



Public Consultation:

The Project Team has been examining the feasibility of developing the project, which has to date included:

- The development of a Study Area within which the potential route corridor options will be investigated;
- Review of physical and environmental constraints and opportunities within the study area which will inform potential route corridor options;
- Review of existing roads, rivers, towns and villages, amenities, places of interest, including the former railway corridor from Ennis to Ennistymon and its associated bridges and buildings; and
- Land ownership boundaries, identifying both private and public owned lands.

In line with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Code of Practice for Greenways, the study area is hereby put on public display as part of Public Consultation No.1. The Study Area is shown overleaf and in the public display drawings.

Public Consultation Information

The map overleaf illustrates the study area within which the constraints study will be carried out. The map of the study area and two additional maps illustrating **State Owned Lands and Designated Sites within the study area**, are also available on Clare County Council's website www.clarecoco.ie. Larger versions of these drawing will be on display alongside this brochure and a comment form at the following two locations from Friday 7th October to Friday 28th October 2022:

- Clare County Council, Áras Contae an Chláir, Ennis
- Ennistymon Library, The Square, Ennistymon

Have your say

We invite members of the public and stakeholders to make a written submission. A hard copy comment form will be made available at Clare County Council Offices in Ennis as well as in the Ennistymon Library for the duration of the public consultation. Alternatively, the comment form can be downloaded from Clare County Council's website and returned by email to WCRGEnnistymon@rod.ie or by post to:

West Clare Railway Greenway S2 PC1,

West Clare Railway Greenway S2 PC1, PMO, Clare County Council, Buttermarket Building, Drumbiggle Road, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95 DXP2

To accommodate any members of the public who may not have access to email or post, a telephone facility will also be made available through ROD Consulting Engineers where members of the public can make a formal submission. If you would like to avail of this option, please contact **01 294 0800** and reference the West Clare Railway Greenway Ennis to Ennistymon Public Consultation.

GREENWAY GUIDE TO PROCESS

WE ARE HERE

Constraints Study

- Map State-owned lands and stopping points
- Environmental / Physical / Archaeological
- Highlight opportunities and concerns
- Public Consultation No.1
- Project Agronomist (PA) in place for project duration

Route Corridor Options

- Scenic / Segregated / Sustainable / Strategic / See and Do (Five S)
- Environment / Economic / Engineering
- Public Consultation No 2
- Independent Agronomist in place for project duration

Preferred Route Corridor

- Farmer Agronomists / Property Advisors available to landowners
- Consultation meetings with individual landowners
- Public Consultation No 3

Preferred Route

- Farmer Agronomists / Property Advisors available to landowners
- Consultation meetings with individual landowners and / or representatives
- Accommodation works outlined and discussed / agreed

Preliminary Design

- Horizontal and vertical alignment established to determine precise land acquisition requirements
- Accommodation works agreed with landowners and / or representatives
- Voluntary Land Acquisition Process commences

Environmental Evaluation

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Appropriate Assessment (AA)
- Natura Impact Statement (NIS)

Application to An Bord Pleanála

- Completion of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report/ Natura Impact Statement (NIS) where required
- Application Submitted to ABP including notice of the making of Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO)
- Voluntary Land Acquisition Process continues

Oral Hearing

- An oral hearing may be held by ABP to examine issues and concerns raised by persons with objections to / issues with the proposed Greenway
- Voluntary Land Acquisition Process continues

ABP Decision

- ABP either approves the scheme, rejects the scheme or approves the scheme with modifications
- Where scheme is approved by ABP Voluntary Land Acquisition Process continues where applicable

Construction of Greenway

- If the scheme is successful at the planning stage, the project promoter will proceed to construction, subject to Government funding



West Clare Railway Greenway

Section 2: Ennis to Ennistymon

Public Consultation 1

Project Background:

Clare County Council is currently progressing Section 2 of the West Clare Railway Greenway project which aims to provide a recreational greenway between the towns of Ennis and Ennistymon, following the route of the former West Clare Railway where feasible. The West Clare Railway between Ennis and Ennistymon closed in 1961 and since then the main transport corridor between the two towns has been the N85 National Road via Inagh. Section 2 of the West Clare Railway Greenway intends to develop a new walking and cycling corridor between these two towns, providing a high-quality attraction and amenity to locals and tourists alike, following the success of the Waterford Greenway and the Limerick Greenway.

