

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. 127

**PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A WALKING TRAIL/CYCLE PATH
WITH A LIMESTONE DUST FINISH AND APPROXIMATELY 570
METRES IN LENGTH AND VARYING IN WIDTH FROM 2.5 METRES TO
3.0 METRES AND ALL ANCILLARY SITE WORKS AT LEGGA
(LEGGAGH) TOWNLAND, MOYNE, 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 Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027.

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 Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027, 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 and the issues raised detailed in Appendix 1.
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 modifications/amendments listed in Section 7 of the attached report.

Dated this the: 24 March 2025



**Barbara Heslin,
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 VIII – NO.127

**THE CONSTRUCTION OF A WALKING TRAIL/CYCLE PATH WITH A
LIMESTONE DUST FINISH AND APPROXIMATELY 570 METRES IN
LENGTH AND VARYING IN WIDTH FROM 2.5 METRES TO TO 3.0
METRES AND ALL ANCILLARY SITE WORKS AT LEGGA (LEGGAGH)
TOWNLAND, MOYNE, 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)

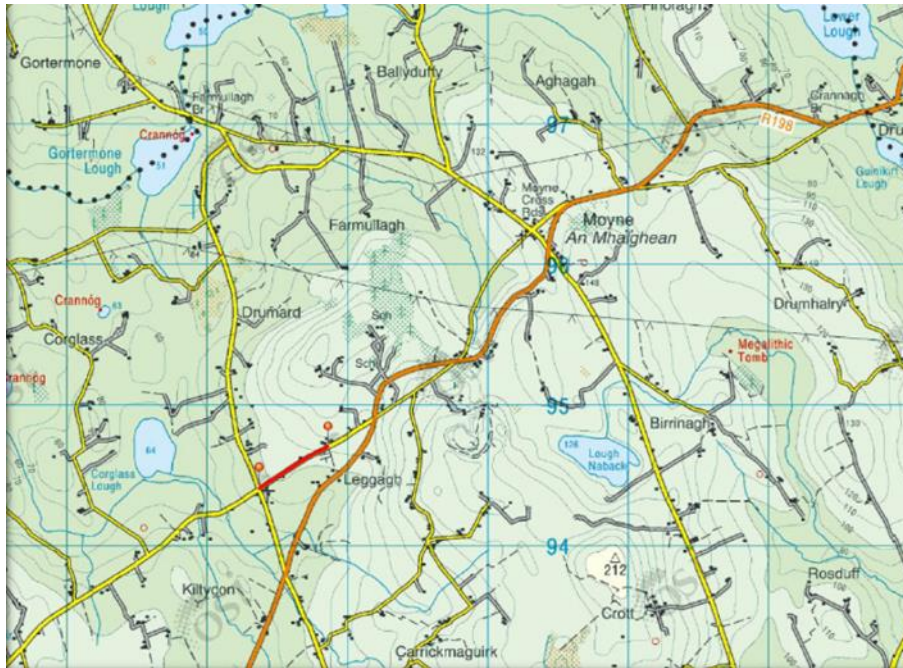
MARCH 2025

1. INTRODUCTION/ SITE LOCATION

The Proposed Development site is located in the townland of Legga. The proposed trail is approximately 570m in length and it will extend in a north-easterly direction along a local, third-class road from St Mary's Church in Leggagh towards the existing walking / cycling trail path that begins at Moyne Graveyard. The existing walkway / cycleway extends along the local road and briefly along the Regional Road (R198) until it reaches the Moyne National and Secondary Schools. The subject lands are not located within any development envelope as identified in the Longford County Development Plan 2021 – 2027.



