



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

An Coimisiún Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,
D01 V902

26th September 2025

RE: APPLICATION TO AN COIMISIÚN PLEANÁLA FOR APPROVAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EXTENSION TO THE EXISTING BURIAL GROUND AT DRUMCLIFF, ENNIS. CO. CLARE.

A Chara,

Clare County Council intends to seek approval of An Coimisiún Pleanála under Section 177AE of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) for the Development of an extension to the existing Burial Ground at Drumcliff Burial Ground located at the Townland of Drumcliff, Ennis, Co. Clare.

The proposed development comprises the development of an extension to the existing Burial Ground at Drumcliff, Ennis, Co Clare. The development will include:

- An addition of circa 413 double plots (or 826 single plots).
- Provision for ash plots to existing St. Brigid's Section E of existing Burial Ground.
- Access road improvements including lay-bys, turning circle and traffic calming measures.
- Provision of columbarium walls with circa 470 niches.
- Parking; 23 standard spaces, 6 designated spaces for people with disabilities.
- Footpaths and the provision of access ramps.
- Drainage, landscaping works, and planting.
- Associated Site Works.

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening report was prepared. As a result, a Natura Impact Statement has been prepared as part of the application for approval in respect of the proposed development.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report has also been completed in support of the application. It concluded that an EIA is not required.

Enclosed herewith is the following documentation in accordance with Article 249 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended) in support of the application.

- a) 2 no. hard copies of the Planning Report & Statement of Consistency.
- b) 2 no. hard copies of the newspaper notice published in the "Clare Champion" on the 26th September 2025 in accordance with section 177AE(4)(a)
- c) 2 no. hard copies of the Site Notice – erected 26th September 2025 (pictures attached).
- d) 2no. hard copies of the Plans & Particulars of the proposed development.

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Stiúrthóireacht Forbairt Pobail

Áras Contae an Chláir, Bóthar Nua, Inis, Co. an Chláir, V95 DXP2

Rural and Community Department
Rural Development Directorate

Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95 DXP2



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- e) 2 no. hard copies of the Landscape Proposals
- f) 2no. hard copies of the Appropriate Assessment Screening and Natura Impact Statement (NIS)
- g) 2no hard copies of the Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA)
- h) 2no. hard copies of the Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report.
- i) 2no. hard copies of the Hydrological & Hydrogeological Assessment Report
- j) 2no. hard copies of an Archaeological Appraisal Report
- k) 2 no. hard copies of the Preliminary Construction & Environmental Management Plan
- l) 1 soft copy of the full Planning Application Pack for the proposed development

The following Prescribed Bodies have been notified with respect to the application for the proposed development in terms of Section 177AE(4)(b) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended):

- 1. Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage
- 2. Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment
- 3. An Taisce
- 4. Uisce Eireann
- 5. The Heritage Council
- 6. Inland Fisheries
- 7. The Arts Council
- 8. Fáilte Ireland
- 9. Clare County Council

Clare County Council were awarded planning permission by An Coimisiún Pleanála in April 2024 for the extension of Drumcliff Burial Ground (ABP-318080-23). Clare County Council initiated detail design subsequent to this grant and revisions were proposed to enhance accessibility and functionality. The revisions necessitate a new application to An Coimisiún Pleanála, and Clare County Council are therefore seeking planning permission for an updated site layout that enhances overall functionality, accommodates evolving burial practices, and improves accessibility throughout the grounds.

Proposal Overview:

Drumcliff Burial Ground is located north of Ennis town close to Drumcliffe Church and Round Tower. Drumcliffe Water Treatment Plant is to the south of the Burial Ground. Ballyallia Lake (an SAC & SPA) is located to the north and the River Fergus (SAC) to the east. This planning application seeks to improve the existing operational section of the burial ground and extend the existing burial ground to ensure sufficient capacity for the next decade.

Drumcliff Burial Ground is the county burial ground in Clare, serving the large population of Ennis Municipal District. Drumcliff Burial Ground is divided into Sections – Section E (St. Brigid's) is the section currently in operation i.e. burial plots are available for purchase. Access to Section E is via an existing road through the main burial ground. This road serves all other

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sections in the burial ground. It is estimated that Section E will approach capacity in less than 2 years.

The proposed development seeks to extend the burial ground beyond Section E to create additional capacity for burials. The design responds to the sloping ground to create a series of platforms linked with accessible ramps and staircases. Accessibility is at the heart of the proposal, and a feature ramp will connect existing Section E to the proposed extension. This ramp will have an integrated columbarium wall with niche space. Soft landscaping and planting native species will enhance biodiversity and improve the ecological value of the site. A sense of tranquillity and reflection is created through considered landscaping and pause spaces throughout the proposal. In terms of servicing, provision is made for carparking, water supply and bin storage. A future compound area is also identified to the west of the site.

Current Capacity of Burial Ground:

Drumcliff Burial Ground is the county burial ground and serves the large population of Ennis Municipal District. Section E of the existing Burial Ground is nearing full capacity, so it is important that this development is progressed as soon as possible in order for Clare County Council to continue to meet its statutory requirements to provide a right of burial. We would therefore appreciate if An Coimisiún Pleanála can consider this application as soon as possible.

Yours Faithfully,

Ann Reynolds,
Director of Service,
Rural Development Directorate
Clare County Council

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