

Leitrim County Council



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000 (As Amended)

PART XI

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 (As Amended)

PART 8

BRIEFING REPORT

FOOTPATH DEVELOPMENT AT JAMESTOWN, CO. LEITRIM.

MARCH 2022

Introduction and Project Overview

The proposed footpath development is located on the outskirts of Jamestown village. There is a footpath that extends from the village southwards towards the crossroads south of the town. Currently there is no footpath to serve the workers in the nearby Rosderra Meat Factory or the many houses further west from the factory entrance.

Pedestrians must walk in the live traffic lane from the four crossroads westward to the factory entrance. This is a highly dangerous section of roadway with poor visibility for both pedestrian and driver. The proposed footpath will extend to the top of the hill westwards. There are several dwellings at the termination of the proposed footpath, and this will make walking to and from Jamestown village much safer for residents. It is proposed to provide public lighting along the extent of the footpath development.

Scheme Overview

The proposed footpath will start north of the 4 crossroads at the bridge over the River Shannon. A 1.5m footpath will be constructed along the northern side of the road as far as the entrance to Rosderra Meat Factory. An uncontrolled ramped pedestrian crossing will be located to the west of the factory. A 2m footpath will then continue from the pedestrian crossing along the southern side of the road. There are some trees overhanging the route of the footpath and some of these will be removed or trimmed back if interfering with the proposed path. An existing dry stone wall will be rebuilt along the back of the footpath. Stockproof fencing will be erected along the back of the footpath eastwards from the entrance to Rosderra Meat Factory.

Public lighting will be installed for the entire length of the footpath. This will light the entire footpath and the pedestrian crossing. Gullies will be installed along the kerbline of the footpath and will be connected to the piped drain running underneath the footpath. This will be tied into the existing storm water network.

The Part 8 consultation documentation comprised of the following:

1. Schedule of Drawings
2. Screening Statement for Appropriate Assessment
3. Archaeological Impact Assessment
4. Environmental Impact Assessment
5. Briefing Document

Landownership

There is 1 landowner that is affected by this project. Leitrim County Council has an agreement in place with the landowner to acquire the necessary lands.

Planning Policy Context

National Policy

Smarter Travel: A Sustainable Transport Future, (2009) is the transport policy for Ireland for the period 2009-2020. It recognises the vital importance of continued investment in transport to ensure an

efficient economy and continued social development, but also promotes more sustainable transport modes such as walking, cycling and public transport.

Leitrim County Development Plan 2015 – 2021

1.0 Planning Policy Context

The Leitrim County Development Plan 2015-2021 is the statutory land use plan against which the proposed development shall be assessed against.

Objective 39

It is an objective of the Council to ensure all towns and villages have adequate footpaths and public lighting.

Policy 44

It is the policy of the Council to support the National Policy document *Smarter Travel: A Sustainable Transport Future* and implement, where feasible, guidance provided within the *Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets*, or any updated versions of these documents issued within the lifetime of the Plan.

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.

Policy 47

It is the policy of the Council to seek to improve the facilities for pedestrians and access facilities for people with special mobility needs in line with the aims of the *European Charter of Pedestrian Rights*.

In relation to Natura 2000 sites which refer to Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas, the County Development Plan states that the Council shall take appropriate steps to avoid in these areas, the deterioration of natural habitats and the habitats of species, as well as disturbance of the species for which the areas have been designated, in so far as such disturbance could be significant in relation to the objectives of the *EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC Directive)*.

With regards to Natura 2000 sites, the County Development Plan includes the following policies:

Policy 76 It is the policy of the Council to protect and conserve Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas including 'Candidate' and 'Proposed' areas.

Policy 77 It is the Policy of the Council to ensure that all Plans and Projects that have the potential to negatively impact on the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, will be subject to a Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA), in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and in accordance with best practice and guidance.

Appropriate Assessment

An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has been prepared as part of this Part 8 planning application to assist the Planning Authority in their determination. It concludes that the development of the footpath does not pose a risk of significantly affecting (either directly or indirectly) any European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, and there is no reasonable scientific doubt in relation to this conclusion.

Archaeological Assessment

An Archaeological Impact Assessment Report has been prepared as part of this Part 8 planning application to assist the Planning Authority in their determination. It concludes that the proposed development will not have a direct impact either physical or visual on any known archaeological monument. Some of the proposed works may result in negative impact on previously unrecorded archaeological material that may survive in these areas. Therefore, it recommended that some areas of the proposed scheme be subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring during the construction phase of the scheme as required to be conducted by a suitably qualified archaeologist, under license to the Planning and Heritage Section of the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage.

Environmental Impact Assessment

The proposed Jamestown Town and Village Scheme Footpath does not correspond to any project type in the relevant legislation. It can be considered not to comprise 'sub-threshold development' and it can be 'screened out' for Environmental Impact Assessment purposes on this basis. For the avoidance of doubt, the project has nonetheless been reviewed against prescribed criteria for determining whether or not a sub-threshold development is required to be subject to EIA. A global consideration of the criteria finds that the environmental effects of the project are not likely to be significant within the meaning of the Directive. It is therefore concluded that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the development

Appendix I Photographs of Proposed Footpath location.

Figure 1: View from eastern end of project looking west



Figure 2 View of proposed location of pedestrian crossing



Figure 3: View of project from western end looking east.

