

LIFFEY VALLEY PARK PHASE ONE FEASIBILITY STUDY

INTRODUCTION TO THE FEASIBILITY STUDY

AIM

The Feasibility Study aims to assess and evaluate the development of Phase one of the wider Liffey Valley Park

The study will consider opportunities for connecting the public open spaces, parks and existing adjacent destinations, that can serve as part of an overall 'Park' concept.

The study will consider locations from Celbridge along the River Liffey to Leixlip, existing trails and local amenity destinations as a series of connections that will eventually become part of the the 'Liffey Valley Park', the wider vision of which include the River Liffey through County Kildare, connecting Dublin City to the border of Counties Kildare and Wicklow.

The objectives set in the 2007 document "Towards a Liffey Valley Park" (OPW, 2007) have since been described in detail in the current County Development Plans as well as National Strategy documents. These objectives, in conjunction with the flagship projects for St. Catherine's Park and Castletown House will be considered during the preparation of the Liffey Valley Park Feasibility Study.

STUDY AREA

The study area comprises of combined land use zoning as mapped by the LAP's for Celbridge and Leixlip. The main zoning areas in the study area adjacent to the River Liffey in Celbridge are Strategic Open Space, Green Belt, Town Centre and Agricultural.

The surrounding lands comprise mainly of, Existing Residential Infill, Green Belt, Agricultural, with fringe zones of Light Industry and Warehousing.

The targets set out in the CDP by Kildare county Council identify the importance of taking action to increase the overall natural environment within Kildare to assist in enhancing biodiversity, active and passive recreational spaces, protect urban woodlands and strenghten the county's green infastructure along with a focus on climate change, by way of creating connectivity through the county by way of green corridors particularly along the main waterways in Kildare.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Source: landdirect.ie

METHODOLOGY

This Public Consultation event will allow for imporant local knowledge to be shared and inform the next stages of the Feasibility Study.

Each poster will set out descriptions for each potential Option identifying connectivity and amenities from east to west, starting in Celbridge towards Lucan Demesne.

TIMELINE



HAVE YOUR SAY

SCAN QR CODE

AND GIVE US YOUR OPINION

LIFFEY VALLEY PARK PHASE ONE FEASIBILITY STUDY

BASELINE FINDINGS

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There are several developments within and surrounding the study area that may influence the provision of potential additional amenity.

Permitted developments that may influence the study area include the Large Residential Development near the Wonderful Barn, a bridge infrastructure in Celbridge, multiple industrial buildings at Kildare Innovation Campus with associated screening landscape along the motorway boundary.

Surrounding Developments

Legend

- Study Area
- County Borders
- Surrounding Developments

0 0.5 1 km

Comhairle Contae Chill Dara
Kildare County Council

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Landownership

Legend

- Study Area
- County Borders
- Kildare Co. Co.
- South Dublin Co. Co.
- Fingal Co. Co.
- Uisce Éireann
- OPW
- ESB

0 0.5 1 km

Comhairle Contae Chill Dara
Kildare County Council

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LANDOWNERSHIP

The landownership for the study area is generally within public domain, with Kildare County Council, OPW, ESB and Fingal County Council being the main landholders. Uisce Éireann also owns some land at the Water Treatment Plant near Leixlip Dam.

Also worth noting the Donaghcumper Parklands is owned by Kildare County Council and OPW.

PUBLIC SURVEY

Where do you visit the River Liffey corridor for recreational purposes?

Location	Count
Castletown House	778
Leixlip Riverside	139
Water Sports Club	57
St. Catherine's Park	495
Wonderful Barn	197
Royal Canal Greenway	298
Arthur Guinness Trail	157
Lucan Demesne	202
Other	48

How do you get to the River Liffey corridor for recreation?

Mode	Count	Percentage
Walk	561	60%
Cycle	74	8%
Bus	6	0%
Drive	289	31%

What passive recreational facilities would you like to see near you?

Facility	Count
Walking trails	819
Running trails	459
Cycle trails	555
Connections with the River Liffey	512
Playgrounds	486
Open spaces / Parks	609
Access to the river for water sports communities	381
Cafés on the Liffey at key locations	637
Interpretation of the heritage of places along the River Liffey	452
Other	121

How far do you need to travel from your home to access a wildspace (i.e. a place with wildlife)?

Distance	Count	Percentage
Less than 1km	55	45%
More than 1km	561	55%

An online survey was published on the Kildare County Council website in December 2024, to gather the public's opinion of the Liffey Valley Park. The aim of the public survey was to gather local knowledge on land use of the Liffey Valley Park, as well as available open spaces and amenities along the River Liffey.

The survey identified an interest in seeing more recreational amenities, community facilities and access to nature within the study area. The two main areas visited for recreational purposes was Castletown House and St. Catherine's Park.

A selection of potential amenities along the River Valley Park is shown on the left.

