



Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí
Offaly County Council



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

Project Ireland 2040
**Building Ireland's
Future**

Offaly County Council

Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended)

Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)

Grand Canal Greenway Walking and Cycling Route

Convent View, Tullamore to Kilbeggan Bridge, Tullamore

Report to Accompany Part 8 Planning Drawings

Document Control

Revision	Status	Prepared by	Checked By	Approved by	Date
1	Final	Jean Ryan SEO TMD	Joe Dooley EE TMD	Tom Shanahan DOS	30/3/2022

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Newspaper Notice

Site Notice

Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended)**Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)****Grand Canal Greenway Walking and Cycling Route****Convent View, Tullamore to Kilbeggan Bridge, Tullamore****Report to Accompany Part 8 Planning Drawings****1. Introduction**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Planning and Development Act and Regulation notice is hereby given that Offaly County Council propose to construct a 2m wide footpath along the towpath of the Grand Canal and shared vehicular and cycling route on the carriageway of Convent View for a distance of 315m.

The route of the shared facility is from the eastern end of Convent View, Tullamore to Kilbeggan Bridge, Tullamore. The proposal will connect with the Grand Canal Greenway at Convent View on the east join the urban Greenway at Bury Quay to and Srah Road and Srah Bridge, on the west of Tullamore.

2. Regulations

Under Section 4 of the Planning Development Act 2000, development carried out by a planning authority in its own functional area is not subject to the requirements to seek planning permission. However, it is deemed important that the public, relevant authorities and the elected members of the planning authority are informed of, and consulted on, certain prescribed developments.

Part 8 Section 80 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 prescribes the developments of which the public, relevant authorities and the elected members of the planning authority must be informed and consulted and sets out the consecutive procedures which must be followed.

3. Previous Part 8 Planning

The Grand Canal Greenway shared walking and cycling route from Convent View, Tullamore to Srah Bridge, Ballydrohid, Tullamore, a total length of 2.8km, was approved for Part 8 Planning in May 2019.

Active travel and supporting walking and cycling as an alternative mode of transport in our Towns has significantly advanced in the last few years. Offaly County Council has received funding to develop a cycle network in Tullamore. This new part 8 allows for the integration of the Greenway to the urban cycleway, designed in accordance with the Cycling Manual.

This Part 8 refers to the 315m length along Convent View. The 2019 Part 8 remains valid for Kilbeggan Bridge to Srah Bridge.

4. Proposed Works

The proposed development, which is the subject of this Part 8, will include the following:

1. Improvements to the existing towpath and footpath along the Grand Canal at Convent View through the provision of a 2m wide footpath of suitable surface ie. Surface Dressing / Asphalt Tarmac and Concrete / Stone Paving;
2. Upgrade of existing carriageway at Convent View for use as a shared vehicular and cycling facility, incorporating traffic calming measures, line marking and signage;
3. Provision of traffic safety measures and signage to facilitate safe pedestrian and cycling crossings on Convent View;
4. Provision of access controls (pedestrian/cycling friendly gates/bollards) road makings, traffic calming measures facilitating the proposed cycle/walk way;
5. Information boards, street furniture, signage and lighting upgrades.

5. Protected Structures

The proposed development will be within or adjoining the curtilage of the following protected structures:

Offaly RPS (Ref.)	Structure	Townland Name
23-288	17 Convent View Terrace	Puttaghan
23-289	18 Convent View Terrace	Puttaghan
23-290	19 Convent View Terrace	Puttaghan
23-291	20 Convent View Terrace	Puttaghan
23-292	21 Convent View Terrace	Puttaghan
23-293	Kilbeggan Bridge	Tullamore

6. Environmental Impact Assessment

Offaly County Council prepared an EIA Screening Report in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). On the basis of this Screening Report, Offaly County Council has completed EIA screening and has determined that there is no likelihood of significant effects on the environment. (Article 120 of Planning and Development Regulations, amended 2018). Accordingly, it has been determined that EIA is not required in respect of this proposed development. Any person may within 4 weeks from the date of this notice, apply to An Bord Pleanála for a screening determination as to whether this proposed development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

7. Drawings

- Drg No. TMD-UG-001 Convent View Part VIII 2022 – A1 Site Location – Existing Layout and Site Notice

- Drg No TMD-UG-002 Convent View Part VIII 2022 – A1 Proposed Plans & Sections

8. Public Consultation

From 30th of March 2022 to 4th May 2022 (both dates inclusive), all plans and particulars of the proposed development will be available for inspection or purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy during office hours at the following locations:

- 1) Offaly County Council, Planning Section, Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, County Offaly;
- 2) Tullamore Municipal District, Acres Hall, Cormac Street, Tullamore, County Offaly;
- 3) Branch Libraries at Tullamore

The plans and particulars are also available to view online at www.offaly.ie.

Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated may be made in writing to Planning Section, Offaly County Council, Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore on or before 18th May 2022. Submissions should be clearly marked GREENWAY.

Signed 

Tom Shanahan
Director of Services

Date 29/03/2022

AA Screening Report

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT FOR PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Screening is used to determine if an AA is necessary by examining:

- *If the plan / project is directly connected with / necessary to the management of the European site.*
- *If the effects will be significant on a European site in view of its conservation objectives, either alone / in combination with other plans / projects.*

Part 8 Proposal

(A) DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AND LOCAL SITE:	
Proposed development	<p>Proposal to construct 2m wide footpath along the towpath of the Grand Canal and shared vehicular and cycling route on the carriageway of Convent View for a distance of 315m. The route of the shared facility is from the eastern end of Convent View, Tullamore to Kilbeggan Bridge, Tullamore. The proposal will connect with the Grand Canal Greenway at Convent View on the east join the urban Greenway at Bury Quay to and Srah Road and Srah Bridge, on the west of Tullamore (approved for Part 8 Planning in May 2019 development of Grand Canal Greenway shared walking and cycling route from Convent View, Tullamore to Srah Bridge, Ballydrohid, Tullamore.) The proposed development, which is the subject of this Part 8, will include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Improvements to the existing towpath and footpath along the Grand Canal at Convent View through the provision of a 2m wide footpath of suitable surface ie. Surface Dressing, Asphalt Tarmac and Concrete / Stone Paving;2. Upgrade of existing carriageway at Convent View for use as a shared vehicular and cycling facility, incorporating traffic calming measures, line marking and signage.3. Provision of traffic safety measures and signage to facilitate safe pedestrian and cycling crossings on

	<p>Convent View;</p> <p>4. Provision of access controls (pedestrian/cycling friendly gates/bollards) road makings, traffic calming measures facilitating the proposed cycle/walk way;</p> <p>5. Information boards, street furniture, signage and lighting upgrades.</p>		
Site location:	Convent View and Kilbeggan Bridge, Tullamore County Offaly		
	0.158ha	Floor Area of Proposed Development:	n/a
Identification of nearby European Site(s):	2000 site(s): SAC 000571- Charleville Wood SAC		
Distance to European Site(s):	15m		
The characteristics of existing, proposed or other approved plans / projects which may cause interactive / cumulative impacts with the project being assessed and which may affect the European site:	None		
Is the application accompanied by an EIS?	Yes: : <input type="checkbox"/>		No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(B) IDENTIFICATION OF THE RELEVANT European SITE(S):

The reasons for the designation of the European site:

Charleville Wood is considered to be one of the very few ancient woodlands remaining in Ireland, with some parts undisturbed for at least 200 years. 'Old Oak woodland is a habitat listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive, while the rare snail species, *Vertigomoulin siana*, is listed on Annex II of this directive. The wetland areas, with their associated bird populations, the rare insect and Myxomycete species contribute further to the conservation significance of the site.

The conservation objectives / qualifying interests of the site and the factors that contributes to the conservation value of the site: (which are taken from the Natura 2000 site synopses and, if applicable, a Conservation Management Plan; all available on www.npws.ie) **(ATTACH INFO.)**

To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected: Code Description 91A0 Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles * denotes a priority habitat Code Common Name Scientific Name 1016 Desmoulin's Whorl Snail *Vertigo moulinsiana*

(C) NPWS ADVICE:

Advice received from NPWS over phone:

(D) ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS:

*(The purpose of this is to identify if the effect(s) identified could be significant – if **uncertain** assume the effect(s) are significant).*

If the answer is 'yes' to any of the questions below, then the effect is significant.
(Please justify your answer. 'Yes' / 'No' alone is insufficient)

