

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Report to Accompany ABP Application (177AE)

for

River Maintenance Works at Rossaveel Sports Grounds

Sept 2023

**Roads and Transportation,
Galway County Council,
Aras an Chontae,
Prospect Hill,
Galway.**

Phone: 091-509000

Fax: 091-509095

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Introduction

Site Location

Site Description and Flooding Issues

Details of the Proposed Works

Site Photographs

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Site Location: Rossaveel Sports Grounds, Rossaveel, Co. Galway

Introduction

Galway County Council has received funding from the OPW under the Minor Works Scheme for regrading & cleaning of the CASHLA_010 stream & existing drainage system adjacent to Rosaveel Sports Ground. This report is to accompany the application for approval to An Board Pleanala (ABP) to carry out the above works under Section 177AE of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been prepared in respect of the proposed works.

Site Location

The sports grounds are located close to the village of Rossaveel on the R372 in South Conamara, which is approximately 30km west of Galway City. See Fig 1 below. (Co- ordinates: 97,830E, 225,690N)



Fig 1 Site Location Map

Site Description and Flooding Issues

The Sports Ground at Rossaveel is a very important facility to the local community providing many activities for the people especially the youth in the area. A huge effort has been undertaken by the community in developing the field over time where suitable land is unavailable with the area consisting mainly of bog and rock outcrops.

Two rivers, from Derroogh South and Loch an Iolra merge 150m upstream of the sports ground travel along the pitch to Clynagh Bay approximately 500m away to the highwater mark. A section of the stream has become completely overgrown downstream of the pitch resulting in water backing up in the stream, flooding the pitch and damaging it. Existing open drains have been constructed around the pitch to ensure it is dry and playable.

The stream passes under the Rossaveel Bridge on the R372 on its way to the bay which has a 2.4m span and 2.2m high arch and is of sufficient capacity for the volumes of water in the stream. This report includes photos of the flooding at the location and details of proposed mitigation works. Fig 2 shows the location of the Sports Ground close to the village of Rossaveel.

