



Recreation/ Trail Proposal Request Form

Coillte receive many trail and other recreation proposals from external bodies (local authorities, community groups, others). As part of our screening process for trail development projects, we require a **completed proposal request form** and a **clear map of the project (OSI 1:50,000)**. There **must** be an **active project development group** who will be responsible for the development, completion and upkeep of the proposal. This form can be used for a proposed trail development or for any other recreational proposal. Email it when complete to recreation@coillte.ie.

Proposal Details:

Name of proposed development:

Castlegrove Woods

Forest Name:

Where trail is being proposed. Describe the area where the development is proposed, its landscape, land use and infrastructure. Is the proposal protected or designated lands (check on www.npws.ie). Please attached map of location!

The trail being proposed is through Castlegrove Woods. This is located in a beautiful area that is greatly under used currently. The trail starts at the historic grounds of the castle and estate house. The trail continues through the wood as far as Castlegrove lake. This lake is already popular with people in the Kilconly and Tuam area as it has already had investment back in the 90s to put in a number of stands for fishing. However, there is currently limited access to the lake. But the proposed trail would resolve this.

The wood is located 9km from Tuam town, off the R332. The proposed trail would begin at the picturesque Feartagar Castle and wind around the woods for approximately 1 mile towards the lake. There is an existing walk route through the woods, however the surface of the trail is not currently sufficient for significant footfall and would require upgrading, at present there is 150 yards approximately of grass surface which requires upgrading.

In order to provide access to the lake it will require the construction and installation of a bog bridge to facilitate a longer more scenic trail.

There is currently provision for parking at the start of the proposed trail.

General description of the proposed trail development:
Give an overview of the project: its purpose and objectives, background, development history and future plans.

The purpose of the trail is to create a much needed and safe walking trail for the residences of Killoon in an existing area of under utilised attractions within the local area, namely the castle, estate house and lake. This trail would offer a picturesque recreational route for individuals and families alike.

There has previously been investment in the castle to make it safe for people to visit. There has also been investment at the lake to install stands for fishing, as previously outlined.

Investment in the trail would unlock the true potential of these two attractions and realise the full return on investment of the significant amount of public money previously invested in this area.

The purpose of the proposed trail is to offer a loop walk to be utilised by all the public which will enhance health and wellbeing whilst also promote engagement with nature, biodiversity and heritage. It is our intention to further enhance the trail through the provision of information boards relating to the local history of the estate, the castle, local landlord, together with information pertaining to local flora and fauna and other ecological information.

It is hoped that this trail and associated information will be accessible to all individuals taking into account mobility issues.

It will also be our intention in partnership with the key stakeholders to make safe the old estate house with appropriate fencing. We would also expect to be able to provide additional parking to the front of the house, with a viewing area for the house.

Ideally we would also like to develop a viewing area by the lake also.

Demand for Trail:

What evidence is there that this kind of trail development is needed in this area? What other trails are already in the area?

There isn't any trail nearby for Killoon residents. However, even in its current greatly underdeveloped state there are a good few locals that walk there. There is a trail in Belclare the demand for this type of facility as there is a lot of footfall there. There is actually too much demand for that particular trail due to the large catchment area it is catering for, so Castlegrove would be an excellent addition to trails accessible for people to visit. The trail will appeal to individuals, families and tourists alike. The provision of information will enhance its appeal. Also, as previously outlined, Castlegrove lake is already popular with people in the area and this trail would make it a lot more accessible.

Sustainability:

Indicate how the trail project will have long term potential and sustainability.

This trail has long term potential and sustainability due to the castle and estate house which have significant historical interest for people in the local area and also the lake which is an important recreational facility as well for the community. Both attractions have already proved popular for many years.

Resulting from the development of the trail and associated future actions including the provision of information on heritage we would anticipate it will drive more tourists and passers by to the area to explore the woods and trail. The development of the trail will allow us promote and market the area as we will have a product to market which will increase footfall and ensure sustainability, ongoing developments will continue to develop the long term potential of the trail.

