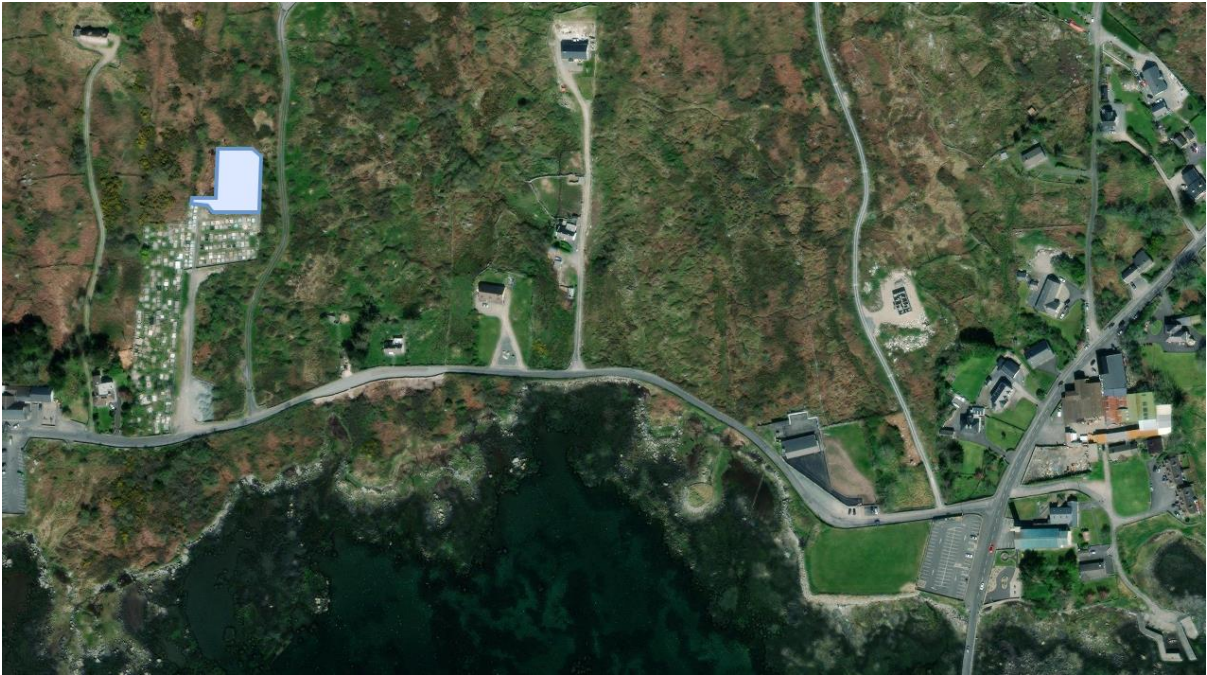




Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Part 8 Planning Report

Leitir Móir Burial Ground Extension



October 2024

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 Leitir Móir in the townland of Leitir Móir, 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 will be on Council owned lands and is required as the existing burial ground is reaching full capacity. This development would provide 193 burial plots (96 double and 1 single plots) and a facility for 10 urn plots.

2. Site Location & Layout

The site of the proposed development is to the rear of the existing cemetery at Leitir Móir which is located approximately 600m due west from the Parish Church of Saint Cholmchille's, on the R374. The area for development measures 0.37 acres. Access to the development will be through the existing burial ground entrance from the L-5228 public road.



Fig 1 : Location Map

3. Site History

There are no previous planning applications on this site. The site has marginal agricultural value and has remained uncultivated for many years.

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. The proposed development will be an extension of smaller scale to the existing burial ground and will be consistent in character with the adjacent facility. The tree line bordering the west of the development will be preserved and native hedging will be planted along the proposed fenceline.



Fig 2 : Area of Proposed Development in Background

Road Safety :

Access to the proposed development from the public road L-5228 is already in place. No intensification of traffic is expected to arise as a result of the extension to the existing facility.



Fig 3 : Entrance from L-5228

Archaeology :

The site of the proposed extension is not located within a zone of notification to the National Monument Service.

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 attached to this application.

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.

and 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.*

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 reasonably good. Rock was present in some areas but was breakable. The site is determined as suitable for use as a burial ground."

Drinking water in the area is supplied from Irish Water's Teernea treatment plant which abstracts water from a surface water source approximately 2.6 km from the proposed development. The AA screening reports no connectivity to any watercourses.

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 for the purposes of Appropriate Assessment Screening- Leitir Móir Graveyard Extension by Moore Group Environmental Services, October 2024.
- Letter from HSE re Proposed Burial Ground Extension Leitir Móir, July 2024.