Aerial view of the proposed development site (Outlined in red)



Proposed development layout shown in red

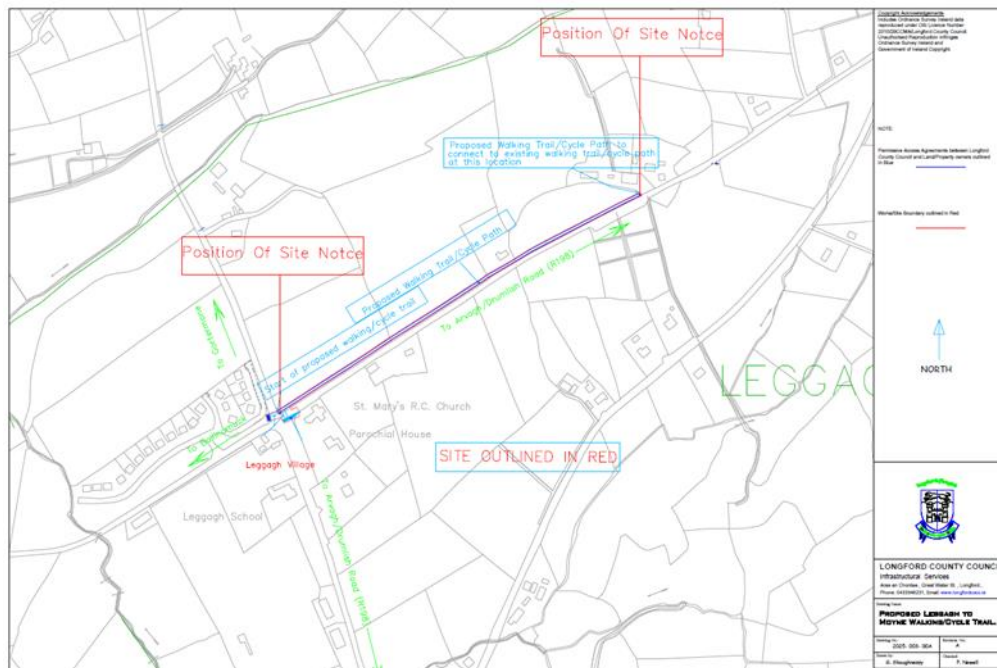
2. NATURE AND EXTENT OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The proposed trail is approximately 570m in length and it will extend in a north-easterly direction along a local, third-class road from St Mary's Church in Leggagh towards the existing walking / cycling trail path that begins at Moyne Graveyard. The existing walkway / cycleway extends along the local road and briefly along the Regional Road (R198) until it reaches the Moyne National and Secondary Schools.

The proposed project will consist of the construction of a 3 metre wide walking / cycle trail as shown in Figure 1 and it will be constructed as follows:

- Topsoil to be stripped and removed to a permitted site.
- Geo-grid/terram to be placed on exposed sub-soil.
- 150mm deep of 75mm stone fill to be placed on the terram below 150mm of Clause 804 material.
- Finished surface will be a 100mm deep Limestone quarry dust finish to match existing previously constructed walkway/cycle path surface.
- Fencing works will consist of sheep wire with 2 rows of plain wire on top with associated timber posts.

- Concrete footpaths will be provided at the start of the proposed works to create a safe crossing area.
- All roadside drains are to be piped and back-filled with clean 50mm drainage stone.



Site layout plan

3. PLANNING CONSIDERATION/ EVALUATION

The policies of Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 govern the development of the county, and the following are in relation to walking paths and cycling lanes.

Chapter 5 – Transport, Infrastructure, Energy and Communications

Section 5.2.7 Cycling and Walking

CPO 5.65 Work with the relevant statutory bodies and other relevant stakeholders, to improve on the existing level of infrastructure and facilities for walking and cycling.

CPO 5.66 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.

CPO 5.68 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.

CPO 5.69 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.

CPO 5.74 Ensure that the upgrading of roads will not impact negatively on the safety and perceived safety of cyclists. Support the development of safe cycle routes and enhance and maintain these routes with quality signposting, lighting and road surfaces separated from vehicular traffic following the standards set out in 2020 DMURS Interim Advice Note – Covid-19 Pandemic Response and the NTA's National Cycle Manual and any further review and iteration of the same. Encourage the development of off-road cycling. Ensure that the upgrading of roads will not impact negatively on the safety and perceived safety of cyclists. Ensure that any dedicated cycle routes which are developed away from the main public carriageway are well lit. Routes should, where possible, follow off-road tracks and quiet country roads.

