
Wicklow to Greystones Greenway route

From [redacted] >
Date Tue 2/10/2026 8:27 AM
To Wicklow Greenway <wicklowgreenway@wicklowcoco.ie>

📎 1 attachment (253 KB)

Wicklow greystones greenw [redacted]

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Dear Sirs,

Kindly see attached my opposition to the current proposed route of the Wicklow to Greystones Greenway.

Regards,

[redacted signature]

Senior Executive Officer
Transportation & Infrastructure Delivery Department
Wicklow County Council
County Buildings
Whitegates
Wicklow Town
A67 FW96

Re: Emerging Preferred Route - Wicklow to Greystones Greenway

Submitted by email to: wicklowgreenway@wicklowcoco.ie

Individual Submission / Objection (Part 8)

From: [REDACTED]

Townland: [REDACTED]

Submission Type: Individual Objection under Part 8

Date: 10 February 2026

1. Nature of Submission

I am a **lawful occupier and resident** of lands at Coolawinna which are directly and materially affected by the emerging preferred route for the Wicklow to Greystones Greenway as currently proposed by Wicklow County Council.

This submission constitutes a **formal objection** to the proposed development insofar as it traverses, adjoins, or otherwise interferes with the lands on which I reside and lawfully occupy. The objection is made on grounds of **material impact, lack of proportionality, failure of proper planning and sustainable development, and non-compliance with environmental and flood risk policy.**

2. Statement of Non-Consent

For the avoidance of doubt, **I do not consent**, in my capacity as lawful occupier and resident, to:

- The use of the lands on which I reside for the purposes of the proposed Greenway;
- Any associated works, access rights, licences, or easements;

- Any temporary or permanent interference with my occupation, residential amenity, or use of the lands.

This position is clear, firm, and unequivocal.

3. Residential Amenity, Safety, and Use of Lands

The lands include my private dwelling and immediately adjoining agricultural areas. The proposal would introduce a continuous public access route in close proximity to my home and the lands.

The resulting impacts would include, but are not limited to:

- A significant and permanent loss of residential amenity and privacy;
- Increased risk to personal and family safety, including child safety, arising from uncontrolled public access;
- Exposure to trespass, antisocial behaviour, uncontrolled dogs, and unauthorised vehicular access;
- An absence of any credible management, supervision, or enforcement regime over the operational lifetime of the Greenway.

The proposal fails to demonstrate how these impacts would be effectively mitigated or managed.

4. Agricultural Use, Livestock Welfare, and Biosecurity

The lands adjoining my residence are actively farmed and support livestock which require secure boundaries and controlled access.

The proposed development would:

- Interfere materially with established agricultural practices;
- Increase the risk of livestock injury, escape, or disease transmission;
- Disturb badger setts and elevate the risk of bovine TB spread;
- Introduce unacceptable biosecurity risks;
- Impose an unreasonable and ongoing maintenance burden on the occupier and land manager.

These impacts amount to a **serious interference with the lawful use and management of the lands** and have not been adequately assessed.

5. SAC Access and Environmental Management Obligations

The lands provide managed access to a **Special Area of Conservation (SAC)**, access which is essential for responsible land management and compliance with environmental stewardship obligations.

The proposed route would:

- Obstruct or compromise necessary access;
- Introduce uncontrolled public pressure at a sensitive ecological interface;
- Undermine established environmental management practices.

I am not satisfied that Wicklow County Council can demonstrate compliance with **Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive**, namely that the project will not adversely affect the integrity of the SAC, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

6. Appropriate Assessment and Ecological Deficiencies

The proposed route traverses or adjoins lands that are:

- Environmentally sensitive and/or SAC-designated;
- Seasonally wet, flood-prone, and unsuitable for intensive public use;
- Adjacent to habitats protected under EU Birds and Habitats legislation.

The information published to date does not constitute a robust or legally defensible Appropriate Assessment and fails to adequately assess:

- Construction-phase impacts;
- Long-term operational impacts arising from sustained public use;
- Cumulative impacts on protected habitats and species.

Proceeding on the basis of the current documentation would expose the Council to **significant compliance risk under EU and national environmental law**.

7. Flood Risk, Public Safety, and Climate Resilience

The lands form part of a flood-prone wetland landscape subject to regular seasonal inundation.

The introduction of a public Greenway in this location:

- Creates foreseeable public safety and liability risks;
- Fails to adequately address climate change adaptation;
- Conflicts with OPW flood risk management policy;
- Raises serious concerns regarding durability, maintenance, and long-term viability.

These matters go to the **fundamental suitability of the route**, rather than issues capable of resolution through minor mitigation.

8. Availability of Reasonable Alternatives

The proposal relies disproportionately on **private agricultural land**, despite the existence of alternative alignments on **state-owned or previously disturbed corridors**, including the railway alignment.

Best-practice guidance prioritises the use of publicly owned land for greenway infrastructure. Difficulties in inter-agency coordination do not constitute a valid planning justification for imposing disproportionate impacts on lawful occupiers and land managers.

9. Proper Planning and Public Interest

The projected cost of the Greenway materially exceeds national norms and is significantly inflated by:

- Environmental and flood constraints;
- Private land acquisition;
- Anticipated legal and procedural complexity.

In these circumstances, the proposal does not represent the **proper planning and sustainable development of the area**, nor a prudent or proportionate use of public funds.

10. Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, I respectfully request that Wicklow County Council **does not proceed with the proposed route as currently configured**, and that the proposal be abandoned or fundamentally re-routed away from the lands on which I reside and other privately occupied agricultural holdings.

This submission is made:

- Individually;
- Without prejudice;
- And without any implication of consent to the principle or execution of the proposed development.

Signed:

