



Artist's impression of the Boyne Greenway at Staleen Guard Lock with Newgrange in the background.

The Boyne Greenway and Navigation Restoration



What is being proposed?

Over the last number of years Meath County Council have been developing a plan to deliver the Boyne Greenway and Navigation Restoration, which aims to provide a high-quality walking and cycling route and restore the Boyne Navigation including the canal sections and associated locks which are a key feature of industrial heritage within the Boyne Valley.

The proposed Greenway Scheme will extend from the Andy Brennan Park in Navan Town to the main gates at the Oldbridge Estate.

The Scheme will therefore route adjacent to some of Meath's most significant visitor attractions including Slane Castle, the Battle of Boyne site and the UNESCO World Heritage site at Brú na Bóinne. The proposed Navigation Restoration of the Boyne Navigation will extend from Oldbridge Guard Lock to the canal harbour in Navan.

Following the completion of the feasibility study for the proposed Navigation Restoration Scheme and a review of the route options for the proposed Greenway Scheme, a decision has been reached that the proposed Navigation Restoration should be considered separately from the Greenway Scheme. This decision is based on constraints related to the environmental impacts (in particular the operational impacts), the management of the Navigation through its design development, operation and maintenance and the available funding streams to deliver it.

Therefore, this public consultation will primarily focus on the Emerging Preferred Route of the Greenway Scheme.

About the Scheme

This scheme (c.26.5km in length) will provide a pedestrian and cycle route from Andy Brennan Park in Navan Town to the main gates at the Oldbridge Estate, passing by some of Meath's most significant visitor attractions including Slane Castle, the Battle of Boyne site at Oldbridge and the UNESCO World Heritage site at Brú na Bóinne along the way.

The proposed route will be suitable for people of all ages and mobility levels and offers a safe route where the scenic Boyne Valley can be enjoyed as part of your commute, for leisure, exercise or to visit your local village or town.

Following a Feasibility & Constraints Assessment and a Route Options Public Consultation, the project team now presents the Emerging Preferred Route for Public Consultation.

We want your feedback as we move towards preliminary design in 2024.

Vision Statement

'To create a safe, attractive and environmentally sympathetic canal and river side walking and cycling route between Andy Brennan Park in Navan and the main gates of Oldbridge Estate, in tandem with the sensitive restoration of the Boyne navigation route.

The completed scheme will provide access and connectivity to the towns and villages in the Boyne Valley which will encourage and facilitate physical activity and create a sense of ownership among the adjacent communities.

The Boyne Greenway and Navigation Restoration will be a flagship tourism scheme of regional, national and international significance which will provide access to the wealth and diversity of ecological, cultural, industrial and historical heritage within the Boyne Valley.'

What Stage are we at?

What has happened previously?

The project commenced in 2020 when a Constraints Study was prepared to identify key constraints and opportunities associated with the scheme study area. This Constraints Study covered both the greenway element and the navigation element of the project. An initial route optioneering process was completed for the greenway element of the scheme and was presented in a public consultation event in February/March 2021. Following the outcomes of the consultation and after review of the feedback received, the Stage 2 Greenway Options Report was completed in December 2021, which identified an Emerging Preferred Option. Regarding the Navigation Restoration, a Condition Study and a Feasibility has been completed.

Following the completion of the Options Report and the identification of the Emerging Preferred Route in the end of 2021, the Approving Authority of greenways was changed from the Department of Transport (DoT) to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). Due to changes in the approval process, the scheme was halted for a certain period of time. In May 2022, TII undertook a peer review of the Feasibility and Options Assessment Report with comments and suggestions to be incorporate in an updated report. One of the main outcomes from the peer review was the requirement to undertake a flood modelling exercise of the potential flooding risk of the Emerging Preferred Route and its year-round availability. A flood modelling exercise was then carried out and a Flood Modelling Interpretative Report was prepared in May 2023.

What's happening now?

Following the Route Options Public Consultation and the preparation of the Stage 2 Greenway Options Assessment Report, the project team now presents the Emerging Preferred Route for Public Consultation.

The Non-Statutory Public Consultation Display Period will run from the 11th December 2023 to the 29th January 2024 with Submissions accepted up to 5:00pm on the 9th February 2024.

What's happening next?

