BELLARENA – BISHOP'S GATE GREENWAY

Welcome to the Consultation Event

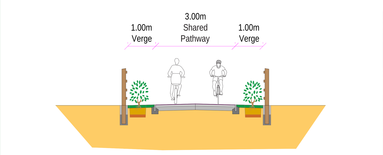
Introduction

Tetra Tech, on behalf of the Department for Infrastructure, are currently developing proposals for a new greenway linking Bellarena to Bishop's Gate.

We held a Public Engagement Event in March to gather information from local communities and businesses. We have listened to your feedback and have identified Route Options, which you can view here today. We would welcome your feedback on these Route Options which will help inform the Preferred Greenway Route.

What is a Greenway?

A greenway is a traffic-free, mostly off-road route designed for walking, wheeling, and cycling. They act as green corridors connecting people and places, encouraging active travel and bringing leisure, health and environmental benefits to the area



Typical Shared Pathway away from Carriageway

Project Timeline:

01
Event 1 – March 2026
Public Engagement
Early Engagement

WE ARE HERE
02
Event 2 – Sept 2026
Public Consultation
Route Options

03
Event 3 – Early 2027
Public Consultation
Preferred Route

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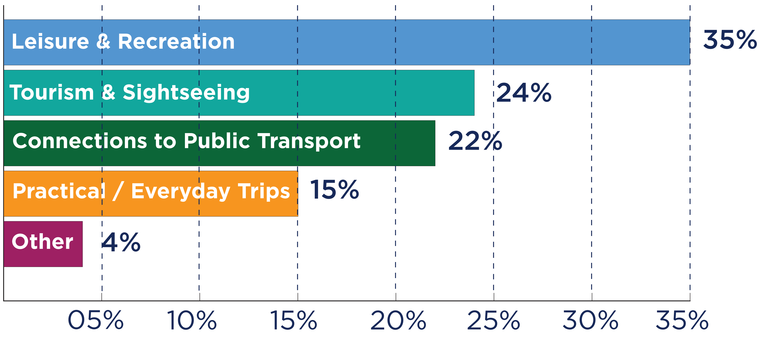
Your Feedback

We held a Public Engagement Event in March. This is what you've told us so far:

93% Support
the overall ambition of providing a Greenway.

How people would use the Greenway



Key Messages From You

- Safer walking and cycling routes
- Better links between communities, schools, beaches and rail
- Improved access to local services and visitor destinations
- Accessible for all users - gentler gradients where possible
- Limit impacts on the natural environment
- Plan for long term maintenance

Your Top 5 Destinations to be Connected by the Greenway

1. Benone Beach

2. Bellarena Village

3. Bellarena Train Station

4. Downhill Beach

5. St Aidan's Primary School

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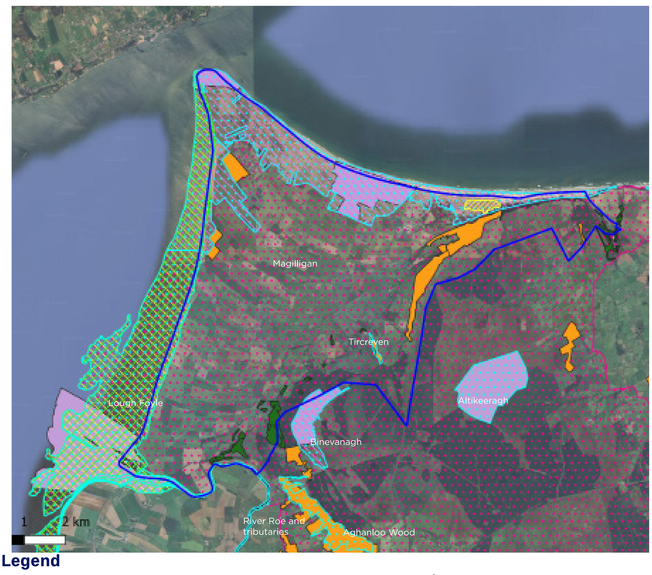
Environmental Considerations



Legend

- Study Area
- River
- Special Area of Conservation
- Special Protection Area
- Area of Special Scientific Interest
- Ramsar
- Ancient Woodland Inventory
- National Nature Reserve
- Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance
- Umbra Nature Reserve
- Binevenagh AONB

Considering the Environmental Impacts

Assessments and ecology field surveys are currently being undertaken to understand the likely environmental effects of the different options.

