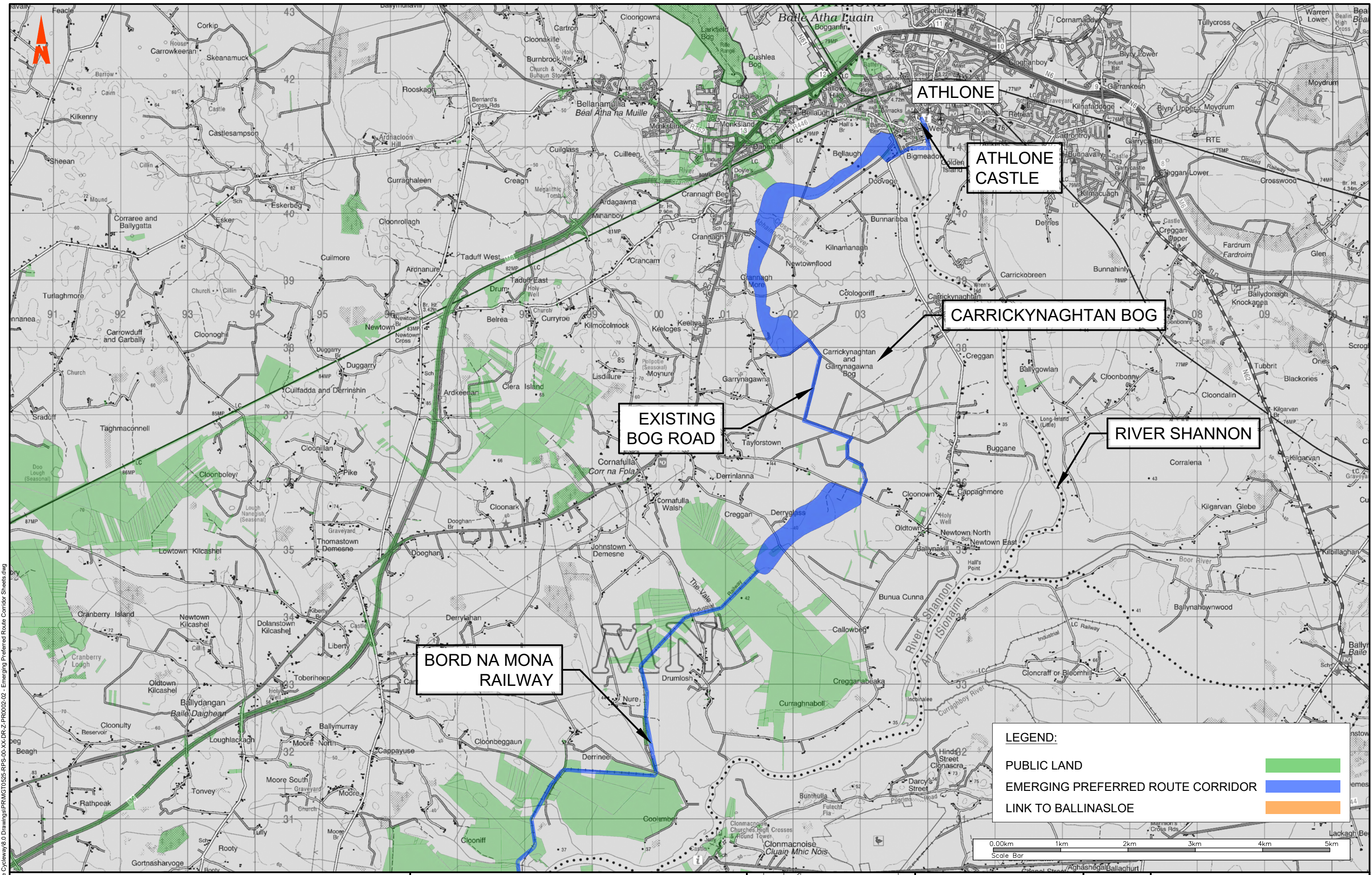
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No.	Date	Dr/Eng	Amendment / Issue	App
P01	06.12.21	MC	FOR CONSULTATION	CMcG

Drawn	MC	Project	GALWAY TO ATHLONE CASTLE NATIONAL CYCLEWAY		
Checked	SM	Title	EMERGING PREFERRED ROUTE CORRIDOR CORRIDOR LAYOUT		
Approved	CMcG	Scale	1:200,000@ A3		
Date	06.12.21	Job No.	MG0525	File Ref.	MG0525-RPS-00-XX-DR-Z-PR0002
		Drg. No.	PR0002 01	Rev.	P01



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Roscommon
County Council

WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL
Comhairle Contae na hIarmhí

Bonnagar Iompar Eanáir
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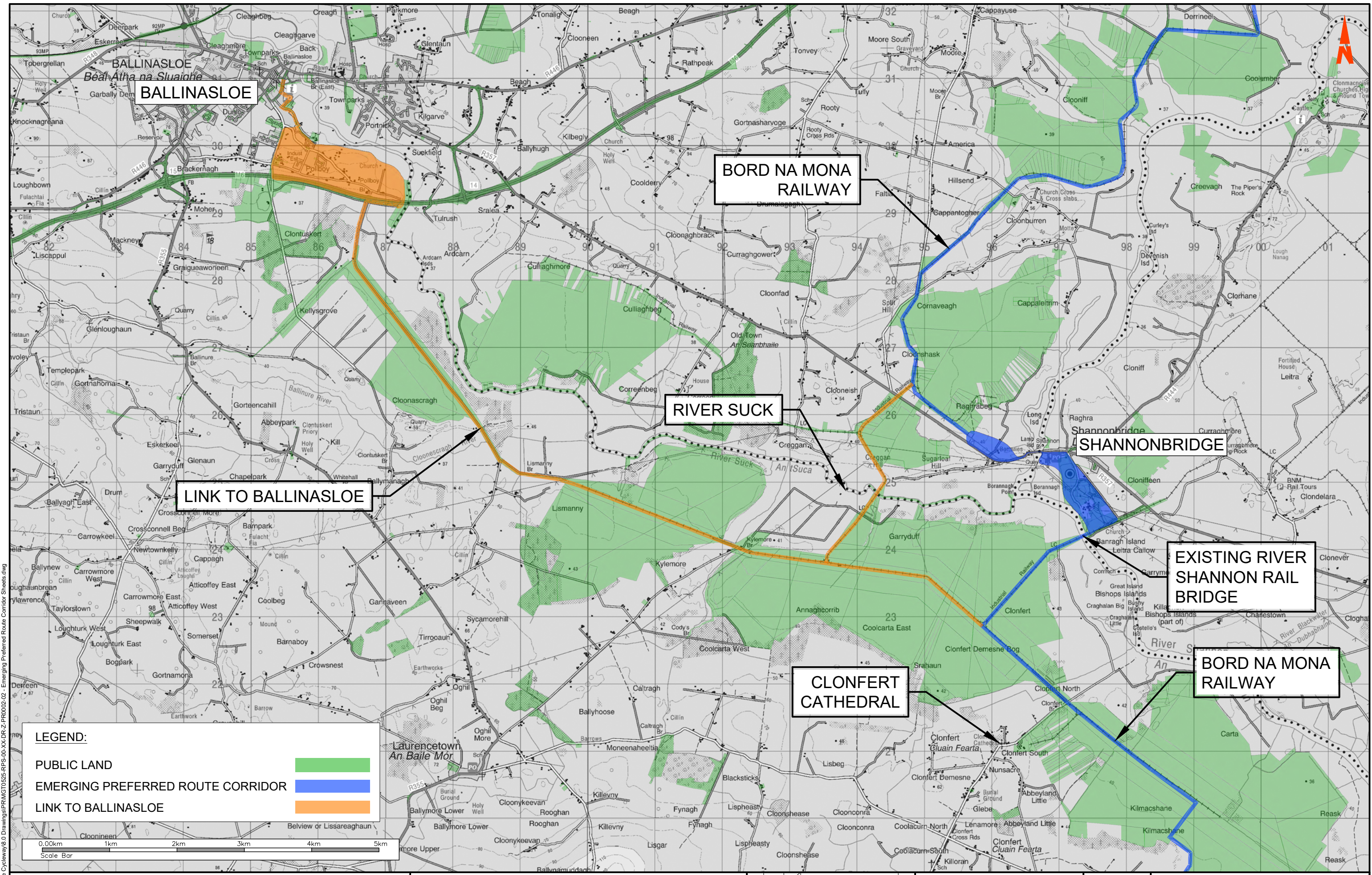
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P01	06.12.21	MC	FOR CONSULTATION	CMcG

