



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Planning Report

Eanach Dhúin

Burial Ground Part 8



April 2025

1. Introduction

This planning report accompanies an application under Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations for a new burial ground development in the townland of Eanach Dhúin, County Galway. The report provides a summary of the proposed works and policy considerations and the impact of the new burial ground from a planning perspective.

The current cemetery serving the community of Eanach Dhúin (Annaghdown) has no new plots available for burials and this has been the case for a number of years. Due to the significant archaeology in the area it was not possible to extend the existing cemetery. The proposed development will cater for the need in the community by providing a facility for 255 no. double plot spaces, 20 single plots and 40 urn plots. On-site car parking and access road are also proposed within the development area. There are approximately 10 bereavements per year in the parish.

2. Site Location & Access

The site is located approximately 300m to the north of the existing cemetery in the townland of Eanach Dhúin. The proposed development is located within a field of improved grassland and covers an area of approximately 1.3 acres within a larger overall agricultural holding. The ground is generally flat and is currently used for crops and grazing.

The burial ground is proposed to be accessed via a new internal access road from an existing farm entrance off the L-21174. In conjunction with this project the adjacent public road will be widened to the junction with the L-2117 to provide sufficient space for passing vehicles and the requisite road sightlines. The existing burial ground to the south, is also served from the L-2117.

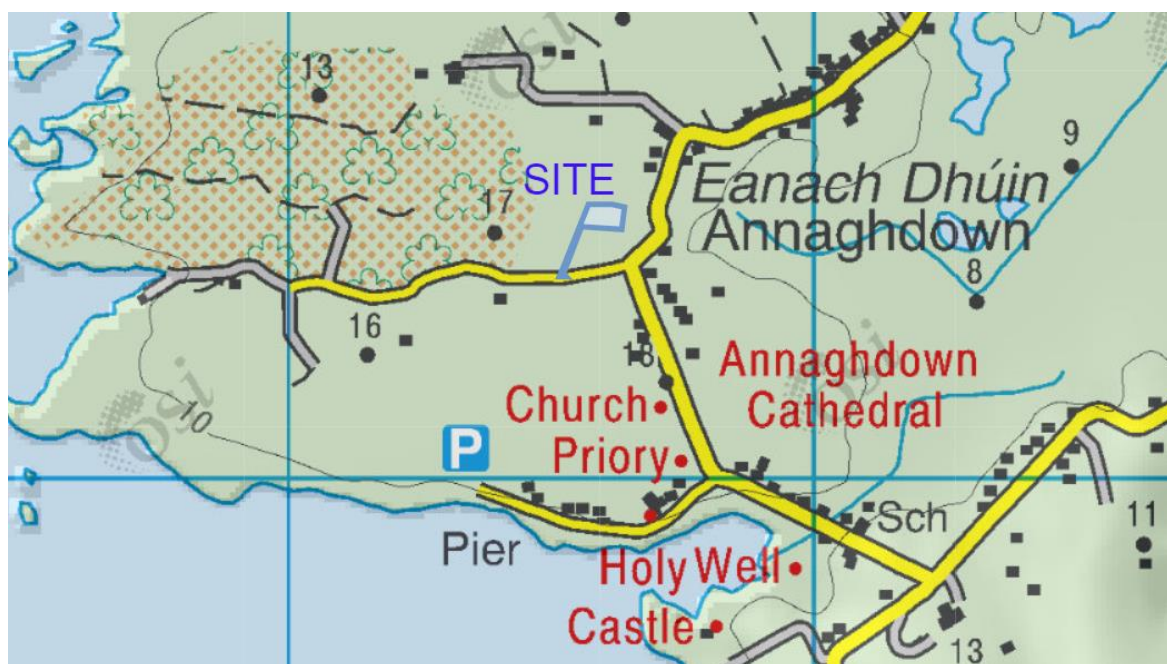


Fig.1 : Proposed Site Location

3. Site History

The site is currently used for agricultural purposes. Planning permissions have been recently granted for domestic dwellings in the immediate area, ref # 171625, 171818, 2260540, 2260735, 2360280.

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 an area categorised as Lake Environs Landscape with Special Sensitivity. The existing hedging and trees along the site boundaries will be preserved as much as possible. Where removal is required for road safety purposes suitable new plantations will be provided in the disturbed areas. Native hedging and trees will be planted along the boundaries of the burial ground areas for habitat enhancement and screening purposes.

Road Safety :

Access to the proposed development will be from the L-21174 cul-de-sac road. A section of this road measuring approx. 118m from the junction with the L-2117 to the development entrance will be widened to 6m, which will allow vehicles to pass and mitigate disruption to the existing road users at times of funeral service. Sightlines at the exit from the development to the requisite requirements will be achieved in the road widening works. As the L-21174 heading west from the proposed entrance is not a through road, additional traffic on this route is not expected to arise from this development.

There will be 16 car parking spaces created including an allocation for disabled parking per National Disability Authorities "Building for Everyone". Should extra parking be required this

can be facilitated within the development along the 6m wide internal access road which could accommodate an additional 16 vehicles.

