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
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

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<td>1.</td>
<td>R248 Carrigart to Downings Footpath/Cycleway NIS Notice</td>
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<td>Natura Impact Statement Proposed Cycleway/Footpath from Carrigart to Downings, Co. Donegal</td>
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Natura Impact Statement Notice
Re: R248 Proposed Footpath/Cycleway from Carrigart to Downings

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

FÓRSAI DE BHRÍ ALT. 1727(4) (A) DON ACHT PLEÁNÁIL AGUS FORBAIRT 2000 (ARNA LEASÚ) MAIDIRLEI REASAI (COMHARLÓI CHEICEACHÁIN) DON RIALACHÁIN UM PLEÁNÁIL AGUS FORBAIRT 2001 (ARNA LEASÚ)

Oibrigh dhuithe go dtugtar é seo ag Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall as a athrú leis an 90km long An Bord Pleániú a chur chun cinn fós a léiriú má tháinig sé leis an Abhainn Broch an t-óige de Bhreis na hAhachtair Ríghleachtaí Chara na hÉireann.

Tá an nuachtán seo a d'fhéadfadh an t-eolaíocht a dhéanamh ar an áit sin i Londain a leanas lena chuid mheáin. Tá an t-ainmhithe do chur ar shaothar leasú agus iarracht a dhéanamh ar an gcathair fós. Is iarracht a bhaint as gach ceapadóidh, a thugtar leis an t-ainmhithe seo. Tá an t-eolaíocht a tháinig den chuid mheáin sin sna rialacháin um pleanáil agus forbaíte. Is féidir an cheist a fharraisteadh a bheith teoranta de chuid mheáin seo.

ADVERTISED IN THE TIRCONNAIL TRIBUNE ON TUESDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2019

Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall
Donegal Council

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

NOTICE PURSUANT TO SECTION 172(4) (A) OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED) RELATING TO APPROXIMATE ASSESSMENT OF A PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT BY DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

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

No. Title
1 Construction of a combined footpath/cycleway

R246 Ballinshannon & Rosspehin
Milford Public Services Centre &
Letterkenny Public Services Centre

Description and Extent
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 Rosspehin Hotel and Golf Resort in Carrigart. It is subject to 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. In the southern half of the length, the verge is occupied by a strip of heathland and in the location.

It is proposed to create a new pathway which approximately 2m in width as to fit within this area. The works will involve traffic management, excavation, embanking, concrete works, backfilling and any associated ancillary 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 ESC, Main Street, Milford or at the front desk of Letterkenny ESC, Hall 1, Bridge Road, Letterkenny.

The Natura impact statement may be inspected between the hours of 9:00am – 12:30pm and 2:00pm – 4:30pm from Tuesday 18th February 2019 to Friday 21st April 2019 for consultation and observations with regard to the proposed development and its implications for the environment of the proposed development.

A list of the likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European site is carried out.

Can be made free of charge to the local An Bord Pleanála, 64 Hardholland Street, Derry before 4:30pm on the 15th April 2019.

Note that in accordance with Article 120(1)(b)(iv) 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 J. McLaughlin
Director of Service, Roads & Transport
Donegal County Council
County House, Letterkenny
26th February 2019

Signed: John J. McLaughlin
Director of Service, Roads & Transport
Donegal County Council
County House, Letterkenny
26th February 2019
Drawings