

LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

**SECTION 179 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000
(as amended)**

**PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 (as
amended)**

PROPOSAL TO CARRY OUT A DEVELOPMENT REFERRED TO AS –

**PART 8 – NO. 116 GRANARD SHARED FOOTPATH
AND CYCLEWAY
CO. LONGFORD**

**REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH
SECTION 179 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED)
AND
PART 8 OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
REGULATIONS 2001 (AS AMENDED)**

To: The Cathaoirleach and Members of Granard Municipal District.

Being satisfied that the requirements of subsections (1) and (2) of Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended, and Articles 79 to 85 inclusive of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) have been fully complied with in relation to the above proposed development, I have prepared the attached report in accordance with the requirements of subsection (3) of Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended and formally submit same to the Cathaoirleach and members of Granard Municipal District for consideration.

1. Introduction / Site Location of the proposed development.
2. The nature and extent of the proposed development and the principal features thereof are as set out in Section 2 of the Report.

3. Section 3 of the Report evaluates the consistency of the development with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area to which the development relates, having regard to the provisions of the development plan.

I am satisfied that all issues have been fully considered in the evaluation and that the proposed development is consistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area to which the development relates, having regard to the provisions of the development plan, for the reasons set out in the report.

4. The persons and bodies who made submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development in accordance with the provisions of the above Act and Regulations are listed at Section 4.
5. Section 5 sets out details in relation to Appropriate Assessment.
6. Section 6 sets out the EIA Screening Determination.
7. Sets out the recommendation of the Planning Authority in relation to the proposed development regarding the planning considerations and submissions and observations received.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 179(3)(b)(v) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) I recommend that the proposed development should be proceeded with subject to the conditions listed in Section 6 of the attached report.

Dated this the **13th February 2024**



**John Brannigan,
Director of Services.**

Note:

Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) – Subsection 4 of Section 179.

- (4) (a) The members of the local authority shall, as soon as may be, consider the proposed development and the report of the Chief Executive under subsection (3).
- (b) Following consideration of the Chief Executive's Report under paragraph (a), the proposed development may be carried out as recommended in the Chief Executive's Report, unless the local authority, by resolution, decides to vary or modify the development, otherwise than as recommended in the Chief Executive's Report, or decides not to proceed with the development.
- (c) A resolution under paragraph (b) must be passed not later than 6 weeks after receipt of the Chief Executive's Report.



Longford County Council
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

PART 8 – NO. 116
GRANARD SHARED FOOTPATH AND CYCLEWAY
CO. LONGFORD

Report in Accordance with
Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000
(as amended)
and
Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001
(as Amended)