CPO 5.76 Improve the attractiveness and usability of the pedestrian environment of the County, particularly in residential areas, designated settlements and in areas of high amenity.

Chapter 10 – Tourism

CPO 10.42 Support sustainable initiatives and projects that enable visitors to enjoy and connect with our natural heritage, including walking or cycling trails, glamping, viewing points, facilities for bird-watching and angling, tours and events, subject to the requirements for protecting this valuable and sensitive heritage.

CPO 10.62 Support increased opportunities for off-road walking, including looped walks and longer distance trails, taking account of 'positive control points' in trail design, such as areas of natural beauty, lakeshores or rivers, bogs, built heritage and archaeological features and with links to towns and villages. In designing walking trails, the Sport Ireland Guide to Planning and Developing Recreational Trails will be consulted.

Chapter 13 – Green Infrastructure

A13.5 Work with the National Trails Office, Coillte, the Department of Planning Housing and Local Government, the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport, and other relevant stakeholders, to improve on the existing level of infrastructure and facilities for walking and cycling.

All other relevant Section 28 Planning Guidelines have been considered in this assessment of this application.

As such it is considered that the proposed development is 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 for the construction of a walking trail/cycle path with a limestone dust finish and approx. 570 metres in length and varying in width from 2.5m to 3.0m and all ancillary works as Legga (Leggagh) townland, Moyne, Co. Longford.

The development proposals 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, from Friday 24th of January 2025 up to and including Monday 24th of February 2025.

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 12th of March 2025.

One submission was received for the proposed development during the consultation period:

1. **Uisece Eireann:** No objection in principle

4.1 Internal Reports

- Roads Design: None received
- Area Engineer: None received

5. APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING

The proposed development was screened for Appropriate Assessment, a screen report was submitted as part of the application and it concluded as follows “In accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, the relevant case law, established best practice and the precautionary principle, this AA Screening Report has examined the details of the project in relation to the relevant Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the application site.

At this stage of the AA process, it is for the competent authority, i.e., Longford County Council, to carry out the screening for AA and to reach one of the following determinations:

- a) AA of the proposed development is required if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have a significant effect on any European sites;
- b) AA of the proposed development is not required if it can be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have a significant effect on any European sites.

It is of the opinion of the author that an AA of the proposed development is not required as it can be excluded, on the basis of objective information provided in this report, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have a significant effect on any European sites.”

The identified closest Natura 2000 European Sites are as follows:

- Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC (Site Code: 000007) 14km northeast of the proposed development

Therefore, on the basis of the assessment undertaken by the Planning Authority and 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.

6. EIA SCREENING

In respect of EIA the proposed developed does not fall within the types of development listed in Part 1 or Part 2 of Schedule 5 to the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) and the Planning Authority is satisfied that no EIA is required.

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 all additional requirements indicated in the Uisce Water submission being included in the proposed development.

Any layout alterations as a result of these additional requirements shall be submitted to the Planning Authority for file purposes.

Signed:



Rita Connaughton

Senior Planner

Date:

19/03/2025

Appendix 1 AA and EIAR Screening

AA Screening Form

STEP 1. Description of the project/proposal and local site characteristics:	
(a) File Reference No:	Part 8 No.127
(b) Brief description of the project or plan:	Permission to construct a walking trail/cycle path
(c) Brief description of site characteristics:	Legga, Moyne, Co. Longford
(d) Relevant prescribed bodies consulted: e.g. DHLGH (NPWS), EPA, OPW	None
(e) Response to consultation:	NA

STEP 2. Identification of relevant Natura 2000 sites using Source-Pathway-Receptor model and compilation of information on Qualifying Interests and conservation objectives.				
European Site (code)	List of Qualifying Interest/Special Conservation Interest ¹	Distance from proposed development ² (km)	Connections (Source-Pathway-Receptor)	Considered further in screening Y/N
Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC (Site Code: 000007)	https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/(000007)	14km	None	N

¹ Short paraphrasing and/or cross reference to NPWS is acceptable – it is not necessary to reproduce the full text on the QI/SCI.