HAVE YOUR SAY

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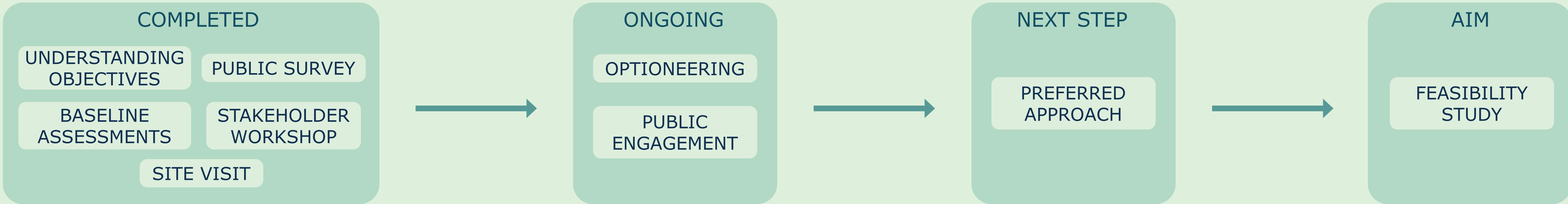
AND GIVE US YOUR OPINION

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OPTIONS

METHODOLOGY

The selection of options for walking routes and amenities within the study area considered all findings to date from landscape, ecological, heritage, environmental, engineering and tourism assessments. All in combination with the feedback received from the public survey (December, 2024) and the Stakeholder Workshop (January, 2025).



The information gathered to date informed the options presented today. These will be presented in the following order:

1. Do Nothing

2. Do Minimum

3. Connectivity Options
4. Amenity Options:

◇ Castletown House Estate

◇ Donaghcumper House and Parklands

◇ Leixlip Demesne & Wonderful Barn

◇ Leixlip to Lucan

◇ Lucan Demesne Connection Barn

DO NOTHING

The 'Do Nothing' scenario relates to the possibility of no proposals or actions being proposed with the study area. There would be no changes to the fabric of the landscape and structures. Each area would continue to function as existing, with no changes given to existing accessibility, available amenities and uses, with exception to future development proposals outside of this Feasibility Study.

This scenario would include retaining the current function of the existing estates/demesnes and parklands. No additional walking trails along the River Liffey would be identified. No additional amenities would be identified, including car parking, seating, picnic, dog parks, playgrounds, exercise equipment, wildlife observation, etc. No additional structures such as pedestrian bridges would be identified for the Liffey Valley Park strategy.

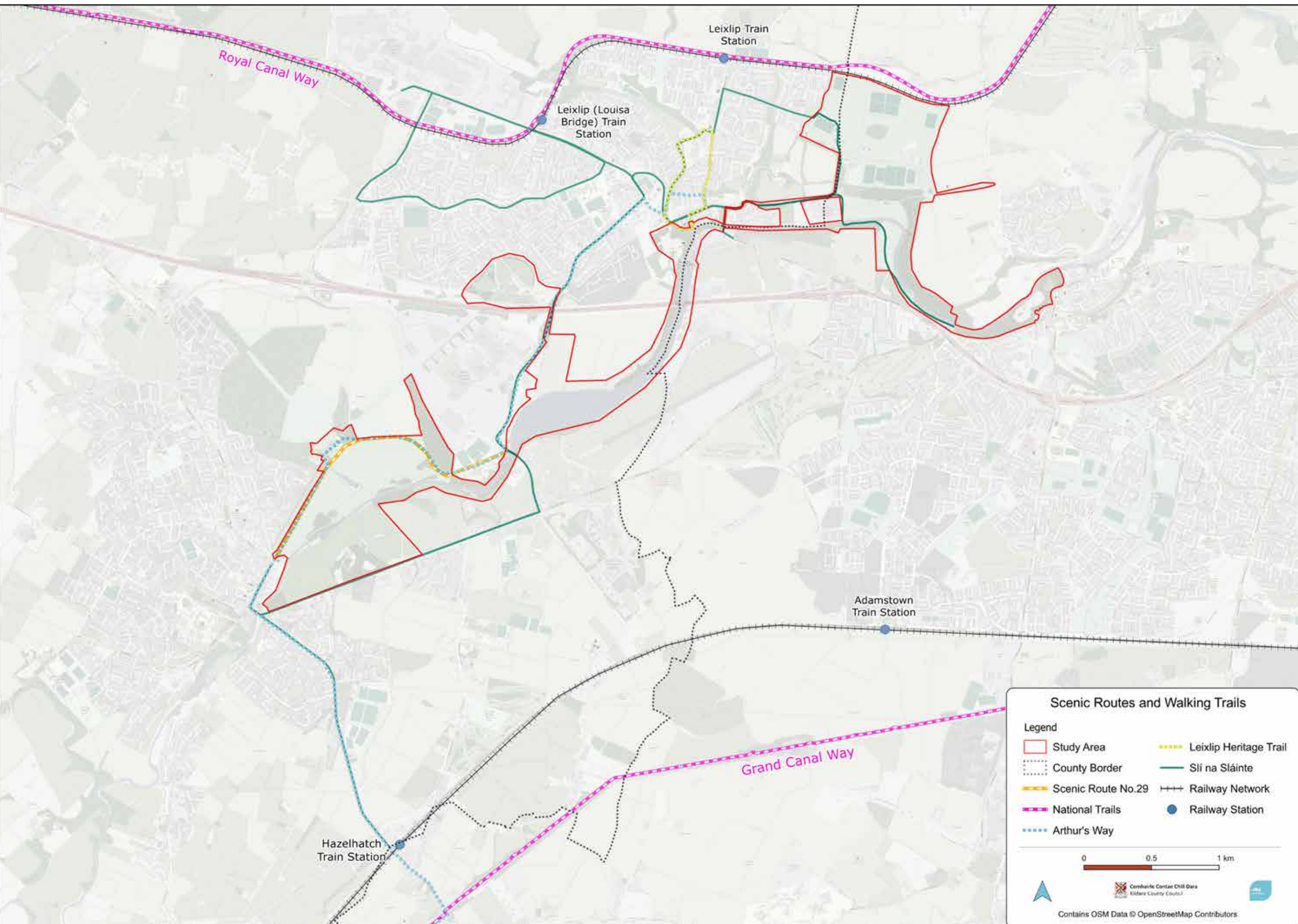
DO MINIMUM

This option would provide additional works to rectify drainage constraints and to provide simple amenities (e.g. additional seating) along key locations such as along existing and future open spaces.