MAKING COMPLEX EASY

Drawn	MC	Project	GALWAY TO ATHLONE CASTLE NATIONAL CYCLEWAY		
Checked	CMcG	Title	EMERGING PREFERRED ROUTE CORRIDOR SHEETS		
Approved	CMcG	File Ref	MG0525-RPS-00-XX-DR-Z-PR002	Drg. No.	PR0002 02
Date	06.12.21	Rev.			P01
Scale	1:50,000 @ A3				
Job No.	MG0525				



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LEGEND:

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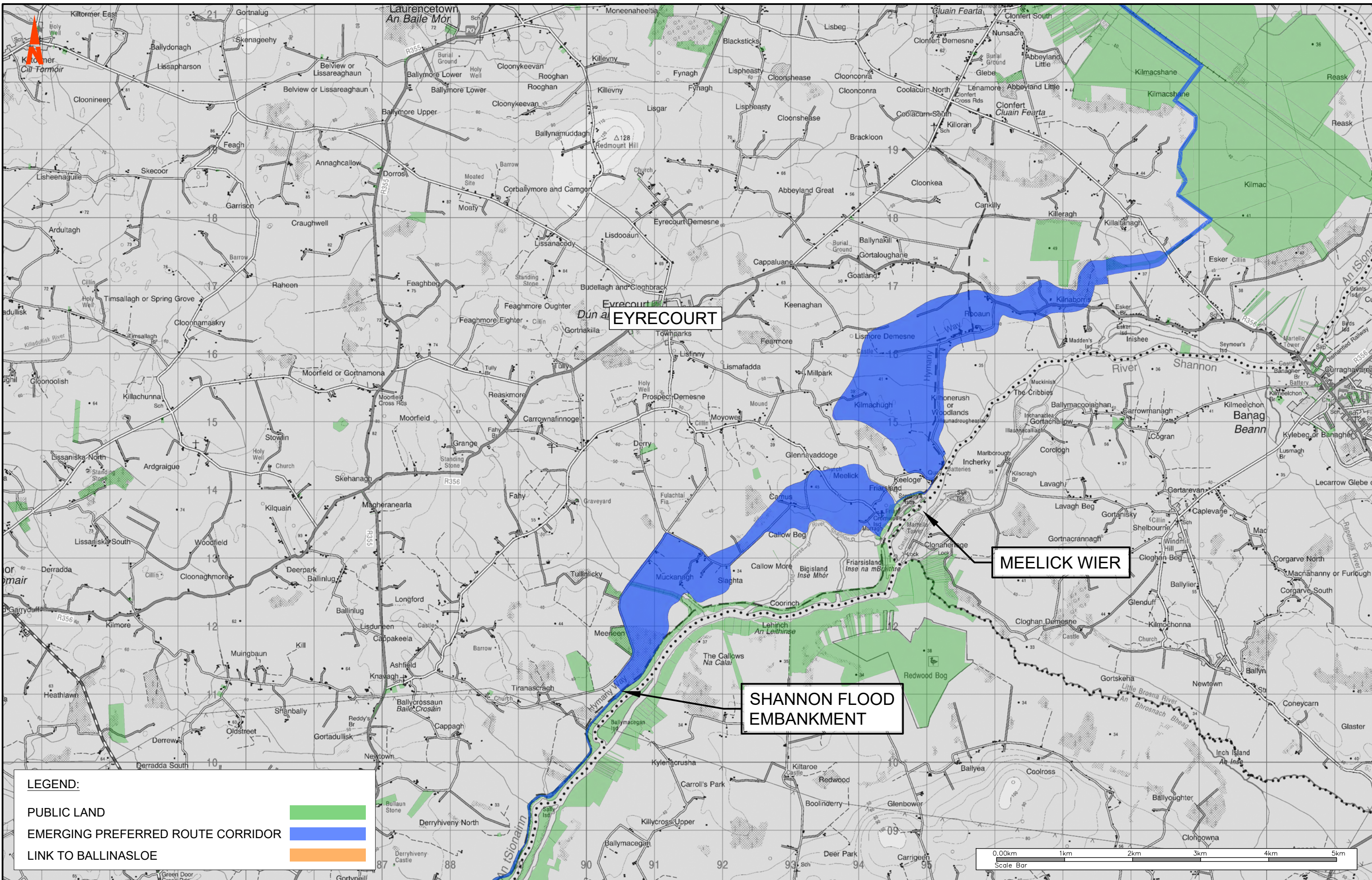


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Approved	CMcG	Scale	1:50,000 @ A3	
Date	06.12.21	Job No.	MG0525	File Ref. MGT0525-RPS-00-XX-DR-Z-PR0002
		Drg. No.	PR0002_03	Rev. P01



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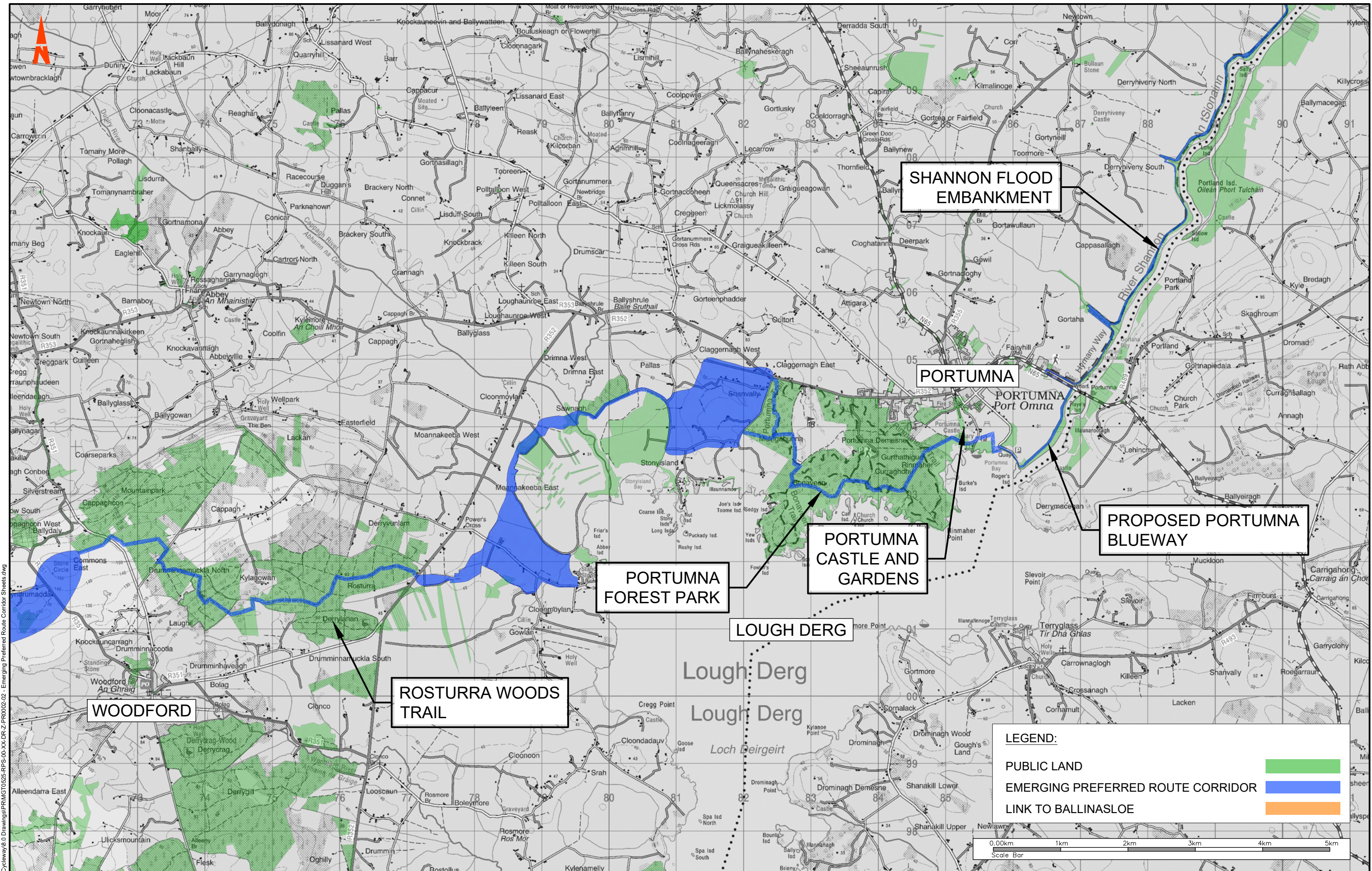
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Drawn	MC	Project	GALWAY TO ATHLONE CASTLE NATIONAL CYCLEWAY	
Checked	CMcG	Title	EMERGING PREFERRED ROUTE CORRIDOR SHEETS	
Approved	CMcG	File Ref	MG0525-RPS-00-XX-DR-Z-PR0002	Drg. No.
Date	06.12.21	Rev.	PR0002 04	P01
Scale	1:50,000 @ A3	Job No.	MG0525	



