



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Part 8 Planning Report

Muslim Burial Ground

Tuam



May 2026

1. Introduction

This planning report is to accompany an application under Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations for the development of a dedicated Muslim burial space adjacent to the burial ground in Tuam Town in the townland of Farrannabox. The report describes the proposed works and policy considerations and the impact of the new burial space from a planning perspective.

The proposed development would provide capacity for 46 single burials plots for persons within the Muslim Community resident in the Galway County administrative area. The designated area would facilitate uncoffined burials which is a tradition of the Muslim faith. The Health Service Executive have in consideration of Statutory Instruments No. 144/2013 Burial Ground (Amendment) Regulations, 2013 deemed the area suitable for this purpose.

2. Site Location & Layout

The site of the proposed development is adjacent to the main cemetery in Tuam town located off the Athenry Road. The site is in the ownership of Galway County Council, measures 0.095 acres and comprises of a field of improved grassland.



Fig 1 : Location Map

The proposed development will consist of a new gateway at the existing boundary wall to an area that will be fenced and hedged enclosing a space for 46 single plots and pathways.

Access to the burial area would be from the existing gateways on the R347, through internal roadway and onwards to the new gated entrance at the designated area.



Fig 2 : One of two entrances from the R347

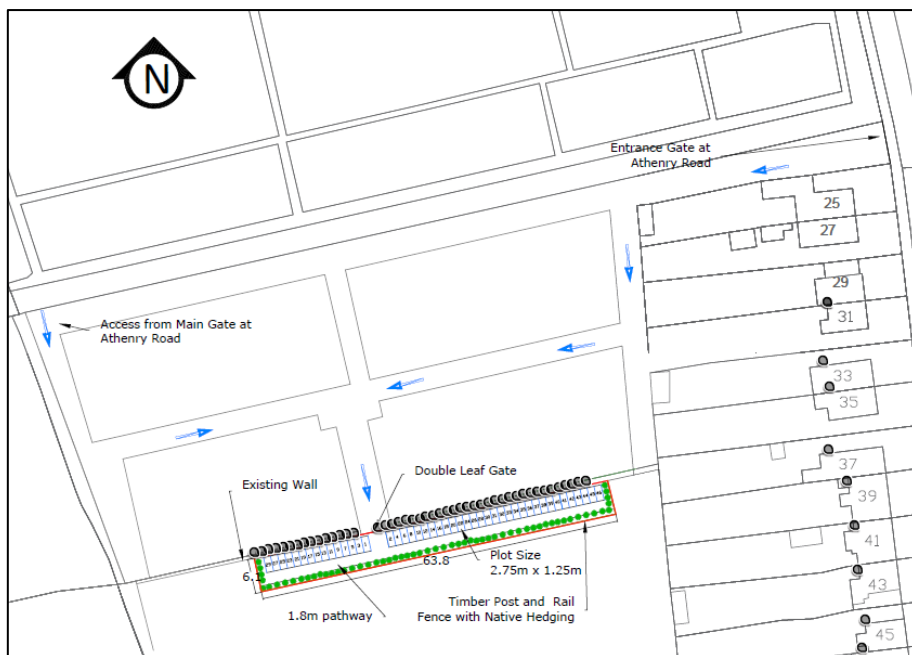


Fig 3 Access to Muslim Burial Area

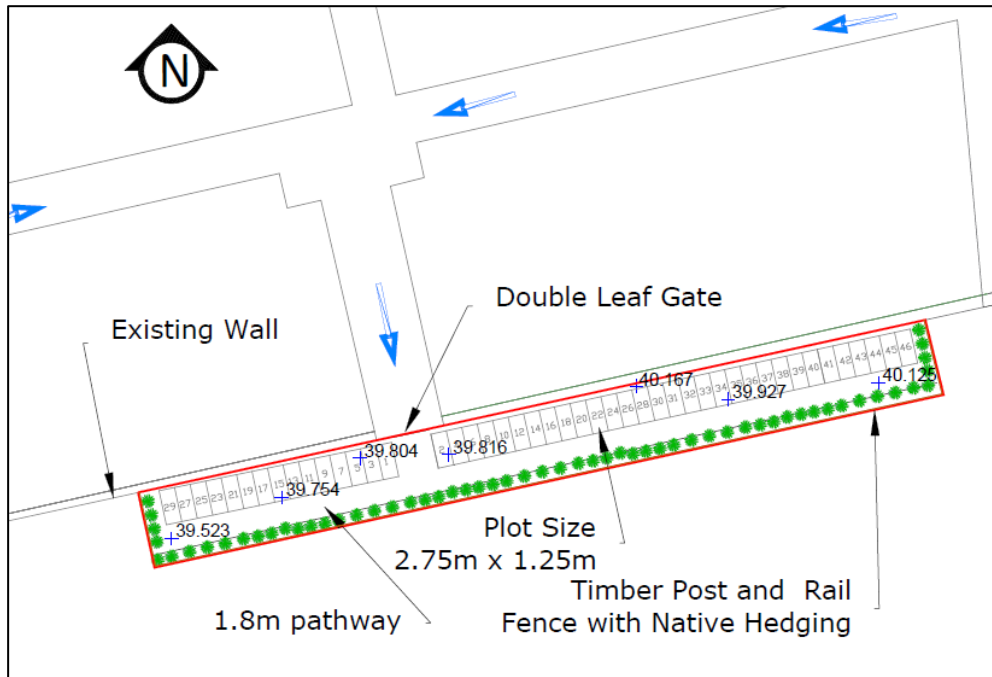


Fig 4 : Proposed layout

3. Site History

The site is owned by Galway County Council and was previously leased to the Dynamo Blues Football Club. The designated area is to the north of the playing pitch space. There are no previous planning applications on this site.

4. Policy and Objectives

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.

The proposed development aligns with the following policy objectives within the ***Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028*** ;

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.

SCI 3: Social Inclusion - Promote social inclusion as outlined in the “Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020 – 2025” through equality of access to services and facilities and to assist in the removal of barriers to full participation in society.

5. Appraisal of Impact of Proposed Development.

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

- Landscape Character: **Urban Environs**
- Landscape Sensitivity: **Low**