² If the site or part thereof is within the European site or adjacent to the European site, state here.

STEP 3. Assessment of Likely Significant Effects	
(a) Identify all potential direct and indirect impacts that may have an effect on the conservation objectives of a European site, taking into account the size and scale of the project under the following headings:	
Impacts:	Possible Significance of Impacts: (duration/magnitude etc.)
Construction phase e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Vegetation clearanceDemolitionSurface water runoff from soil	NA

excavation/infill/landscaping (including borrow pits) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dust, noise, vibration • Lighting disturbance • Impact on groundwater/dewatering • Storage of excavated/construction materials • Access to site • Pests 	
Operational phase e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct emission to air and water • Surface water runoff containing contaminant or sediment • Lighting disturbance • Noise/vibration • Changes to water/groundwater due to drainage or abstraction • Presence of people, vehicles and activities • Physical presence of structures (e.g. collision risks) • Potential for accidents or incidents 	NA
In-combination/Other	NA

(b) Describe any likely changes to the European site:

Examples of the type of changes to give consideration to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction or fragmentation of habitat area • Disturbance to QI species • Habitat or species fragmentation • Reduction or fragmentation in species density • Changes in key indicators of conservation status value (water or air quality etc.) • Changes to areas of sensitivity or threats to QI • Interference with the key relationships that define the structure or ecological function of the site 	NA
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(c) Are 'mitigation' measures necessary to reach a conclusion that likely significant effects can be ruled out at screening?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	No
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Step 4. Screening Determination Statement

The assessment of significance of effects:

Describe how the proposed development (alone or in-combination) is/is **not likely** to have **significant** effects on European site(s) in view of its conservation objectives.

Given the nature and scale of the development proposed, and given that there is no direct hydrological link to a Natura 2000 site, it is considered that there is no potential for significant effects on the Natura 2000 network arising from the proposed works either alone or in combination with other plans and/or projects by way of a loss fragmentation, disruption, disturbance to habitats, species or habitats of species that are of conservation interest.

Conclusion:

	Tick as Appropriate:	Recommendation:
(i) It is clear that there is no likelihood of significant effects on a European site.	X	The proposal can be screened out: Appropriate assessment not required.
(ii) It is uncertain whether the proposal will have a significant effect on a European site.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Request further information to complete screening <input type="checkbox"/> Request NIS <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse planning permission
(iii) Significant effects are likely.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Request NIS <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse planning permission
Signature and Date of Recommending Officer:	Rita Connaughton Senior Planner 18/03/25	

EIA Screening Form

Form 1

EIA Pre-Screening	
Establishing a development is a 'sub-threshold development':	
Planning Reference:	Part 8 No.127
Development Summary:	Permission to construct a walking trail/cycle path
Was a Screening Determination carried out under Section 176A-C?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, no further action required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, Proceed to Part A
A. Schedule 5 Part 1 - Does the development comprise a project listed in Schedule 5, Part 1 , of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)? (Tick as appropriate)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, specify class _____	EIA is mandatory No Screening required
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Proceed to Part B
B. Schedule 5 Part 2 - Does the development comprise a project listed in Schedule 5, Part 2 , of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) and does it meet/exceed the thresholds? (Tick as appropriate)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, the development is not a project listed in Schedule 5, Part 2	No Screening required
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes the project is listed in Schedule 5, Part 2 and meets/exceeds the threshold, specify class (including threshold): _____ [specify class & threshold here] _____	EIA is mandatory No Screening required
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes the project is of a type listed but is <i>sub-threshold</i> : _____ [insert here] _____	Proceed to Part C
C. If Yes , has Schedule 7A information/screening report been submitted?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Schedule 7A information/screening report has been submitted by the applicant	Screening Determination required
<input type="checkbox"/> No, Schedule 7A information/screening report has not been submitted by the applicant	Preliminary Examination required

Appendix 2 – Site photographs

