
Greystones to Wicklow Greenway submission

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Fri 1/30/2026 7:11 PM
To: Wicklow Greenway <wicklowgreenway@wicklowcoco.ie>; wicklowgreenway@wicklow.ie <wicklowgreenway@wicklow.ie>

📎 1 attachment (573 KB)
Greenway submission.pdf;

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Hi,

Please see my attached submission detailing my thoughts and some questions I have regarding the proposed greenway and the preferred route.

Please confirm receipt by email or phone.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
30/01/2026

Wicklow to Greystones Greenway Project,
Transportation and Infrastructure Delivery,
Wicklow County Council,

Dear Sir/Madam,

I oppose the proposed Greystones to Wicklow Greenway route as a landowner who is against the emerging preferred route. See Appendix 1 for the land in question.

Also, I would like to view the documents supporting the route selection.

Please provide the Feasibility Study, Constraints Study, Options Selection Study and Multi-Criteria Analysis. Please also provide any ecological investigations which have been carried out.

I believe this route is unsuitable for both the landowners who will be affected and the public who will have to pay for it.

My personal concerns on the greenway are based on issues seen on other council managed public paths in the area.

Trespass

Trespassers have already gained access to the NPWS land between our farm and the railway via the path along the foreshore, which we graze livestock on. To access this, they have scaled the Ionraid Eireann fence, crossed the rail, and then climbed a second fence to access the NPWS Kilcoole Wetlands area. This is evidence that even a well-maintained fence is not adequate to prevent public access. The Gardaí have not shown much interest in these cases as trespass is a civil offence. Does Wicklow CoCo have an active strategy, beyond a passive fence, to prevent this occurring from the greenway?

The above assumes that the fence will be well maintained. Another local public walkway which bisects private land is the Bray head walk between Greystones and Bray. This path cuts through Fox's Field, just north of the Greystones Marina Park. A fence was erected here when the path was created, and it is currently in a state of disrepair. As a result, the public can and do enter the land without permission to access the coastline.

greenway on dark evenings will likely contribute more to the light pollution in the one direction where lights cannot be seen, towards the sea.

Land Use

The proposed route will also result in extra opening and closing of gates when accessing the NPWS land which we graze in summer. This will likely result in the moving of livestock becoming a 2-person job. This will mean that during AI season when the livestock are moved during the day, we will be unable to use this ground as we do not have 2 people at home during the day to facilitate this.

Traffic

Our local area has already become constipated with car traffic. Kilcoole main street has been narrowed recently, and an aggressive bend on Lott Lane ruins traffic flow there. Where are Greenway users going to park? Kilcoole station car park is already very busy. There does not appear to be increased proposed parking in Greystones, and the Park and Ride there is already at capacity.

My other concerns about the proposal relate to the detrimental effects on the wider community.

Cost

The proposal will be extremely costly. The preferred route runs for kilometres through an area that floods multiple times per year. To guarantee the route stays dry, the land must be raised more than 1m in places. This will take huge amounts of fill, and many access roadways/agreements. This will be costly. See Appendix 3 and 4

Even if all of this goes ahead, and millions are spent, the public will still prefer to walk on the expansive coastline rather than venture inland. I fear that there will be an expensive stretch of greenway with few users, and the busy coastal path that already exists. Facebook Polls have already shown that the locals would prefer to walk by the sea.

I believe that these funds could be better spent improving the existing coastal route or into improving other areas of travel.

Environment

The other major cost is the ecological cost. The route borders a NPWS SAC. There are protection orders against works near SACs, e.g. we are not allowed to plant trees within 50m of the SAC border. This proposed route ignores this.

The route will also annex the SAC as the public will walk along the beach and along the greenway, turning the sanctuary into a bordered prison.

This concerns me as it proves that public walking trails do not get priority for maintenance and means I expect the same to happen here.

Can Wicklow CoCo give contractual guarantees, including fence repair response times, to prevent the above happening again?

See Appendix 2

Antisocial behaviour/vandalism

If the Public gain access to the land, it creates a chance of conflict between livestock and walkers with dogs. There appears to be 2 dog wardens currently employed by Wicklow CoCo. Increasing the amount of private land exposed to dogwalkers will add workload to these dog wardens. Will more dog wardens be hired to cover the increased chance of livestock conflicts?

Public Access also brings the risk of antisocial behaviour, including littering. Our area is relying heavily on voluntary cleanups by the Tidy Towns, but the proposed 24km of greenway is going to be too much for them to manage. There will also be litter blown/ thrown outside the greenway borders. Landowners will have to deal with this.

Safety

There have also been instances locally where hay and straw bales have been set on fire by teens. We make a lot of straw bales in fields beside the proposed route. Members of the public could also climb on bales and hurt themselves.

Farm machinery is expensive and dangerous also.

I fear that members of the public could trespass and cause conflict in these areas.

I also carry out pest control on the farm. As the farm is flat, there are limited directions in which safe rifle shots can be taken. The greenway runs along one of the few safe backstop areas on the farm where shots can be taken. If the greenway goes ahead, I will be limited as to where I can shoot.

Privacy

The Greenway will also infringe on the privacy of the land. For decades, this land has been privately owned, and we have been able to seek solace here. The Greenway will massively reduce the areas of our farm that are private. To negate this, I would investigate planting a tall hedge along the fence to regain privacy. However, the public will then be unable to see the scenery.

I also do not want more light pollution in the area. The increased number of housing estates with streetlights has already ruined the night sky here. Walkers using the

The constant public interference will also disturb the birds in the area. The fields landward of the SAC are heavily grazed by Swans and Geese in winter, as they fatten before migrating. The greenway will disturb these natural habits.