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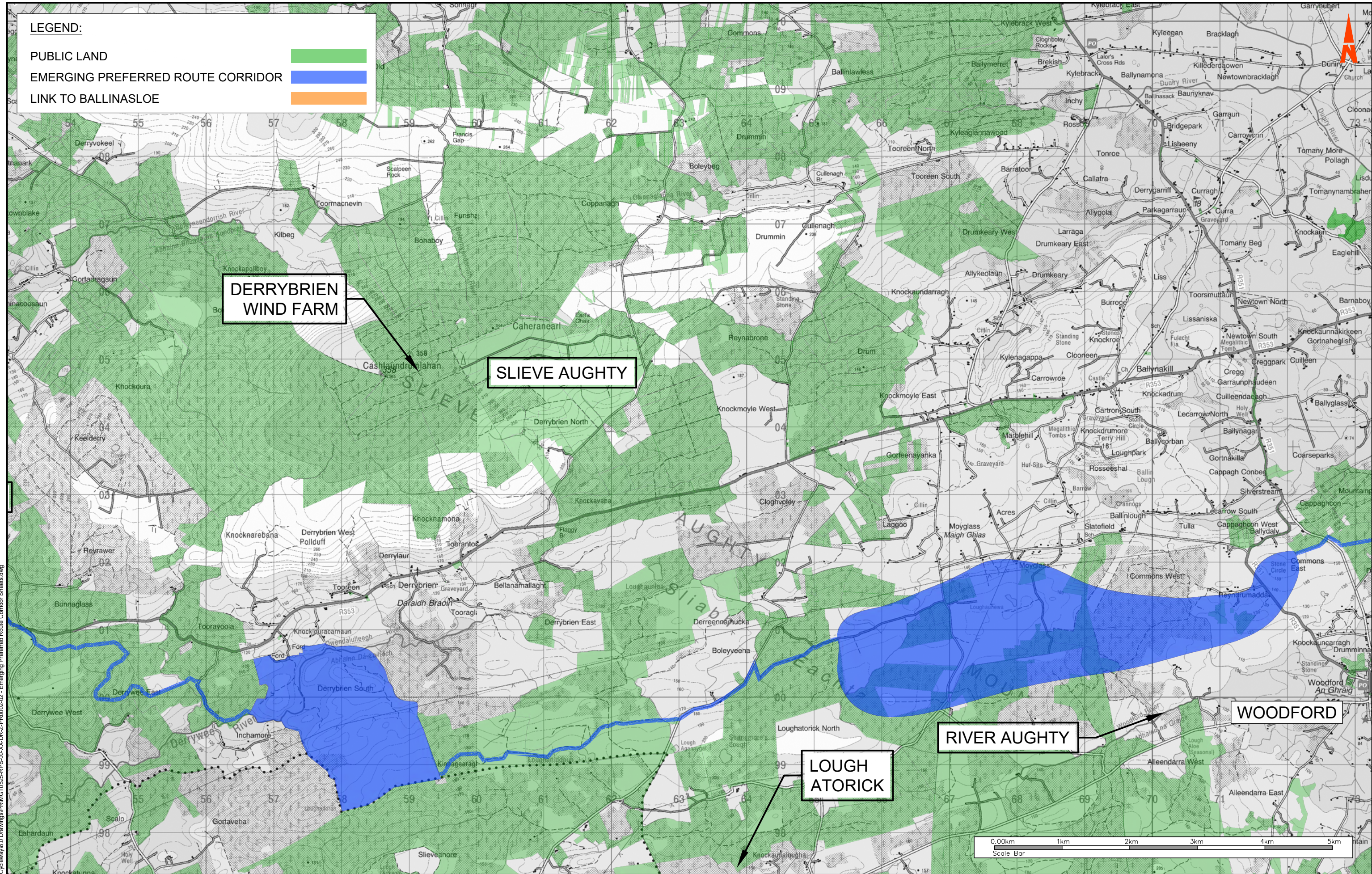
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Date	06.12.21	Rev.			P01
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Job No.	MG0525				

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- LINK TO BALLINASLOE



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(ii) All Levels refer to Ordnance Survey Datum, Malin Head.

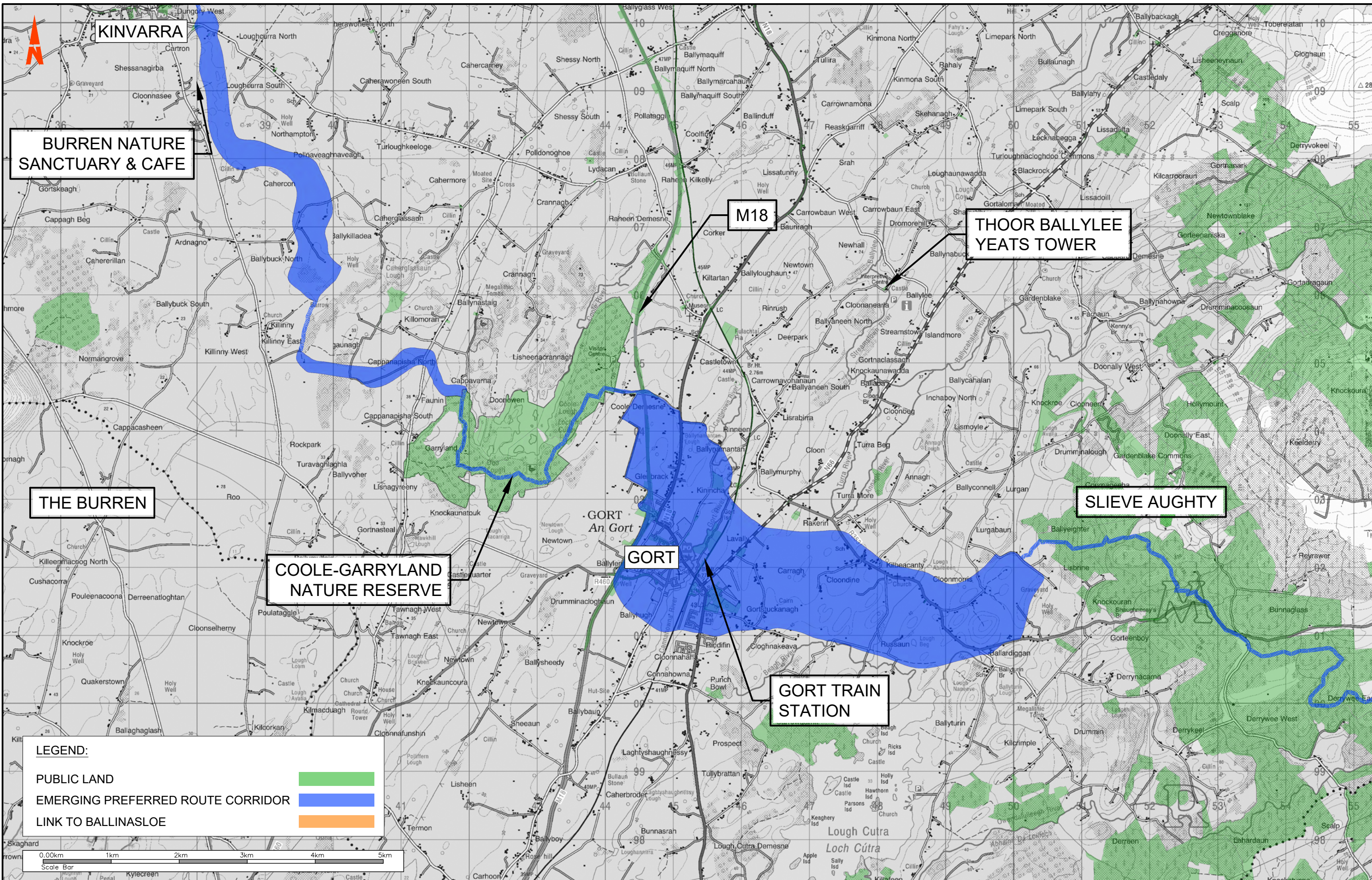
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No.	Date	Amendment / Issue	App
P01	06.12.21	FOR CONSULTATION	CMcG