Safety Considerations:

List any potential safety issues on the site and proposed solutions to the problems.

E.g. Access to site, busy roads, parking, dangerous river crossings/flood areas, exposed cliffs, old buildings, tidal areas etc.

<u>Safety Issue</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Proposed Solution</u>
1. Collapsed estate house	Approximately 100m off the existing main track through the woods	Cordon off estate house

What type of users is the trail being developed for?

- a. Reduced mobility/ disabled users
- b. Family groups
- c. Casual users/ novice users
- d. Enthusiasts
- e. Experienced users

Name: Redacted personal information	E-m: Redacted personal information
Address: Redacted personal information	Mob: Redacted personal information
Tel: Redacted personal information	

Applicant Details:
Contact person for project:

Map (preferably 1:50,000), showing the proposed trail, or general location if a specific route has not been identified.

Other (Photos)

Accompanying Documents: (please tick relevant box to indicate these items are included in proposal)

Location selected due to the popular attractions of the castle, estate house and lake. There is an under developed road already in place for parts of the trail that is used by the forestry workers, but it was previously created for the castle and estate house residents. The start of the trail will include an information board and map. The location is approximately 9km from Tuam town located off the R332. There is currently provision of car parking onsite albeit it a small provision. In the village of Kilconly there are other services such as a shop, playground etc.

Trailhead location: (start of trail, map board/information board)
 Outline the location, availability of car parking, services (shops, cafes, toilets etc.) and other reasons for the choice.

Location	Feature
- Start of trail - End of trail	- Castle and estate house - Lake

Trail Features:
 List the features and characteristics on the trail (e.g. scenery, physical features, heritage sites etc.)

Project Organisation

Who will take the lead role and responsibility for delivery and ongoing maintenance of the proposed trail?

Kilconly Community Development Committee will have overall responsibility
A sub committee will be actively involved in the development and maintenance of the trail

List the organisation's members and their roles.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Role</u>
Sean Dunleavy	Organiser
James Greaney	Member
Tommy Brogan	Member
Linda Sice	Member

The trail proposer will be responsible for all aspects of the project. Remember that a trail requires sometimes significant levels of on-going management, maintenance and funding after

Management & Maintenance

The group intend to seek funding for the project from Galway County Council, Heritage Council of Ireland, Galway Rural Development, and Irish Fisheries for the Lake element. We have commitment from local experts to provide their services such as Archaeologist Project Management, & development as a voluntary donation to the development of the trail. We will engage in fundraising to meet any shortfall in funds. Once the initial development of trail, bridge and information board we would hope that with regular maintenance there should not be need for any significant additional investment into this trail beyond annual maintenance.

Funding Plan: How will management and maintenance be funded over time?

The trail will be designed to keep maintenance to a minimum, in conjunction with key stakeholders The RSS scheme can support the upkeep of the trail and maintenance going forward under the recommendations and guidance of Colliie.

organised?

Maintenance & Inspection Plan: How will regular maintenance and inspection of the trail be

A submit committee of the group will take on responsibility for the development and management of the trail. This group has subject matter experts in the area of project management, history, conservation, and development.

Responsible Body & Details: Who will be responsible for overall management of the trail?

Trail Management and Maintenance (Post Development)
Trails require on-going management and maintenance. If there are no clear resources in place for this, the proposal will not be advanced. Give details of:

it is completed. This work and commitment should not be underestimated, and the proposer should only go ahead with the trail development if they are fully committed to the long-term resources required for the proposal.

Please sign and date:

Name: <i>Sean Duleavy</i>	Dated: <i>26/4/2021</i>
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Internal Use Only

Required items:

ERA- Environmental Risk Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Site Visit-Walk over <input type="checkbox"/> NPWS agreement <input type="checkbox"/>	License (if required) <input type="checkbox"/> Memorandum of Understanding- MOU <input type="checkbox"/>
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Sign Off: (ready for stage two)

Signed and dated by BAU Staff

Name:	Dated:
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Signed and dated by Recreation Team

Name:	Dated:
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