

Donegal County Council



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (as amended)

Notice pursuant to section 177AE (4) (A) of the Planning And Development Act 2000 (as amended) relating to Appropriate Assessment of a proposed development by Donegal county Council.

(Available for public inspection)

NIS R248 Proposed Footpath/Cycleway from Carrigart to Downings

February 2019

Donegal County Council
Road Design
Lifford
Co. Donegal

Introduction

The Irish Government policy entitled ‘Smarter Travel: A Sustainable Transport Future’ which runs from 2009 to 2020 identifies certain key goals and objectives to be met in order to introduce a national sustainable transport network. A National Cycle Policy (NCP) was implemented to run alongside the main ‘Smarter Travel: A Sustainable Transport Future’ document. The NCP mission states that it wants to ‘create a strong cycling culture in Ireland’ while also ‘encouraging recreational cycling’. The NCP also outlines the importance of the National Cycle Network in attracting overseas tourists.

Downings is a seaside village located on the Rosguill Peninsula in North Donegal with superb beaches and views across Sheephaven Bay. It has become a major tourist destination providing various water sports, deep sea angling, golfing, and walking opportunities for both locals and holiday makers alike.

Carrigart is small village located 3.5km south of Downings is a popular tourist destination because of it’s proximity to the many beaches of nearby Downings. Downings is the start and finishing point for the North Atlantic Drive and part of the overall Wild Atlantic Way tourism route which has been so successful over the past 2 years.



Photo 1 – Starting point of the proposed footpath/cycleway on the Carrigart side at the junction of the R248 and R245



Photo 2 – View of proposed footpath/cycleway location on Downings side of Ballyohagan Bridge



Photo 3 – View of proposed footpath/cycleway location on Downings side of Island Roy junction



Photo 4 – View of proposed footpath/cycleway tie-in location on Carrigart side of the Rosapena Hotel.

Background

Carrigart and Downings have close connections from a business and community aspect. They are linked by the R248, which is a regional road running between the picturesque sand dunes and undeveloped landscape that makes Carrigart and Downings such a popular and attractive location.

The construction of the new footpath/cycleway will enhance the connection between the two communities and will be a positive scheme for Carrigart and Downings.

During the public consultation process the Part 8 Report and drawings shall be circulated to the Donegal County Council Area Roads Engineer, the Office of Public Works (OPW), National Parks and Wildlife Service, Regional Fisheries Board and various other Statutory Undertakers and service providers.

Donegal County Council is the proposed contracting authority for the works contract for this scheme. Drawings showing the layout of the proposed footpath/cycleway scheme including location and extents are included in Appendix A.

Design and General Factors

The scheme is located within the Sheephaven SAC (Code 001190). Sheephaven SAC covers an area of approximately 1841 hectares. Sheephaven Bay is a north facing bay, situated north of Creeslough on the north-west coast of Co. Donegal. The site occupies the entire inner part of the bay, and includes the intertidal area at Carrigart. A portion

of the proposed development (1km approximately) lies within the Sheephaven Special Area of Conservation (SAC site code 001190).

The existing R248 road has a cross section width of approximately 5.5m with verges varying in width from 2m to 4m. A combined footpath and cycleway has been proposed along the R248 for approximately 2.3km. The new proposed footpath/cycleway will be located in the existing verge area and will enhance the existing infrastructure that links both Carrigart and Downings and provide a safer environment for pedestrians and cyclists currently using this route.

The proposed location for the footpath/cycleway will be on the left hand side of the R248 when travelling in the Carrigart to Downings direction, commencing at the junction of the R248/R245 in the townland of Umlagh. The proposed footpath/cycleway will remain on the left hand side of the R248 for the entirety of the scheme with an uncontrolled crossing point and minor junction realignment at the junction with the L-1042 in the townland of Ballyohagan. The proposed works will eventually tie-in to the existing footpath at Downings at a location adjacent to the Rosapena Hotel in the townland of Magherabeg.