MAKING COMPLEX EASY

Drawn	MC	Project	GALWAY TO ATHLONE CASTLE NATIONAL CYCLEWAY		
Checked	CMcG	Title	EMERGING PREFERRED ROUTE CORRIDOR SHEETS		
Approved	CMcG	Scale	1:50,000 @ A3		
Date	06.12.21	Job No.	MG0525	File Ref.	MG0525-RPS-00-XX-DR-Z-PR0002
		Drg. No.	PR0002_06	Rev.	P01



BURREN NATURE SANCTUARY & CAFE

THOOR BALLYLEE YEATS TOWER

THE BURREN

SLIEVE AUGHTY

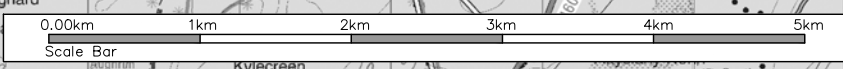
COOLE-GARRYLAND NATURE RESERVE

GORT

GORT TRAIN STATION

LEGEND:

- PUBLIC LAND
- EMERGING PREFERRED ROUTE CORRIDOR
- LINK TO BALLINASLOE



T:\MGT0525X - Galway Athlone Cycleway\6.0 Drawings\PRMGT0525-RPS-00-XX-DR-Z-PR002-02 - Emerging Preferred Route Corridor Sheets.dwg

Client

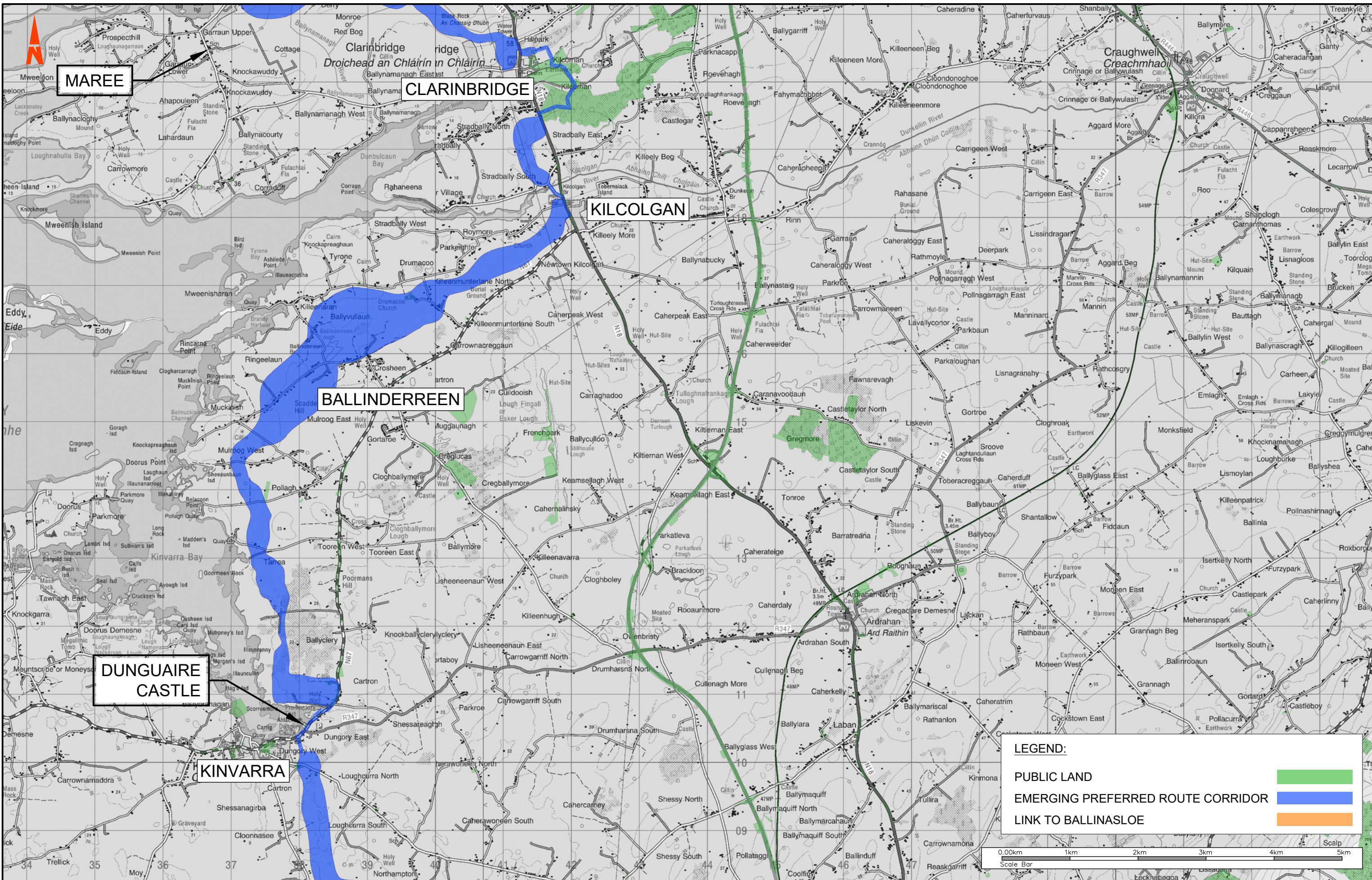
General Notes

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No.	Date	Dr/Eng	Amendment / Issue	App
P01	06.12.21	MC	FOR CONSULTATION	CMcG

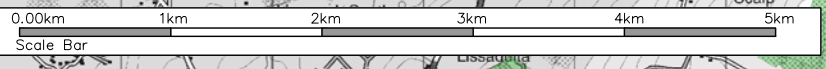


Drawn	MC	Project	GALWAY TO ATHLONE CASTLE NATIONAL CYCLEWAY
Checked	CMcG	Title	EMERGING PREFERRED ROUTE CORRIDOR SHEETS
Approved	CMcG	File Ref.	MGT0525-RPS-00-XX-DR-Z-PR002
Date	06.12.21	Drg. No.	PR0002 07
Scale	1:50,000 @ A3	Rev.	P01
Job No.	MGT0525		



LEGEND:

- PUBLIC LAND
- EMERGING PREFERRED ROUTE CORRIDOR
- LINK TO BALLINASLOE



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(ii) All Levels refer to Ordnance Survey Datum, Malin Head.

