
Wicklow to Greystones Greenway - Emerging Preferred Route Submission

From [REDACTED]
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To Wicklow Greenway <wicklowgreenway@wicklowcoco.ie>

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Greenway Submission 2026.docx;

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Please find my submission on the Wicklow to Greystones Greenway.

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Regards

[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern

I am strongly opposed to the Emerging Preferred Route for the Wicklow to Greystones Greenway due to the negative impact it will have on Farming and Biodiversity.

Farming

The Proposed Route cuts family farms in half from Kilcoole to Wicklow making them unviable. The 2018 Strategy for Future Development of National and Regional Greenways produced by the Department of Tourism, Transport & Sport states the preferred model for Greenways is to use land already in state ownership however the majority of the land being taken for the proposed route is in private ownership.

It also states that severance of farms will be minimised however this route will cut long established mixed enterprise family farms in half the length of the Greenway leaving them unworkable.

The Strategy document also states that using state land provides certainty in relation to insurance claims and maintenance of the Greenway which begs the question who is liable for insurance and maintenance on private lands. The Route passes through Sheep and Suckler enterprises a number of which are Organic Farms from Kilcoole to Newcastle leaving the animals almost certainly exposed to disturbance from dogs.

Poaching is already a problem in this area. The Greenway will provide unrestricted access routes onto private land leaving these farms open to security risks, trespassing and rural crime which is already a significant issue countrywide.

Ecology

In 2019, Wicklow County Council became the first local authority in Ireland to declare a biodiversity and climate-change emergency. Wicklow Co. Co have recently published their Draft Biodiversity Plan 2025- 2030.

The Emerging Preferred Greenway route that Wicklow Co. Co are promoting contradicts their own Biodiversity plan at every level.

The Murrough is a 15 km long coastal wetland site, which stretches from Wicklow Town, north to Ballygannon just south of Greystones incorporating the Kilcoole Marshes. This area contains a rich diversity of habitats both native and migratory. A recent study has reported a decline in migratory waterbirds coming to Ireland. One of the reasons is disturbance of Habitat of these wetlands due to recreational activities. The Kilcoole Marsh Wetlands sustain many Red & Amber listed Bird and Animal species such as Lapwing, Blacktailed Godwit, Curlew, Kingfisher and Barn Owl. The Otter an EU protected species has inhabited these farms for many years.

The Emerging Preferred Route of the Greenway runs along the boundary of the Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation EU protected areas the entire length of the route from Wicklow to Kilcoole. The farmland outside the SPAs and SACs are vitally important to the survival of the species that live in these areas providing hedgerows, trees, ground nesting and foraging. The disturbance created by Cyclists, Walkers, Children and dogs on the Greenway will destroy these habitats that have been successfully managed for many years.

The route of the Greenway is regularly flooded. If flood defences are constructed to protect the Greenway this will detrimentally effect the wetlands and in turn the wildlife that inhabit it.

In conclusion the proposed route for the Greenway will destroy productive farms and EU protected ecologically sensitive sites. The Curlew one of Irelands most iconic birds and extremely rare now inhabits this area in Winter and Summer. This Greenway route if constructed will be a further nail in the coffin of this very special bird.

Yours Sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area, obscuring the name and any handwritten notes.