The proposed development will be consistent with the character of the adjacent burial ground. The area will be enclosed with timber post and rail fencing and native hedging.

Road Safety:

The proposed development can utilise the existing entrances to the burial grounds from the R347 – Athenry Road, ref. main photo to this report and Figure 2. As this project will be a small extension of the existing burial facility there is not expected to be an increase in traffic movements.

Archaeology & Heritage:

There are no recorded monuments or protected structures in the vicinity of the proposed development.

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 Screening was carried out by Moore Environmental Group who have objectively concluded that ;

1. The Proposed Development is not directly connected with, or necessary to the conservation management of the European sites considered in this assessment.
2. The Proposed Development is not likely to either directly or indirectly significantly affect the Qualifying interests or Conservation Objectives of the European sites considered in this assessment.
3. The Proposed Development, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, is not likely to have significant effects on a European site.
4. It is possible to conclude that significant effects can be excluded at the screening stage.

It 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 any European site, in the absence of any mitigation. An appropriate assessment is not, therefore, required.

Public Health:

Per S.I. No. 144/2013 - Burial Ground (Amendment) Regulations 2013, uncoffined burials may be permitted, unless a direction has been issued not to do so by the relevant sanitary authority or medical officer of health of the sanitary authority.

The HSE's inspection report, which is included with this report, states ;

A depth greater than 7ft was achieved in the trial hole and the soil quality was determined to be good. There was no significant rock present. There does not appear to be any water courses in close proximity to the proposed area. The area is determined as suitable for uncoffined burials.

The water supply in the area comes from the Tuam Regional Water Supply network which is supplied from an abstraction in Lough Corrib at Luimneagh, Co. Galway.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

The proposed site is considered a suitable location for the provision of a designated uncoffined burial space for the Muslim Community within Galway County and we hereby seek permission for this planning application.

Mike Melody

Environment Section

Galway County Council

Appendix:

- Report for the purposes of Appropriate Assessment Screening, Tuam Burial Ground Extension by Moore Group Environmental Services, April 2026.
- Letter from HSE re Proposed Uncoffined Burial Area at Tuam Cemetery, December 2025.