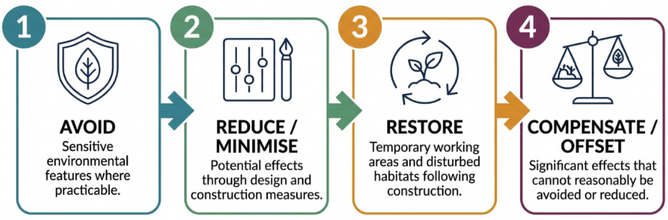
The surveys to be carried out include:

- Phase 1 habitat surveys.
- Bat, lizard, newt and badger surveys.
- Aquatic habitat and fish surveys.
- Breeding bird surveys.
- Archaeology walkovers.

The environmental appraisal will help inform the selection of the preferred route. Once selected, the preferred route may be considered within an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which may form part of the planning application.

Mitigation hierarchy

As the design develops the project will seek to manage environmental effects through four stages:



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Route Option Selection

Following the Public Engagement Event in March, a range of Route Options were identified which were considered against the Project Objectives. These are:

CONNECTIVTY
The creation of an integrated sustainable transport network, providing links to Bellarena railway station, existing bus stops, Magilligan, Downhill and the existing active travel infrastructure network.

SUSTAINABILITY
To deliver a greenway that facilitates more environmentally friendly, sustainable travel options for commuting and recreation.

SAFER TRAVEL
To provide a high quality, attractive greenway that will improve journey quality and the environment for walkers, wheelers and cyclists.

TOURISM
To support local economic growth in the Magilligan area by providing the new greenway and developing sustainable tourism in the area.

HEALTH & WELLBEING
To provide opportunities through the delivery of new infrastructure and behavioural change initiatives to improve the health and wellbeing of residents.

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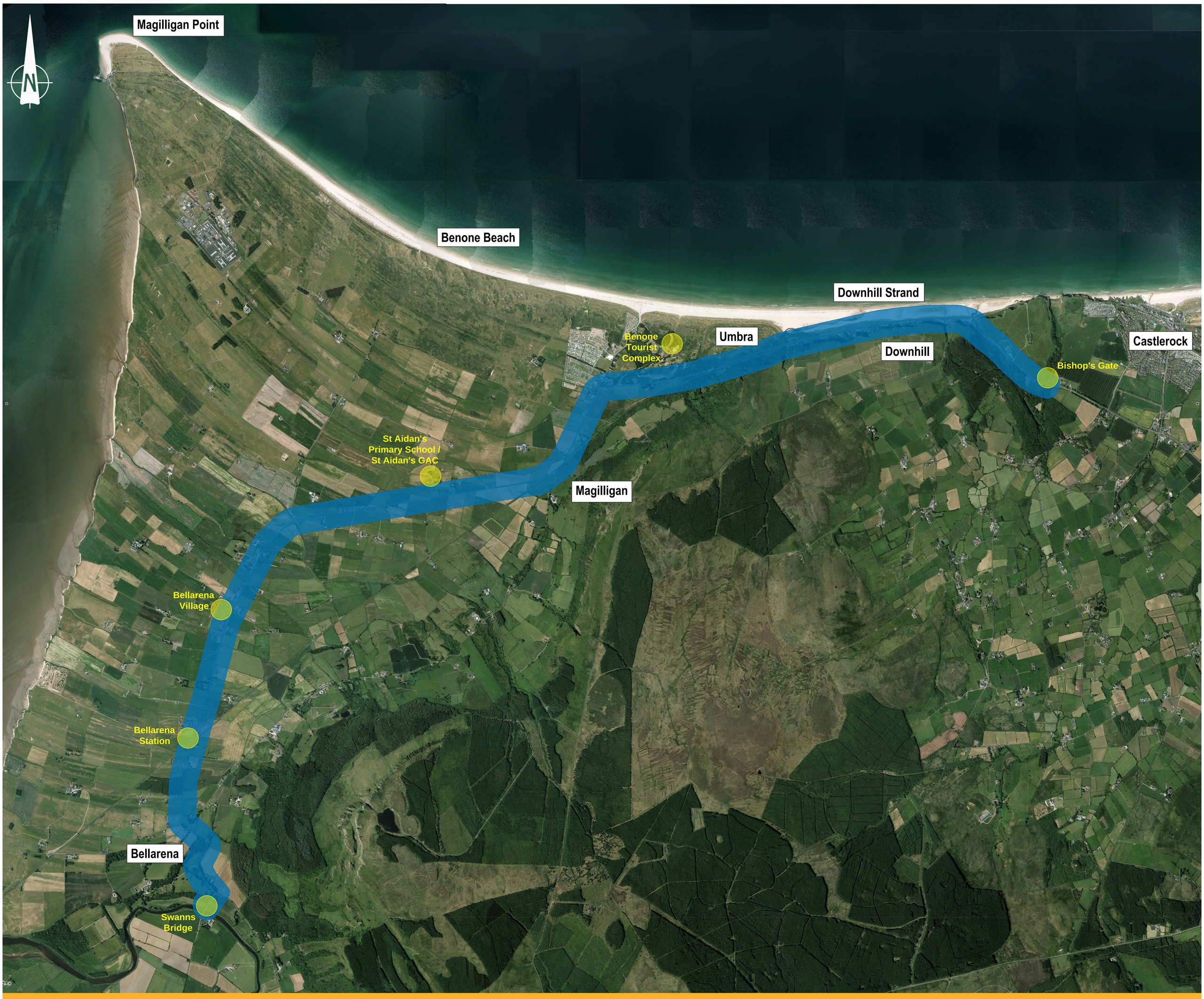
Blue Route

