



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Part 8 Planning Report

Kilconieron Burial Ground Extension



April 2026

1. Introduction

This planning report is to accompany an application under Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations for the development of an extension to the burial ground in Kilconieron in the townland of Hollypark, County Galway. The report describes the proposed works and policy considerations; and the impact of the new burial ground from a planning perspective.

The proposed development is required for the parish of Kilconieron as the existing burial ground has reached its capacity. There are approximately 3-4 new plots purchased in the burial ground per year. This proposed burial ground would provide for 180 double burial plots and 10 urn plots.

2. Site Location & Layout

The site of the proposed development is adjacent to the existing cemetery at Kilconieron which is located approximately 8 km south east of Athenry. The site measures 0.7 acres and comprises of a level field of agricultural grassland.

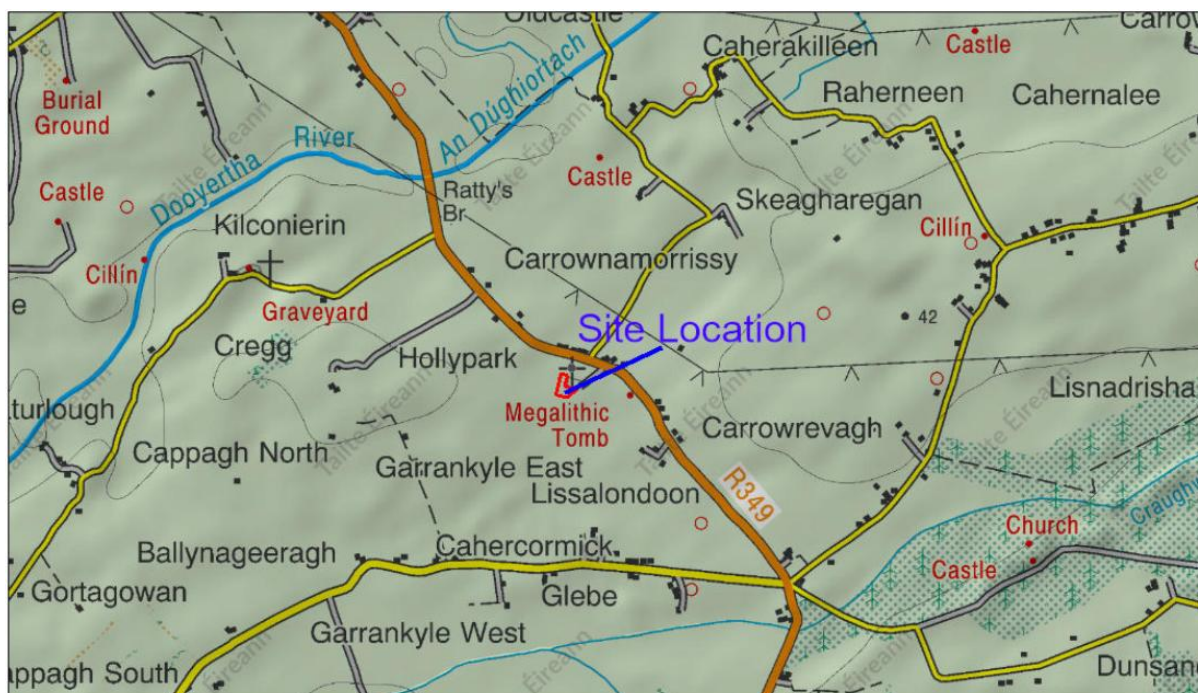


Fig 1 : Location Map

The proposed development involves the extension of the existing burial ground onto adjoining lands. The proposed extension will provide 180 no double grave plots and 10 Urn plots for the interment of cremated remains.

To facilitate the integration of the existing and new burial areas, the southern and western boundary walls of the current burial ground will be removed creating a single, continuous site. A new concrete post and chain link fence will be constructed along the perimeter of the extended burial ground. In addition, native hedging species will be planted along the new boundary line. This landscaping will enhance local biodiversity, provide ecological habitats, and create natural visual screening and privacy from the public road and surrounding areas.

Access within the extended burial ground will be improved through the construction of a 4 metre wide internal roadway. This road will commence at the existing church entrance, run along the side of the church, and continue the full length of the new burial ground extension. A hammerhead turning area will be provided at the end of the roadway to allow safe and efficient vehicle movements for hearse access and service vehicles. If suitable, six existing trees will be carefully relocated from the proposed roadway area and replanted in the adjacent field to preserve site biodiversity and maintain the landscape character.

Overall, the proposed works will ensure the expansion of the burial ground while enhancing accessibility, environmental value, and visual integration with the surrounding landscape.

