

We formally oppose the proposed Wicklow-Greystones Greenway project.

Fro [redacted]
Date Fri 2/13/2026 8:49 AM
To Wicklow Greenway <wicklowgreenway@wicklowcoco.ie>
Cc [redacted]

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Dear Wicklow County Council,

I am writing to formally oppose the proposed Wicklow-Greystones Greenway project. As a member of the Newcastle community, born and raised on our family farm which has been in my family for four generations, I am acutely aware of the significant environmental and social implications this development poses, especially in an era where biodiversity is increasingly under threat.

1. Commitment to Conservation:

Wicklow is home to diverse ecosystems that require our utmost care and protection. This region has long been cherished for its natural beauty and ecological richness, and it is our responsibility to safeguard these resources for future generations. The proposed Greenway, instead of enhancing our landscape, could undermine years of conservation work undertaken by local families and organisations dedicated to preserving our environment.

2. Protection of Key Species:

One of the primary areas of concern is the potential impact on the Marsh Fritillary butterfly, which is protected under Irish law. The habitats that support these butterflies are critical for their survival and should not be disrupted by development. Any proposed construction in areas that harbor these breeding sites risks irreversible damage to an already vulnerable species.

3. Special Areas of Conservation:

The planned Greenway encroaches upon the Murrough Wetlands, an ecologically sensitive area recognized as a Special Area of Conservation under European law (Special Protection area 004186). This designation reflects the importance of protecting the unique biodiversity present in this region. Increased public access will likely lead to disturbances that could jeopardize the delicate balance this ecosystem relies upon.

4. Impact on Wildlife:

The presence of otters in the wetlands and streams within the Murrough Wetlands is another pressing concern. The proposed route involves building bridges and pathways that will

intersect crucial habitats for these creatures. As otters are protected by various environmental regulations, any development that disrupts their breeding grounds is not only unjustified but also legally questionable as it would breach the EU Habitats Directive and Wildlife Act.

5. Accessibility and Environmental Fragility:

While the intention behind the Greenway may be to improve accessibility to natural spaces, this increased access brings potential harm to fragile ecosystems. The Murrough Wetlands currently enjoy a level of tranquility and limited human interference that is vital to maintaining their ecological integrity. As it is, we see frequent flooding of the wetlands and erosion of the beach. The introduction of a Greenway could disrupt matters further, leading to long-term degradation of these habitats.

6. Concerns Over Increased Traffic:

The Greenway project will likely lead to heightened traffic flow across the region, particularly along the R761 from Kilcoole to Rathnew. This narrow, winding road is ill-suited for the expected increase in motorists and pedestrians, endangering the safety of resident, existing cyclists and visitors alike. During Covid 19 lockdowns, the sea roads had to be manned by Gardai due to heavy traffic and the roads became impassable. Access routes such as the Sea Road and Killougher Lane are also narrow and poorly maintained, posing additional challenges for traffic management.

7. Parking Shortages and Environmental Impact:

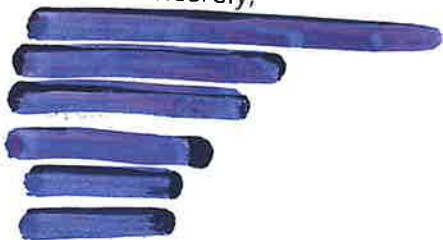
The anticipated rise in visitors brings forth concerns about parking. The current facilities at Six Mile Point and Five Mile Point are inadequate, with no available parking at Killougher Lane. Plans to create additional parking areas could compromise the natural landscape and contribute to congestion, further impacting the ecological balance of the area.

Conclusion:

It is vital to reflect on the need for preservation over development. The proposed Wicklow-Greystones Greenway threatens the delicate ecosystems that have thrived for generations. I urge Wicklow County Council to reconsider this development and prioritise the protection of our natural environments and refuse permission for this development.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours Sincerely,

A series of seven horizontal blue bars of varying lengths, used to redact the signature and name of the sender.