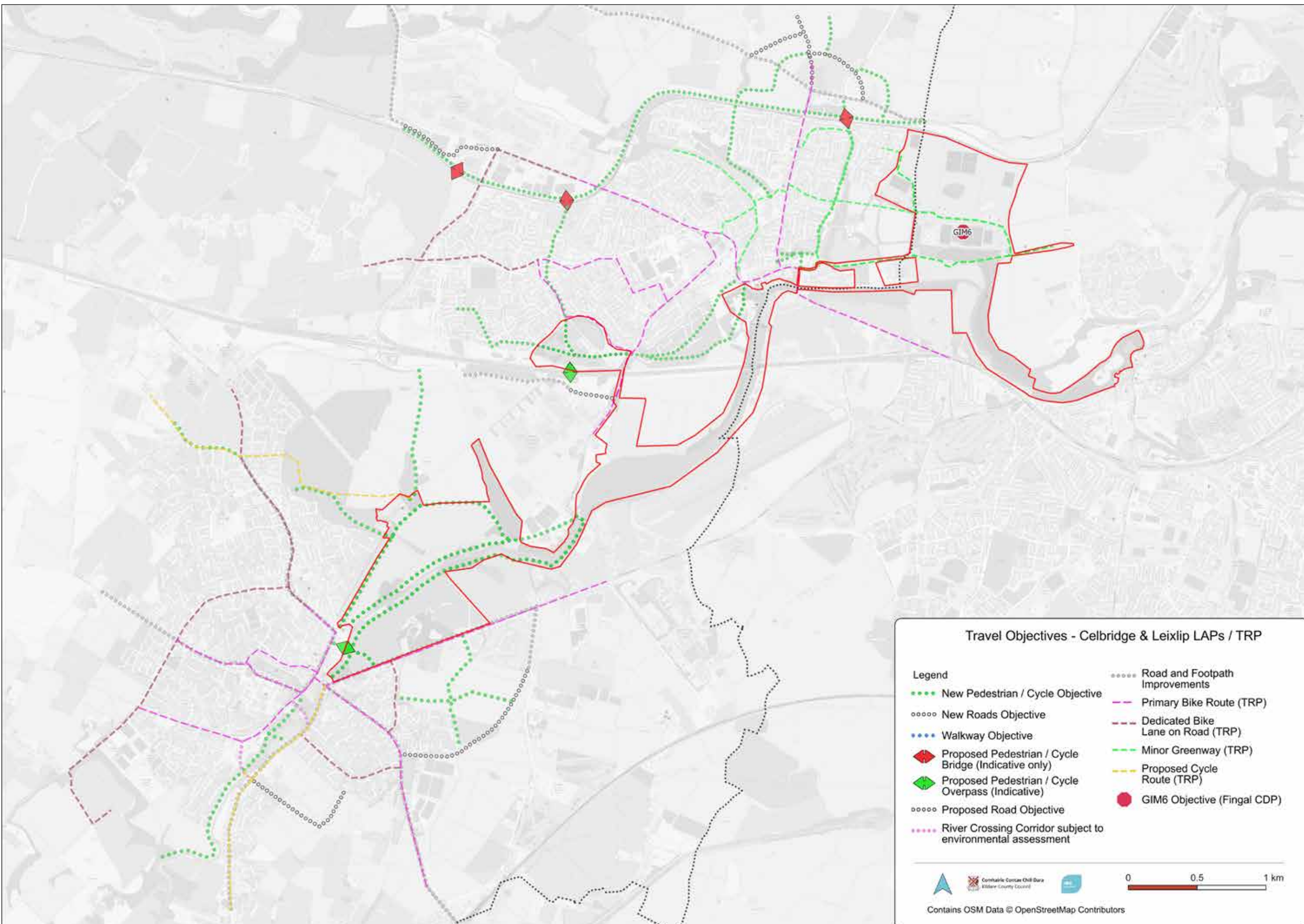
Works to existing pedestrian and cycle routes would clear debris and overgrown vegetation would be pruned. Wayfinding and interpretive signage would be provided.

New footpaths, re-surfacing or structural works such as new bridges or existing bridge repair would not be included in this option.

