

Wicklow to Greystones Greenway Scheme

Public Consultation
Emerging Preferred Route



Wicklow. Rathnew. Newcastle. Kilcoole. Greystones

Public Consultation runs
January 13th 2026 to
February 13th 2026

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Wicklow to Greystones Greenway?

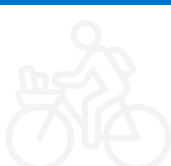
- Wicklow County Council (WCC), and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) are progressing a project to develop a greenway between the towns of Wicklow and Greystones - County Wicklow, called the Wicklow to Greystones Greenway. The study area is approximately 20 kilometres long extending from northern extents of Wicklow Town to Greystones. The eastern perimeter of the study area follows the coastal line while the eastern perimeter is defined predominantly by the R761 and R750 regional roads. Between these towns, the study area passes numerous towns and villages including Rathnew, Newcastle, and Kilcoole.
- The proposed scheme is intended to be a rural and urban greenway that will provide a first-class amenity for local users, both for leisure and offering an attractive sustainable transport choice for residents and businesses in addition to encouraging tourism in the area. This will bring significant environmental, economic and health benefits to County Wicklow.

2. Who can use the Scheme ?

- Any non-motorized user will be able to enjoy the Wicklow to Greystones Greenway and will be able to travel the entire route, this includes pedestrians, runners, cyclists of all experience, and wheelchair users (including powered wheelchairs and mobility scooters). A main objective of the scheme is to ensure universal accessibility. Key aspects of the greenway that will help achieve this is that it will be mostly off road with appropriate surface quality and width.

3. At what stage is the Wicklow to Greystones Greenway project at?

- The proposed scheme is currently at Phase 2 Options Selection. Following a Feasibility & Constraints Assessment, a Stage 1 Route Corridor Options Assessment, Identification of an Emerging Preferred Route Corridor and a Stage 2 Route Options Assessment, an Emerging Preferred Route has been identified and is subject of this Public Consultation. The outcome of this engagement will be the identification of the formal Preferred Route for the greenway.



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4. What is the purpose of this public engagement event?

- The purpose of this public consultation process is to present the Emerging Preferred Route that has been identified and to collect feedback through comments from the public, stakeholders, land and property owners and elected members. This feedback will then be used to inform the route option assessment process which will then lead to the identification of the Preferred Route for the greenway.

5. How will the Wicklow to Greystones Greenway be designed?

- Generally, the scheme will be designed to the relevant Irish design standards such as the Cycle Design Manual, Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets and Transport Infrastructure Ireland's Rural Cycle Design guidance.
- However, the consideration of international best practice will be advocated throughout the development and design process. The design team are constantly looking to best-in-class schemes constructed across Europe. In addition, the design will consider the impacts on the environment, property, traffic flow, local issues and feedback from the public to ensure that the completed scheme provides the best possible user experience.

6. Will the Wicklow to Greystones Greenway improve safety for walkers and cyclists in Wicklow?

- The achievement of a route with the highest level of service is an objective of the scheme. As such, it is envisaged that greenway users will be mostly segregated from vehicles.
- Furthermore, it is envisaged that the greenway will be shared between cyclists and pedestrians. The route will be predominantly 3.0m wide plus and thus the Scheme will be easily able to accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists' safety and comfortably without the need to provide separation.

7. When will the Wicklow to Greystones Greenway be open.

- In order to reach completion and opening of the greenway there are many milestones to be achieved. The first of these is to submit a planning application. This will most likely be to An Coimisiún Pleanála. The current programme indicates that a planning application can be submitted by 2026/2027. Beyond that timeframe, assuming that planning approval is achieved, it is not possible to be definitive on when construction of the scheme would start as this would be subject to available funding at that time.

8. Has the environmental impact of the greenway been considered?

- Since inception of the scheme, the environmental impact of the scheme has been one of the main considerations and will remain so throughout the development of the project. A constraints study was carried out in which a comprehensive review of the environmentally sensitive sites in the study area was completed. This review has been used as part of the assessment process undertaken to identify the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor and the Emerging Preferred Route and will further feed into the next stages of development and design.



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9. Will land be acquired as part of the scheme?

- Significant consideration is always given to the impact of the proposed routes on private property and land. While efforts have been undertaken to reduce the impact of the greenway on private property and land, given the nature of the emerging preferred route location being more inland and along field boundaries, private land will need to be acquired to develop the Wicklow to Greystones Greenway. It is intended that this land will be acquired by agreement as far as possible in line with TII's Code of Practice for National and Regional Greenways. The project team has been actively engaged with numerous landowners.

10. Will the proposed Wicklow to Greystones Greenway be prone to flooding and coastal erosion?

- The emerging preferred route for the Wicklow to Greystones Greenway has been carefully selected to minimise exposure to coastal flooding and erosion risks and to avoid complex interactions with the East Coast Rail Infrastructure Protection Projects (ECRIPP), which could otherwise delay delivery of the Greenway.
- While ECRIPP will provide enhanced coastal protection for sections of the railway, it does not cover the full length of the proposed Greenway. If the Greenway were located in areas of high coastal risk, it would require its own dedicated protection measures. However, incorporating such infrastructure would present significant challenges:
 - It would be difficult to justify these measures within the Appropriate Assessment process.
 - The scale of intervention required would likely trigger an Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) test, which the Greenway would not meet because it is not considered strategically critical infrastructure.
- For these reasons, the route selection process has prioritised alignment away from areas where coastal flooding and erosion and thus from where substantial coastal protection works would be necessary.
- It is important to note that the inland sections of the emerging preferred route may still experience some localised flooding. This will be addressed during the preliminary design stage through a comprehensive Flood Risk Assessment, ensuring that appropriate mitigation measures are incorporated into the design.

11. How will the proposed Wicklow to Greystones Greenway be built and how much will it cost.

- It is difficult to be definitive about how the scheme will be built at this early stage. However, it is quite possible that the proposed Greenway Scheme could be built in phases due to the scale of the project. However, decisions on this can only be made once statutory planning approvals achieved.
- In terms of costs, these vary widely depending on the terrain, the need for structures and other features. Thus, there is not enough detail advanced on the proposed scheme to accurately estimate costs at this stage. This will be estimated, once a preferred scheme design has been developed.

11. How do I provide my feedback about the proposed scheme ?

- Submissions with respect to the proposed scheme can be made online through the Wicklow County Council Consult website <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/ConsultationHub>, by email to wicklowgreenway@wicklowcoco.ie, or by post to Wicklow to Greystones Greenway, Senior Executive Officer, Planning & Strategic Infrastructure Dept, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Whitegates, Wicklow Town, A67 FW96.



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