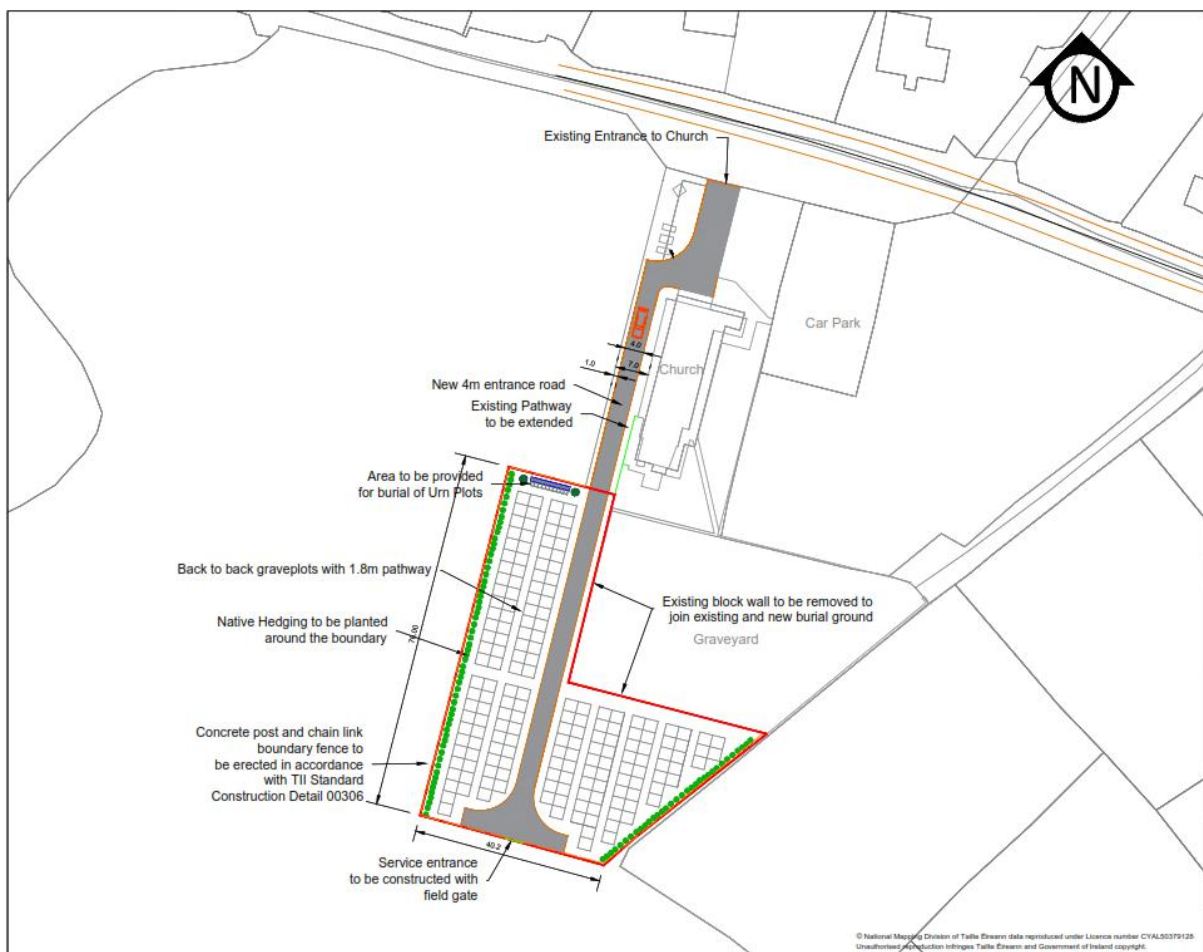


Fig 2 : Proposed layout

3. Site History

The site is currently in use as pasture land and it is understood has always been used for agricultural purposes. There are no previous planning applications on this site.

Policy and Objectives

Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028

11.19 Places of Worship and Burial Grounds / Crematoriums

The Council has a responsibility for the provision of burial grounds including as necessary, the acquisition of lands and the undertaking of any necessary works on these lands. The Planning Authority has a role in ensuring that adequate land is reserved to accommodate burial grounds in accordance with future needs within the county.

Policy Objectives Places of Worship and Burial Grounds / Crematoriums

PWB 2 Burial Grounds - Facilitate the development and maintenance of new burial grounds and the extension of existing cemeteries at all appropriate locations that meet the required standards.