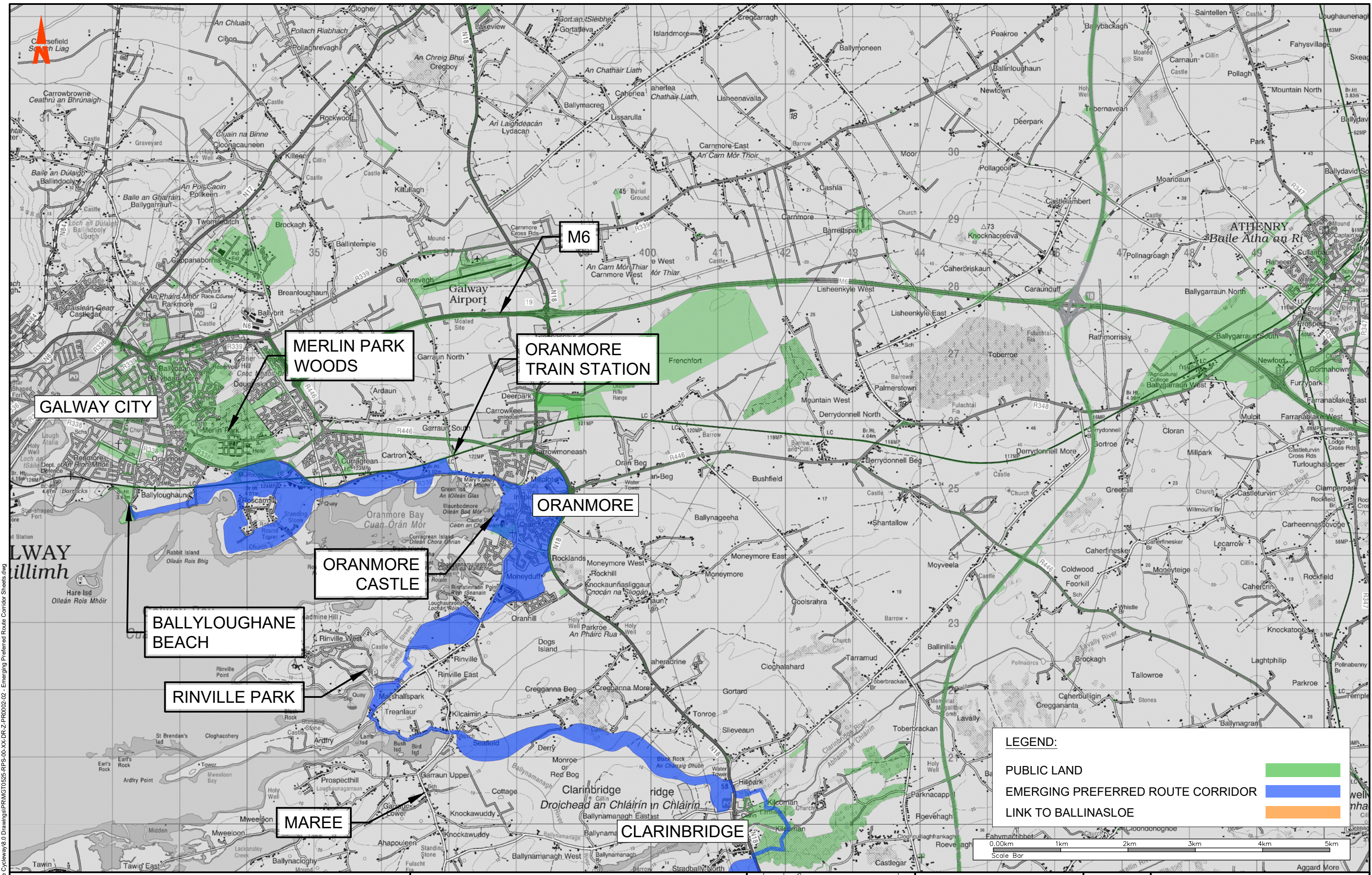
(iii) DO NOT SCALE, use figured dimensions only, if in doubt ask.

(iv) Hard copies, dwf and pdf will form a controlled issue of the drawing. All other formats (dwg etc) are deemed to be an uncontrolled issue and any work carried out based on these files is at the recipient's own risk. RPS will not accept any responsibility for any errors from the use of these files, either by human error by the recipient, listing of the un-dimensioned measurements, compatibility with the recipient's software, and any errors arising when these files are used to aid the recipient's drawing production, or setting out on site.

No.	Date	Amendment / Issue	App
P01	06.12.21	FOR CONSULTATION	CMcG

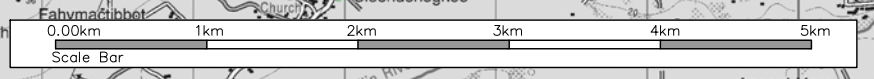


Drawn	MC	Project	GALWAY TO ATHLONE CASTLE NATIONAL CYCLEWAY	
Checked	CMcG	Title	EMERGING PREFERRED ROUTE CORRIDOR SHEETS	
Approved	CMcG	File Ref	MG10525-RPS-00-XX-DR-Z-PR002	Drg. No.
Date	06.12.21	Drg. No.	PR002 08	Rev.
Scale	1:50,000 @ A3	Rev.	P01	
Job No.	MG10525			



LEGEND:

- PUBLIC LAND
- EMERGING PREFERRED ROUTE CORRIDOR
- LINK TO BALLINASLOE



Client

General Notes

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No.	Date	Amendment / Issue	App
P01	06.12.21	FOR CONSULTATION	CMcG

Drawn	MC	Project	GALWAY TO ATHLONE CASTLE NATIONAL CYCLEWAY		
Checked	CMcG		Title	EMERGING PREFERRED ROUTE CORRIDOR SHEETS	
Approved	CMcG			File Ref	MGTO525-RPS-00-XX-DR-Z-PR0002
Date	06.12.21	Drg. No.	PR0002 09	Rev.	P01
Scale	1:50,000 @ A3	Job No.	MGTO525		

Appendix E

Advertisements

PUBLIC CONSULTATION NO. 3

Emerging Preferred Route Corridor

PROJECT VISION

The vision for the project is to develop a world class trail, from Galway to Athlone, that will complete the Galway to Dublin route, which is of a scale and singularity that will allow Ireland to tap into the growing tourism market for cycling. It will be scenic, sustainable, be a strategic link, with lots to see and do, be substantially segregated from motor traffic and welcome a wide variety of users. It will be developed in co-operation with local communities and offer real benefits to them.



PROGRESS TO DATE

Public Consultation No. 2 was held in January 2021. Once Covid-19 restrictions eased in May 2021 Project Liaison Officers met with landowners to explore route options and discuss any issues or concerns. The feedback received was considered to develop the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor. The route corridor is well defined where routing appears clear, for example through state-owned lands such as Coillte forestry tracks and Bord na Móna railways. Elsewhere the corridor is wider and future discussions with landowners will form the basis for developing a route within the corridor.

We welcome your local information

The Emerging Preferred Route Corridor can be viewed online in the Virtual Consultation Room which will be live on the project website (www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com) from the 08th December 2021 and will run until the 31st January 2022. To help finalise the Cycleway route within the corridor, we would like to hear any additional information you have about the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor that may not be on a map or already known by the project team. This local information is vital to help our project team to finalise their studies and design work.

If your property is within the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor, we would encourage you to contact us with any information that would inform the project team. We can be contacted through the online virtual consultation platform on the project website, where you may book an appointment to talk to the project team, or by calling the Cycleway Project Office in Ballinasloe at 091 509267. Project Liaison Officers will be available to meet by appointment, in compliance with the applicable COVID-19 protocols. Further information and updates on the project are available on www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com

You can make submissions or observations by: Email:

info@galwaytoathlonecycleway.com

Website: www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com **Phone No:** (091) 509267

Project News and Updates will be available on:

www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com



Gaillimh go Baile Átha Luain

ROTHARBHEALACH



Gaillimh go Baile Átha Luain
An Scéim Náisiúnta Rotharbhealaigh

COMHAIRLIÚCHÁN POIBLÍ UIMH. 3 An Chonair Bhealaigh is Dealraithí a Roghnófar

FÍS AN TIONSCADAIL

Is é fíis an tionscadail ná forbairt a dhéanamh ar chonair den chéad scoth ó Ghaillimh go Béal Átha Luain, a chuirfidh críoch leis an mbealach ó Ghaillimh go Baile Átha Cliath a bheidh ar an scála agus saoihiúlacht a chuirfidh ar ár gcumas anseo in Éirinn leas a bhaint as an margadh turasóireachta atá ann don rothaíocht, margadh atá ag fás. Nasc álainn, inbhuanaithe agus straitéiseach a bheidh ann, ina mbeidh go leor le feiceáil agus le déanamh agus a bheidh scartha amach go suntasach ó thrácht mótar agus a mbeidh fáilte roimh réimse éagsúil úsáideoirí úsáid a bhaint as. Déanfar é a fhorbairt i gcomhar le pobail áitiúla agus beidh tairbhí cearta le baint acu as.