Donegal County Council carried out a Screening Report to assess if the development would have an effect on the Natura 2000 site. It was concluded that a Natura Impact Statement would be required.

Donegal County Council appointed Woodrow Sustainable Solutions Ltd. to carry out a Natura Impact Statement in line with the EC Habitat Directive (92/43/EEC) for the proposed project as the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht stated that the development would have potential impact on the priority habitat and would likely have a significant effect on the Natura 2000 site.

This Natura Impact Statement identified the particular types of effect that have potential for adverse impact on the integrity of Sheephaven SAC in the vicinity of the proposal. The statement identifies mitigation measures to avoid and minimise these effects so that the structure and functions of the SAC are not affected, thus demonstrating that the proposal can be mitigated to avoid adverse impact. The incorporation of these mitigation measures in full during construction will ensure that there will be no significant effects, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, on the conservation interests or conservation objectives of the Sheephaven SAC. Furthermore, the provision of the footpath/cycleway is likely to direct walkers and cyclists away from the nearby unfenced machair and fixed dune habitats, and may thus reduce recreational use of these areas.

It is concluded that construction and usage of the proposed footpath/cycleway will not, beyond reasonable scientific doubt, adversely affect the integrity of any European site (Natura 2000 site), either directly, indirectly or cumulatively.

A copy of the report is attached for viewing.

Nature of the Works

It is proposed to carry out construction works to improve pedestrian and cyclist facilities along a section of the R248 in the townlands of Umlagh, Ballyohagan and Magherabeg, between Carrigart and Downings. The proposed footpath/cycleway will commence at the junction of the R248 and R245 in the townland of Umlagh. The proposed footpath/cycleway will proceed in a north westerly direction and finish tying into the existing footpath at a location adjacent to the Rosapena Hotel in the townland of Magherabeg. An uncontrolled crossing point will be installed at the junction of the R248 and the L-1042 in the townland of Ballyohagan.

The footpath/cycleway width varies from a minimum of 2m to a maximum of 3m depending on existing conditions such as boundary walls, fences and drainage channels. Appropriate surface markings and signage will be installed to indicate the shared nature of the path.

The specification of the construction works and the materials to be used, are as specified in the TII publication “Rural Cycle Scheme Design – DN-GEO-03047 – April 2014” with cognisance of the recommendations included in the “Strategy for the Future Development of Greenways – Public Consultation Paper – May 2017” published by the Dept. of Transport, Tourism and Sport.

The proposed works shall include kerbing, surfacing and accommodation works. The junction between the R248 and the L-1042 will receive minor improvement as part of the works. The overall extents of the works are shown on drawing number CDFC-001.

It is proposed to dispose of unsuitable or surplus materials off-site at a location to be agreed with Donegal County Council’s representative on site and in accordance with the Natura Impact Statement.

Principal Features

The footpath/cycleway width varies from a minimum of 2m to a maximum of 3m depending on existing conditions such as boundary walls, fences and drainage channels. Appropriate surface markings and signage will be installed to indicate the shared nature of the path.

The proposed location for the footpath/cycleway, will be on the left hand side of the R248 when travelling in the Carrigart to Downings direction.

The proposed works shall include kerbing, surfacing and accommodation works. The junction between the R248 and the L-1042 will be improved as part of the works.

Materials required for the construction of the footpath/cycleway and all materials required for common fill up to formation level will be sourced from a suitable approved location and in accordance with the Natura Impact Statement.

The footpath/cycleway will be drained to the inside by means of crossfall on the finished surface. The run-off from the road will be directed to the drains by means of the crossfall and road gullies where necessary.

All existing utilities, i.e. water, sewerage, ESB & Eircom services, affected by the works will be relocated or replaced in consultation with the relevant authorities.

The Council will provide all warning signs and traffic control necessary for the safe execution of the works and will ensure that traffic disruption be kept to a minimum.