Thank you for considering my problems with the proposed route. I am in favour of Greenways and would be happy to see it completed by the sea. However, the proposed route is not suitable.

Please note again my request for the documents in bold which are referred to in the OSR and the information Leaflet.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

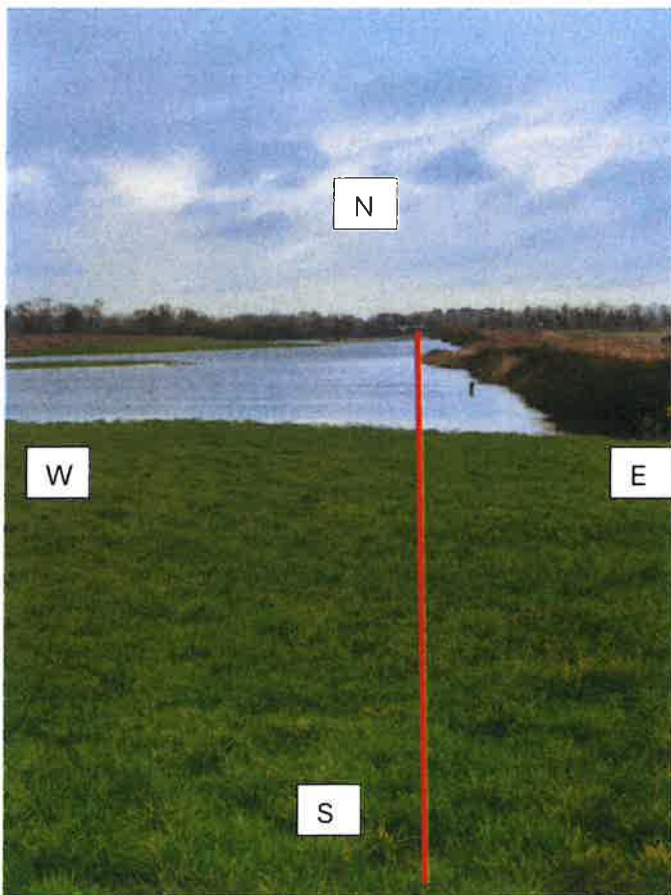
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Appendix 1

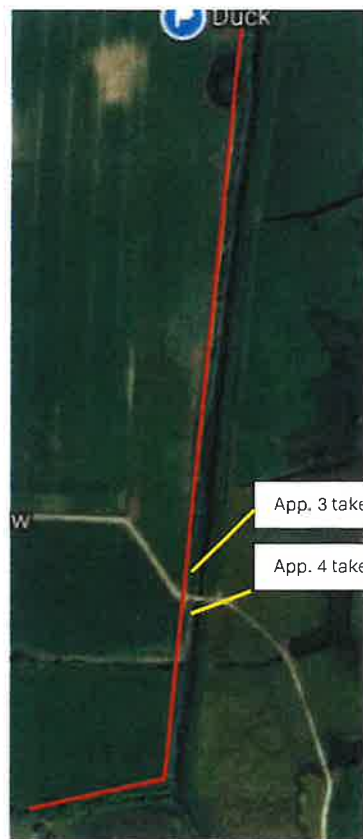


Appendix 2



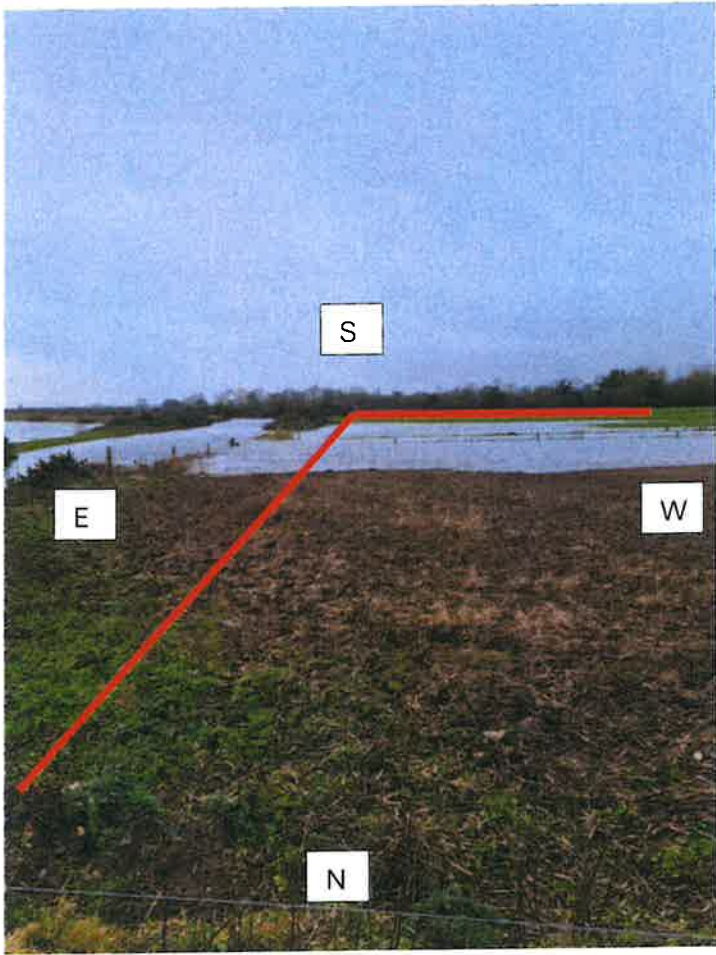
Appendix 3, Wet Land

Preferred Greenway
Route



App. 3 taken here looking North

App. 4 taken here looking South



Appendix 4, Wet Land