



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Part 8 Planning Report

Rinville Burial Ground Extension



April 2025

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 Rinville in the townland of Rinville West, County Galway. The report describes the proposed works and policy considerations and the impact of the new burial ground from a planning perspective.

The existing burial ground in Rinville allows for interments of deceased residents of the City and County of Galway. As it is expected to reach full capacity by 2027 it is appropriate that a new development is progressed at this time. The proposed development will be on Council owned lands and provide for both urn and traditional forms of interment which can include a section as a lawn cemetery if required. This development will create space for 1734 burials plots and 68 urn plots which will accommodate up to two coffins and two urns per plot respectively. The development will also include car parking spaces and an internal link road to the existing burial ground.

2. Site Location & Layout

The site of the proposed development is to the north west of the existing cemetery. A separation of the two sites of approximately 100m is required due to the presence of a recorded ringfort. The cemeteries will be interconnected by an internal road and pathway system. The area for development measures 1.237 hectares and will consist of traditional burial areas, facility for urn plots, internal road and pathways, car parking, seating benches and a maintenance shed. Vehicular access to the development will be via an internal link road from the existing cemetery, which is accessed from the L-8104 Oranmore to Maree road.



Fig 1 : Location Map

3. Site History

There are no previous planning applications on this site. On the adjoining land to the north east of the site, a grant of permission has been issued for a local community sports facility, Planning Ref. # 21614.

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 :

The subject site is located in a Coastal Landscape categorised of Special Sensitivity, Value 3. Timber post and rail fencing along with low and intermediate level border landscaping of native species will be used to minimise visual impact.



Fig 2 : Proposed Area of Development in Background

Road Safety :

The existing cemetery access from the L-8104 public road will serve the proposed development. No intensification of traffic is expected to arise as a result of the extension to the existing facility. The current parking facilities will provide sufficient capacity and additional spaces within the extension will be provided for disability and age friendly usage.

Archaeology :

As the proposed site is in proximity to a ringfort (RMP No. GA095-129), pre development testing was carried out under Excavation License No. 24 E 0158 from the National Monument Service (NMS). Nothing of archaeological significance was revealed and so development in the area of testing will have no impact on the ringfort. The Archaeological Report on Pre Development testing is provided in the Appendix.



Fig 3 : Archaeological Pre-Development Trenching

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 provided in the Appendices.

The report concludes with ;

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.

Public Health :

Trial pits were dug on site and inspected by the HSE. A site report from the HSE is included in the appendices and concludes "The overall quality of the soil examined in the site was good. 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."

Drinking water in the area is provided from Uisce Eireann's public distribution network which is supplied from the Luimneagh treatment plant which abstracts from Lough Corrib.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

I trust you will look favourably on this application, however should you have any further queries or require any additional information I can be contacted directly on (091) 509510.

Mike Melody
Environment Section
Galway County Council

Appendix :

- Report on Pre-development Testing at Rinville West Townland, Oranmore, County Galway, Richard Crumlish, May 2024
- Report for the purposes of Appropriate Assessment Screening - Rinville Graveyard Extension by Moore Group Environmental Services, January 2025.
- Letter from HSE re Proposed Burial Ground Extension Rinville, April 2025