

Our Case Number: ACP-322952-25



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Development Application Unit
C/O The Manager
Government Offices
Newtown Road
Wexford
Co. Wexford
Y35 AP90

Date: 03 September 2025

Re: Proposed construction of a pedestrian footbridge over the Owenriff River, Co. Galway
In the townlands of Cregg, Carrowmanagh and Fough West, Oughterard, County Galway

Dear Sir / Madam,

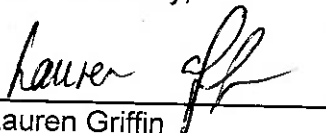
An Coimisiún Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

Please note that the proposed development shall not be carried out unless the Commission has approved it with or without modifications.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Commission at laps@pleanala.ie

Please quote the above mentioned An Coimisiún Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Commission.

Yours faithfully,


Lauren Griffin
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737244

AA02

Teil
Glao Áitiúil
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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Lauren Griffin

From: Lauren Griffin
Sent: Tuesday, 2 September 2025 11:13
To: Simon Dolan (Housing)
Subject: RE: S177AE Application - Oughterard Bridge

A Chara,

The Commission acknowledges receipt of your email; official correspondence will issue in due course.

Kind regards,

Lauren

From: Simon Dolan (Housing) <Simon.Dolan@npws.gov.ie>
Sent: Monday, 1 September 2025 15:50
To: LAPS <laps@pleanala.ie>
Subject: S177AE Application - Oughterard Bridge

Caution: This is an **External Email** and may have malicious content. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact the ICT Helpdesk.

A Chara,

Attached please find the Archaeological recommendations.

Regards,



Simon Dolan

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

Aonad na nIarratas ar Fhorbairt
Development Applications Unit

Oifigí an Rialtais
Government Offices

Bóthar an Bhaile Nua, Loch Garman, Contae Loch Garman, Y35 AP90
Newtown Road, Wexford, County Wexford, Y35 AP90

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



Planning Ref: S177AE Oughterard Footbridge
(Please quote in all related correspondence)

1 September 2025

The Secretary
An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Via email: laps@pleanala.ie

Re: Notification under the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended

Proposed Development: S177AE application for the Oughterard Footbridge.

A chara

I refer to correspondence received in connection with the above. Outlined below are heritage-related observations/recommendations co-ordinated by the Development Applications Unit under the stated headings.

Archaeology

Underwater Archaeology:

The full planning submission made by Galway County Council to An Coimisiún Pleanála, including the submitted *Updated Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: N59 Oughterard Footbridge, Oughterard, County Galway* report (AMS June 2025), has been reviewed by the Department. It is noted that 'forty-two cultural heritage assets were identified in the study area that was considered for the Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (Table 10; Figure 12–Figure 13; see also Appendix 1). There are no World Heritage Properties/Tentative List Properties, national monuments, national monuments in State care subject to Preservation Orders, or sites listed in the Register of Historic Monuments in the study area. The development of the proposed footbridge will result in no negative impacts to cultural heritage assets. The attractive design of the proposed new footbridge will positively contribute to the built heritage of Oughterard and amenity of the Owenriff River, as it will increase pedestrian circulation within the Architectural Conservation Area and afford aesthetically improved views upstream and downstream' (Section 4.2). It is noted that the proposed development is in the environs of recorded monuments afforded statutory protection in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) established under section 12 (Recorded Monuments) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1930-2014. It is also noted that the proposed project incorporates a watercourse, which can be considered to be of archaeological potential. Section 3 of the National Monuments

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(Amendment) Act 1987 is the primary piece of legislation for the protection of wrecks over 100 years old and archaeological objects underwater, irrespective of age. Wrecks that are less than 100 years old and archaeological objects or the potential location of such a wreck or archaeological object can also be protected under Section 3 of the 1987 (Amendment) Act. Underwater cultural heritage also encompasses, for example, weirs, historic bridges, fording points, revetment walls, historic flood defences and other riverine structures and features, many of which may be present within the proposed development area and/or are marked on historic maps. The archaeological assessment report notes that no in stream works are proposed. A programme of archaeological testing is proposed as mitigation against any likely significant effects on previously unknown or potential archaeological heritage. The Department broadly concur with the proposals and recommend the following conditions are attached to any planning permission that may issue for the development from An Coimisiún Pleanála.