FEBRUARY 2024

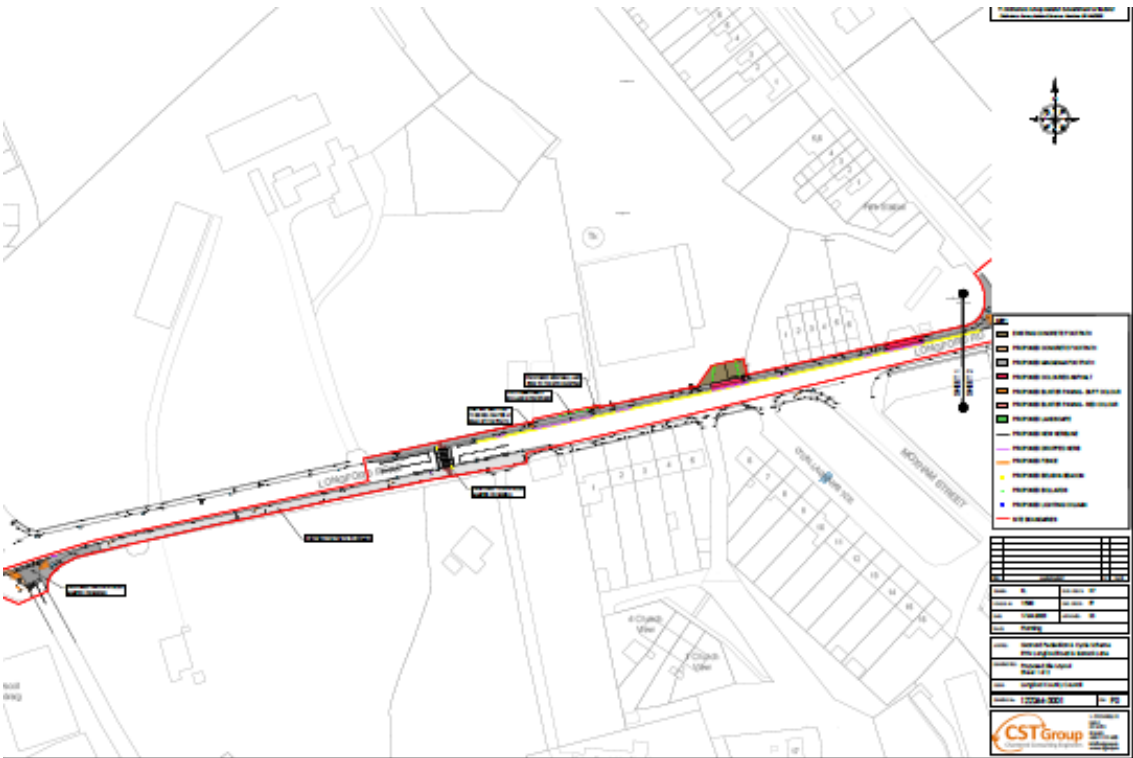
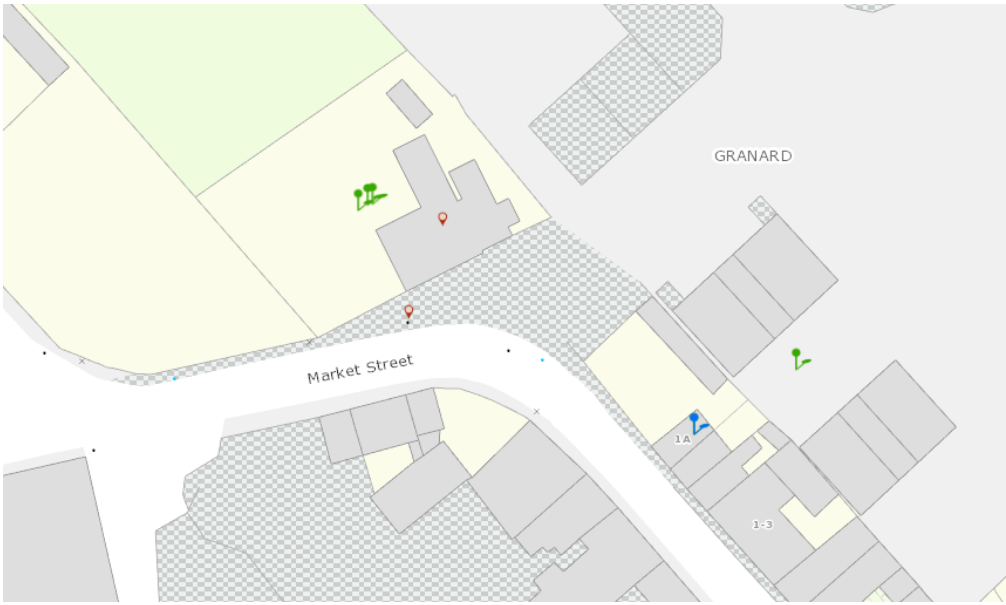
1. INTRODUCTION/ SITE LOCATION