Where possible, it is hoped that the greenway can utilise intact sections of the former railway corridor, as it offers a relatively flat route and explores both the natural and built heritage along the route. There will be sections where the

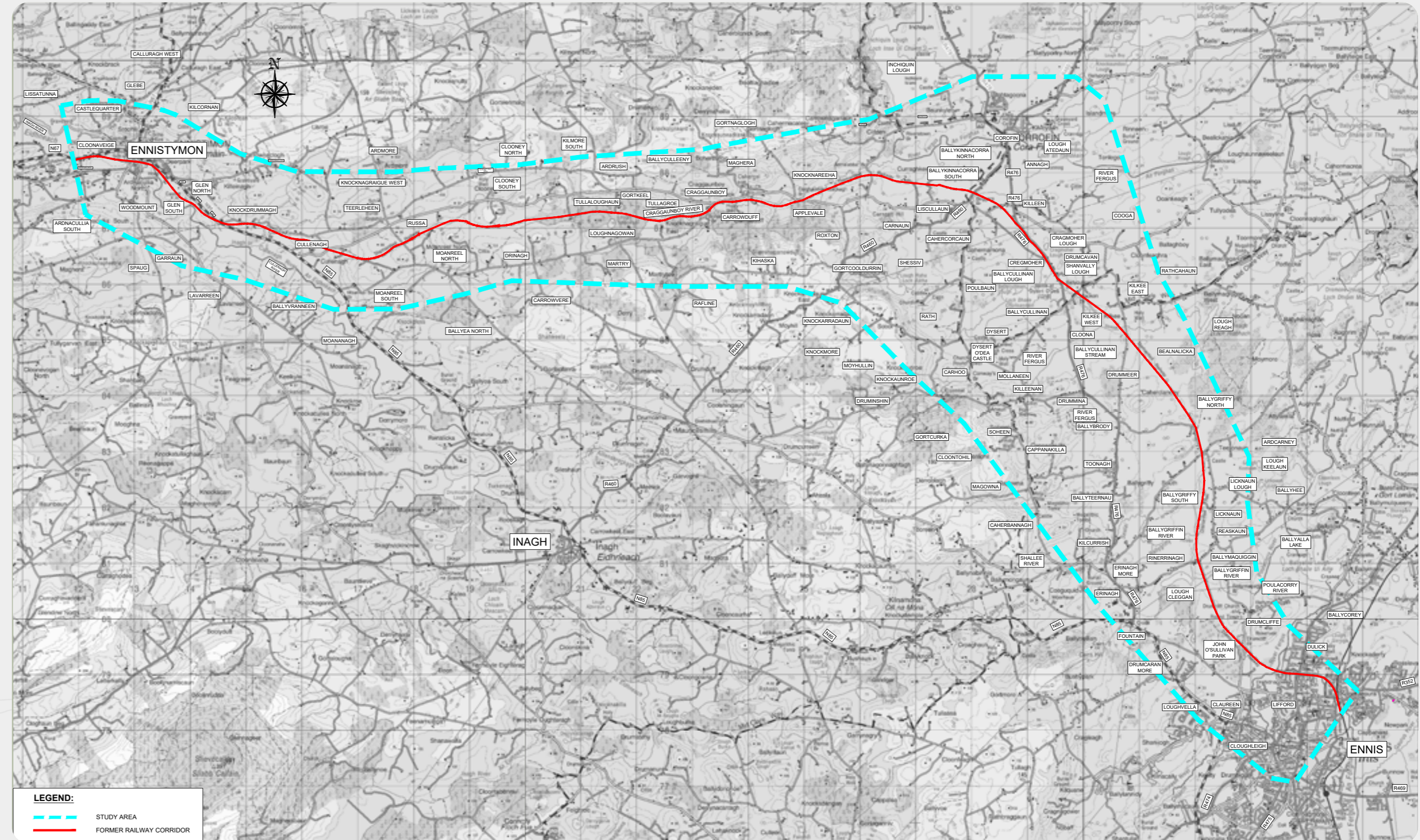
former railway corridor is not available, and deviations onto alternative routes or local roads will be examined to ensure continuity and a high quality, attractive facility. The overall objectives of the West Clare Railway Greenway, Section 2: Ennis to Ennistymon project are as follows:

