



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Planning Report

Claregalway Burial Ground Part 8



November 2022

1. Introduction

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

The current cemetery serving the community of Claregalway has no new plots available for burials. This development proposes to create a burial ground with 261 no. double plot spaces, on site car parking and a new entrance road.

2. Site Location & Access

The site is located c. 2km south west of Claregalway Church in the townland of Cregboy. The proposed development is located within a field of improved grassland and covers an area of approximately 1.2 acres within a larger overall agricultural holding. The ground is generally flat and is currently used for grazing. The site lies adjacent to a materials depot owned and operated by the Roads Section of Galway County Council.

The burial ground is proposed to be accessed by a new entrance road from a public right of way off the L-7103. The public right of way serves a number of private dwellings and commercial businesses. The roads section of Galway County Council do not have an objection to taking in charge this road subject to planning permission for the development. The proposed new entrance will be approximately 200m from the L-7103.

The nearest bus stop to the site is located 750m from the site on the N83. The Cloone Bus Stop provides access to the 427 and 428 bus routes. The walking journey time is around 8 minutes from the proposed site.

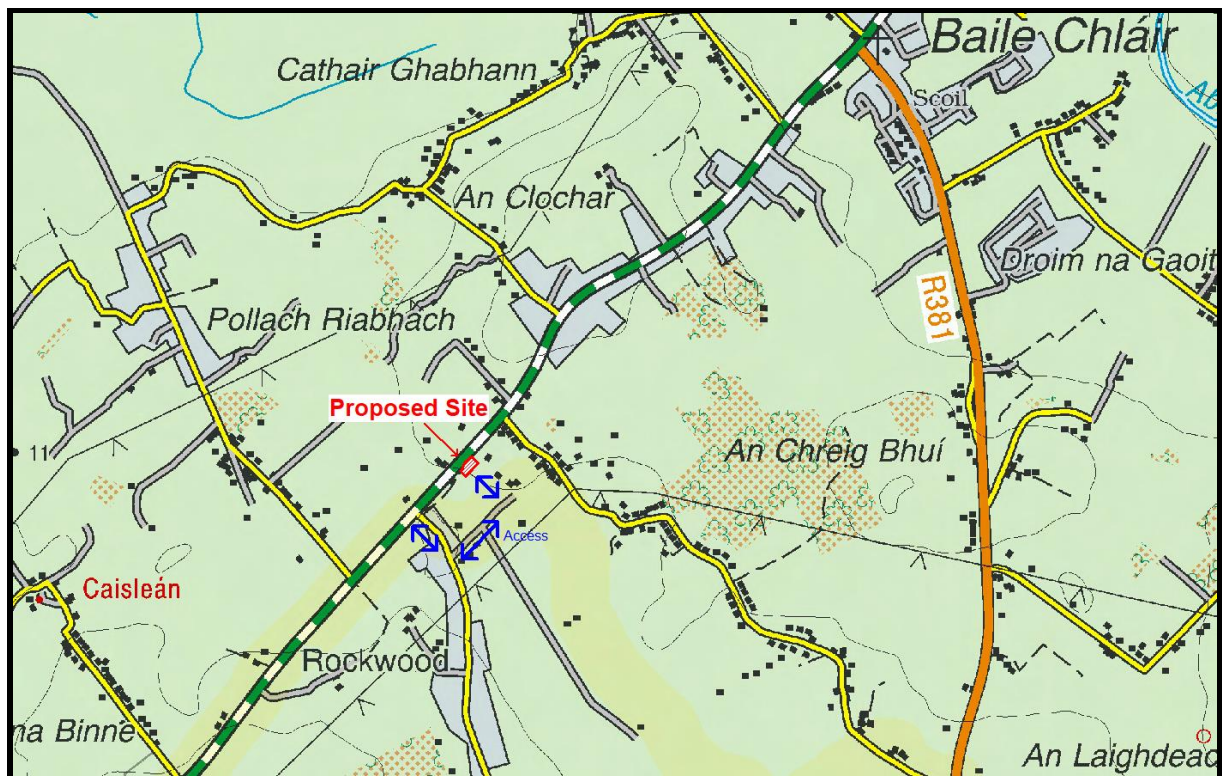


Fig.1 : Proposed Site Location & Access Routes

3. Site History

The site is currently used for grazing horses and it is understood has always been used for agricultural purposes. There are no previous planning applications on this site.