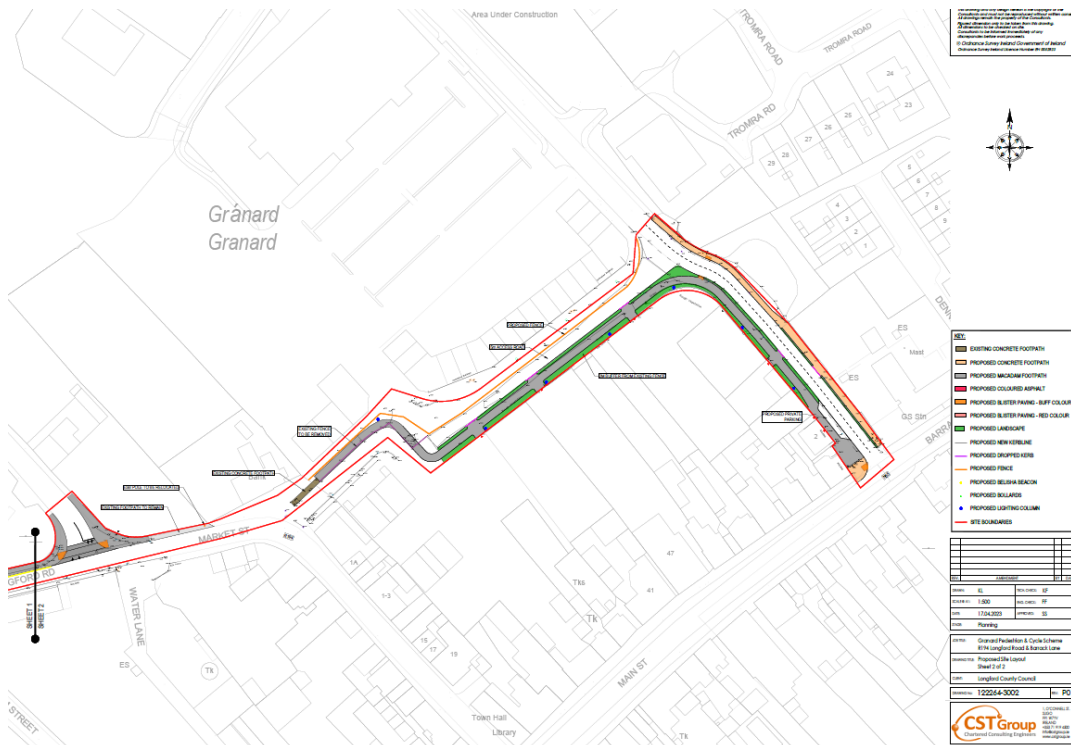
The subject lands are located within the development envelope of Granard Town as identified in the Longford County Development Plan 2021 – 2027. The proposed development includes a shared footpath and cycleway provision along R194 (Longford Road / Market Street) and Barrack Lane, Granard, Longford.



It is identified that the proposed works extends over the curtilage of Record of Protected Structure (RPS) No.330 as identified in the current Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027; and in addition the proposed development also impacts upon RPS No. 333 Post Box identified to be located outside of the Ulster Bank (RPS No. 330).

- RPS No. 330 the former Ulster Bank located on Market Street, Granard.
- RPS No. 333 Post Box, Barrack Street, Granard.





2. NATURE AND EXTENT OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The proposed development includes the construction of a new shared footpath and cycleway within Granard Town.

The development consists of the following:

- Upgrading of existing footpath of the R194 (Longford Road / Market Street) from Ardscoil Padraig Secondary School to Greville Court to facilitate shared footpath and cycleway provision.
- Upgraded length to include a raised controlled crossing, and additional raised crossings and junction tightening at L-5133-0, and Redmond's Terrace (L-1069-0).
- New shared cycleway and footpath provision on the southern side of the existing service road from Greville Court to Barrack Lane and extending southward on the western side of Barrack Lane to Main Street, Granard.
- Proposal will include separate, new footpath provision on eastern side of Barrack Lane from the existing Eir Building to Main Street, Granard.

3. PLANNING CONSIDERATION/ EVALUATION

The site is located within the functional area of Longford County Council and lies within the Designated Development Envelope of Granard town. As such the provisions of the Longford County Development Plan 2021 – 2027 apply.