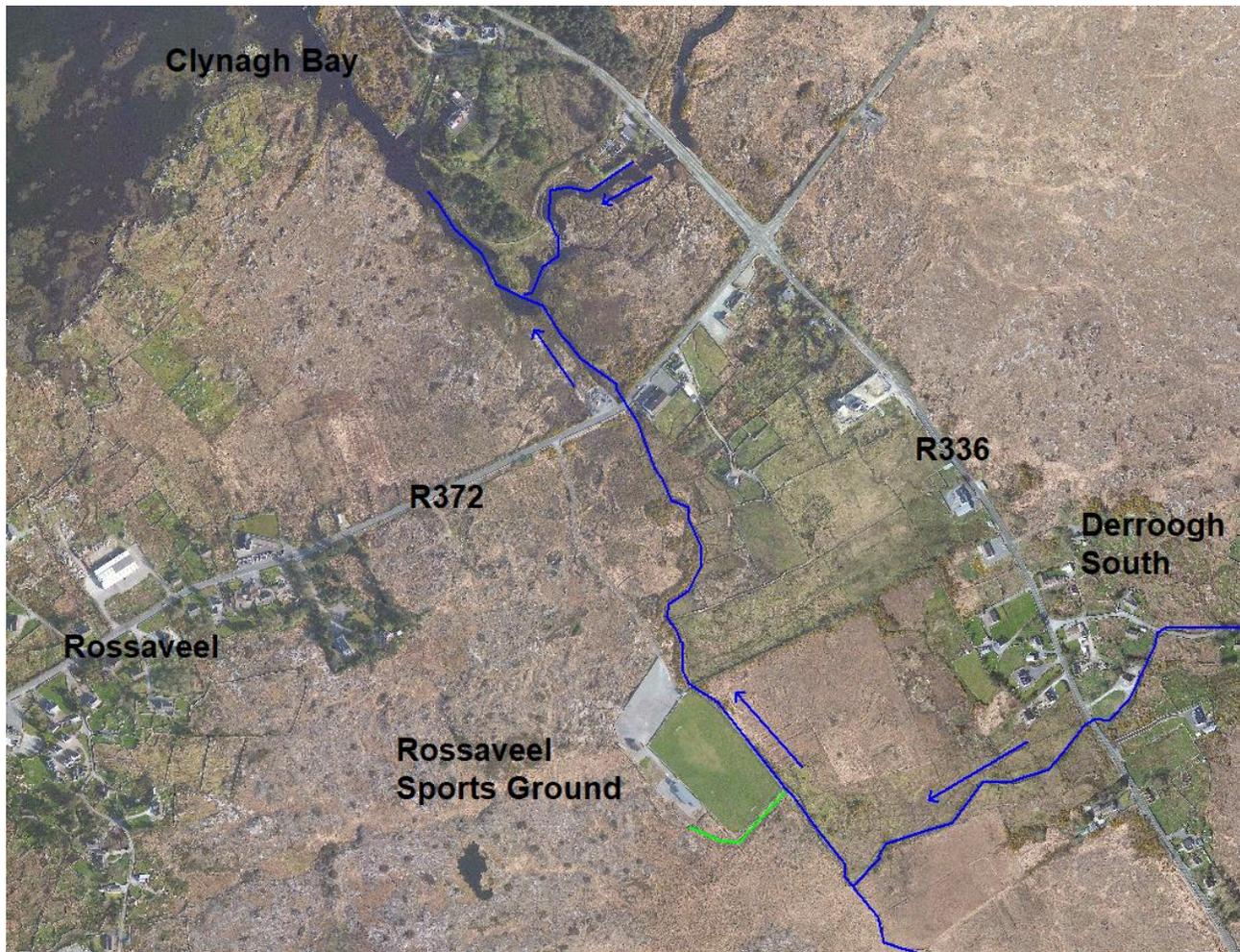


Fig 2 Site Layout Plan

- Existing rivers and streams
- Existing open drain

Details of Proposed Works

The works are to include the removal of vegetation and blockages from the river from the point where the two rivers merge to a point downstream of the sports ground, a total distance of approximately 550m, as shown in Fig 3 below. From there the river is clear and is in a straight line to the sea. The land is soft bog with rock outcrops and some regrading and removal of rock will be required to ensure a constant unrestricted fall away from the sports ground.

Works are to be carried out by a mini digger and operatives with chainsaws and in strictly in accordance with the OPW Environment Management Protocols and Standard Operating Procedures. The mitigation measures outlined in the enclosed Natura Impact Statement (NIS) are to be adhered to also.

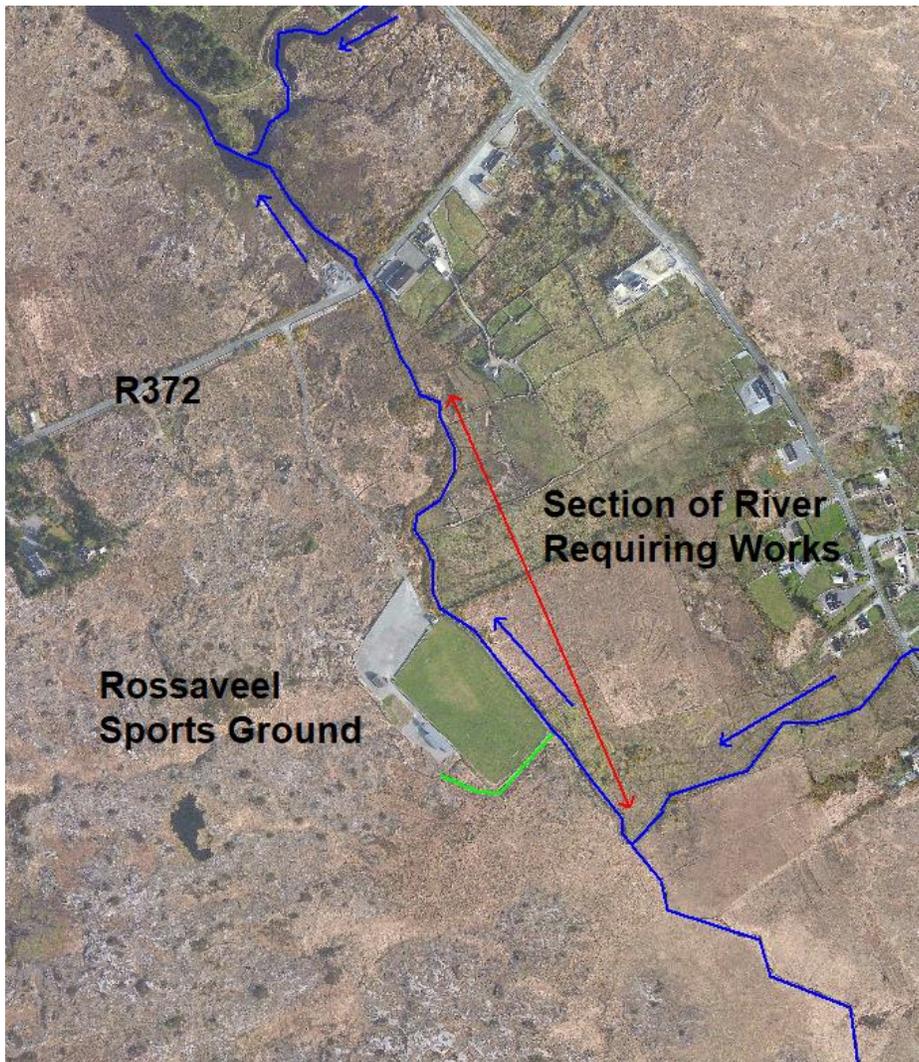


Fig 3 Extent of Works

Site Photographs



Flooding at the Sports Field in Rossaveel. The stream requiring works runs along the pitch, approximately 5m outside the fenceline shown.



Flooding of the storage shed at the Sports Field in Rossaveel.



Flooding of the storage shed at the Sports Field in Rossaveel damaging equipment.



View of the Sports Field showing the area of the stream requiring cleaning works in the foreground.



Downstream view of the river to Rossaveel Bridge and the bay showing no works being required.



Downstream view of the river to Rossaveel Bridge and the bay showing no works being required.



Upstream view of the river from the R372 to the sports ground



Upstream view of the river running along the pitch requiring cleaning works.