Runs adjacent to the existing A2 Seacoast Road between Bishop's Gate and Swann's Bridge.



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Red Route

Runs off the road from Swann's Bridge via Aghanloo Road, Ballycarton Woods, Bellarena and Benone, then follows the Umbra Nature Reserve northern boundary and railway line towards Bishop's Gate.

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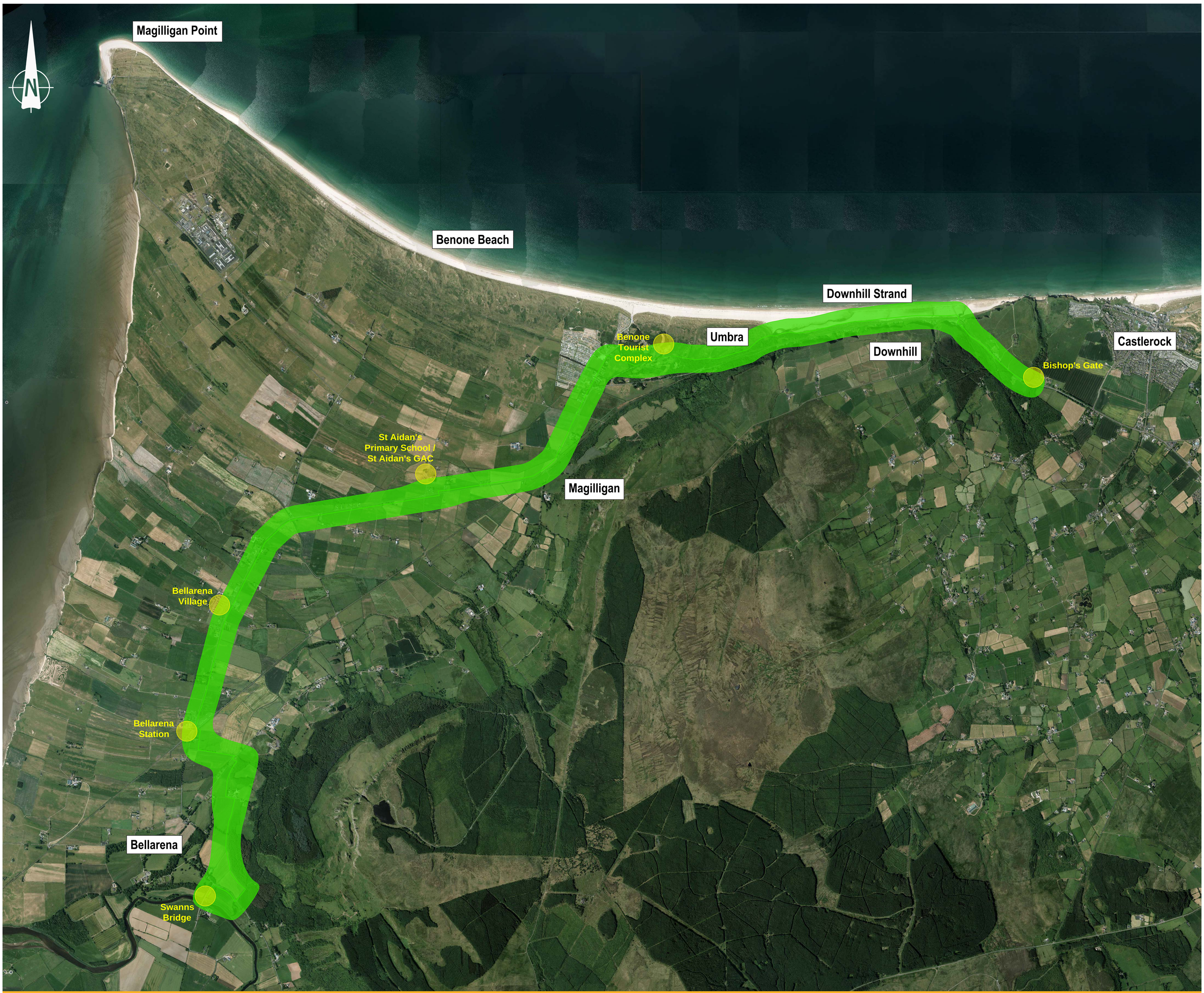
Green Route