The proposed site is located along existing roads and on lands zoned Town Core, this zoning aims to:

“To provide for the development and enhancement of town core uses including retail, residential, commercial, civic and other uses.”

Chapter 5 – Transport, Infrastructure, Energy and Communications – Section 5.2.7 Cycling and Walking.

The Council recognises the fundamental contribution cycling and walking to the overall well-being and quality of life aspects of residents, in addition to its environmental benefits. The Council will encourage and support the delivery of a high quality, permeable and attractive pedestrian and cycling network that allows for multiple direct connections between key destinations. Through the implementation of the Design Manual of Urban Roads and Streets, (DTTS and DECLG, 2020), the Permeability Best Practice Guidelines, (NTA, 2013) and the National Cycle Manual (NTA, 2011), there are opportunities to make

walking and cycling more attractive. Where possible, the Council will seek to implement enhanced pedestrian and cycling permeability in urban environments as part of the development management process, in order to provide for continual improvements and coherency to existing cycling and walking network infrastructure with individual settlements.

Policy Objectives:

CPO5.65 Work with the relevant statutory bodies and other relevant stakeholders, to improve on the existing level of infrastructure and facilities for walking and cycling.

CPO5.66 Identify and implement a strategic, coherent and high-quality cycling and walking network across the County that is integrated with public transport and interconnected with cultural, recreational, retail, educational and employment destinations and attractions.

CPO5.67 Promote the organisation of traffic in towns and villages to separate motor vehicular, bicycles and pedestrian traffic in accordance with the National Manual for the provision of Cycle Facilities in Urban Areas, the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets and The National Cycle Manual.

CPO5.68 Promote walking through the development and expansion of a network of safe walking trails within towns and villages and their environs. Such routes can link with existing walking trails, Sli na Slainte and the Green Infrastructure Network and existing or new public rights of way.

CPO5.69 Adopt and implement the provisions of the Draft Longford Walking and Cycling Strategy and, where necessary and appropriate, reserve lands for the provision of off-road cycling tracks and cycling/pedestrian infrastructure as identified as part of any such cycling strategy prepared.

The proposed development is considered to improve the permeability within the defined settlement of Granard and will enhance the local amenities within the town.

As such it is considered that the proposed development is substantially in keeping with the zoning as outlined in the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027.

4. PUBLIC/ STATUTORY BODIES CONSULTATION, SUBMISSIONS, REPORTS, ETC.

The proposed works were duly and properly notified as required by Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

The plans and particulars for the proposed development which includes a shared footpath and cycleway provision along R194 (Longford Road / Market Street) and Barrack Lane, Granard, Co. Longford; were made available for public inspection at the offices of Longford County Council, Áras an Chontae, Great Water Street, Longford and during official public opening hours, excluding weekends and bank holidays, and online from Friday 15th of December 2023 up to and including Monday 22nd January 2024.

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, were invited to be made in writing to the Planning Section, Longford County Council, Áras an Chontae, Great Water Street, Longford, Co. Longford to arrive not later than 4pm on Monday the 5th of February 2024.

4.1 Submissions:

Three submissions was received during the consultation timeframe:

1. Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) dated the 18/12/2023, this report identified no observations to make.
2. Uisce Éireann (Irish Water) dated the 12/01/2024. No objection in principle; however, it is noted that there is a number of water services infrastructure (water mains and wastewater sewer) nearby and onsite which it is considered may be impacted by the proposed development. Uisce Éireann request that prior to any works being undertaken that the location of any/all watermains and sewers and any associated fittings shall be confirmed on the ground with the local water curator. New kerb-lines and pavements should be set out on-site so that the local water curator can ensure that they will not be sitting on top of any watermain and

sewer lines, as they appear to be very close to the infrastructure on the submitted drawings. Uisce Éireann requests that the integrity of the infrastructure shall be protected during the works and the Council Water Service engineer shall be consulted prior to and during the construction period. Any and all Uisce Éireann infrastructure affected by the development works shall be reinstated in accordance with Uisce Éireann Standards.

