



# Draft Blessington Local Area Plan Submission - Report

Who are you:	Group
Name:	Poulaphouca Paddlers
Reference:	DBLESSLAP-194723
Submission Made	December 10, 2024 10:05 PM

## Topic

Community Development (incl. sports facilities & schools, etc.)

## Submission

To whom it concerns,

Poulaphouca Paddlers (<https://www.poulaphoucapaddlers.com>) are a kayak club based on Poulaphouca Reservoir. The club is affiliated with Canoeing Ireland, the national governing body for paddle sports. <https://www.canoe.ie/about-canoeing-ireland/>

The club has been in existence since 2007 and currently has 103 members from all over West Wicklow and East Kildare.

There are very active adult and junior (under 18) sections. Between April and September the club runs 2 to 5 activities sessions per week on the lake. During June and July there are two, one week summer camps for the junior section as well.

Our activities are organized and run by club members who are qualified kayaking instructors. In addition to hosting our own club activities, each year Poulaphouca Paddlers host the Liffey Lakes Race. The race has now been granted a national ranking status and is part of the national canoe/kayak marathon series. Last year there were 120 competitors from around the country competing in 10 different classes/divisions. In 2025, the club is aiming to offer a canoe polo competition and freestyle kayaking event on the lake.

The club has expanded significantly in recent years with a large increase in female and junior participants. . In December 2023, we had approximately 70 new applications for membership but we could only facilitate taking in 22 new members. Currently there are approximately 40 applicants on our waitlist to join in 2025.

The committees of the past 4/5 years having been considering the requirements we will need to meet the number of people interested in joining our club.

Ideally the club would have a space on the shore in a sheltered part of the lake near Burgage. This space would need at a minimum, a secure storage space for all of our equipment as well as appropriate changing facilities.

Attached is a document with ideas that the committee have regarding a potential location and examples of comparative facilities that fellow kayakers in Kilcullen Canoe Club have access to.

We hope you see a value in what we offer the community and the potential for the future.  
Thanks for taking the time to read our application.

Kind regards  
Poulaphouca Paddlers Committee

**File**

Poulaphouca Paddlers \_LAP\_ \_1\_.pdf, 1.7MB

# WHO WE ARE



Club paddles on the lake.



Water polo



Junior training and summer camps



Race Day



Team building



Indoor training, lectures & theory



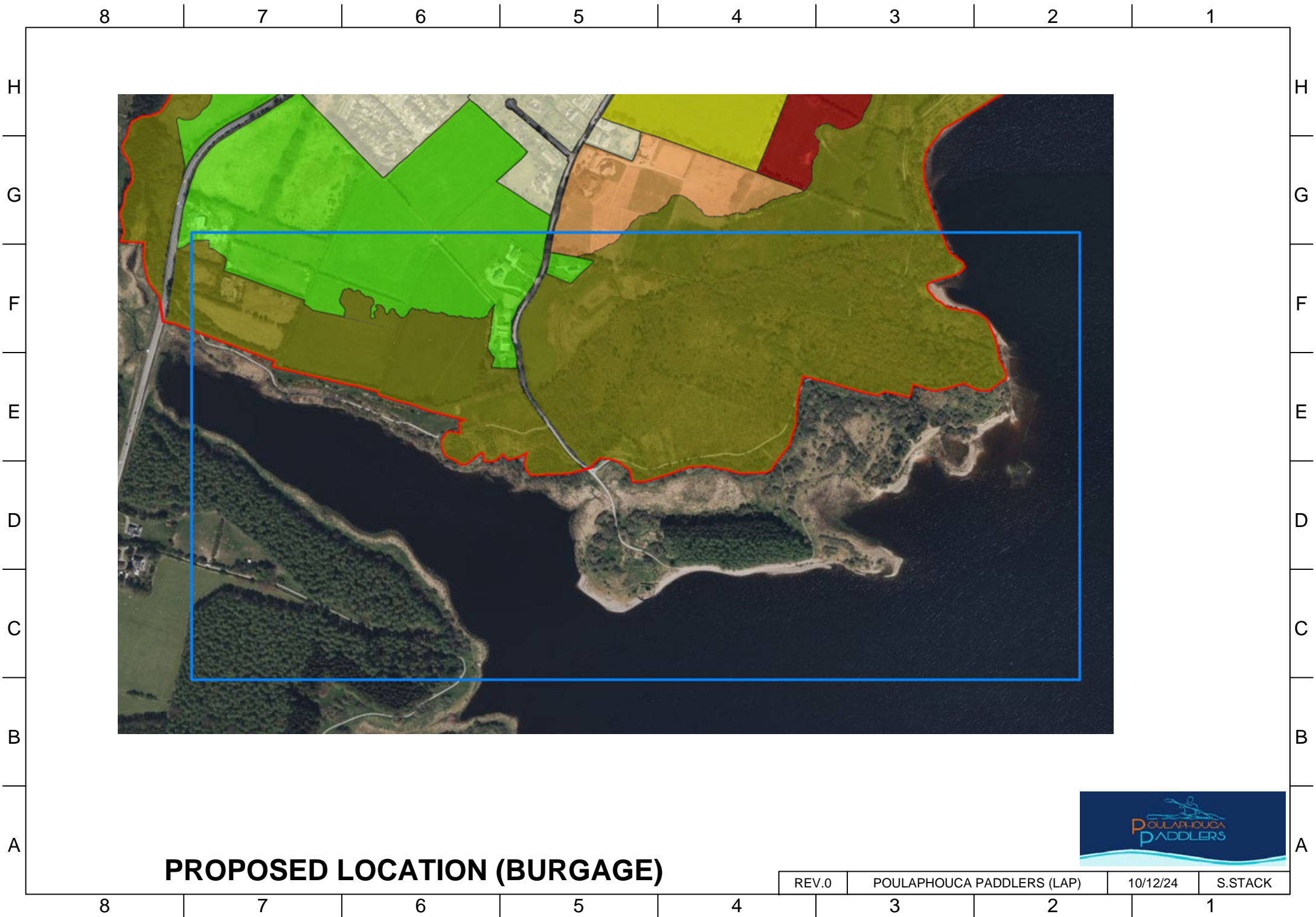
Organised trips

Based on the scenic Blessington lake, we are a club of **all ages** who enjoy all variations of Paddle Sports including lake paddles, river trips, sea kayaking, polo and much much more.

We are based in Russelstown Bay on the beautiful Blessington lake. The club is run by a dedicated committee in conjunction with Canoe Ireland.







## PROPOSED LOCATION (BURGAGE)

# IDEAL FACILITIES

Based on Kilcullen Canoe Club



Weight Room



Training Room



Building with boat storage & facilities



Teaching & Meeting areas