Runs from Swann's Bridge via Aghanloo Road, Ballycarton Woods and Bellarena Village, then follows the southern boundary of the Umbra Nature Reserve and railway line towards Bishop's Gate.



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Orange Route

Runs alongside the A2 Seacoast Road via Bellarena, then follows the southern boundary of the Umbra Nature Reserve and railway line towards Bishop's Gate.

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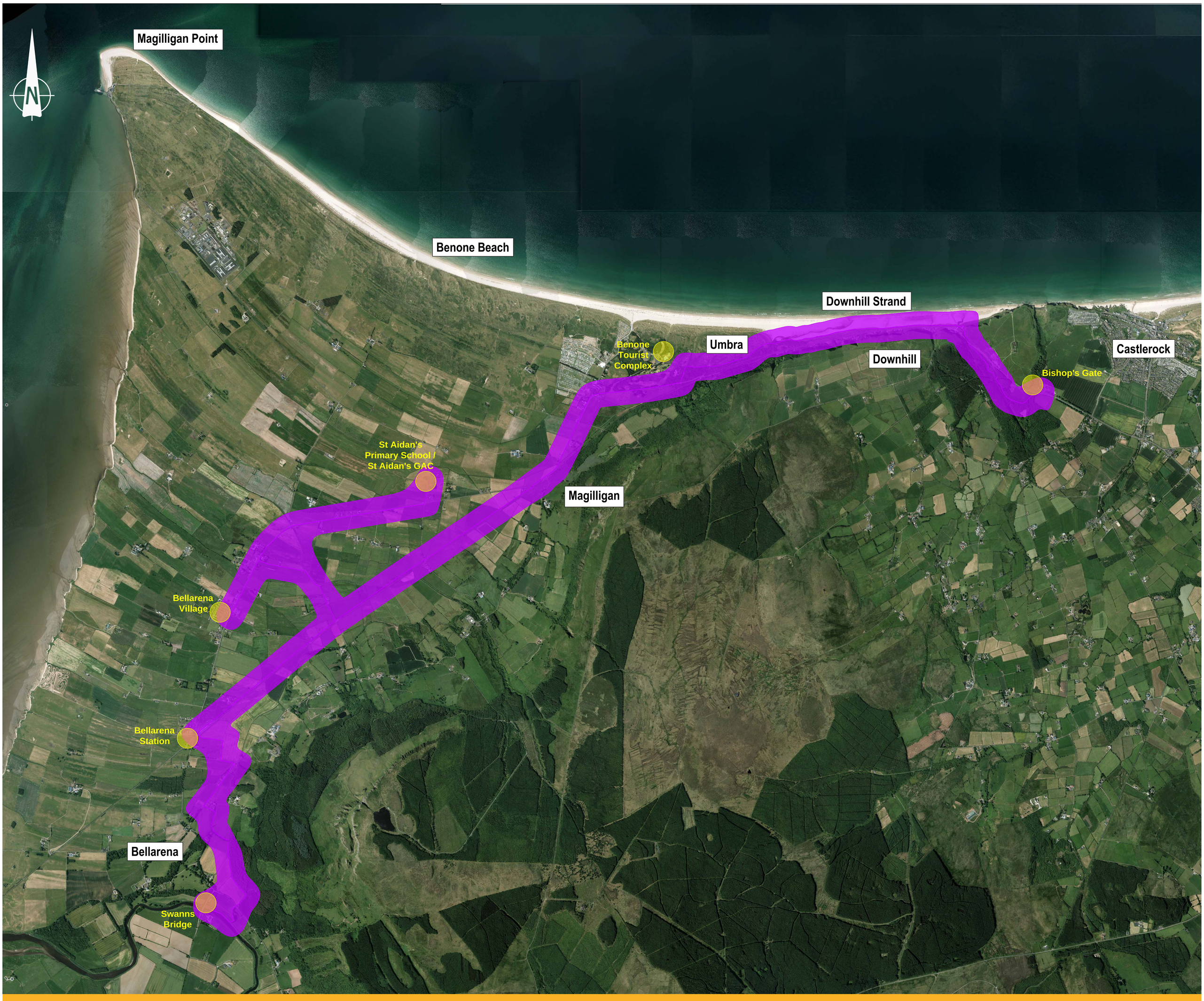
Purple Route

Runs from Swann's Bridge via Ballycarton Woods and Bellarena, then follows the railway corridor towards Magilligan Station before rejoining the Seacoast Road towards Bishop's Gate.