4. Policy and Objectives

The proposed development aligns with the undermentioned Policy Objectives in the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028:

Chapter 11 Community Development and Social Infrastructure

11.19 Places of Worship and Burial Grounds / Crematoriums

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.

5. Appraisal of Impact of Proposed Development

Landscape Rating:

The subject site is located in an area categorised as Class 1 Landscape Sensitivity with a low landscape value.

Road Safety:

It is proposed to create a new access from the public right of way with the required 70 m visibility splays. The right of way is accessed from L-7103. Funeralgoers and visitors will most likely travel via the N-83 to visit the proposed burial grounds. A Traffic & Transportation Assessment has been undertaken by Tobin Consulting Engineers and is provided in Appendix 1. The assessment of the junctions at the N-83, L-7103 and right of way, indicate the junctions will operate within capacity and a comparison of the assessment results with no development and with development scenarios indicates a negligible impact by the addition of the proposed development traffic on these junctions. A road safety audit was scoped out by Tobin due to the minimal impact the proposed development will have on the surrounding road network.



**Fig.2 : Proposed Site
Access / Exit Point
looking North East**



**Fig.3 : Proposed Site
Access / Exit Point
looking South West**

Archaeology:

The subject site is not within a National Monuments Notification Zone and therefore no archaeological impact assessment is required for the proposed development.

Flood Risk:

A Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment (SSFRA) was carried out by IE Consulting and the report is provided in Appendix 2. The site of the proposed burial ground development has been screened, scoped and assessed for flood risk in accordance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines – DoEHLG-2009, and reports that the site of the proposed burial ground development is not susceptible to predictive, indicative, historic or anecdotal fluvial, pluvial or groundwater flooding. The report concludes “In consideration of the findings of this Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment, it is considered that the development as proposed is appropriate from a flood risk perspective”.

Habitats Directive:

An appropriate assessment screening for the proposed developed was performed by Moore Group. The screening report, which is provided in Appendix 3, states there are no predicted effects on any European sites given:

- The distance between the Proposed Development and any European Sites, approximately 2.1km;
- The lack of 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 assessment and analysis undertaken as part of the Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment indicates that the site of the proposed burial ground development is not susceptible to predictive, indicative, historical or anecdotal fluvial, pluvial or groundwater flooding.

The report concludes that “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 a European site and an appropriate assessment is not, therefore, required”.

Aquifer Classification :

The Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) has developed a classification system for aquifers based on the value of the resource and their hydrogeological characteristics. The rock unit group in the Cregboy area is Dinantian Pure Bedded Limestones and the bedrock aquifer is classified as regionally important. The proposed site is not within a zone of contribution for a group water scheme and locally water is supplied by Irish Water from the Luimneagh network.

Public Health :

An inspection report from the HSE is provided in Appendix 2, following examination of trial holes excavated on site. The HSE recommends that there is no public health objections to a development with single depth coffins per grave space.

Accessibility :

There will be 15 car parking spaces created including an allocation for disabled parking per National Disability Authorities "Building for Everyone". Dropped kerbing will be installed at crossing points. The site is also in close proximity to the Cloone bus stop.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

The proposed site presents as a suitable location for a burial ground development and we trust you will look favourably on this application.

*Environment Section
Galway County Council*

Appendices :

1. Traffic & Transportation Assessment, Tobin Consulting Engineers
2. Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment, IE Consulting
3. Report for the purposes of Appropriate Assessment Screening, Moore Group
4. Site Suitability Letter, HSE