On the basis that there are approximately 10 bereavements in the parish per year and in consideration that the number of attendees presenting at the burial ground element of a funeral service would typically today represent the smallest grouping, the provisions within the overall development to cater for vehicular traffic in the immediate surrounds have been meaningfully considered to mitigate any impact upon the recreational amenity of the area.

Archaeology :

The subject site is not within a National Monuments Notification Zone, as illustrated below. A nearby fort feature has been described to exist though it is not in the Archaeological Inventory for County Galway. In consideration an archaeological assessment was carried out which recommended a geophysical survey of the development site. The survey identified no features of archaeological significance and the archaeological report, included in the Appendices, concludes the proposed development at the site would not appear to impact on any archaeological layers or features.

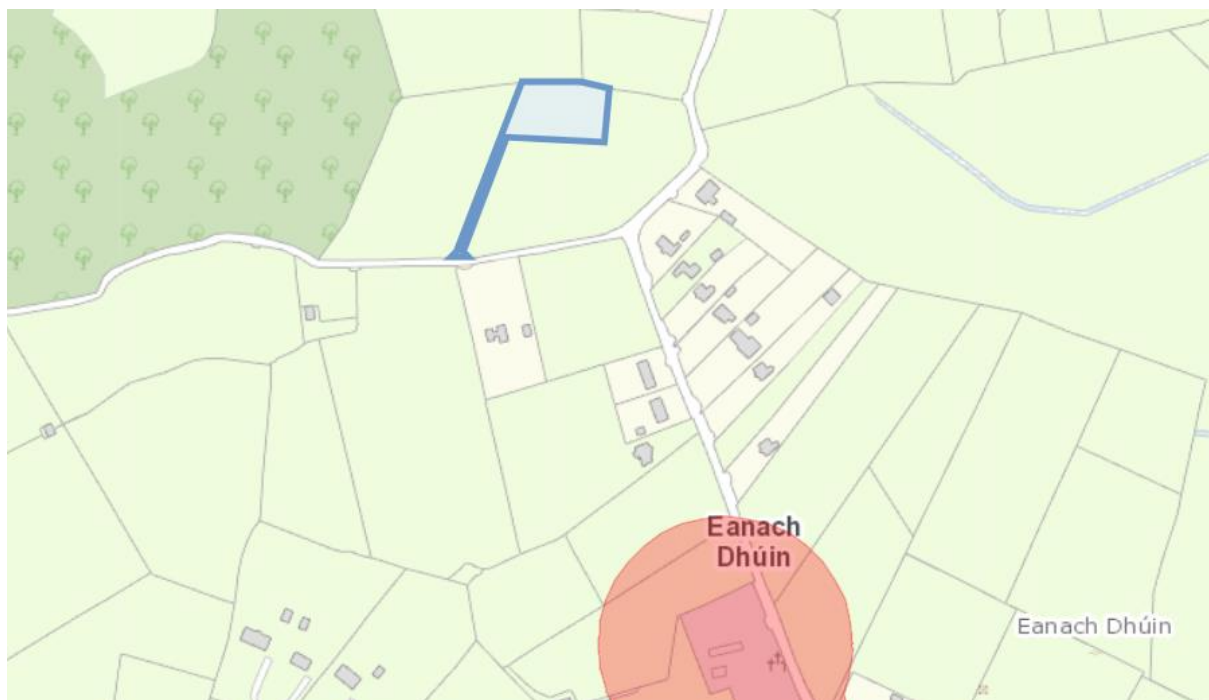


Fig.2 : National Monument Zone of Notification

Flooding :

The site of the proposed burial ground is not located within a flood risk area as delineated in the OPW CFRAM Fluvial Flood Mapping.

Ecology :

An appropriate assessment screening for the proposed development was performed by Moore Group. The screening report, which is provided in the Appendices, states that there are no predicted effects on any European sites given ;

- 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 Lough Corrib;
- There are no predicted emissions to air, water or the environment predicted from the development that would result in significant effects.

The report notes that several bat surveys by the author in the locality have not recorded lesser horseshoe bats (LHB) and there are no records for LHBs from the area.

The report concludes that “it 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 in the absence of any mitigation and an appropriate assessment is not, therefore, required”.

Public Health :

An inspection report from the HSE is provided in the Appendix, following examination of trial holes excavated on site. The HSE observed the overall quality of the soil examined in the site was good although rock was present in some areas. The site is determined as suitable for use as a burial ground.

The proposed site is not within a zone of contribution for a group or public water supply. Drinking Water in the area is supplied from the Tuam Regional Water Supply System which abstracts from Lough Corrib at Luimneagh.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

The proposed site presents as a suitable location for a burial ground development and we trust you will look favourably on this application.

*Environment Section
Galway County Council*

Appendix ;

1. Archaeological Assessment of a Proposed New Burial Ground in Annaghdown, Co. Galway, Through Time Ltd. – February 2025
2. Archaeological Geophysical Survey, Minerex Geophysics Ltd. – February 2025
3. Report for the purposes of Appropriate Assessment Screening, Moore Group – August 2024
4. Site Suitability Letter, HSE – April 2024.