3. Irish Cycling Campaign dated the 05/02/2024. The Submission compliments Longford County Council in proposing a safe active travel link in Granard and connection to Ardscoil Pádraig which could be an incentive for pupils and teachers to travel more sustainably to the school. The ICC is however disappointed has not been extended to include the primary and the secondary school and a major supermarket further along Barrack Street which would give the proposal greater heft and make greater sense, particularly in the context of the Safe Routes to School program.

A number of minor improvements are stated including the following:

- An extension of the safe cycleway to other schools along Barrack Street.
- The switching of the proposed shared cycleway on the eastern end of Market St/Longford St to the southern side of the road in order to provide greater protection from existing trucks and give closer linkage to housing areas.
- Raised crossings to be provided at all side roads closer to the main roads.
- A minimum of a 3m width proposed shared route in line with the Cycle Design Manual desirable minimum.
- The introduction of a 30kph speed limit along the proposed route in line with new and emerging proposals from the Department of Transport.

4.2 Internal Reports

- Roads Design Section – No report received at time of writing.
- Area Engineer – No report received at time of writing.
- Heritage Officer – No report received at time of writing.

5. APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

The proposed development was the subject of a Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment Screening, a report was undertaken by AVIRO Environmental Management Limited in which it was noted that the nearest Natura 2000 sites are as follows:

- Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough SPA [000985] 4.87km from the subject site.
- Ardagullion Bog SAC (002341), which is located 5.34km from the subject site.

Given the nature and extent of the proposed development, as well as its location, it is not considered that the development would result in any significant impacts on the Natura 2000 network. Having reviewed the qualifying interests (habitats and species related interests) of the Natura 2000 sites closest to the proposed development, it is considered that there are no likely adverse impacts arising from the proposed development on the integrity of the Natura 2000 network. Accordingly, it is considered that there is no requirement to progress to a full Appropriate Assessment in this case.

6. EIA SCREENING

There is no specific requirement to conduct an EIA or EIA Screening of the proposed development. An EIAR Screening has not been submitted as part of the application.

7. RECOMMENDATION

Having regard to the above-mentioned planning considerations and to the submissions and observations received, it is considered that the proposed development would be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. It is therefore recommended that the proposed development now be proceeded with, subject to the attachment of the following modifications/conditions:

- 1) The development of the shared footpath and cycle path between Market Street and Barrack Lane shall be extended in order to include the formalised road opening between the two areas. The creation of a formalised vehicle access provides an opportunity to enable the regeneration of this backland area of Granard and further improve the local environment. The proposed road works shall form part of the final detailed design works for the scheme.

- 2) The applicant shall liaise with Uisce Éireann regarding the existing water services infrastructure in the vicinity of the development proposal, prior to and during the construction in order to ensure that the integrity of Uisce Éireann infrastructure and assets shall be protected both during and after the completion of the works relating to the proposal.

Any and all Uisce Éireann infrastructure negatively affected by the development works shall be reinstated in accordance with Uisce Éireann Standards.

- 3) A Consulting Engineer shall be employed to carry out the final detailed design of the works, to prepare tender documents and drawings, to assist in the procurement of a Contractor and to assist in the supervision of the works on site.

- 4) The applicant shall liaise with the Roads Design Section and the Granard MD Area Engineer in respect of the detailed design and the subsequent implementation of all works in the local area. In order to ensure that all local matters are taken on board and into consideration including the potential linkages of the project into other local schemes, planned and proposed within the immediate local area.

- 5) The proposed alterations and modifications suggested and outlined in the submission from Irish Cycling Campaign shall be reviewed and considered in the preparation of a detailed design drawings for the suggested scheme.

Ian C. Lacey

Date : 12/02/2024

Ian Lacey - Executive Planner



Date : 13/02/2024

Rita Connaughton A/Senior Planner

APPENDIX 1 -Site Photographs

