



Comhairle Chontae Liatroma
Leitrim County Council



Aghoo Bridge to Lock 4 Blueway

Part 8

Briefing Document

September 2020

Contents

1.0	Introduction	1
2.0	Nature and Extent of Proposed Works.....	1
3.0	Drainage.....	2
4.0	Access.....	2
5.0	Details of Public Lighting.....	2
6.0	Site Selection	2
7.0	Leitrim County Development Plan 2015-2021	3
8.0	Drawings	4
9.0	Public Consultation Process	4

1.0 Introduction

This application outlines proposals for a new section of pedestrian/cycle trail at Aghoo, Co. Leitrim.

Waterways Ireland is the navigation authority for the Shannon-Erne Navigation. Waterways Ireland owns and maintains the towpath along the banks of the canalised river and canal sections of the Shannon-Erne Navigation. At various locations along the Shannon Navigation and Shannon-Erne Waterway, walkways and cycle routes have been developed in both the rural and urban environments which have proven to be very popular attractions to the region.

Leitrim County Council in partnership with Waterways Ireland are proposing the continuation of the Shannon-Erne Blueway Trail from Aghoo Bridge to Lock 4 – Aghoo. The current proposal is to develop a further 390m section of Blueway Trail where it will connect to existing Ballyduff to Aghoo Bridge Walking Trail along the Ballinamore Canal. This application is a proposed amendment of the section of Blueway Trail between Aghoo Bridge and Lock 4 - Aghoo which was previously approved under Planning Reference 14/C/10.

2.0 Nature and Extent of Proposed Works

The proposed development comprises of the following elements:

2.1 Pedestrian/Cycle Path

The proposed path will connect to the existing Ballyduff to Aghoo Bridge Walking Trail immediately west of Aghoo bridge. The path shall pass below Aghoo Bridge using a new underpass as outlined in Section 2.2, before following the road for approximately 150m. The path then traverses the field to follow along the Ballinamore Canal for approximately 200m before connecting to the existing bitmac path/access road at Lock 4. The proposed path crosses the existing Lock gate walkways and the existing weir walkaway before connecting to the Proposed Blueway Trail previously approved under Ref 14/C10. Refer to drawings NSE-AA436-P100,101 &102 for route details.

The typical construction of the Blueway trail will involve constructing a 1-3m wide path with Clause 804 subbase and a surfacing course of 6mm crushed limestone or quarry dust. Refer to drawing NSE-AA436-P201 for details. The proposed works shall include

a section rock armour bank stabilisation, signage, road markings, fencing, vehicular barrier and drainage.

2.2 Aghoo Bridge Underpass

A new pedestrian underpass shall be provided under Aghoo Bridge which shall be constructed from gabion baskets with a handrail and timber fender. The path below the bridge shall be 1.2m wide with a minimum vertical clearance of 2.3m. Refer to drawing NSE-AA436-P302 for details.

3.0 Drainage

A filter drain shall be provided along the proposed Blueway path, comprising of a gravel filled trench with perforated pipe, which shall discharge directly to the adjacent watercourse. Refer to drawing NSE-AA436-P201 for details.

No water supply or effluent disposal will be required for this development.

4.0 Access

The proposed new Blueway path can be accessed from the existing site entrance adjacent to Glenview Folk Museum near Aghoo bridge and the existing access road at Lock 4. The site can also be accessed by pedestrians/cyclists from the existing Ballyduff to Aghoo Bridge Walking Trail.

5.0 Details of Public Lighting

There is no new public lighting proposed as part of this development.

6.0 Site Selection

The proposed site was selected as it forms a continuation of the existing Ballyduff to Aghoo Bridge Walking Trail.

7.0 Leitrim County Development Plan 2015-2021

The proposed Blueway Trail Development is in compliance with the following policies and objectives of the County Development Plan:

Section 3.2 - Tourism Sector

Policy 1d)

Promote the development of tourism in a sustainable manner and encourage the provision of a comprehensive range of tourism accommodation and facilities, subject to location, design criteria, the protection of environmentally sensitive areas and other planning considerations:

Objective 1g)

Develop the Shannon/Erne Waterways as a distinct tourism attraction with regards to walking, cycling & water activities product development and promotion;

Section 4.6.1 - Sustainable Transportation

This section outlines the Council commitment to promote more sustainable transport modes such as walking and cycling which encourages healthier and safer lifestyles, including heritage walks and the protection of public rights of way, which are an important amenity and tourism resource. It states that opportunities to upgrade transport routes and carry out ancillary works including cycle and walking routes will be pursued and implemented as resources become available.

Section 4.6.3 – Walking and Cycling

Policy 46

It is the policy of the Council to encourage safe walking and cycling by providing linear parks, footpaths, cycle paths and public lighting in towns and villages.

Objective 29(a)

It is an objective of the Council to seek opportunities for the development of suitable walking routes, cycle tracks and bridle paths along redundant railway lines and other suitable locations such as; along waterways and historical access routes.

Section 4.9.9. - Industrial Archaeology and Canals

The Council is aware of the cultural importance of the County's industrial heritage and in particular of the canal and waterway systems that traverse the County. Canals, lough

gates and associated structures are fine examples of 19th century industrial engineering, which have mellowed over time to form an intrinsic part of the County's landscape. The importance of protecting these structures is all the greater given the increased importance of the canal and navigation network as a tourism and recreational resource.

Policy 107

It is the policy of the Council to protect and enhance public accessibility to the County's Industrial Heritage.

Section 4.10.4 - Inland Waterways

"The Shannon navigation and our waterways are a national asset which need to be protected and nurtured for future generations, also they need to be maintained as a real living, working environment." (Waterways Corridor Study 2001, page 8).

Policy 110

It is the policy of the Council to promote and protect managed public access to the County's rivers and lakes and to ensure appropriate environmental safeguards are put in place in the provision of such accessibility.

8.0 Drawings

The following Part 8 drawings shall be submitted as part of the application:

- NSE-AA436-LP01 - Site Location Plan
- NSE-AA436-P100 - Proposed Route
- NSE-AA436-P101 - Proposed Site Layout – Sheet 1 of 2
- NSE-AA436-P102 - Proposed Site Layout – Sheet 2 of 2
- NSE-AA436-P201 - Typical Path Details
- NSE-AA436-P301 - Existing Site Layout – Aghoo Bridge
- NSE-AA436-P302 - Proposed Underpass – Proposed Site Layout
- NSE-AA436-P303 - Proposed Underpass – Proposed Elevation

9.0 Public Consultation Process

The project was formally advertised for public consultation between Wednesday 14th October 2020 and Wednesday 11th November 2020. Details of the project were available for inspection during normal office hours at the office of the Planning Authority and also

on the Council website. The closing date for submissions is 4.00pm Wednesday 25th November 2020.