4. Appraisal of Impact of Proposed Development.

Landscape Character Assessment (Galway County Development Plan 2022 – 2028) :

- Landscape Character Area: **Central Galway Complex Landscape**
- Landscape Sensitivity: **Low**

The subject site is located in an area categorised of Low Landscape Sensitivity.

The proposed development will be an extension to the existing burial ground and will be consistent with the character of the adjacent burial ground. Native Landscape hedging will be planted along the boundary of the burial ground ensuring minimal visual impact on the surrounding area.

Road Safety:

The proposed development will utilise the existing accesses to the church grounds and car park from the R349. Vehicular access for hearses and service vehicles will access through the church entrance along a newly constructed internal road. Pedestrian access will be served from the car park to the burial ground via pathways along by the church.



Fig 3: Existing Church entrance from R-349 (Google Map,2025)



Fig 4: Existing Church entrance from R-349

Car Parking:

The proposed development will utilise the existing parking facilities serving the Church and burial ground. As this project will be an extension of the existing burial facility for the local community, there is not expected to be an increase in traffic volumes arising from the development.



Fig 5: Church Parking Area

Archaeology:

- Recorded Monuments

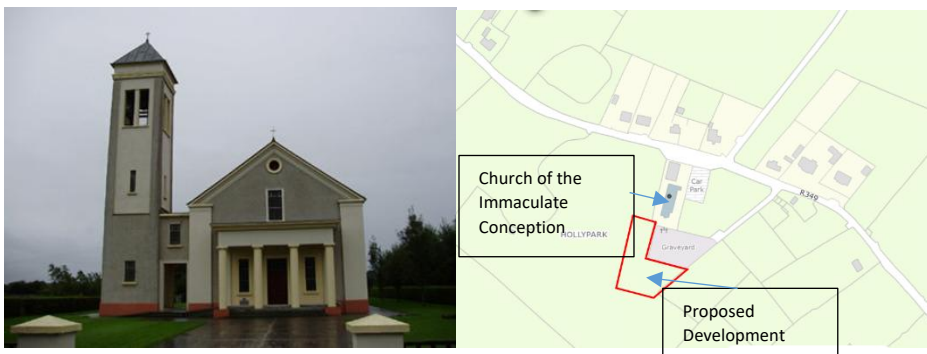
There are no recorded monuments in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development.

- Protected Structures

There is one protected structure recorded immediate vicinity of the proposed development.

- RPS number: 3759 Church of the Immaculate Conception

The protected structure is also included in the National inventory of Architectural Heritage.



The proposed development will not impact the Protected Structures.

Flood Risk:

The site of the proposed development is not located within a flood risk area per OPW CFRAM Flood Mapping.

Habitats Directive:

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening was carried out by the Moore Group, and the report is attached to this application. The report states that there is no connectivity to any European sites within or outside the potential Zone of Influence. There are no predicted effects on any European sites given: The distance between the Proposed Development and any European Sites, approximately 5.7km; The lack of direct connectivity between the Proposed Development and any hydrological pathways; there are no watercourses within the Proposed Development boundary and there is no connectivity between the Proposed Development site and any watercourses that lead to any European sites; There are no predicted emissions to air, water or the environment during the construction or operational phases that would result in significant effects.

The report concludes that the development *can be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site and An Appropriate Assessment is therefore not required.*

Public Health:

Three trial holes were inspected by the HSE, and the report is included in the appendices. It concludes "The soil quality was noted to be good. There were some large rocks present, but bedrock was not reached in the trial holes that were inspected. The site is determined as suitable for use as a burial ground. There are no objections from this department to the extension of the burial ground on this site."

The water supply in the area is supplied from the Kilconieron Group Water Scheme (GWS) which abstracts water from a borehole approximately 800m from the development. In the absence of specific Irish Guidance on the separation distances and burial grounds, reference can be made to the EPA 2009 Code of Practice (CoP) for Waste Water Treatment Systems and with regard to a safe distance between a discharge and a karst feature or domestic well or a Public Water Supply well, the information presented in Table B3 of the CoP (see Appendix) recommends that the minimum distance is 60m for an active water supply. The separation distance between the proposed burial ground extension and the Kilconieron GWS abstraction borehole significantly exceeds this minimum recommended distance.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

The proposed site is considered a suitable location for an extension to the existing Burial ground at Kilconieron.

Mike Melody

Environment Section

Galway County Council

Appendix:

- Report for the purposes of Appropriate Assessment Screening- Kilconieron Graveyard Extension by Moore Group Environmental Services, February 2026.
- Letter from HSE re Proposed Burial Ground Extension, Kilconieron, December 2025
- Table B3 extract from EPA 2009 Code of Practice (CoP) for Wastewater Treatment Systems