Existing Walking Trails



Travel Objectives



HAVE YOUR SAY



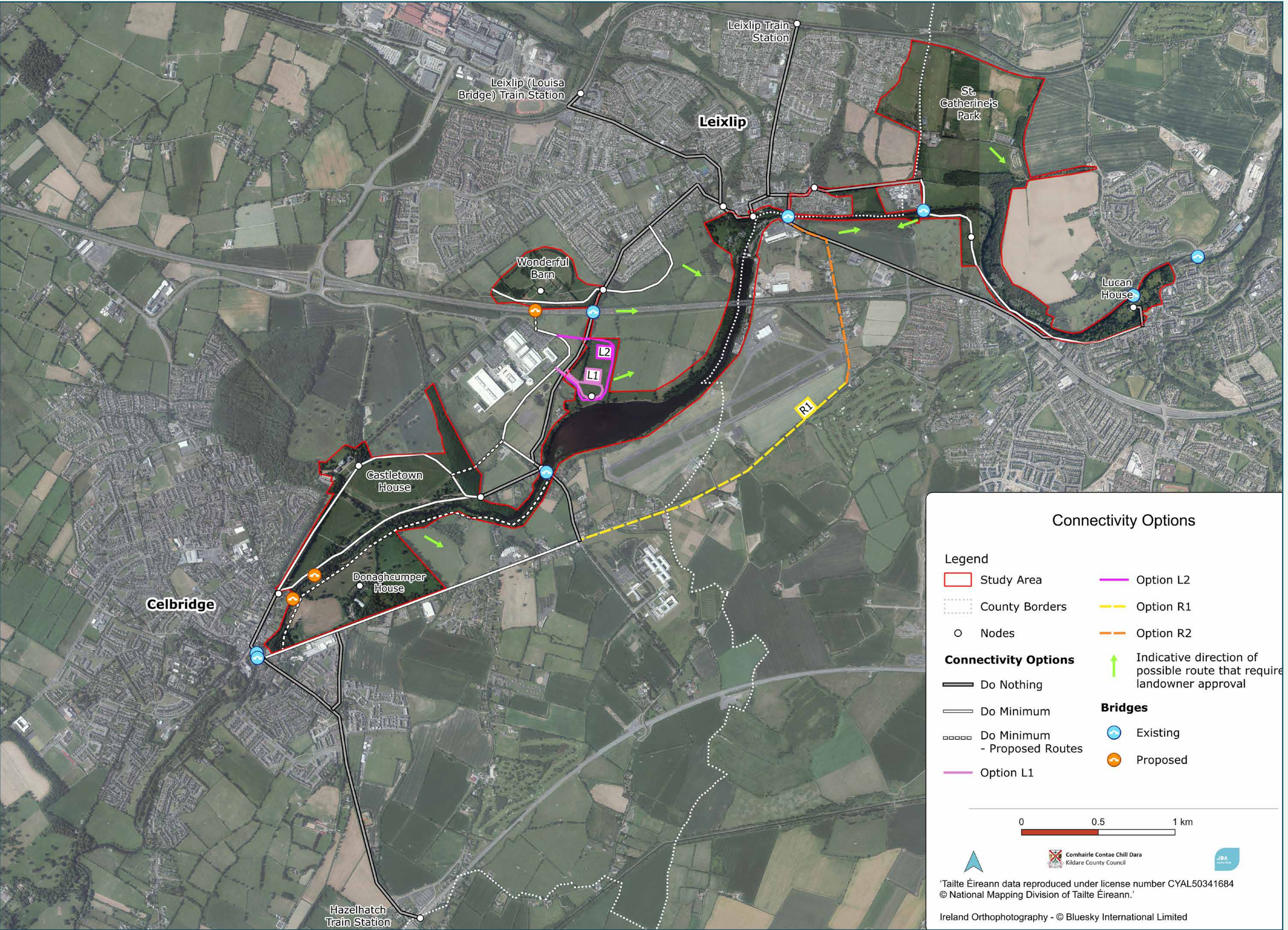
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CONNECTIVITY OPTIONS

LEIXLIP DEMESNE



LEIXLIP DEMESNE OPTIONS

OPTION	BENEFITS	CONSTRAINTS
L1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scenic Route along the River Liffey• Contact with nature due to proximity to the River and Riparian/field boundary habitats• Access to Celbridge Road (R404) and Kildare Innovation Campus• Celbridge Road (R404) is served by Bus Routes• Additional amenity for workers of the Innovation Campus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Impact to the existing ecology and riparian habitat of Leixlip Demesne• Impact to the existing ecology at Leixlip Reservoir• Potential degradation of water quality of River during construction works• No existing pedestrian crossing on R404
L2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Same as Option L1• Opportunity for a linear park along field boundary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Same as Option L1• Two entrance routes would require more vegetation removal

OPTION L1

This option includes a trail within the southern portion of the KCC's owned lands at Leixlip Demesne. It would provide a visual connection to the river and amenity opportunities such as wildlife observation, seating, picnic, etc. Riparian corridor protection and restoration would need to be considered due to the ecological sensitivity of Leixlip Reservoir.

OPTION L2

This option includes a recreational trail along the perimeter of the field owned by KCC. It would connect to Celbridge Road (R404) at the north and south of the field. It would provide a visual connection to the river and amenity opportunities such as wildlife observation, seating, picnic, etc. Riparian corridor protection and restoration would need to be considered due to the ecological sensitivity of Leixlip Reservoir.



