

## 11.6

1. **As noted in a number of submissions to the draft County Development Plan** Carlow needs an up to date LCA Landscape Character Assessment, and HCA Historic Character Assessment, which should include the River Barrow and towpath.
2. Support should not be given to reinstate the Barrow Blueway proposal without these up-to-date documents.
3. An up-to-date LCA and HCA should be included in the County Development Plan 2022-28, or the authority may be under challenge without these documents, particularly for development plans which seek to reinstate plans for the Barrow Blueway already refused by Carlow County Council and An Bord Pleanála.
4. **The River Barrow should be assessed in a new LCA and HCA as a National Heritage Area.**
  - *“10.4 Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) are designated sites of national importance for habitats, species, and for geological interest. Under the Wildlife Act 1976 (as amended), NHAs are legally protected from damage from the date they are formally proposed for designation. The designation of NHAs is the responsibility of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), who are the Heritage Division of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.”*