DUL CHUN CINN GO DTÍ SEO

Reáchtáladh Comhairliúchán Poiblí Uimh. 2 i mí Eanáir 2021. Nuair a mhaolaigh srianta Covid-19 i mí Bealtaine 2021 bhuail Oifigigh Idirchaidrimh Tionscadail le húinéirí talún chun roghanna bealaigh a iniúchadh agus chun plé a dhéanamh ar cheisteanna nó cúiseanna inní ar bith a bhí acu. Rinneadh an t-aiseolas a fuarthas a bhreithniú chun an Chonair Bhealaigh is Dealraithí a Roghnófar a fhorbairt. Tá an chonair bhealaigh deashainithe san áit a bhfuil an ródúchán soiléir ann, trí thailte faoi úinéireacht an Stáit mar shampla amhail rianta foraoiseachta Coillte agus iarnróid Bhord na Móna. In áiteanna eile tá an chonair níos leithne agus beidh cainteanna le húinéirí talún amach anseo mar bhonn do bhealach a fhorbairt laistigh den chonair.

Fáiltimid roimh d'fhaisnéis áitiúil

Is féidir breathnú ar an gConair Bhealaigh is Dealraithí a Roghnófar ar líne sa Seomra Comhairliúcháin Fíorúil a bheidh beo ar láithreán gréasáin an tionscadail (www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com) ón 8 Nollaig 2021 go dtí an 31 Eanáir 2022. D'fhonn cuidiú linn an bealach Rotharbhealaigh laistigh den chonair a thabhairt chun críche, ba mhaith linn faisnéis ar bith eile atá agat maidir leis an gConair Bhealaigh is Dealraithí a Roghnófar a bhféadfadh sé nach bhfuil sé ar an léarscáil ná ar eolas ag foireann an tionscadail cheana féin a chloisteáil. Tá an fhaisnéis áitiúil seo ríthábhachtach chun cuidiú leis an bhfoireann tionscadail a staidéir agus obair dhearaidh a chur i gcrích.

Má tá do mhaoin laistigh den Chonair Bhealaigh is Dealraithí a Roghnófar, mholfaimis duit teagmháil a dhéanamh linn chun faisnéis ar bith a dhéanfadh eolas d'fhoreann an tionscadail a chur in iúl dúinn. Is féidir teagmháil a dhéanamh linn trí ardán an chomhairliúcháin fhíorúil ar an láithreán gréasáin, áit ar féidir leat coinne a chur in áirithe chun labhairt le foireann an tionscadail, nó trí ghlaoch a chur ar Oifig Thionscadal an Rotharbhealaigh i mBéal Átha na Sluaighe ar 091 509267. Beidh Oifigigh Idirchaidrimh Tionscadail ar fáil le bualadh le daoine trí choinne, ag comhlíonadh prótacal infheidhme COVID-19. Tá tuilleadh eolais agus nuashonraithe maidir leis an tionscadail ar fáil ar www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com

Is féidir aighneachtaí nó tuairimí a chur ar aghaidh ar: **Ríomhphost:**

info@galwaytoathlonecycleway.com

Láithreán Gréasáin: www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com **Uimhir Ghutháin:** (091) 509267

Beifear in ann teacht ar Nuacht maidir leis:

www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council



Comhairle Contae Ros Comáin
Roscommon County Council



PUBLIC CONSULTATION NO. 3 Emerging Preferred Route Corridor

PROJECT VISION

The vision for the project is to develop a world class trail, from Galway to Athlone, that will complete the Galway to Dublin route, which is of a scale and singularity that will allow Ireland to tap into the growing tourism market for cycling. It will be scenic, sustainable, be a strategic link, with lots to see and do, be substantially segregated from motor traffic and welcome a wide variety of users. It will be developed in co-operation with local communities and offer real benefits to them.



PROGRESS TO DATE

Public Consultation No. 2 was held in January 2021. Once Covid-19 restrictions eased in May 2021 Project Liaison Officers met with landowners to explore route options and discuss any issues or concerns. The feedback received was considered to develop the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor. Route Corridor Option 5 (South Route) has been selected. The route corridor is well defined where routing appears clear, for example through state-owned lands such as Coillte forestry tracks and Bord na Móna railways. Elsewhere the corridor is wider and future discussions with landowners will form the basis for developing a route within the corridor.

We welcome your local information

The consultation material can be viewed online in the Virtual Consultation Room which is live on the project website until the 31st January 2022. To help finalise the Cycleway route within the corridor, we would like to hear any additional information you have about the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor that may not be on a map or already known by the project team. This local information is vital to help our project team to finalise their studies and design work.

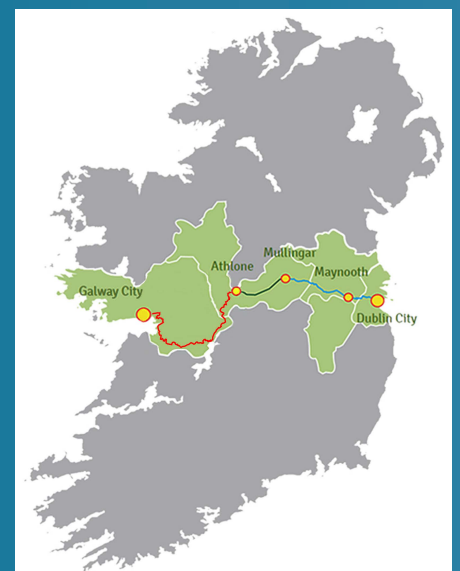
If your property is within the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor, we would encourage you to contact us with any information that would inform the project team. We can be contacted through the online virtual consultation platform on the project website, where you may book an appointment to talk to the project team, or by calling the Cycleway Project Office in Ballinasloe at 091 509267. Project Liaison Officers will be available to meet by appointment, in compliance with the applicable COVID-19 protocols.

The project office will close at 1pm on 23rd of December 2021 and reopen on Tuesday 4th January 2022.

You can make submissions or observations by: Email:
info@galwaytoathlonecycleway.com **Website:** www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com

Phone No: (091) 509267

Project News and Updates will be available on:
www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com



- Route adjacent to Royal Canal
- Old rail trail
- Emerging Preferred Route Corridor



Gaillimh go Baile Átha Luain
ROTHARBHEALACH

Glasbhealach

Gaillimh go Baile Átha Luain
An Scéim Náisiúnta Rotharbhealaigh

COMHAIRLIÚCHÁN POIBLÍ UIMH. 3 An Chonair Bhealaigh is Dealraithí a Roghnófar

FÍS AN TIONSCADAIL

Is é fíís an tionscadail ná forbairt a dhéanamh ar chonair den chéad scoth ó Ghaillimh go Béal Átha Luain, a chuirfidh críoch leis an mbealach ó Ghaillimh go Baile Átha Cliath a bheidh ar an scála agus saoihiúlacht a chuirfidh ar ár gcumas anseo in Éirinn leas a bhaint as an margadh turasóireachta atá ann don rothaíocht, margadh atá ag fás. Nasc álainn, inbhuanaithe agus straitéiseach a bheidh ann, ina mbeidh go leor le feiceáil agus le déanamh agus a bheidh scartha amach go suntasach ó thrácht mótar agus a mbeidh fáilte roimh réimse éagsúil úsáideoirí úsáid a bhaint as. Déanfar é a fhorbairt i gcomhar le pobail áitiúla agus beidh tairbhí cearta le baint acu as.



DUL CHUN CINN GO DTÍ SEO

Reáchtáladh Comhairliúchán Poiblí Uimh. 2 i mí Eanáir 2021. Nuair a mhaolaigh srianta Covid-19 i mí Bealtaine 2021 bhuaill Oifigigh Idirchaidrimh Tionscadail le húinéirí talún chun roghanna bealaigh a iniúchadh agus chun plé a dhéanamh ar cheisteanna nó cúiseanna inní ar bith a bhí acu. Rinneadh an t-aiseolas a fuarthas a bhreithniú chun an Chonair Bhealaigh is Dealraithí a Roghnófar a fhorbairt. Roghnaíodh Conair Bhealaigh Rogha 5 (an Bealach ó Dheas). Tá an chonair bhealaigh dea-shainithe san áit a bhfuil an ródúchán soiléir ann, trí thailte faoi úinéireacht an Stáit mar shampla amhail rianta foraoiseachta Coillte agus iarróid Bhord na Móna. In áiteanna eile tá an chonair níos leithne agus beidh cainteanna le húinéirí talún amach anseo mar bhonn do bhealach a fhorbairt laistigh den chonair.