Recreational Trail
Access
Active Travel
Seating
Wellbeing
Visual Amenity

HAVE YOUR SAY



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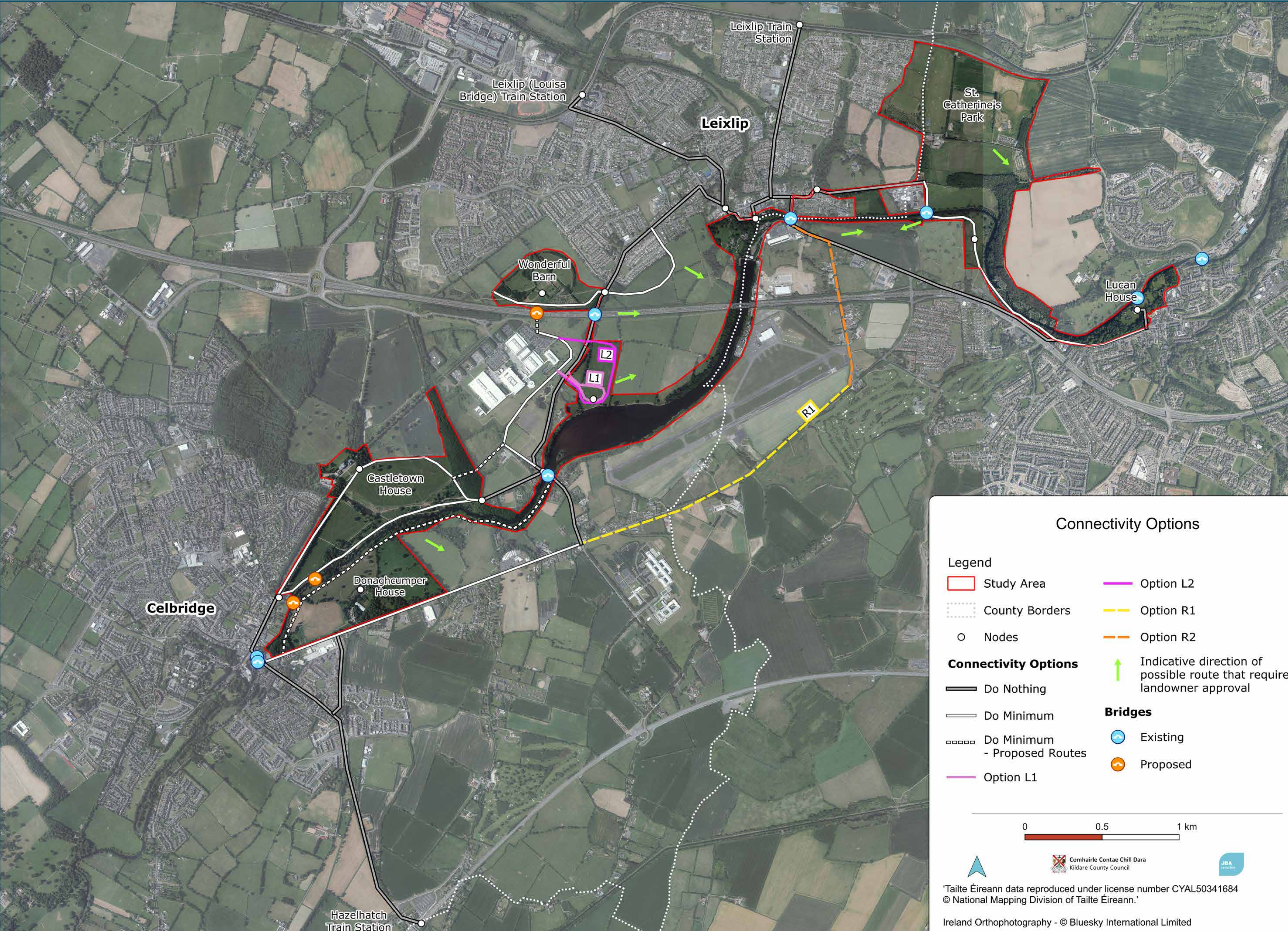
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CONNECTIVITY OPTIONS

ROAD OPTION



OPTION	BENEFITS	CONSTRAINTS
R1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Provision of formal pedestrian routes along the R403, increasing pedestrian safetyProvision of formal cycle routes along R403Additional active travel route from Celbridge to LeixlipFormal access to existing bus stops	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No scenic views with exception of bridge over River LiffeyExisting pedestrian bridge may require works, including a design for arrival as bridge access is not obviousRoute may be narrow in some locations due to private boundary walls
R2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Re-purposing pedestrian bridge over M4 motorway(as applicable)Additional active travel route from Celbridge to LeixlipFormal access to existing bus stopsConnects to Slí na Slainte and Walking Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No scenic views with exception of bridge over River LiffeyExisting pedestrian bridge may require works, including a design for arrival as bridge access is not obviousCooldrinagh Lane would get busier with more users preferring this route.Would require safety measures (e.g. CCTV) in bridge access pointsNoise pollution from M4 and Weston Airport

ROAD OPTION

OPTION R1

This option includes the provision of a footpath along the R403 to Cooldrinagh Lane. A cycle path or shared path would be considered where carriageway width or grass verges allow.

OPTION R2

This option includes the re-purposing of the existing pedestrian bridge and possible works to the existing footpath at Cooldrinagh. This route would cross the M4 motorway using the existing pedestrian bridge.