List of Drawings & Documents on Display

Drawing Number	Drawing Title	Scale
CDFC - TP	Cover Sheet	N/A
CDFC - 001	Extents of Project	As Shown
CDFC – 002 to CDFC - 006	Horizontal Alignments	As Shown
CDFC – 007a to CDFC – 007c	Typical Cross Sections	N/A
No.	Document Name	Type of Document
1.	R248 Carrigart to Downings Footpath/Cycleway NIS Notice	Viewing Document
2.	Natura Impact Statement Proposed Cycleway/Footpath from Carrigart to Downings, Co. Donegal	Viewing Document

Natura Impact Statement Notice



**AN TACHT UM PLEANÁIL AGUS FORBAIRT 2000
(ARNA LEASÚ)
NA RIALACHÁIN UM PLEANÁIL AGUS FORBAIRT 2001
(ARNA LEASÚ)**

**FÓGRA DE BHUN ALT 177AE (4) (A) DEN ACHT PLEANÁLA AGUS FORBARTHA 2000
(ARNA LEASÚ) MAIDIR LE MEASÚNÚ TOMCHUI AR FORBAIRT BHEARTAITHE AG
COMHAIRLE CONTAE DHÚN NA NGALL**

Tábhair faoi de ara go bhfuil sé i gceist ag Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGal, cead a lorg ó An Bord Pleanála chun comhchosán siúil agus rothlucht a thógail in aice le Bóthar Réigiúnach an R248 Carrig Airt, go dtí na Dúnalbh.

Uimh.	Teideal	Uimh. Bhóthair	Bailte Fearainn	Oifig Áitiúil Bóithre le Pleanáina a Scrúdú
1	Comhchosán siúil agus rothlucht a thógail	R248	Bailte Eochagáin agus Machaire Loiscthe	Ionad Seirbhíse Poiblí Bhaile na nGalloglach agus Ionad Seirbhíse Poiblí Leitir Ceannainm

Cur Síos agus Méideanna

Tá sé beartaithe comhchosán siúil agus rothlucht a thógail in aice leis an R248 ar an Bóthar Réigiúnach Carrig Airt go dtí na Dúnalbh. Tá sé beartaithe go rachadh sé seo ar feadh imeall iartharach an R248, óna thús cóngarach do Charraig Airt go dtí a comhail leis an mhionbhóthar cóngarach d'Ostán Mhachaire Loiscthe agus don Lathair Ghallí na Dúnalbh. Is ionann seo agus achar lomán de thart fa 2.6km. Ar feadh cuid mhór dá fhad, tá sé i gceist go mbeidh an comhchosán siúil/rothlucht 3m ar leithead agus beidh sé ag úsáid an imill atá ar thaobh an bhóthair faoi láthair. Ar an taobh ó dheas den uimh, tá stráice de dhromchla crua ann ar an imeall, agus san áit seo tá sé beartaithe cosán comhromtha a chruthú a bheas thart fa 2m ar leithead, sa dóigh is go rachadh síse isteach sa chuid seo. Beidh i gceist sna hoibreacha bainistíochta, tochaill, iasgán colbhaí, do breacha coinneála, cúl-ionadh agus aon obair ghaolmhair eile.

Tá Ráiteas Tionchair Natura uimhathé i dtaca leis an fhorbairt atá beartaithe. D'fhéadfadh An Bord Pleanála cead a thabhairt don iarratas le coilrínollacha, nó gan dhóimhollacha, nó d'fhéadfadh sí ad an t-iarratas ar fhorbairt a dhíliú. Is féidir an Ráiteas Tionchair Natura a scrúdú saor in aisce nó a cheannach, ar chostas nach mó ná an costas réasúnta a bheadh i gceist le cóip a dhéanamh, san oifig faite in Ionad Seirbhíse Poiblí Bhaile na nGalloglach, An Phríomhshuíd, Baile na nGalloglach, nó san oifig faite in Ionad Seirbhíse Poiblí Leitir Ceannainm, Bóthar Neill T Bhléine, Leitir Ceannainm. Is féidir an Ráiteas Tionchair Natura a scrúdú dír 9:00am - 12:30pm agus 1:00pm - 4:30pm. Ón Mairt 26 Feabhra 2019 go dtí An hAoine 12 Aibreán 2019.

