

Public Consultation No. 1 – Spring 2024

Drawings of the Stage 2 Options with constraints identified in the Constraints Study were displayed on the project website and at the first in-person public consultation event, held between the 27th March 2024 to the 26th of April 2024.

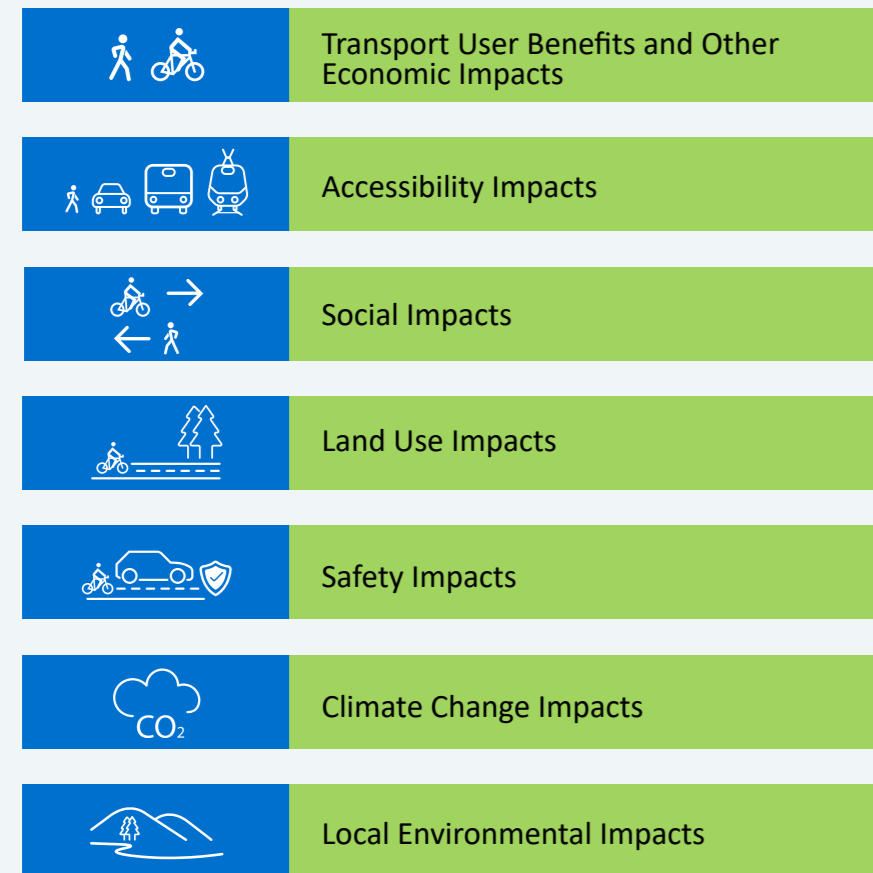
The first public consultation included a four-week submission period during which members of the public were encouraged to provide their feedback. Materials displayed during the first consultation are still available on the project website www.N81whitestownandtuckmill.ie.



Recent Progress

The Stage 2 Options were developed in further detail, taking account of feedback from the first public consultation. Wicklow County Council successfully sought additional funding to expand the project scope and consider interventions at Raheen Junction, the first N81 junction north of the Baltinglass urban speed limit zone.

A detailed appraisal of the shortlisted Stage 2 Options included a Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) under the following criteria. The MCA findings were used to make an informed decision about the Emerging Preferred Options, with extra weighting given to options which perform better at achieving the project's primary road safety objectives.



Transport Appraisal Framework Criteria

Public Consultation No. 2 – Emerging Preferred Options

Wicklow County Council is now hosting a second in-person public consultation event from **2 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, January 30th, 2025**. Drawings of the Emerging Preferred Options will be on display, and members of the project team will be available to explain the information and answer queries.

The information presented at the event will also be posted on the project website on the same day for those who cannot attend in person or may wish to review the information at a later date.

The event will be followed by a four-week consultation period, during which all are encouraged to provide feedback on the Emerging Preferred Options via the project website, www.N81whitestownandtuckmill.ie by Thursday, February 27th, 2025. The Emerging Preferred Options at each location are presented in this leaflet.