Recreational Trail
Access
Active Travel
Seating
Wellbeing
Visual Amenity

HAVE YOUR SAY



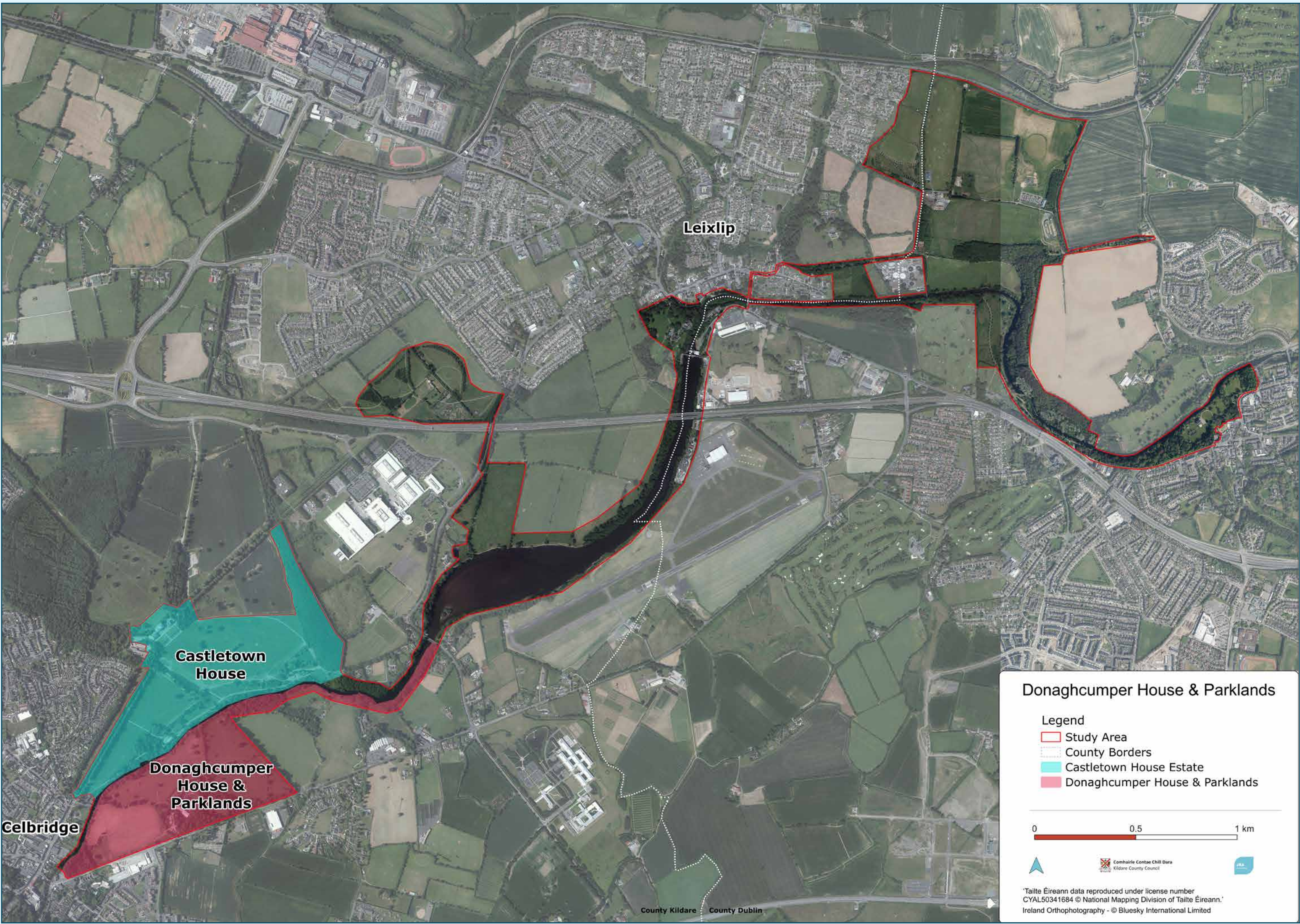
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YOUR OPINION



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AMENITY OPTIONS



The Castletown House Estate & Donaghcumper Lands

The Castletown House Estate has little capacity for amenity although seating / viewing areas and some additional facilities may be proposed for the existing walk along the River.

This includes opportunities for:

- Car Parking
- Picnic Area
- Bench Seating
- Litter Facilities
- Additional Water Safety
- Dog Bins
- Areas for Wildlife Observation
- Linked Walking Trails
- Route Signage

In addition to the above, the Lands at Donaghcumper are zoned as Open Space which will allow for extensive amenity space and connectivity to Castletown House.

This includes opportunities for:

- Car Parking
- Picnic Area
- Playground
- Cycle Connectivity
- Dog Park
- Cafe Facility
- Kick-about & Outdoor Fitness