<p>Would there be... ... any impact on an Annex 1 habitat? (Annex 1 habitats are listed in Appendix 1 of AA Guidance).</p>	Not likely due to the location and type of development.
	The site is sufficient distance from the European site.
<p>... a reduction in habitat area on a European site?</p>	There will be no reduction in the habitat area.
	The site is sufficient distance from the European site.
<p>... direct / indirect damage to the physical quality of the environment (e.g. water quality and supply, soil compaction) in the European site?</p>	Not likely due to the location and type of development
	The site is sufficient distance from the European site.
<p>... serious / ongoing disturbance to species / habitats for which the European site is selected (e.g. because of increased noise, illumination and human activity)?</p>	Not likely due to the location and type of development
	The site is sufficient distance from the European site.
<p>... direct / indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations on the European site?</p>	None likely due to the location and type of development
	The site is sufficient distance from the European site
<p>Would the project interfere with mitigation measures put in place for other plans / projects. [Look at <i>in-combination effects</i> with completed, approved but not completed, and proposed plans / projects. Look at projects / plans within and adjacent to European sites and identify them]. Simply stating that there are no cumulative impacts' is insufficient.</p>	No other plans known of in the vicinity of the site.
	The site is sufficient distance from the European site.

(E) SCREENING CONCLUSION:**Screening can result in:**

1.	<i>AA is not required</i> because the project is directly connected with / necessary to the nature conservation management of the site.		
2.	<i>No potential for significant effects / AA is not required.</i>		
3.	<i>Significant effects are certain, likely or uncertain.</i> (In this situation seek a NIS from the applicant, or reject the project. Reject if too potentially damaging / inappropriate.		
Therefore, does the project fall into category 1, 2 or 3 above?	Category 2		
Justify why it falls into relevant category above:	There would be no likely significant impact on European sites from the proposed development.		
Name:	Jean Ryan		
Position:	Senior Executive Officer, TMD	Date:	30/03/2022

SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: CHARLEVILLE WOOD

SITE CODE: 000571

Charleville Wood is a large Oak woodland surrounded by estate parkland and agricultural grassland located about 3 km south-west of Tullamore. The site, which is underlain by deep glacial deposits, includes a small lake with a wooded island, and a stream runs along the western perimeter. The woodland is considered to be one of very few ancient woodlands remaining in Ireland, with some parts undisturbed for at least 200 years. Some 10% of the woodland has been underplanted with conifers and other exotic trees, but the rest of the area is dominated by Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*).

Apart from Oak, there is much Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and scattered Wych Elm (*Ulmus glabra*), while Birch (*Betula* spp.) is a feature of the boggy margins. The shrub layer is composed largely of Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*).

The ground layer is varied, including damp flushed slopes with Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*) and drier, more open areas with a moss sward composed largely of *Rhytidiadelphus triquetris*. The fungal flora of the woodland is notable for the presence of several rare Myxomycete species, namely *Hemitrichia calyculata*, *Perichaena depressa*, *Amaurochaete atra*, *Collaria arcyronema*, *Stemonitis nigrescens* and *Diderma deplanata*.

A number of unusual insects have also been recorded in Charleville Wood, notably *Mycetobia obscura* (Diptera), a species known from only one other site in Ireland. The site is also notable for the presence of a large population of the rare snail species, *Vertigo moulinsiana*. Extensive swamps of Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*) and Bottle Sedge (*Carex rostrata*) have developed in the lake shallows.

The lake is an important wildfowl habitat – it supports populations of Mute and Whooper Swan and a number of duck species, including Teal, Wigeon, Shoveler, Pochard and Tufted Duck. The wooded island at its centre is famed for its long history of non-disturbance. Hazel, Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*) and Ivy (*Hedera helix*) reach remarkable sizes here.

Charleville Wood is one of the most important ancient woodland sites in Ireland. The woodland has a varied age structure and is relatively intact with both areas of closed canopy and open areas with regenerating saplings present. The understorey and ground layers are also well represented. Old Oak woodland is a habitat listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive, while the rare snail species, *Vertigo moulinsiana*, is listed on Annex II of this directive. The wetland areas, with their associated bird populations, the rare insect and Myxomycete species contribute further to the conservation significance of the site. 6.12.1999

Conservation objectives for Charleville Wood SAC [000571]

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level. Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected: Code Description 91A0 Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles * denotes a priority habitat Code Common Name Scientific Name 1016 Desmoulin's Whorl Snail *Vertigo moulinsiana*

Citation: NPWS (2015) Conservation objectives for Charleville Wood SAC [000571]. Generic Version 4.0. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

13/02/2015

Newspaper Notice



Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí
Offaly County Council

Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, R35 F893.

