



Newcastle Playground Upgrade Works

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL **Greystones Municipal District**

Part 8 Planning

Project Brief

November 2025



1. DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

In accordance with provisions of PART XI of the Planning Acts 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations (as amended), Wicklow County Council has given notice of its intention to carry out works for Newcastle Playground and Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) at Newcastle, Co. Wicklow. The proposed works involves the construction of a new playground facility consisting of the following:

- Site clearance and decommissioning of existing playground
- Repositioning of playground to allow for the future expansion of the adjacent MUGA courts.
- Installation of children's play equipment, perimeter fencing, safety surfacing.
- Installation of a third MUGA court adjacent to the existing courts.
- Provision of associated footpaths, kerbing and landscaping
- All associated and ancillary site works.

Preliminary drawings of the proposed works are included within the planning documentation.

2. DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT

Newcastle Playground was built approximately 25 years ago and has served the community of Newcastle very well over that time. The playground has now reached the stage where much of the equipment and surfacing is approaching the end of its lifespan.

Wicklow County Council want to take this opportunity provide a state of the art inclusive playground that will enhance the quality of life within the community, providing a welcoming and inclusive space for children of all abilities, their families and friends. The decision has been made to use this opportunity to move the location of the playground to an adjacent area of council-owned land in order to allow for the future expansion of the adjacent MUGA courts.

Wicklow County Council will be working in partnership with the Newcastle Community Forum to review the playground design preferences.

3. PLANNING CONTEXT

Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 envisages that a Level 6 "Small Town Type 2" like Newcastle should have an adequate play area and multi-use games area. This project would allow this core strategy to be maintained.

4. DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

Wicklow County Council engaged with the Newcastle Community Forum Playground subgroup to canvas opinion on what user preferences were for the playground. This process has given rise to the following design requirements:

- The majority of the play equipment will cater for 0-12 years olds.
- The play space will be inclusive for children of different abilities including wheelchair users.
- The play equipment will include elements of Physical, Sensory, and Social/Cognitive play.
- The playground will include a cableway.
- An accessible route will be provided to accessible equipment, benches, bins etc.
- The play areas will be durable and limit opportunity for anti-social behavior.
- There will be a 1.2m high boundary fence.
- Existing mature and semi-mature trees will be incorporated into the layout design

5. SITE

Playground

The proposed surfaced playground area will be approximately 800m² with the option add additional “natural play” elements and landscaping outside of this area.

The existing concrete “band stand” structure is to be demolished. The resulting rubble is to be reused on-site for landscaping.

Any existing trees will be incorporated into the playground layout design.

Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)

The proposed new MUGA court will be approximately 570m².

6. PRE-WORKS

Appropriate Assessment Screening Report (AASR)

The AASR concluded that the proposed redevelopment works will not result in likely significant effects on the conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 sites and therefore Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (i.e., Natura Impact Statement) is not required for the proposed development to progress.

Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report (EIASR)

The EIASR concluded that the development as proposed will not result in significant negative impacts on the environment and as such will not require a sub-threshold environmental impact assessment.

7. WORKS

The proposed works include removing the existing soil for the footprint of the proposed playground and MUGA court, and building back up with permeable stone foundation and surfacing. A permeable surface will be provided for surface water drainage.

In order to maximise existing playground equipment stock, Wicklow County Council will assess the usability of the existing playground equipment in the existing playground site and anything that is certified suitable for reuse will be transferred to the new proposed location (subject to planning approval being achieved).

The playground will be enclosed with a 1.2m high safe top weldmesh fence.