



DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

BARNESMORE GAP GREENWAY

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCREENING DETERMINATION

Donegal County Council ("DCC") intends to apply to An Coimisiún Pleanála for approval under Section 51 of the Roads Act 1993 (as amended) for the Barnesmore Gap Greenway Project (the "**Proposed Scheme**").

The Proposed Scheme will provide an active travel route between the towns of Donegal Town and Ballybofey/Stranorlar in County Donegal, together with all associated amenities and all ancillary and consequential works associated with and known as the Barnesmore Gap Greenway Project.

The Proposed Scheme will provide enhanced access to the wider region, enticing users to explore its surrounding towns and villages and further develop the untapped tourism potential within the region. The project also provides the opportunity to highlight the historical and educational significance of such places, whilst promoting the scenic nature of the surrounding area. At Donegal Town the proposed greenway will connect with the international EuroVelo Route 1 which follows the northern, western and southern coastlines around Ireland, and the route also forms part of the proposed National Cycle Network across Ireland.

The proposed route of the greenway mainline is approximately 30km in length and will be a bi-directional shared walking, wheeling, and cycling route. There is a further 7.5km of connections which provide additional integration to surrounding amenities and active travel routes, which gives a total length of 37.5km for the proposed facility.

Ancillary Infrastructure along the route has been designed in line with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sports Greenways and Cycle Routes Ancillary Infrastructure Guidelines. This includes the provision of trailheads, rest areas, cycle parking, connections, lighting and wind breaks.

Trailheads are formal points of entry to the Greenway and are an integral part of the route experience. Four trailheads have been identified along the proposed development route. At these facilities it is proposed to provide car parking, as well as rest areas and bicycle parking. Additional facilities and amenities, including toilet facilities, will be provided at some of the trailheads depending on the Level of Service. All the facilities at the trailheads will be accessible to disabled users, with dropped kerb access, tactile paving crossing, accessible parking and wider doors to access toilet blocks. The trailheads also include rest areas for users of the greenway in the form of picnic benches and seating as well as information boards displaying the greenway route and key information.

Having regard to EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU ("the EIA Directive") requiring that certain public and private projects be assessed for likely effects on the environment, as transposed in the Roads Act 1993 (as amended) and on the basis of the EU and national legislative requirements and the description of the proposed development, it has been determined that the proposed Barnesmore Gap Greenway project does not fall within a mandatory category for EIA.

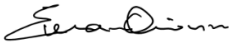
Aecom/Roughan and O'Donovan (ROD) Consulting Engineers on behalf of Donegal County Council has undertaken a sub-threshold Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening, and a conclusion has been made in relation to the proposed development, in accordance with the criteria for determining whether a sub-threshold development should be subject to an EIA, as set out in Annex III of the EIA Directive and transposed into national legislation in Schedule 7 and 7A of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), under the following headings:

- (i) Characteristics of the proposed development,
- (ii) Location of the proposed development, and
- (iii) Characteristics of potential impacts.

Donegal County Council considers that the Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report prepared by Aecom/Roughan and O'Donovan (ROD) Consulting Engineers on its behalf, includes a fair and reasonable assessment of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Scheme on the environment.

In reaching this EIA Screening determination, the Donegal County Council has adopted and agrees with the assessments and conclusions provided in the EIA Screening Report prepared by Aecom/Roughan and O'Donovan (ROD) Consulting Engineers, entitled; Barnesmore Gap Greenway EIA Screening Report.

In accordance with the above listed legislation, Donegal County Council has made this EIA screening determination, based on the precautionary principle, and has concluded that likely significant effects on the receiving environment, cannot be excluded at this stage. Environmental Impact Assessment is required to be undertaken in respect of the proposed development and that an Environmental Impact Assessment Report be prepared for submission to An Coimisiun Pleanala as part of the application for development consent.

Signed: 

Dated: - 06/07/2026