Archaeological Recommendation:

1. The Final Detailed Design for the project shall be the subject of an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA), to be submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage for review and approval, prior to the commencement of any construction works. The AIA report shall contain the following:
 - a. Results of licenced archaeological test-excavations, accompanied by a hand-held metal detection survey; of all identified areas of archaeological potential where ground disturbances will take place, including areas of potential archaeological features identified by geophysical surveys. The archaeological test-excavations shall be carried out under a Section 26 (National Monuments Act 1930) licence from the National Monuments Service and in accordance with an approved method statement. Licensed metal detection shall be undertaken in tandem with the test excavations and under a Detection Device consent (Section 2 1987 National Monuments Act). All test-excavations that have the potential to uncover human skeletal remains shall be undertaken in conjunction with a suitably qualified osteoarchaeologist. Licenses shall be applied for to the National Monuments Service and shall be accompanied by a detailed method statement. Note a period of 3-4 weeks should be allowed to facilitate processing and approval of the licence application and method statement.
 - b. A detailed Archaeological Impact Assessment that addresses all identified or potential impacts on archaeological heritage, including on archaeological objects, sites and features. The AIA shall make recommendations on measures to avoid or, where necessary, mitigate all identified potential/identified impacts and significant effects on archaeological heritage. The Developer shall be prepared to be advised by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage for in this regard or in regard to any subsequent recommendations that may issue. Mitigation shall prioritise redesign or partial redesign to facilitate full or partial preservation in situ. Mitigation may also include archaeological excavations ('preservation by record'), archaeological test-excavations, stabilisation/conservation works and/or archaeological monitoring, underwater archaeological inspection by means of archaeological diving, underwater archaeological surveys, or any combination of the above or any other mitigation measures as may be recommended by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage for. No construction works shall be



undertaken until formal approval in writing from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage for has been received by the Developer.

Archaeological Monitoring

2. Archaeological monitoring shall be undertaken as follows:
 - a. The services of a suitably qualified and experienced, to the satisfaction of the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage for, archaeologist shall be engaged to carry out full-time archaeological monitoring of all construction activities that involve ground disturbance or demolition of historic fabric, structures or features, and of any works where materials of archaeological importance may be uncovered.
 - b. The archaeological monitoring shall be carried out by a suitably qualified and experienced, to the satisfaction of the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage for, archaeologist, under a Section 26 (National Monuments Act 1930) excavation licence and in accordance with an approved method statement.
 - c. A Finds Retrieval Strategy shall be implemented and agreed with the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage, as part of the archaeological licence application. This shall include for systematic finds retrieval and metal detection of all spoil, which shall be undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist working under a Detection Device consent (Section 2 1987 National Monuments Act). All monitoring works that have the potential to uncover human skeletal remains shall be undertaken in conjunction with a suitably qualified and experienced osteoarchaeologist. Secure finds storage that ensures the protection and conservation of wet and dry finds, including human skeletal remains, shall be provided within the construction site compound.
 - d. Sufficient, suitably experienced and qualified to the satisfaction of the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage for, archaeologists shall be in place to ensure continuous archaeological monitoring of Project works.
 - e. In order to ensure full communication is in place between the monitoring archaeologist(s) and the works contractor(s) at all times, a communication strategy shall be implemented that facilitates direct archaeological monitoring of all construction activities that involve ground disturbances or demolitions and of any works where materials of archaeological importance may be uncovered. Adequate notice (minimum four weeks) of all forthcoming works that require the attendance of the monitoring archaeologist(s) shall be provided by the works contractor.
 - f. Should suspected/verified archaeological structures, features, deposits or sites and/or archaeological objects, be identified during the course of the archaeological monitoring activities, the monitoring archaeologist shall be authorised by the Developer to suspend all construction activities on the affected area (as defined by the monitoring archaeologist). The Developer shall immediately institute a Temporary Archaeological Exclusion Zone (TAEZ) to the proposed find location and its environs (as defined by the monitoring archaeologist) and all construction activities shall immediately cease within the TAEZ in order to facilitate investigative assessment, protection and prompt notification to the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage for and other statutory authorities, as required.
 - g. Following assessment of the newly discovered archaeological materials, the Developer shall undertake any ensuing mitigating action as is required by the



Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage. Mitigation shall prioritise redesign or partial redesign to facilitate full or partial preservation in situ. Mitigation may also include archaeological excavations ('preservation by record'), archaeological test-excavations, stabilisation/conservation works and/or archaeological monitoring, underwater archaeological inspection by means of archaeological diving, underwater archaeological surveys, or any combination of the above or any other mitigation measures as may be recommended by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage. No construction activities shall recommence within the Temporary Archaeological Exclusion Zone until formally agreed in writing with the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage. Where ensuing mitigation is required, no archaeological works shall be undertaken until after an amended method statement that describes the mitigation strategy has been submitted, reviewed and agreed in writing by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage. All resulting and associated archaeological costs shall be borne by the Developer.

- h. The planning authority and the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage shall be furnished with a final archaeological report describing the results of all archaeological monitoring and any archaeological investigative work/excavation required, following the completion of all archaeological works and any post-excavation analysis, scientific dating programmes, palaeoenvironmental analysis, conservation of archaeological objects, as required by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage and the National Museum of Ireland. Where significant archaeological discoveries are made, they shall be fully published in an appropriate academic format. All post excavation and publication costs shall be borne by the Developer.

You are requested to send further communications to this Department's Development Applications Unit (DAU) at manager.dau@npws.gov.ie where used, or to the following address:

The Manager
Development Applications Unit (DAU)
Government Offices
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

Is mise, le meas

Simon Dolan
Development Applications Unit
Administration