



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

# Planning Report

## Ballyconnelly Burial Ground

### Part 8



**February 2022**

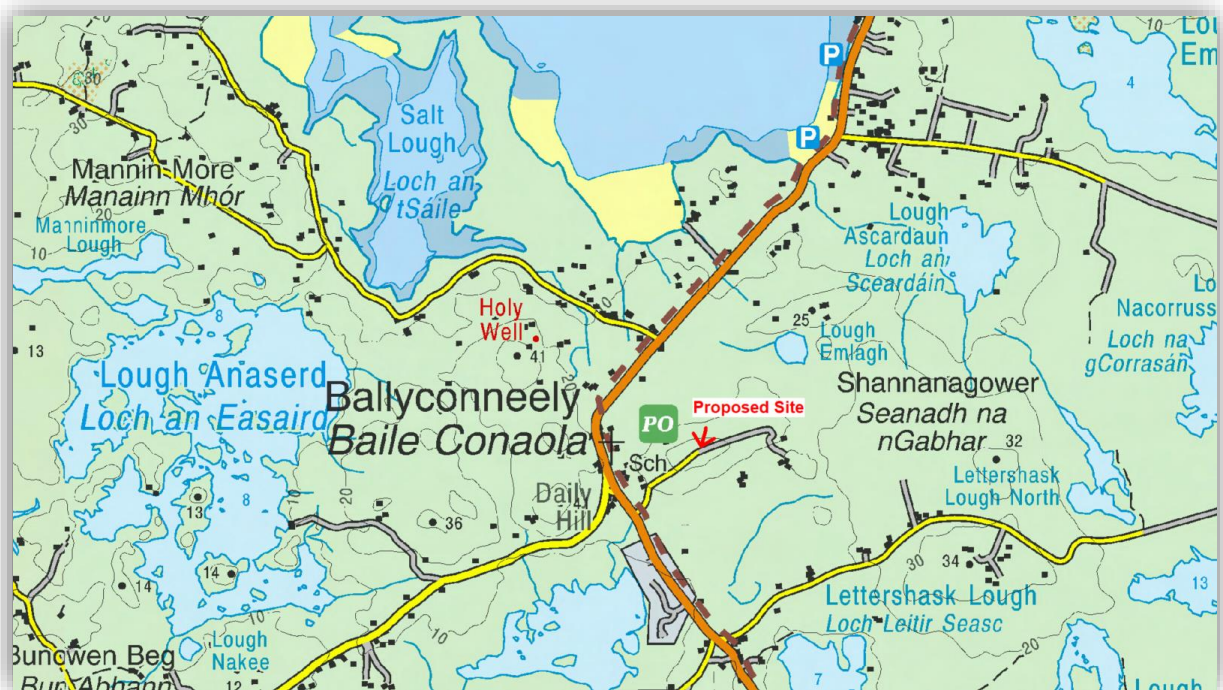
## 1. Introduction

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 Ballyconnelly, Ballynahinch, 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 community as the existing burial ground has reached its capacity.

## 2. Site Location & Layout

The site of the proposed development is adjacent to the existing cemetery, approximately 1 km east of the village of Ballyconnelly. The site measures 0.5 acres and comprises of a sloped field of semi-improved partially grazed wet grassland. Access to the new development is proposed via the existing burial ground entrance which is located at the end of the L-11069 public road.



## 3. Site History

The site is currently in use as pasture land and it is understood has always been used for agricultural purposes. There are no previous planning applications on this site.

## 4. Policy and Objectives

### ***Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021***

#### 10.9 Community Facilities and Services Policies and Objectives

Policy CF 6 – Burial Grounds - Implement the ongoing programme for the provision and extension of burial grounds within available resources. The Planning Authority will seek to acquire lands where the extension of public burial grounds in the ownership or charge of the Council which is necessary or likely to be necessary during the plan period. Archaeologically significant medieval burial grounds will not be considered for extension if such an extension would constitute a proven risk to the archaeological heritage.

## 5. Appraisal of Impact of Proposed Development.

### **Landscape Rating:**

The subject site is located in an area categorised as Class 4 Landscape Sensitivity with a high landscape value. The proposed development will be a burial ground extension of smaller scale to the existing and will be consistent with the character of the adjacent burial ground.

