



Greystones - Delgany & Kilcoole Draft LPF Amendment Stage Submission - Report

Who are you:	Private Individual
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Topic

LAP - Proposed Material Amendments No 26 Submission

Submission

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to request that Alteration No. 26 not be progressed. The site in question is not an urban location; it is a rural landscape directly adjoining the Glen of the Downs protected Nature Reserve. Urban-style development here would have harmful effects on this sensitive habitat. The area also contains rare wet woodland and a natural stream, neither of which are acknowledged or safeguarded in the proposed alteration. In addition, the existing access routes and road capacity do not appear adequate for the level of traffic that would arise.

I strongly support the development of community sports facilities, but they must be delivered in a way that is responsible, sustainable, and respectful of the natural environment. Our community deserves both high-quality sports amenities and healthy, thriving natural spaces for future generations.

The County Development Plan requires that watercourses and biodiversity be considered and protected in all planning decisions. This alteration does not meet that requirement.

The Brown Trouts Stream and the native wet woodland on this site are important components of the ecological network surrounding the Glen of the Downs and form part of the wooded wildlife corridor connecting Bellevue Woods and Kindlestown Wood. These features must be preserved.

Recent unauthorised works and the reported removal of mature trees have already harmed the wet woodland, highlighting the need for stronger protections. I fully accept Éire Óg's assurances that they were not involved in or supportive of this activity, and like other local residents I am deeply concerned by what has happened.

If this land must be classified as part of the urban area and zoned for Active Open Space (AOS) development, then at a minimum the watercourse and the remaining corner of native wet woodland should be separately zoned as Open Space 2 for Nature. Additional safeguards should be put in place to address noise, light, and other forms of pollution.

No rationale has been provided for seeking this alteration. GAA facilities do not need to be located within an urban area or zoned AOS, and most GAA pitches in County Wicklow are not.

Any sports development beside a protected nature reserve must follow the highest standards of environmental care. This site has the potential to become a model green, sustainable, eco-sports facility—something that Wicklow and the GAA Green Clubs programme could be proud of. Éire Óg, as a leading Green Club, likely shares this ambition, and WCC should provide robust nature-protection guidance to support it.

Consider also the implications if ownership of the site were to change in the future—the AOS zoning would remain in place regardless.

Yours faithfully
Caroline Henry

