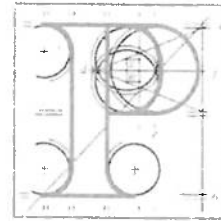


Our Case Number: ACP-324568-26



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Maritime Area Regulatory Authority
2nd Floor
Menapia House
Drinagh Business Park
Drinagh
Co. Wexford
Y35 RF29

Date: 17 September 2026

Re: Proposed Development of the Barnesmore Gap Greenway Project
County Donegal

Dear Sir / Madam,

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

Please note that the proposed road development shall not be carried out unless the Commission has approved it or approved it with modifications.

If you have any queries in relation to this matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Commission at aps@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

HA02C

Teil
Glaio Áitiúil
Facs
Láithreán Gréasáin
Ríomhphost

Tel
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(01) 858 8100
1800 275 175
(01) 872 2684
www.pleanala.ie
communications@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Lauren Griffin

From: Lauren Griffin
Sent: Thursday 17 September 2026 10:22
To: consultation@mara.gov.ie
Subject: RE: Planning Ref: HA05E.324568

Good morning,

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

Kind regards,
Lauren

From: MARA Consultation <consultation@mara.gov.ie>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 8:39 AM
To: SIDS <sids@pleanala.ie>
Subject: Planning Ref: HA05E.324568

You don't often get email from consultation@mara.gov.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

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.

Good Morning,

I refer to the above and attach herewith submission on behalf of The Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA).

I would be obliged if you could acknowledge receipt of same.

Kind Regards,

Jennifer.

Jennifer O' Connor

Planning Advisory Analyst

MUL & Planning Advisory Directorate

T: +353 (0)53 910 5756

E: jennifer.oconnor@mara.gov.ie

W: www.maritimeregulator.ie

An tÚdarás Rialála Limistéir Mhuirí

An Dara Urlár, Teach Menapia, Páirc Ghnó Dhraighneach, Draighneach, Loch Garman, Y35RF29

Maritime Area Regulatory Authority

2nd Floor, Menapia House, Drinagh Business Park, Drinagh, Wexford, Y35RF29



Strategic Infrastructure Division,
An Coimisiún Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,
D01 V902.

Date: 16th September 2026

Your Reference: HA05E.324568

Re: Application by Donegal County Council to An Coimisiún Pleanála for approval under the Roads Act, 1993 (as amended) for the Barnesmore Gap Greenway Project, Donegal.

Dear Sir/Madam,

We acknowledge receipt of the Prescribed Notice under Section 51(3) (b) of the Roads Act, 1993 (as amended) from Donegal County Council, received by the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA), on the 14/08/2026 in relation to Barnesmore Gap Greenway Project, to provide a greenway or active travel route between Donegal Town and the towns of Ballyboley/Stranolar in County Donegal. The proposed route will connect to the international EuroVelo Route 1 in Donegal town which follows the northern, western and southern coastlines around Ireland, and the route also forms part of the proposed National Cycle Network across Ireland.

MARA as a prescribed body

The Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) welcomes the notification of the proposed project at this stage of the process. MARA is a prescribed body by virtue of Section 279A of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) for the purposes of Part XXI, and as set out in Schedule 1 of the Planning and Development (Maritime Development) Regulations, 2023.

As you may be aware MARA's functions, are set out under the Maritime Area Planning Act, 2021, (MAP Act) and extend to the entire maritime area, from high water of ordinary tides to the outer limit of the continental shelf, encompassing the State's territorial seas and Exclusive Economic Zone. Accordingly, any comments MARA make will relate to the maritime area only and should not be interpreted as inferring any aspect of assessment of the project which is the remit of An Coimisiún Pleanála and the Minister respectively.

The project involves a substantial site area none of which is located within the maritime area. MARA also note that there is no development works proposed for below the high water mark. The proposed route of the greenway is approximately 31km in length and will be a bi-directional shared walking, wheeling, and cycling route. There is a further 6.5km of links which provide additional connectivity and integration to surrounding amenities and active travel routes, which gives a total length of 37.5km for the proposed development.

address:

An tUdarás Rialála Limistéir Mhuiri / Maritime Area Regulatory Authority
An Dara Ullár, Teach Menapia, Páirc Ghno Dlíraighlini, Draighneach, Loch Garman, Y35RF29,
2nd Floor, Menapia House, Drinagh Business Park, Drinagh, Wexford,
Y35RF29.

email:

info@mara.gov.ie

website:

www.maritimeregulator.ie

Relevant Maritime Area Consents:

The MAP Act requires MARA to licence marine usage activities as specified in Schedule 7 of the MAP Act, (not being a maritime usage which requires development permission). MARA cannot issue a MUL for which an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required. Where an EIA is required, a MAC must be applied for. MARA undertakes an appropriate assessment screening on all applications for a MUL and an appropriate assessment where required.

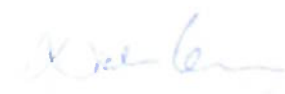
MARA note that there are no existing Maritime Area Consents, Maritime Usage Licences or Foreshore Act Consents in the immediate vicinity of the route of the proposed greenway.

To assist in the cumulative assessment of the Roads Act approval the following links to Maritime Area Consents, Maritime Usage Licences and Foreshore Act Consents may also be of relevance for your consideration;

- MAC and MUL applications can be found here; [Applications & Determinations - MARA - Maritime Area Regulatory Authority](#).
- Foreshore notices can be found here; [Search Foreshore Notices](#)

Further advice and guidance on any of the above can be found on MARA's website; [MARA - Maritime Area Regulatory Authority](#). A consultation by the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority under this section shall not prejudice the performance by it of any of its other functions. If you have any queries or require further information in relation to this matter, please contact the undersigned in the MUL & Planning Advisory Directorate of MARA directly. I would be grateful if receipt of this correspondence, could be formally acknowledged by email to the following consultation@mara.gov.ie.

Yours sincerely,



Niamh Lennon

Senior Marine Planning Advisor
MUL & Planning Advisory Directorate

address:

An tUdarás Rialála Limistéir Mhuin / Maritime Area Regulatory Authority
An Dara Uirlár, Teach Menapia, Páirc Ghno Dhraighlinn, Draigheach, Loch
German, Y35RF29.
2nd Floor, Menapia House, Drinagh Business Park, Drinagh, Wexford,
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