Is féidir aigineachtar agus tuairimí maidir leis an fhorbairt a tabairt le do bheir leis: (i) na himpleachtaí a bheadh ag an fhorbairt bheartaithe do phleanáil, chul agus forbairt inbhuanaithe an cheantair atá i gceist,

(ii) na tionchair ar dócha a bheadh ag an fhorbairt bheartaithe ar an timpeallacht, Eorpach, má chuirtear i gcrích í.

A dhéanamh saor in aisce chuig An Bord Pleanála, 64 Sraid Mhaolbhríde, Baile Átha Cliath i ríomh 4.30pm ar an 12 Aibreán 2019.

Tábhair faoi de ara, de réir Alt 120(1)(b)(i) de na Rialacháin um Pleanáil agus Forbairt 2001 (arna leasú) fa' cirneadh deanta ag Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGal, bunaithe ar rianú scrúdú ar nádúr, ar mhéid agus ar shuíomh na forbairt, nach bhfuil ga le Measúnaí Tionchair Timpeallachta.

Signed: **John G McLaughlin, Stúthóir Seirbhíse, Bóithre & Iompar, Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGal, Teach an Chontae, Leifear**

26 Feabhra 2019

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED)
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001
(AS AMENDED)**

NOTICE PURSUANT TO SECTION 177AE (4) (A) OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED) RELATING TO APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT OF A PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT BY DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Take Notice Donegal County Council proposes to seek the approval of An Bord Pleanála for the construction of a combined footpath and cycleway adjacent to the R248 Carrigart to Downings Regional Road.

No.	Title	Road No.	Townlands	Local Authority Offices For Viewing Plans
1	Construction of a combined footpath cycleway	R248	Ballyoghagan & Rosepenna	Milford Public Services Centre & Letterkenny Public Services Centre

Description and Extents

It is proposed to construct a combined footpath and cycleway adjacent to the R248 on the Carrigart to Downings regional road. This is planned to extend along the western margin of the R248, from its beginning near Carrigart to its junction with a minor road close to the Rosepenna Hotel and Golf Resort in Downings. This represents a total distance of approximately 2.6km. For much of its length, the combined footpath/cycleway is proposed to be 3m in width and will occupy the existing roadside verge. At the southern end of the site, the verge is replaced by a strip of hardstand and in this location it is proposed to create a shared pathway which is approximately 2m in width so as to fit within this area. The works will involve traffic management, excavation, kerb laying, concrete works, backfilling and any associated accommodation works.

A Natura Impact Statement has been prepared in respect of the proposed development. An Bord Pleanála may give approval to the application for development with or without conditions or may refuse the application for development.

The Natura Impact Statement can be inspected free of charge or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the front desk of Milford PSC, Main Street, Milford or at the front desk of Letterkenny PSC, Neil T Blaney Road, Letterkenny. The Natura Impact Statement may be inspected between the hours of 9:00am - 12:30 pm and 1:00pm - 4:30 p.m. from Tuesday 26th February 2019 to Friday 12th April 2019.

Submission and observations with respect to the proposed development dealing with: (i) The implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development in the area concerned.

(ii) The likely effects on the environment of the proposed development.

(iii) The likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European site, if carried out.

Can be made free of charge to the board at An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 before 4:30pm on the 12th April 2019.

Note that in accordance with Article 120(1)(b)(i) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) Donegal County Council has concluded, based on a preliminary examination of the nature, size and location of the development, that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required.

Signed: **John G McLaughlin, Director of Service, Roads & Transportation, Donegal County Council, County House, Lifford**

26th February 2019

Advertised in the Tirconnail Tribune on Tuesday 26th February 2019.

Drawings