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**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000
(AS AMENDED) (S179)**

**PART 8 OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
REGULATIONS 2001 (AS AMENDED)**

**GRAND CANAL GREENWAY
WALKING AND CYCLING ROUTE**

Convent View, Tullamore to Kilbeggan Bridge, Tullamore

In accordance with Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 – 2007 Offaly County Council hereby gives notice of proposals to construct a 2m wide footpath along the towpath of the Grand Canal and shared vehicular and cycling route on the carriageway of Convent View for a distance of 315m. The route of the shared facility is from the eastern end of Convent View, Tullamore to Kilbeggan Bridge, Tullamore.

Offaly County Council has prepared an EIA Screening Report in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). On the basis of this Screening Report, Offaly County Council has completed EIA screening and has determined that there is no likelihood of significant effects on the environment. Accordingly, it has been determined that EIA is not required in respect of this proposed development. Any person may within 4 weeks from the date of this notice, apply to An Bord Pleanála for a screening determination as to whether this proposed development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Plans and particulars of the proposed upgrade scheme are available for inspection and / or purchase in the offices of Offaly County Council, Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, County Offaly, the offices of Tullamore Town Council, Acres Hall, Tullamore, County Offaly and Tullamore Library during normal office hours from **30th of March 2022 to 4th May 2022 (both dates inclusive)**.

Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated may be made in writing to Planning Section, Offaly County Council, Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore on or before **18th May 2022**. **Submissions should be clearly marked GREENWAY.**

**Tom Shanahan, Director of Services,
Tullamore Municipal District**

Site Notice

OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL

Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) (S. 179) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)

SITE NOTICE

GRAND CANAL GREENWAY WALKING AND CYCLING ROUTE

from

Convent View, Tullamore to Kilbeggan Bridge, Tullamore

Pursuant to the requirements of the above, notice is hereby given that Offaly County Council propose to construct a 2m wide footpath along the towpath of the Grand Canal and shared vehicular and cycling route on the carriageway of Convent View for a distance of 315m. The route of the shared facility is from the eastern end of Convent View, Tullamore to Kilbeggan Bridge, Tullamore. The proposal will connect with the Grand Canal Greenway at Convent View on the east join the urban Greenway at Bury Quay to and Srah Road and Srah Bridge, on the west of Tullamore (approved for Part 8 Planning in May 2019 development of Grand Canal Greenway shared walking and cycling route from Convent View, Tullamore to Srah Bridge, Ballydrohid, Tullamore.) The proposed development, which is the subject of this Part 8, will include the following:

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5. Information boards, street furniture, signage and lighting upgrades.

The proposed development will be within or adjoining the curtilage of the following protected structures:

Offaly RPS (Ref.)	Structure	Townland Name	Offaly RPS (Ref.)	Structure	Townland Name
23-288	17 Convent View Terrace	Puttaghan	23-291	20 Convent View Terrace	Puttaghan
23-289	18 Convent View Terrace	Puttaghan	23-292	21 Convent View Terrace	Puttaghan
23-290	19 Convent View Terrace	Puttaghan	23-293	Kilbeggan Bridge	Tullamore

Offaly County Council has prepared an EIA Screening Report in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). On the basis of this Screening Report, Offaly County Council has completed EIA screening and has determined that there is no likelihood of significant effects on the environment. (Article 120 of Planning and Development Regulations, amended 2018). Accordingly, it has been determined that EIA is not required in respect of this proposed development. Any person may within 4 weeks from the date of this notice, apply to An Bord Pleanála for a screening determination as to whether this proposed development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

From 30th of March 2022 to 4th May 2022 (both dates inclusive), all plans and particulars of the proposed development will be available for inspection or purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy during office hours at the following locations:

- 1) Offaly County Council, Planning Section, Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, County Offaly
- 2) Tullamore Municipal District, Acres Hall, Cormac Street, Tullamore, County Offaly
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Tom Shanahan, Director of Services,
30th March 2022