Castletown House Estate



Views of the River



Seating within the Estate Grasslands



Car Parking at Castletown House



Walking Trails



Playground



Pedestrian Bridge over the River



Dog Control in Castletown Estate



Walking & Cycle Routes



Wildlife Observation on the River



Parkland Facilities



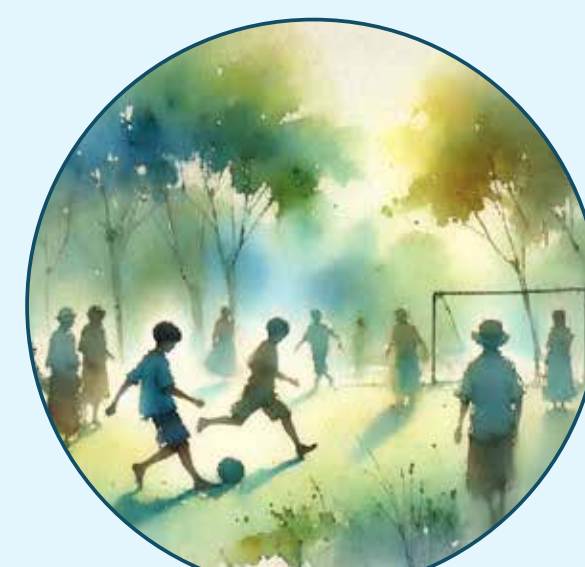
River Cafe Amenity



Picnic Seating by the River



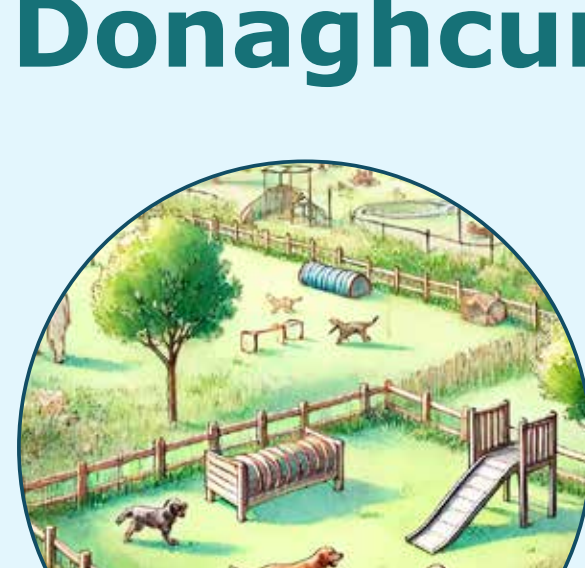
Protect Nature



Kick-about & Fitness Area



Recreation by the River



Dog Park

Donaghcumper Lands

HAVE YOUR SAY

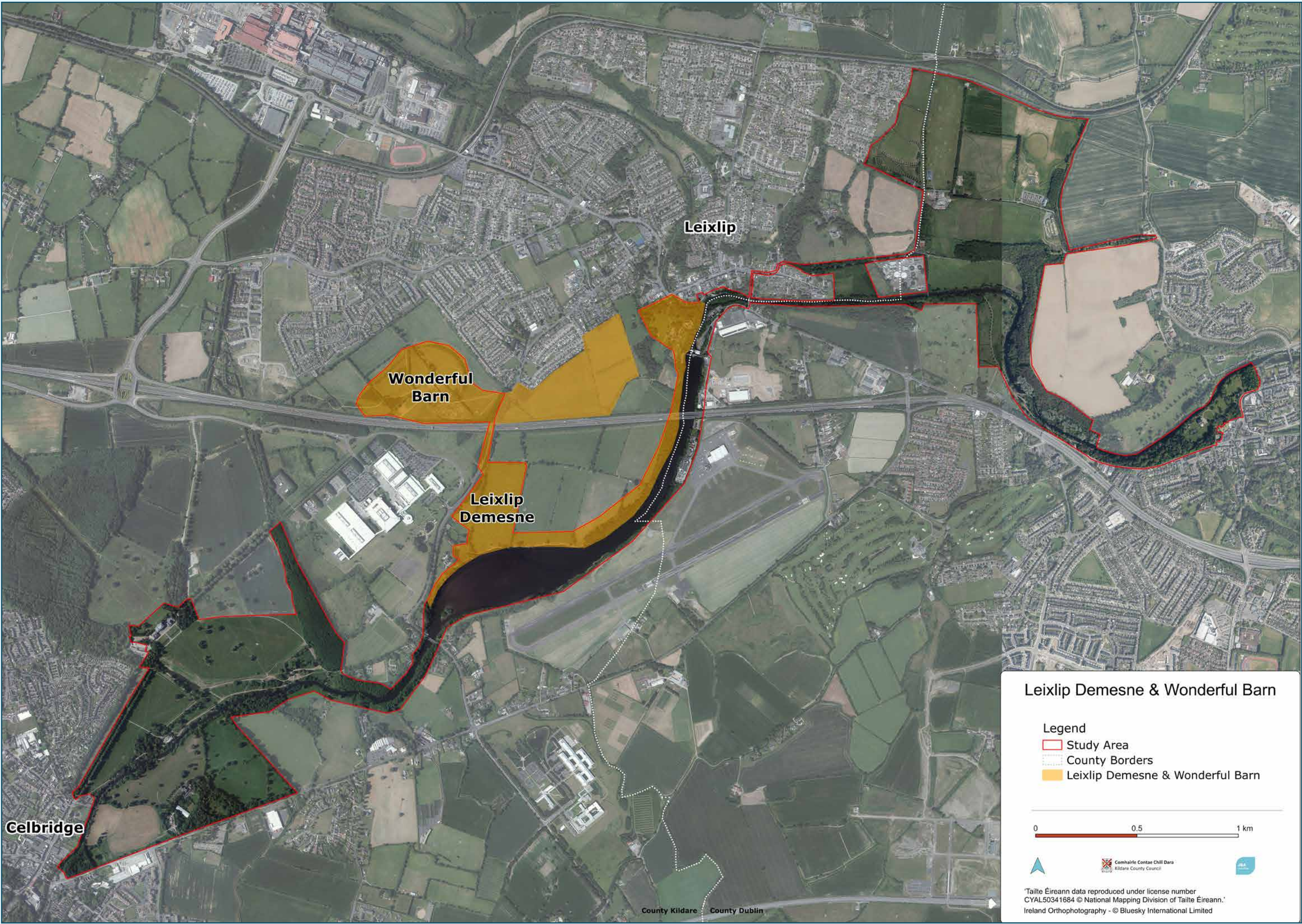


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AMENITY OPTIONS



Leixlip Demesne Lands and The Wonderful Barn

The Kildare County Council lands in Leixlip Demesne provide great opportunity for both passive and active amenity areas, from walking trails, and a Nature reservation along the river bank for observation and education.