### **Road Safety:**

It is proposed to create an access into the proposed development by removing a section of the wall within the existing burial ground and extending the internal road with a turning hammerhead at the boundary. The access to the existing burial ground is from the L-11069. The public road ends just beyond the entrance point and thereafter there is farm gate. A hardstand car parking area is provided opposite the entrance which will be sufficient for an extended development.



**Fig 1 : Entrance & Parking Area**

### **Archaeology:**

The subject site is not within a National Monuments Notification Zone and therefore no archaeological impact assessment is required for the proposed development, ref. Fig. 2.



### Flood Risk:

The site of the proposed burial ground is on high ground and is not located within a flood risk area as delineated in the OPW CFRAM Flood Map, ref. Fig. 2.

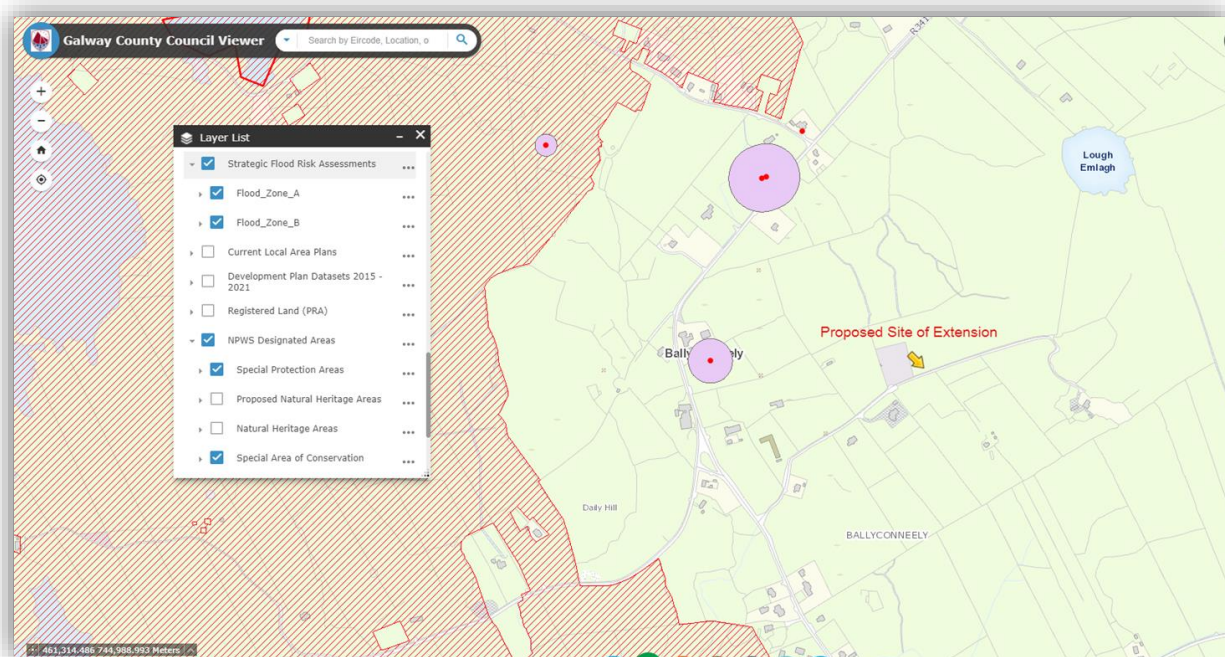


Fig. 2 : NMS, SAC & OPW CFRAM Mapping

### Habitats Directive:

An Appropriate Assessment Screening was carried out by the Moore Group in respect to the development and the report is attached to this application. The site drains toward Lough Emlagh to the northwest and on to Lough Ascardaun which discharges to Mannin Bay downstream. While there is distant connectivity to the sea, there is no potential for contaminated surface water (e.g. from elevated suspended solids) to reach the marine environment or to have an effect on the ecology of the receiving waters. The report, provided in the Appendix, 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.*

### Aquifer Classification :

The 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 location of the proposed development is granites & other igneous intrusive rocks and the aquifer is described as poor. There are no group water scheme or public water supply source protection areas in this region.

### 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 that the proposed burial ground is acceptable subject to the inclusion of drainage works which have been incorporated in the submitted planning drawings.

## **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.

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**Mike Melody**  
*Environment Section*  
*Galway County Council*

### **Appendix :**

- Report for the purposes of Appropriate Assessment Screening- Ballyconnelly Graveyard Extension by Moore Group Environmental Services, February 2022.
- Letter from HSE re Burial Ground Extension at Ballyconneely, January 2021