



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

# Part 8 Planning Report

## Kilconieron 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 Kilconieron in the townland of Hollypark, 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 parish of Kilconieron as the existing burial ground has reached its capacity. There are approximately 3-4 new plots purchased in the burial ground per year . This proposed burial ground would provide for 124 double burial plots and 10 urn plots .

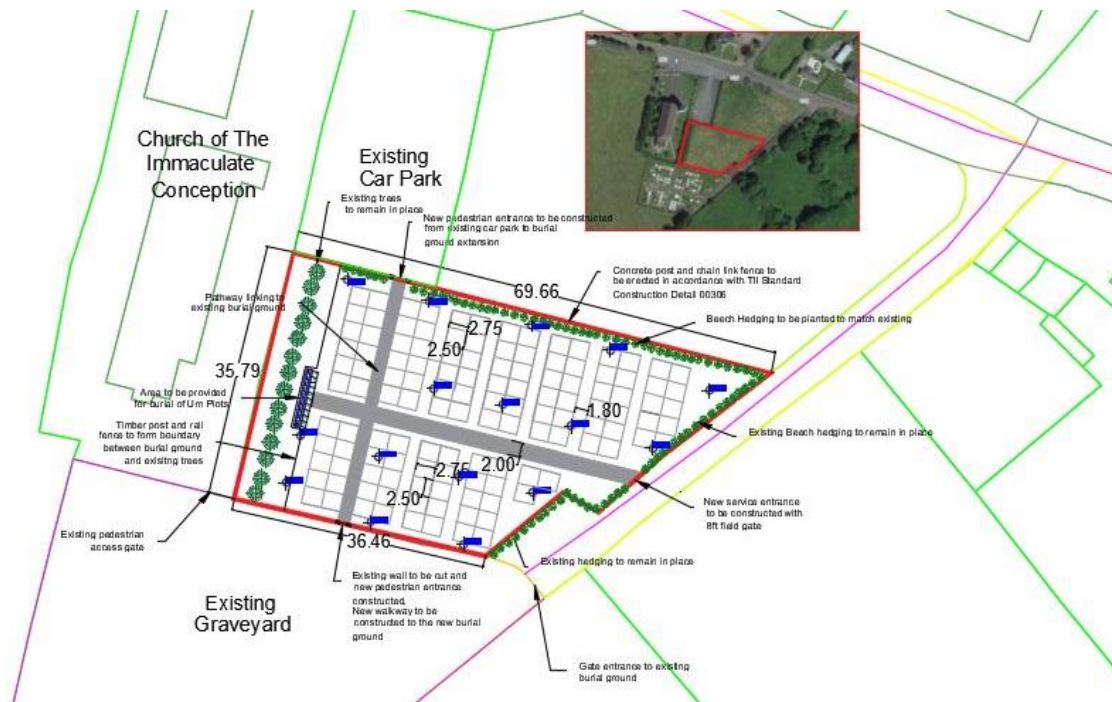
## 2. Site Location & Layout

The site of the proposed development is adjacent to the existing cemetery at Kilconieron which is located approximately 8 km south east of Athenry. The site measures 0.5 acres and comprises of a level field of agricultural grassland.



Fig 1 : Location Map

The proposed burial ground will comprise of 124 No double grave plots and 10 Urn plots for the interment of cremated remains. The development will utilise the existing boundaries on the south and East of the site. On the North boundary of the site, a new concrete post and chain link fence will be constructed, existing native hedging will be retained to maintain habitats and biodiversity, additional mature hedging will be planted which will create privacy and visual screening from the public road. The existing trees on the west boundary will remain in place and a timber post and rail fence will be installed alongside to form the boundary. A pathway will be constructed linking the new and existing burial grounds.



**Fig 2 : Proposed layout**

### **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 2022-2028***

#### 11.19 Places of Worship and Burial Grounds / Crematoriums

The Council has a responsibility for the provision of burial grounds including as necessary, the acquisition of lands and the undertaking of any necessary works on these lands. The Planning Authority has a role in ensuring that adequate land is reserved to accommodate burial grounds in accordance with future needs within the county.

#### **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 Character Assessment (Galway County Development Plan 2022 – 2028) :**

- Landscape Character Area: **Central Galway Complex Landscape**
- Landscape Sensitivity: **Low**

The subject site is located in an area categorised of Low Landscape Sensitivity.

The proposed development will be an extension to the existing burial ground and will be consistent with the character of the adjacent burial ground. Mature hedging will be planted on the north boundary of the burial ground ensuring minimal visual intrusion.

### **Road Safety :**

Access to the burial ground will be via an entrance within the existing car park, situated off the R349. Access for service vehicles will be via the existing roadway to the adjoining current burial ground. Pathways from the carpark provide pedestrian access to the church and burial grounds.



**Fig 3 :** Existing entrance from R-349



**Fig 4 :** Church Parking Area

**Car Parking :**

The proposed development will utilise the existing parking areas. As it will be an extension of the existing burial facility for the local community, there is not expected to an increase in traffic movements arising from the development.

## Archaeology :

- Recorded Monuments

There are no recorded monuments in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development.

- Protected Structures

There is one protected structure recorded immediate vicinity of the proposed development.

- RPS number: 3759 Church of the Immaculate Conception

The protected structure is also included in the National inventory of Architectural Heritage.



The proposed development will not impact the Protected Structures.

## 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 states that there is no connectivity to any European sites within or outside the potential Zone of Influence. There are no predicted effects on any European sites given: The distance between the Proposed Development and any European Sites, approximately 5.7km; The lack of direct connectivity between the Proposed Development and any hydrological pathways; there are no watercourses within the Proposed Development boundary and there is no connectivity between the Proposed Development site and any watercourses that lead to any European sites; There are no predicted emissions to air, water or the environment during the construction or operational phases that would result in significant effects.

The report 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.*

**Public Health :**

Three trial holes were inspected by the HSE and the report is included in the appendices. It concludes “ The overall soil quality was observed to be very 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.”

The water supply in the area is supplied from the Kilconieron Group Water Scheme (GWS ) which abstracts water from a borehole approximately 600m from the development. In the absence of Irish Guidance on the separation distances and burial grounds, if one is to consider the EPA 2009 Code of Practice ( CoP) for Waste Water Treatment Systems and with regard to a safe distance between a discharge and a karst feature or domestic well or a Public Water Supply well, the information presented in Table B3 of the CoP ( see Appendix ) suggests that the minimum distance is 60m for an active water supply. The separation distance for the groundwater abstraction borehole for the Kilconieron GWS is well in excess of this guidance.

## **6. Conclusion and Recommendations**

The proposed site is considered a suitable location for an extension to the existing Burial ground at Kilconieron.

**Mike Melody**

*Environment Section*

*Galway County Council*

**Appendix :**

- Report for the purposes of Appropriate Assessment Screening- Kilconieron Graveyard Extension by Moore Group Environmental Services, June 2024.
- Letter from HSE re Proposed Burial Ground Extension, Kilconieron, July 2023
- Table B3 extract from EPA 2009 Code of Practice ( CoP) for Wastewater Treatment Systems