- Increased active travel uptake and usage;
- Improved accessibility for rural communities, including improved connectivity to towns and villages, in addition to tourist, employment, and educational amenities;
- Creating local employment and enterprise opportunities particularly in the hospitality and leisure industries;
- The provision of a world class visitor attraction.

Roughan and O'Donovan [ROD] Consulting Engineers has been appointed by Clare County Council to assist in undertaking a detailed options appraisal and preliminary design for the proposed greenway supported by a team of environmental specialists.



Figure 1: Study Area



Next Steps

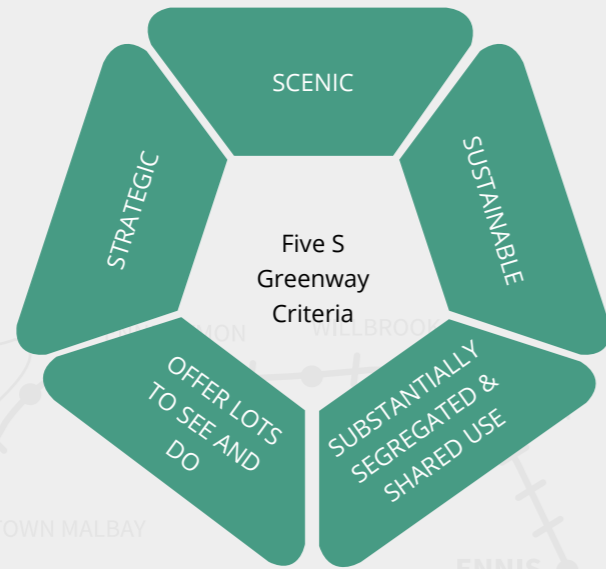
Following the initial period of public consultation, surveys will be carried out within the study area to identify the potential constraints in greater detail. The Project Team will review all observations from the general public, in addition to the information already gathered, to inform the development of a series of potential route corridors between Ennis and Ennistymon. Based on the feedback from the public consultation, and the constraints gathering surveys, a Constraints Study Report will be developed.

The Constraints Study Report will outline the various constraints, including physical (e.g. mountains, rivers, lakes) and environmental constraints (e.g. biodiversity, landscape and visual, cultural heritage, population and agricultural land), that have the potential to affect the design and location of the Greenway. The report will also identify the towns, villages, desirable amenities, points of interest and potential rest areas within the study area to form a world-class visitor experience along the Greenway. This report will in turn inform the identification of potential route corridor options.

The potential route corridor options will be developed based on:

- The overall scheme objectives for the West Clare Railway Greenway Section 2: Ennis to Ennistymon project, as highlighted above;
- The results of the Constraints Study Report;
- The “Five S” criteria as outlined in the Government’s Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways, published by Department of Transport i.e. to be Scenic, Sustainable, Strategic, Segregated and lots to See and do .

Once developed, the potential route corridor options will be published as part of Public Consultation No.2.



We need your input

The project is for your area, and for the people of your area. We would therefore like to hear your views:

- Do you think the project is a good idea and will it benefit the area?
- Do you have any comments on the suggested study area shown in the attached drawing, either positive or negative?
- Do you have ideas on, or knowledge of, potential constraints or opportunities within the study area?
- Do you have any other ideas or design considerations relevant to the project that you would like the project team to consider?
- Is there any other relevant information you think should be shared with and/or considered by the project team?