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**Submission for Wicklow to Greystones Greenway**

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From [REDACTED]  
Date Tue 2/10/2026 6:45 PM  
To Wicklow Greenway <wicklowgreenway@wicklowcoco.ie>

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Submission Greenway 10 February 2026.pdf;

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To whom it may concern

While Greenways are obviously a great resource if located in a suitable area, I object strongly to the proposed route for the Wicklow to Greystones Greenway. I object to the amount of money that has been spent on this process while the Cliff Walk in Bray and the Murrough walk are neglected and disappearing in to the sea. Other objections are as follows:

**1. State Land & Severance of Farms**

In the **Code of Best Practice for National and Regional Greenways**, it states:

**“3.3 Land Acquisition** It is anticipated that the use of state-owned lands, in conjunction with the lands acquired by Voluntary Agreements, will deliver the majority of the lands required for the Greenway.

**3.3.1 General Provisions** The project promoter will make every effort to minimise the number of private land holdings directly affected by a proposed Greenway. The strategy will be to use existing suitable State-owned lands (Coillte, Bord na Móna, flood defence, etc.) along the proposed route corridors. These lands will be prioritised in determining the preferred route corridor options.

The **Wicklow to Greystones Constraints Study Report** states: ... “notes that the preferred model for the development of greenways is to use land which is already in state control”.

The **Code of Best Practice for National and Regional Greenways** and **the Constraints report** state that Severance of landholdings “should be minimised.”

- I am unaware of any state land being used in the proposed route.
- As almost all the farms between Wicklow and Greystones run from the Coast road to the Sea there is absolutely no way of minimising the severance of farms and potentially putting some of the smaller farms out of business. Atkins and Realis have ignored the Code of Best Practice and the Constraints report in their choice of a route.
- Under the Roads Act 1993, CPOs are for "essential infrastructure." A leisure path is not essential infrastructure.

## 2. Flooding and Earthworks

**The Constraints Report** identifies the route as being within Flood Zone A and Annex I habitats. Construction on this land will require significant earthworks and drainage works. This will disturb badger setts and trigger the spread of TB. The soil is unsuitable for heavy construction without ecological and hydrological disruption. The land has been heavily flooded in recent weeks and with Climate Change, flooding is expected to worsen.

## 3. Wildlife

The proposed route will disturb and, in some cases, rip out long established hedgerows and trails and tracks used by wildlife. **Wicklow County Council's Climate Action Plan** clearly states, a hedgerow plan is to be developed for the county... *"with actions to map, **protect** and develop hedgerows, having due regard to hedgerow area conservation requirements and the need to avoid habitat fragmentation."*

The route runs along the boundary of the **Special Area of Conservation**. The species that inhabit an SAC move beyond its boundaries and rely on the surrounding farmland to forage, shelter, and nest. The farms are an essential extension of their habitat. If the Greenway is introduced with the necessary fencing, it will create a barrier for wildlife. This corridor effect will disrupt established ecological patterns.

The proposed route travels through our neighbouring farm. This farm contains at least 9 bird species on the red list of birds of conservation concern and 11 on the amber list. This year for the first time in 30 or 40 years, I witnessed a flock of lapwings flying over our house. This is down to the successful work of the National Parks and Wildlife with neighbouring farmers. The proposed route cuts through the areas where this work is being carried out.

## 4. Farming

A very high level of fencing will be required to stop dogs escaping from the greenway and chasing sheep. Likewise, it will be needed to stop children or adults stepping through in to adjoining farmland and being attacked by bulls and cattle. Splitting a field makes it unworkable for modern, heavy machinery and creates permanent operational inefficiencies.

It is akin to putting a public walkway through a building site.

When asked about this, at the public consultation, the engineers from [REDACTED] were unable to provide satisfactory answers. Indeed, some months previously, the engineers were found to be on a neighbours' land without permission and without the courtesy of advising the landowner that they were there. When challenged, one of the engineers replied, "we didn't think anyone farmed down here." I have no confidence in this company's knowledge of the area or of farming.

## 5. Shooting

Our own farm borders [REDACTED] which will be severed by the proposed route. In the last few years, we have been troubled by illegal shooting on our land and witnessed one person shooting in daylight last month without permission. We believe that the Greenway will give

even easier access to our farms for illegal shooting and for hunting with dogs at night. It is rumoured that drug dealing takes place at night at Kilcoole and Newcastle beach. The Greenway will allow easy access for these unsavoury people to access isolated farmyards, farm vehicles, equipment, and indeed vulnerable people. Currently it is extremely difficult to access these areas except through entrances from the road.

## **6. Maintenance**

Who will maintain the fencing on the Greenway? Wicklow County Council undertook to remove the invasive Japanese Knotweed some years ago from Newcastle Beach. The job was started but has since been abandoned and the problem is worse than ever. I notified Wicklow County Council about illegal dumping in one of the rivers along the sea road in Newcastle about two years ago. The debris is still there with polystyrene slowly disintegrating and dispersing in to our precious waterways and ultimately in to the sea.

## **Conclusion**

The Residents and Landowners along this route have been treated with discourtesy by the consultant engineers and by Wicklow County Council. I own a farm that the alternative routes ran through and never received a single communication from the engineers. I found out about the proposed greenway by accident, one week before first submissions were due. I made a submission and asked for an acknowledgement of that submission. I did not receive an acknowledgement. Your literature says that landowners will be consulted at every stage. Inviting landowners to a public presentation at a library and showing them maps with lines drawn through the farms is not consultation. The fact that the engineers carried out a walkover of the farms (including walking through fields with lambing ewes) without notifying the landowners is deeply disrespectful. Not once in this whole process has anyone had the courtesy to knock on our doors and talk to us in person.

I ask again for an acknowledgement of this submission.

A redacted signature consisting of four horizontal blue brush strokes.

10<sup>th</sup> February 2025

This submission is also attached as a PDF file.

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