Fáiltimid roimh d'fhaisnéis áitiúil

Is féidir breathnú ar ábhar an chomhairliúcháin ar líne sa Seomra Comhairliúcháin Fíorúil a bheidh beo ar láithreán gréasáin an tionscadail go dtí an 31 Eanáir 2022. D'fhonn cuidiú linn an bealach Rotharbhealaigh laistigh den chonair a thabhairt chun críche, ba mhaith linn faisnéis ar bith eile atá agat maidir leis an gConair Bhealaigh is Dealraithí a Roghnófar a bhféadfadh sé nach bhfuil sé ar an léarscáil ná ar eolas ag foireann an tionscadail cheana féin a chloisteáil. Tá an fhaisnéis áitiúil seo ríthábhachtach chun cuidiú leis an bhfoireann tionscadail a staidéir agus obair dhearaidh a chur i gcrích.

Má tá do mhaoin laistigh den Chonair Bhealaigh is Dealraithí a Roghnófar, mholfaimis duit teagmháil a dhéanamh linn chun faisnéis ar bith a dhéanfadh eolas d'fhoireann an tionscadail a chur in iúl dúinn. Is féidir teagmháil a dhéanamh linn trí ardán an chomhairliúcháin fhíorúil ar an láithreán gréasáin, áit ar féidir leat coinne a chur in áirithe chun labhairt le foireann an tionscadail, nó trí ghlaoch a chur ar Oifig Thionscadal an Rotharbhealaigh i mBéal Átha na Sluaighe ar 091 509267. Beidh Oifigigh Idirchaidrimh Tionscadail ar fáil le bualadh le daoine trí choinne, ag comhlíonadh prótacal infheidhme COVID-19.

Dúnfar oifig an tionscadail ag 1pm ar an 23 Nollaig 2021 agus osclófar arís í Dé Máirt an 4 Eanáir 2022.

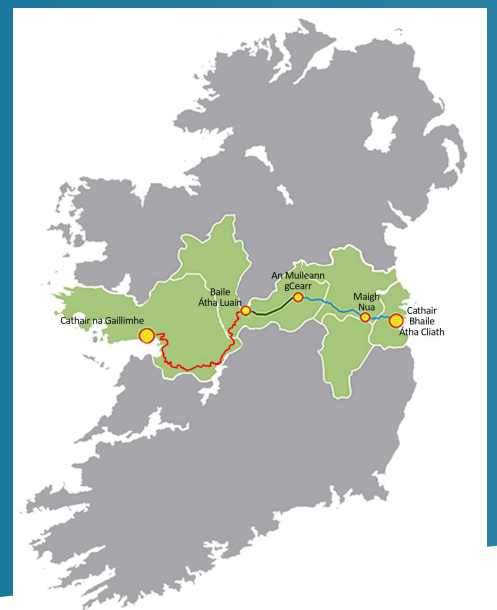
Is féidir aighneachtaí nó tuairimí a chur ar aghaidh ar: **Ríomhphost:**

info@galwaytoathlonecycleway.com **Láithreán Gréasáin:** www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com **Uimhir**

Ghutháin: (091) 509267

Beifear in ann teacht ar Nuacht maidir leis an Tionscadal agus ar an Eolas is Déanaí ina leith ar:

www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com



- Bealach le taobh na Canálach Ríoga
- Bealach ar bhóthar iarainn nach bhfuil in úsáid
- An Chonair Bhealaigh is Dealraithí a Roghnófar



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council



Comhairle Contae Ros Comáin
Roscommon County Council



Appendix F

Press Release

Consultation on Emerging Preferred Route Corridor for Galway to Athlone Cycleway Gets Underway

Wednesday, 8th December 2021: An Emerging Preferred Route Corridor for the Galway to Athlone Cycleway has been identified and is the focus of ongoing landowner consultation, and a period of public consultation, in order to inform and assist the project team in finalising a route.

Route Corridor 5 is the Emerging Preferred Corridor as it offers the potential to develop a highly scenic cycleway from Galway to Athlone, with lots to see and do along the way.

It travels through a wide variety of landscapes, starting at the edge of Galway Bay and traversing along the Burren Lowlands, the Slieve Aughty mountains, the River Shannon, and the Midlands Bogs.

The proposed Route Corridor commences at Ballyloughane Beach and visits Oranmore, Rinville, Clarinbridge, Kilcolgan, Kinvara, Coole Park, Gort, Woodford, Portumna, Meelick, Clonfert, Shannonbridge and Athlone, linking places of interest, established tourism centres, public parks, and outdoor spaces. The project team also proposes a direct link from the Cycleway to Ballinasloe.

Importantly, the Emerging Preferred Corridor uses publicly owned lands as far as possible including Bord Na Móna lands, Coillte forest roads and ESB lands.

“This Emerging Preferred Route Corridor varies in width, being narrow in places where we are proposing to use existing paths, such as Bord Na Móna railways and Coillte forest roads, and broader in areas where we will need to use privately owned land. In these areas, we wish to meet with landowners to discuss the project and explore where a route can be progressed, through voluntary acquisition of land, and along a farm boundary,” says Jim Cullen, Chief Executive, Galway County Council.

Extensive landowner engagement is underway and will continue in 2022. Following this process, a preferred route will be selected, where the project team can be confident that a route can be delivered with the consent and agreement of the majority of landowners. The project team is hopeful that they will be able to progress that process during 2022 with a view to bringing an application for planning consent to An Bórd Pleanála in 2023.

A process has been underway since 2019 to develop a Code of Best Practice for National and Regional Greenway Projects between Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), farming representatives, local authorities, and other stakeholders; and this is due to be completed soon. The Code sets out the process for the delivery and management of Greenways. During the development of a preferred route within a corridor, landowners may engage their own Agronomist / Property Advisor.

The project team will work with each landowner and their Agronomist / Property Advisor and endeavour to pick the least disruptive route possible, likely to be along the property boundary. Project Liaison Officers (PLO's) are available to meet with landowners or talk on the phone to discuss the possibilities; and the project team will strive to purchase land through voluntary agreement, if at all possible.

Alongside ongoing landowner consultation, public consultation is underway from 8th December 2021 to 31st January 2022 when the project team would like to hear any additional local information on the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor that may not be on a map or already known to them. This local information is vital to inform the project team's additional studies and design work towards finalising the Cycleway route within the corridor.

“We are grateful to everyone who has informed the project so far, including landowners and everyone who participated in public consultations. The overwhelming support for this Cycleway is hugely encouraging and will no doubt inform future decisions by our local authorities when developing additional Greenways in Counties Galway, Roscommon, and Westmeath in line with the Government’s strategy for developing a national network of cycleways,” said Jim Cullen, Chief Executive, Galway Co. Council.

Detailed and interactive maps, a public consultation portal and other information is available at www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com.

Landowners and interested parties can contact the project team at telephone 091-509 267 or email info@galwaytoathlonecycleway.com. The project office will close at 1pm on 23rd December 2021 and reopen on Tuesday 4th January 2022.

Ends.

For further information: Geraldine Healy, Galway County Council, 091-509 267.

**Galway to Athlone Cycleway: Public Consultation continues to end February 2022, alongside ongoing
Landowner Engagement**

Monday, 24th January 2022: The third focused period of public consultation for the Galway to Athlone Cycleway on the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor has been extended by four weeks until Monday 28th February 2022. As planned, **landowner consultation and engagement will continue throughout the coming weeks and months, even after public consultation ends.**

The project team is also planning for the re-opening of the Project Information Office in Ballinasloe, as a result of the Government's lifting of many restrictions.

The project team wants to reiterate that **no route has been chosen yet**, and that the Emerging Preferred Route **Corridor** is the space only in within which the cycleway could potentially be routed. The Corridor is well defined in areas of publicly owned lands including Bord Na Móna lands, Coillte forest roads and ESB lands.