Senior Executive Officer,
Transportation & Infrastructure Delivery Department,
Wicklow County Council,
County Buildings,
Whitegates,
Wicklow Town,
A67 FW96

www.N81whitestownandtuckmill.ie

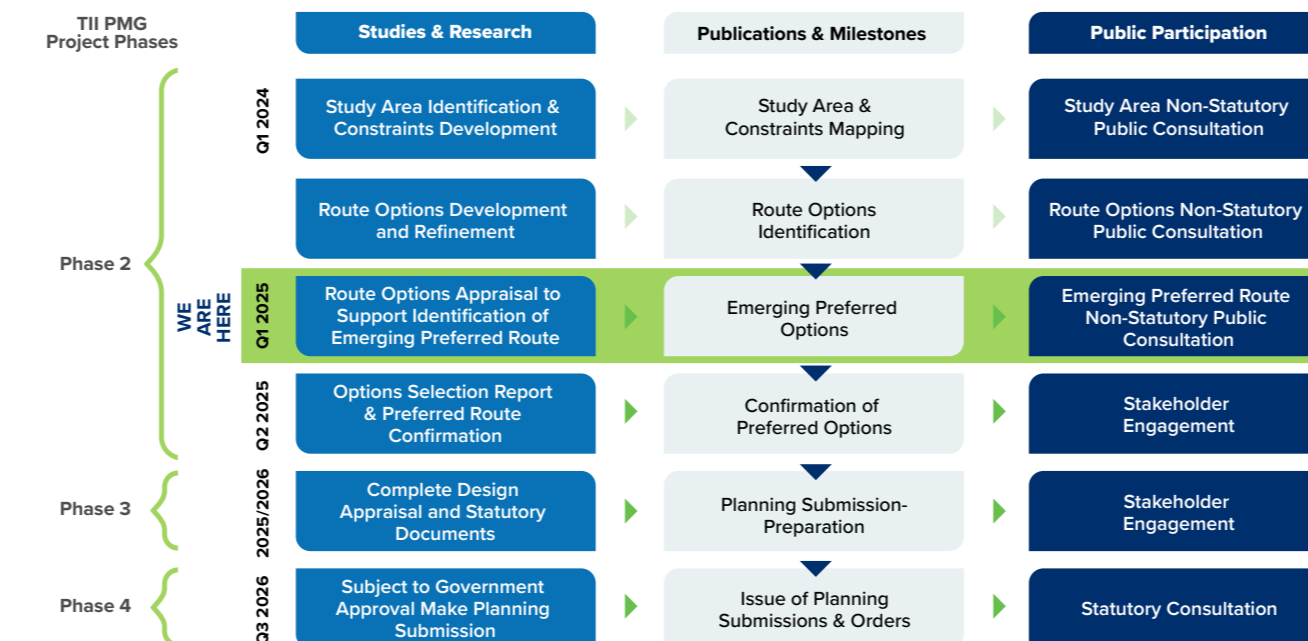


Next steps

The Project Team will review and consider the submissions received during the second public consultation before confirming the Preferred Options. This may involve further refinement of the options and/ or further consultation with key stakeholders, including affected landowners.

Preferred Options will advance to *PMG Phase 3, Design and Environmental Evaluation*, subject to funding availability. Affected landowners will be contacted to arrange Site Investigation (SI) surveys necessary to develop the preliminary design and conduct environmental evaluations.

Subject to funding, it is envisaged that the projects will be submitted for planning consent in 2026, and for construction to commence in 2028/ 2029.



N81 ROUTE IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

N81 Whitestown Lower Project and N81 Hangman's Bend and Tuckmill Project



NON-STATUTORY PUBLIC CONSULTATION No. 2 EMERGING PREFERRED OPTIONS



Introduction

Wicklow County Council is currently progressing two separate projects on the N81 in parallel; the N81 Whitestown Lower Project and the N81 Hangman's Bend and Tuckmill Project, which aim to address road deficiencies contributing to the poor road safety record on the network.

- The N81 Whitestown Lower Project** Is approximately 2km long, extending from Castleruddery Junction to the south to Ballylion Junction to the north.
- The N81 Hangman's Bend and Tuckmill Project** Is approximately 4km long extending from Raheen Junction to the south to Hangman's Bend to the north.

Need for Project / Project Background

The N81 projects originated from a 2018 Feasibility Study carried out by Kildare National Roads Office to investigate possible road safety interventions on the 12km section of the N81 between Merginstown crossroads (The Old Tollhouse) and the urban speed limit zone entering Baltinglass. The study found that a series of interventions on the route were advisable to address road safety deficiencies in the network.

Wicklow County Council, with Roughan & O'Donovan Consulting Engineers appointed as technical advisors, is progressing with the schemes in accordance with TII's Project Management Guidelines (PMG) and the Department of Transport's Transport Appraisal Framework (TAF). The N81 route improvement projects are currently in PMG Phase 2: Option Selection.