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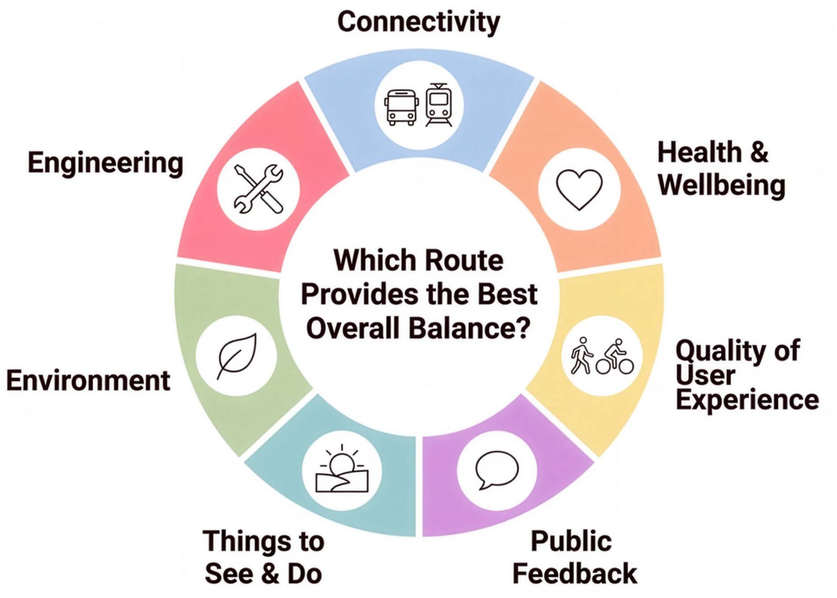
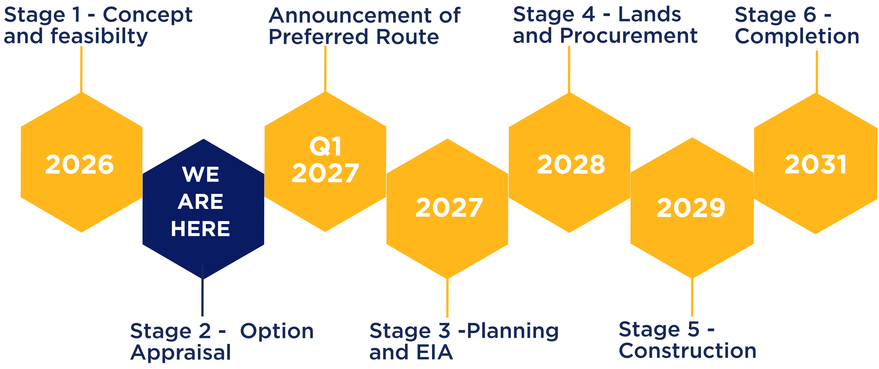
What Happens Next?

Following this public consultation event, each Route Option will be appraised against a range of constraints and opportunities outlined below, this will include your feedback.

The Route Option which scores best following this appraisal will be taken forward as the Preferred Greenway Route.



Project Timeline



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Have Your Say

Thank you for taking the time to attend this Public Consultation on the Bellarena – Bishop's Gate Greenway.

Please complete a **questionnaire** to give us your feedback on the Route Options.

You can also scan the **QR code** below to visit the Project Website and complete the **questionnaire** online

HAVE YOUR SAY

Scan QR code

HAVE YOUR SAY

Consultation Period: Open from 29 Sept until 31 October 2026

The feedback gathered will be used by the Project Team to help develop the Preferred Route.

We will hold a further Public Consultation Event on the Preferred Route in Spring 2027.

Should you have any queries, comments or require any information in an alternative format, please get in touch by:

Email: activetravel@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Tel: 028 9066 7914

Address: DfI Active Travel County Hall, Castlerock Road, Coleraine BT51 3HS

Project website: https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/consultations/bellarena-bishops-gate-greenway-public-consultation-route-options

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