Where private lands are included, the Corridor is wider and future discussions with landowners will form the basis for developing the route within the corridor.

The project team will endeavour to pick the least disruptive route possible, likely to be along the property boundary and it **wants to engage with all landowners to understand their specific needs unique to each landholding, in order to incorporate this into their technical studies towards informing the next stage of the project.**

The project team has contacted thousands of landowners over the past two years and held meetings with many landowners across the project study area. Project Liaison Officers (PLO's) continue to be available to meet with landowners or talk on the phone, and landowners can contact the project team directly to arrange a meeting at a time and venue that suits them.

A Code of Best Practice for National and Regional Greenway Projects and a Greenway Sustainability Payment has been developed for the Department of Transport by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), farming representatives, local authorities, and other stakeholders; and this was published in December (see [Gov.ie/code-of-best-practice-for-national-and-regional-greenways/](https://www.gov.ie/code-of-best-practice-for-national-and-regional-greenways/)). The project team also encourages landowners to engage their own Agronomist / Property Advisor as soon as possible, as provided for in the Code of Best Practice.

Landowners and interested parties can contact the project team at telephone 091-509 267 or email info@galwaytoathlonecycleway.com.

Ends.

For further information contact Jennifer O'Neill, Galway County Council, 091-509 267

Appendix G

Landowner Letter



Name

Address

Folio number

Galway to Athlone Cycleway Project Office,
Society Street, Ballinasloe,
Co. Galway, H53 T320
T +353 91 509 267

Date Xth December 2021

Re: Landowner Engagement for Galway to Athlone Cycleway

Dear [name],

I am contacting you regarding the proposed Galway to Athlone Cycleway.

5 broad route corridors were under consideration for the Cycleway, which formed the basis for Public Consultation No. 2 in February March 2021.

We have now selected Route Corridor 5 as the Emerging Preferred Corridor, passing through Athlone, Shannonbridge, Portumna, Gort, Kinvara, Kilcolgan, Clarinbridge and Oranmore. I attach a brochure setting out details of the project and the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor. More detail on the project and the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor is available at www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com, where detailed maps of the corridor are available, as well as an interactive map.

The corridor uses publicly owned lands as far as possible. The corridor varies in width, being narrow in places where we are using existing paths, such as Bord na Móna railways and Coillte forest roads.

The corridors are broader in areas where we will need to use privately owned land. In these areas, we wish to meet with these landowners to discuss the project and explore where a route can be progressed through voluntary acquisition of land. This would be likely to be along a farm boundary.

Following this process, a preferred route will be selected, where the project team can be confident that a route can be delivered with the consent and agreement of the large majority of the landowners.

According to the Property Registration Authority of Ireland records (www.prai.ie), you are the registered owner of lands at:

- Townland / Address: [Address]
- Reference [folio number(s)]

[If these records are incorrect, we would be obliged if you could let us know, so that we can amend our records].

These lands are located within the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor. This does not mean that your lands might ultimately be affected, as the final route chosen might be in a different part of the corridor.



As a landowner, we will be in touch soon to organise a meeting with you, should you wish. The attached brochure summarises our approach to Landowner Engagement for this project.

- A key objective is to route the proposed Cycleway through publicly owned lands and avoid directly impacting farms and other properties where possible.
- Where private lands are required, the project team will liaise with the landowner / farmer in advance to identify the least disruptive route possible, such as along the farm boundary.

In the meantime, the Project Team is available to discuss the project with you by telephone 091 509 267 or email info@galwaytoathlonecycleway.com. We would also be happy to organise a meeting, if you prefer, which may be either in person or virtually.

Yours sincerely,

Cian McGuinness
cian.mcguinness@rpsgroup.com



Ainm
Seoladh
Uimhir Fóilió

Dáta: 8 Nollaig 2021

Oifig Tionscadail Rotharbhealaigh na
Gaillimhe go Baile Átha Luain,
Sráid an Chumainn, Béal Átha na Sluaighe,
Co. na Gaillimhe, H53 T320.
T +353 91 509 267

Maidir le: Rannpháirtíocht Úinéirí Talún maidir leis an Rotharbhealach ó Ghailimh go Baile Átha Luain

A [ainm], a chara,

Táim ag scríobh chugat maidir leis an Rotharbhealach atá beartaithe ó Ghailimh go Baile Átha Luain.

Bhí 5 chonair bhealaigh leathan á mbreithniú don rotharbhealach, a bhí mar bhunús le haghaidh Comhairliúchán Poiblí Uimh. 2 i mí Feabhra Márta 2021.

Tá Conair Bealaigh 5 roghnaithe againn anois mar an Chonair Bhealaigh is Dealraithí a Roghnófar, ag dul trí Bhaile Átha Luain, Droichead na Sionainne, Port Omna, an Gort, Cinn Mhara, Cill Cholgáin, Droichead an Chláir agus Órán Mór. Ceanglaím bróisiúr ag leagan amach sonraí an tionscadail agus an Chonair Bhealaigh is dealraithí a roghnófar. Tá tuilleadh sonraí faoin tionscadal agus an Chonair Bhealaigh is dealraithí a roghnófar ar fáil ag www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com, áit a bhfuil léarscáileanna mionsonraithe den chonair ar fáil, chomh maith le léarscáil idirghníomhach.

Úsáideann an chonair tailte faoi úinéireacht phoiblí a mhéid is féidir. Tá leithead éagsúil ag an gconair, toisc go bhfuil sí cúng in áiteanna ina bhfuilimid ag úsáid cosáin atá ann cheana, amhail iarnróid Bhord na Móna agus bóithre foraoise Coillte.

Tá na conairí níos leithne i gceantair ina mbeidh orainn talamh faoi úinéireacht phríobháideach a úsáid. Sna ceantair seo, ba mhaith linn bualadh leis na húinéirí talún chun an tionscadal a phlé agus iniúchadh a dhéanamh ar an áit ar féidir bealach a chur chun cinn trí thalamh a fháil go deonach. Is dóigh go mbeadh sé seo feadh teorainn feirme.

Tar éis an phróisis seo, roghnófar bealach roghnaithe, áit ar féidir le foireann an tionscadail a bheith muiníneach gur féidir bealach a sheachadadh le toiliú agus comhaontú thromlach mór na n-úinéirí talún.

De réir taifid Údarás Clárúcháin Maoine na hÉireann (www.prai.ie), is tusa úinéir cláraithe na dtailte ag:

- Baile Fearainn / Seoladh: [Seoladh]
- Tagairt [uimhir/uimhreacha fóilió]

[Má tá na taifid seo mícheart, ba mhór againn dá gcuirfeá in iúl dúinn é, ionas gur féidir linn ár dtaifid a leasú].

Tá na tailte seo suite laistigh den Chonair Bhealaigh is Dealraithí a Roghnófar.

Ní hé sin le rá go bhféadfadh tionchar a bheith aige ar do thailte sa deireadh, mar d'fhéadfadh an bealach deiridh a roghnófar a bheith i gcuid dhifriúil den chonair.



Mar úinéir talún, beimid i dteagmháil go luath le cruinniú a eagrú leat, más mian leat. Déanann an bróisiúr faoi iamh achoimre ar ár gcur chuige maidir le Rannpháirtíocht Úinéirí Talún don tionscadal seo.

- Príomhchuspóir is ea an Rotharbhealach atá beartaithe a chur trí thailte faoi úinéireacht phoiblí agus gan cur isteach ar fheirmeacha ná ar réadmhaoine eile más féidir.
- Má bhíonn tailte príobháideacha ag teastáil, rachaidh foireann an tionscadail i dteagmháil leis an úinéir talún / feirmeoir roimh ré ionas go n-aimseofar an bealach a mbeidh a laghad cur isteach agus is féidir i gceist leis, mar shampla feadh theorainn na feirme.

Idir an dá linn, tá Foireann an Tionscadail ar fáil chun an tionscadal a phlé leat ar an teileafón 091 509 267 nó seol ríomhphost chuig info@galwaytoathlonecycleway.com. Bheimis sásta cruinniú a eagrú freisin, más fearr leat, a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ann go pearsanta nó go fíorúil.

Mise le meas,

Cian McGuinness

cian.mcguinness@rpsgroup.com