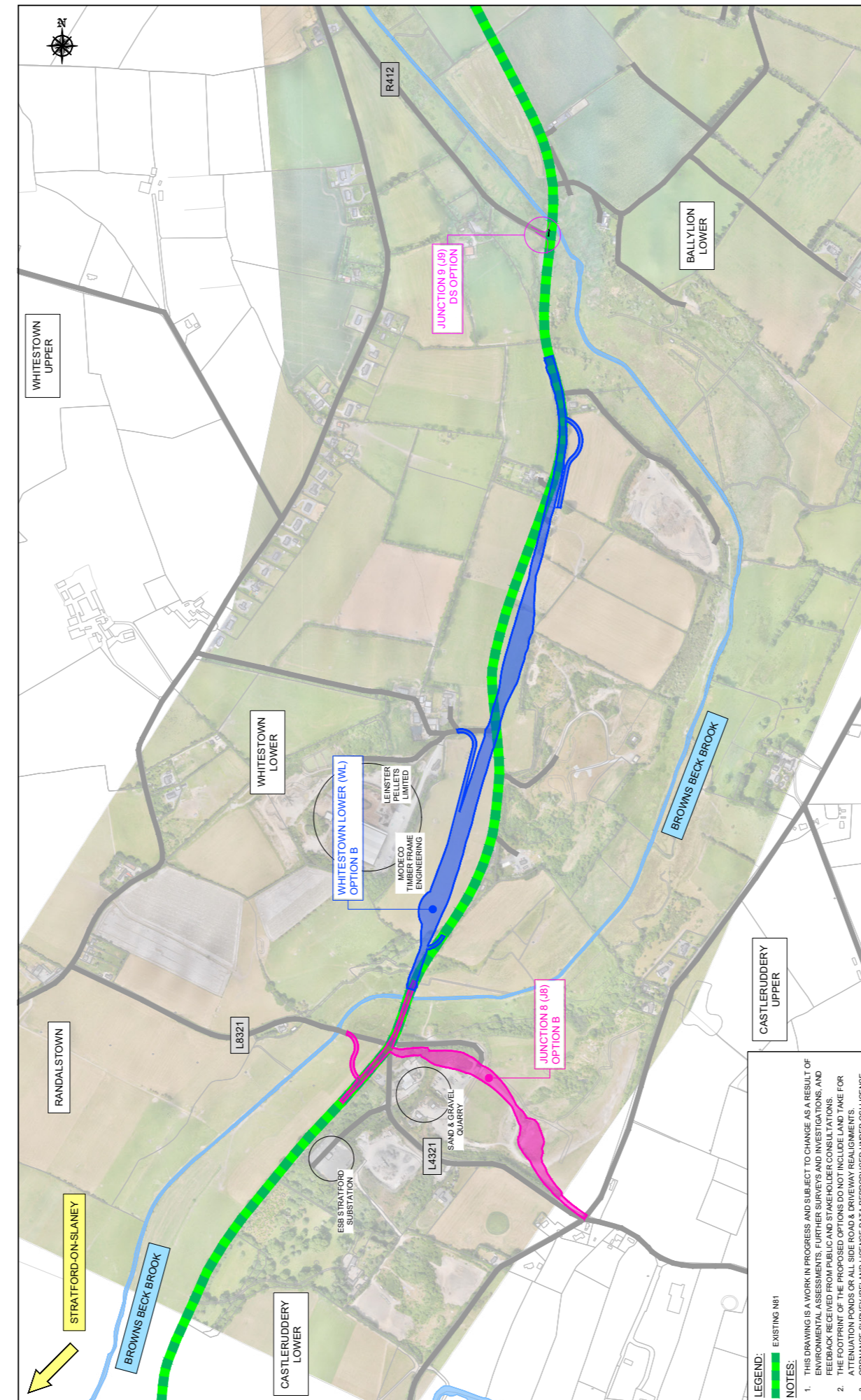
Options Selection Process Stage 1

The initial task of the option selection phase was to conduct a comprehensive constraints study of the receiving environment. Cognisant of the constraints study findings, a long list of options, called Do-Something (DS) options in the PMG, was developed.

The long list of options was reduced to a shortlist in the *Preliminary Assessment of Options Stage* (Stage 1). This involved a high-level appraisal of options against set criteria. At least three do-something options at each problem site advanced to *Stage 2: Detailed Appraisal of Options* based on their feasibility to achieve the project objectives.



N81 Whitestown Lower Project (Emerging Preferred Options)



Hangman's Bend and Tuckmill (Emerging Preferred Options)