This includes opportunities for:

- Car Parking
- Picnic Area
- Bench Seating
- Litter Facilities
- Connected Walking Trails
- Route Signage
- Areas for Wildlife Observation
- Educational Signage

In addition to the above, The Wonderful Barn will benefit from the pedestrian overpass on the M4.

The proposed Masterplan for the Wonderful Barn allows for extensive amenity space and connectivity to Kildare County Council land at Leixlip demesne.

Leixlip Demesne



Seating within the Amenity Area



Protect Nature



Car Parking at Leixlip Demesne



Dog Control & Bins



Walking Trails



Amenity Facilities



Wildlife Observation of the River



Kick-about & Fitness Area



Café Amenity



Playground



Recreation Area



Educational Signage

HAVE YOUR SAY

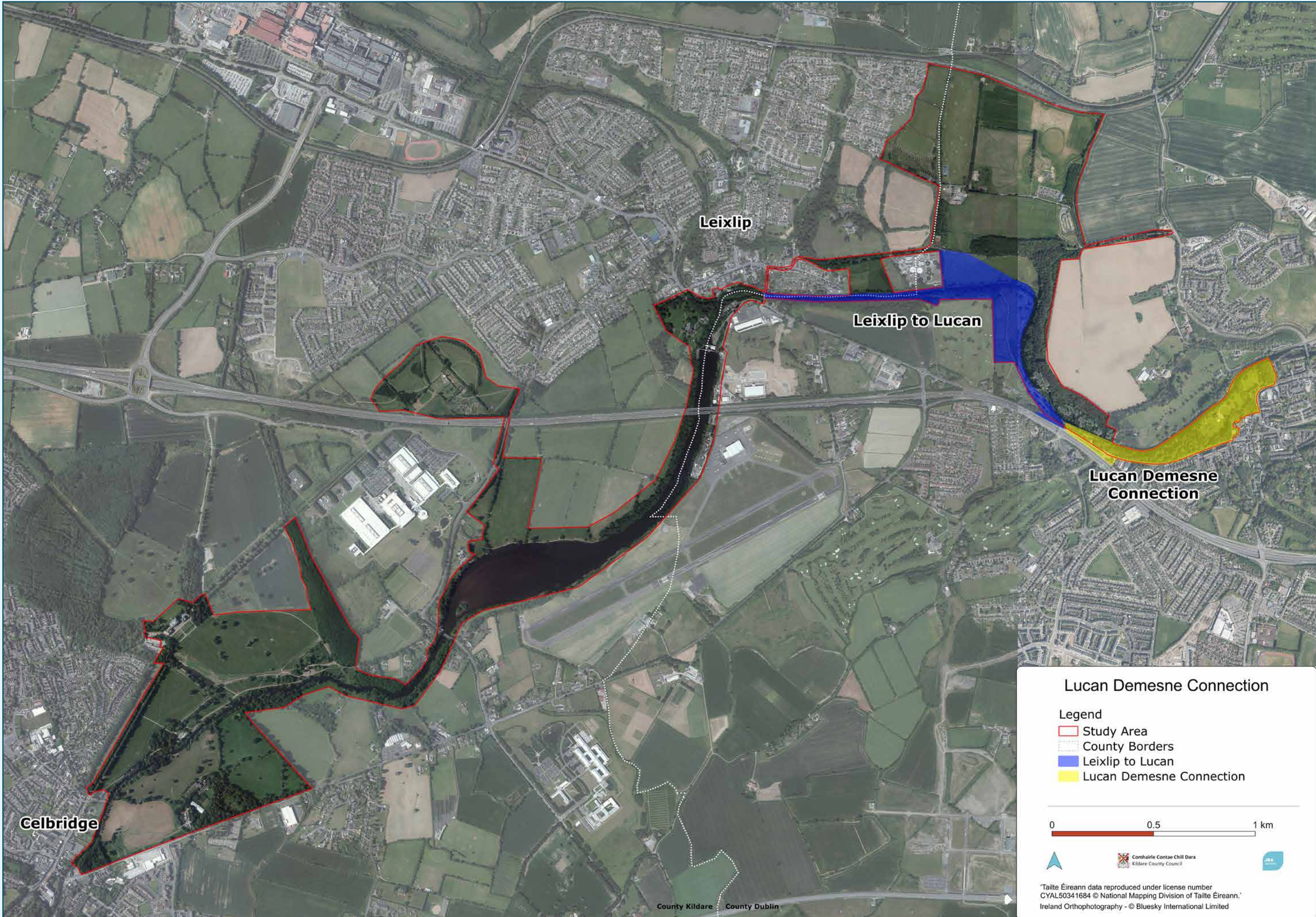


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AMENITY OPTIONS



Leixlip To Lucan Demesne

The connection through St. Catherine’s Park in Leixlip will provide opportunity to connect to the existing walking trails, including Slí na Slainte and Arthur’s Way and increase connectivity to Lucan Demesne and beyond.

This includes opportunities for:

- Bench Seating
- Litter Facilities
- Connected Walking Trails
- Route Signage
- Educational Signage

A Masterplan for Lucan House and Demesne is being prepared by South Dublin County Council to provide for public access to the House and Demesne.

The proposal will provide for connections to St. Catherine’s Park and any future expansion of the Park by way of the existing Slí na Sláinte route.

Leixlip and Lucan Demesne



Seating within the Amenity Area



Protect Nature



Potential overflow parking at R148 for open space amenities



Amenity Facilities



Walking Trails



Educational Signage

HAVE YOUR SAY



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