



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Part 8 Planning Report

Tynagh Burial Ground Extension



May 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 Tynagh in the townlands of Tynagh & Derrybeg, Loughrea, 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 Tynagh as the existing burial ground is reaching full capacity. This proposed burial ground would provide for 326 single burial plots (163 double plots) and 12 urn plots.

2. Site Location & Layout

The site of the proposed development is in the village of Tynagh and adjacent to the existing cemetery at the north end. The site is in the ownership of Galway County Council, measures 0.575 acres and comprises of a field of recently cleared vegetative overgrowth.



Fig 1 : Location Map

Access to the extended burial ground area will be via an extension to the existing internal road which connects with the L-4312 public road. A turning head will be provided at the end of the extension to facilitate manoeuvring of hearse and service vehicles.

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

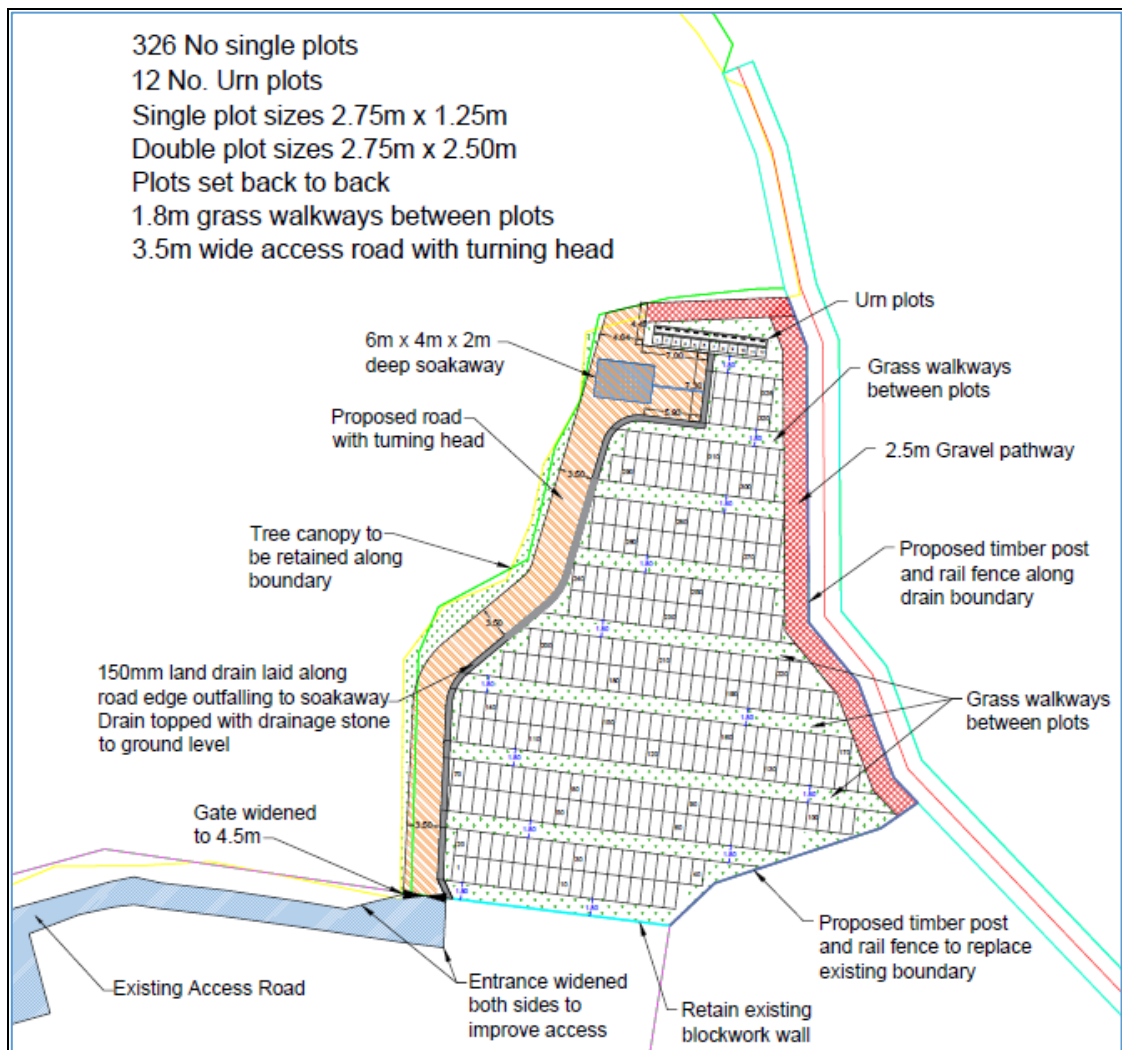


Fig 2 : Proposed layout

3. Site History

The site is currently unused and was until recently overgrown until it was cleared to enable site investigations to be carried out. There are no previous planning applications on this site.

4. Policy and Objectives

Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028

Per Section 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.

This proposal supports the following policy objective ;

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.

5. 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 proposed development will be consistent with the character of the adjacent burial ground. The tree line to the west of the site will be preserved and the boundaries to the east and south will be established with timber post and rail fencing.

Road Safety:

The proposed development will utilise the existing access to the burial grounds from the L4312. Vehicular access for hearses and service vehicles will enter the proposed development through a continuation of the existing internal road. As this project will be an extension of the existing community 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 (AA) Screening was carried out by the Moore Group, and the report is attached to this application. The report states the nearest European site to the Proposed Development is the Slieve Aughty Mountains SPA (Site Code 004168), 5.63km to the southwest. There is no connectivity to this European site and it is screened out at this preliminary screening stage. The Lough Derg North-east Shore SAC (Site Code 002241) and Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA (Site Code 004058) both lie directly 9.2km to the southeast. The proposed site is bounded to the east by a drainage ditch which has connectivity to the Boleynaminna Stream which leads to the Kilcrow River c. 7km downstream, which then flows into Lough Derg over 13km downstream in total. There will be no interaction with the adjacent drainage ditch, and the large distance is such that the Lough Derg European sites are considered to be outside the zone of influence of the proposed development.

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:

Five trial holes were inspected by the HSE and related correspondence is included in the appendices. In summary the HSE state ; *The soil quality was noted to be quite good. There was no significance bedrock reached in any of the trial holes. There was a small amount of water in two of the holes on the day of inspection but there was heavy rainfall the night before. The site is determined as suitable for use as a burial ground.*

The water supply in the area is supplied from the Tynagh Group Water Scheme (GWS) which abstracts water from a borehole approximately 1km from the proposed development site.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

The proposed site is considered a suitable location for an extension to the existing burial ground at Tynagh and would provide an essential facility for the future needs of the community.

Mike Melody

Environment Section

Galway County Council

Appendix:

- Report for the purposes of Appropriate Assessment Screening Tynagh Graveyard *Extension* by Moore Group Environmental Services, March 2026.
- Letter from HSE re Proposed Burial Ground Extension, Tynagh, March 2026