

Our Case Number: ACP-322952-25



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Inland Fisheries Ireland
Teach Breac
Earl's Island
Co. Galway

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

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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
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64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
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Lauren Griffin

From: Lauren Griffin
Sent: Wednesday, 3 September 2025 12:26
To: David Harrington
Subject: RE: An Coimisiún Pleanála - Case reference: JP07.322952

A Chara,

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

Kind regards,

Lauren

From: David Harrington <David.Harrington@fisheriesireland.ie>
Sent: Monday, September 1, 2025 4:55 PM
To: Bord <bord@pleanala.ie>
Subject: An Coimisiún Pleanála - Case reference: JP07.322952

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.

Dear Secretary,

I refer to the proposed planning application submitted by Galway County Council to An Coimisiún Pleanála in accordance with Section 177AE of The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and The Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), in respect of the following development:

The proposed footbridge will be up to approximately 3.6m in height, and approximately 48.2m in length, with a 3m clear deck width. It will be a single-span footbridge with abutments to either side of the Owenriff River, and there will be no instream works. It will also contain a 3m clear width access ramp to tie into the Carrowmanagh Road to the north-west with stepped access to the riverside walkway. A new pedestrian crossing with speed table is proposed on Carrowmanagh Road with realigned kerb line. A path is proposed to tie into the N59 Clifden Road to the south-east with a new pedestrian crossing with speed table, and realigned carriageway kerb line. Works will include the demolition and rebuilding/realignment of the existing boundary wall to the existing dwelling to the north (adjacent to the riverside walkway) and to the existing dwelling to the south known as The Old Barracks. Ancillary works will include walls, fencing, pedestrian railings, bollards, signage, lighting, benches, hard and soft landscaping, including compensatory tree planting at Carrowmanagh Park, the diversion/replacement of an existing watermain and combined sewer, and a temporary construction compound on lands at Station Road, Oughterard.

(An Coimisiún Pleanála - Case reference: JP07.322952)

Please find attached IFI's observations on the planning application.

I would appreciate if An Coimisiún Pleanála could acknowledge receipt of this submission.

Kind Regards,

David

David Harrington

Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer

✉ David.Harrington@fisheriesireland.ie • ☎ +353 (0)91 563118 • 🌐 www.fisheriesireland.ie • 🏠 H91 E2A2



The banner features the Inland Fisheries Ireland logo on the left, which consists of a stylized fish and the text 'Iascach Intíre Éireann Inland Fisheries Ireland'. In the center is a circular image of a woman talking on a mobile phone. On the right, the text 'beolín / hotline' is above the large number '0818 34 74 24'. Below this number, it says 'Oscailte 24 uair an lá / 7 lá in aghaidh na seachtaine' and 'Open 24 hours a day / 7 days a week'.

Help us protect Ireland's rivers, lakes and coastlines by reporting illegal fishing, water pollution or invasive species. Our confidential phone number is 0818 34 74 24, which is open 24 hours a day / 7 days a week.

To read our Privacy Policy and Email Disclaimer Notice, Please visit www.fisheriesireland.ie



**Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland**

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

1st September 2025

An Coimisiún Pleanála - Case reference: JP07.322952

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

Dear Secretary,

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) is the State Body responsible for the protection, management and conservation of the inland fisheries and sea angling resource in Ireland. Protection of the aquatic environment and habitat is a vitally important element of IFI's work. IFI is mandated to ensure that the fisheries of the State are protected. "Fisheries" includes all inland fisheries recreational and commercial, sea angling and mollusc fisheries stipulated under the Fisheries Acts, the physical habitat upon which the fishery relies, the facilities and access, the quantity and quality of the water and the plant and animal life on which fish depend for shelter and food and the spawning areas where in fish deposit their eggs. The protective role of IFI relates to all aspects of the aquatic environment and all factors that influence the biotic communities within waters, which in any way relate to the propagation of fish stocks.

Proposed Development

Galway County Council planning application to An Coimisiún Pleanála in accordance with Section 177AE of The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and The Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), in respect of the following development:

The proposed footbridge will be up to approximately 3.6m in height, and approximately 48.2m in length, with a 3m clear deck width. It will be a single-span footbridge with abutments to either side of the Owenriff River, and there will be no instream works. It will also contain a 3m clear width access ramp to tie into the Carrowmanagh Road to the north-west with stepped access to the riverside walkway. A new pedestrian crossing with speed table is proposed on Carrowmanagh Road with realigned kerb line. A path is proposed to tie into the N59 Clifden Road to the south-east with a new pedestrian crossing with speed table, and realigned carriageway kerb line. Works will include the demolition and rebuilding/realignment of the existing boundary wall to the existing dwelling to the north (adjacent to the riverside walkway) and to the existing dwelling to the south known as The Old Barracks. Ancillary works will include walls, fencing, pedestrian railings, bollards, signage, lighting, benches, hard and soft landscaping, including compensatory tree planting at Carrowmanagh Park, the diversion/replacement of an existing watermain and combined sewer, and a temporary construction compound on lands at Station Road, Oughterard.



Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

Associated waterbodies

The Owenriff River is located on the north-western end of the Lough Corrib catchment and drains into Lough Corrib SAC downstream of Oughterard, Co. Galway. The river provides habitat for a range of fish species, and wild brown trout and salmon ascend the catchment each year to spawn. The river also hosts a notably abundant population of Freshwater Pearl Mussels, some of which are located adjacent to this site. These mussels have a symbiotic relationship with the salmonids for the purposes of breeding; hence the protection of these species also needs to be considered when reviewing this planning application. The Owenriff (Corrib)_020 currently has a Water Framework Directive poor status and is at risk of not achieving good status by 2027. Having regard to these sensitivities, the following points need to be given serious consideration in the context of the proposed development:

Protection of water quality and fisheries habitat

Having reviewed the associated documents, IFI notes the following:

- The bridge is a clear span structure over the Owenriff River, and no instream works are proposed.
 - Abutments will be setback ~2.5m and 6.2m from the riverbank crest on the north and south side.
 - An Ecological Clerk of works (ECoW) will be employed by the contractor for the duration of the project.
 - The application includes mitigation measures to avoid impacts on water quality during the construction phase of the project which are set out in the Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).
1. IFI would request that should the development be granted permission, it be a requirement that the appointed contractor(s) and ECoW are made aware of IFI's guidance document for reference regarding the protection of fisheries watercourses during construction works in and adjacent to waters before the construction phase of the project commences:
<https://www.fisheriesireland.ie/sites/default/files/migrated/docman/2016/Guidelines%20Report%202016.pdf>
 2. The ECoW should undertake daily inspections of the onsite pollution mitigation measures to ensure that the water quality and habitat of the Owenriff River is not impacted upon during the construction phase of the project.
 3. IFI Galway should be given advanced notice prior to the commencement of the water main and combined sewer replacement works on the north riverbank.
 4. Only native plant species shall be used for the proposed riparian planting along the Owenriff River.

I would appreciate if An Coimisiún Pleanála could acknowledge receipt of this submission.

Yours sincerely

David Harrington
Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer
IFI Galway
ACP-N59OF-0925