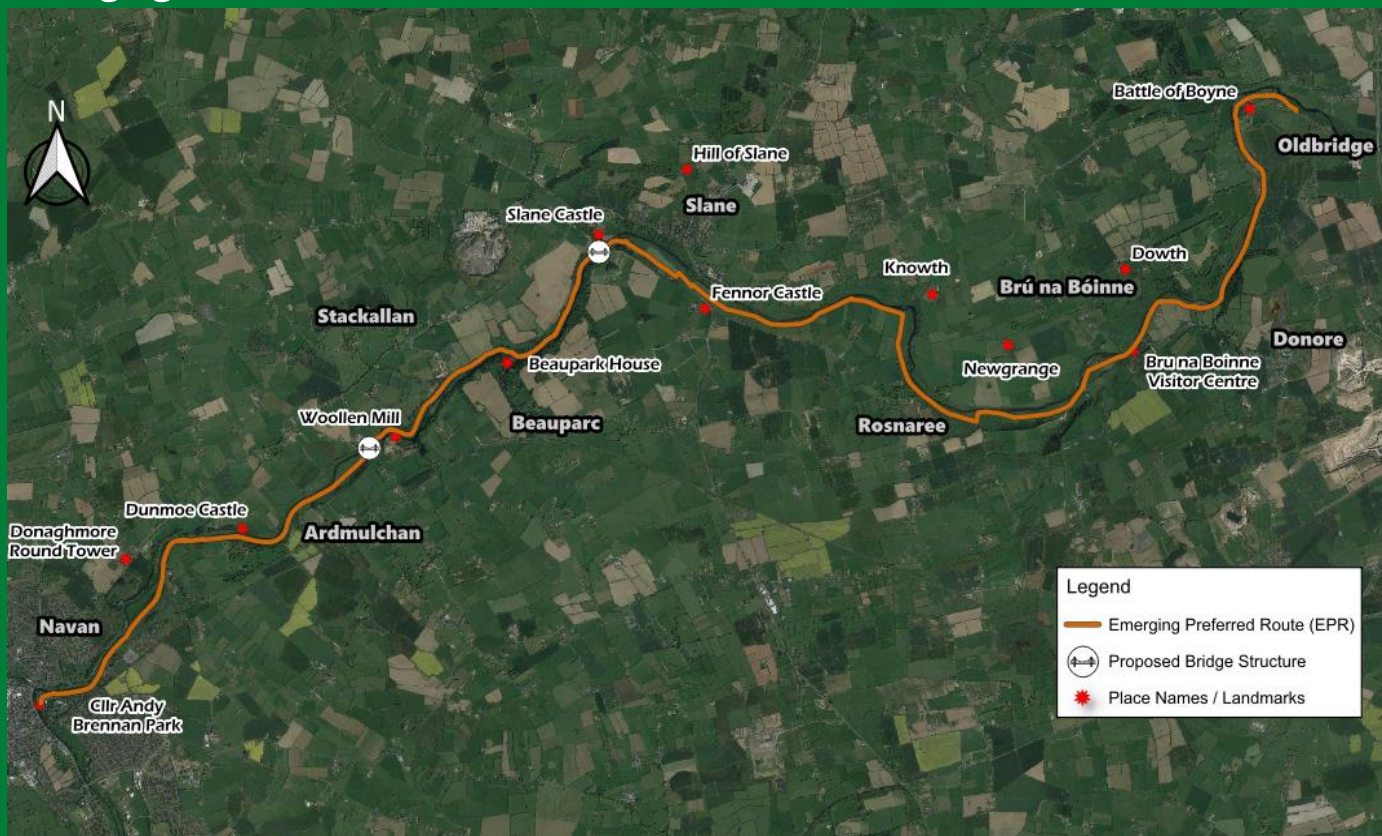
Once this public consultation period has ended, the design team will collect and analyse all of the submissions received. These will be summarised and a report with responses to the various themes raised will be issued. Where necessary and appropriate to do so, the Emerging Preferred Route may be modified to reflect the feedback that is received. Once the preferred route is finalised, preliminary design will commence where further detail on the exact layout of the greenway will be developed. Additional liaison with landowners will be held throughout this stage of the project and further general public consultations will be held prior to submission of the final planning documents to An Bord Pleanála in 2025 / 26.

Why is this Scheme needed?

The scheme will benefit the local community, businesses and the environment:

- ⊗ Connects local communities.
- ⊗ Provides attractive recreation space showcasing the natural beauty of the area.
- ⊗ Creates safe routes to schools, shops, businesses and bus stops.
- ⊗ Provides tourism amenity to benefit the local economy.
- ⊗ Promotes positive climate and health options.
- ⊗ Links to the wider pedestrian and cycle network.

Emerging Preferred Route



Emerging Preferred Route Description

The study area has been divided into five sections. Each section contains a number of routes. These sections and routes are presented on the Route Options Maps. A description of the routes is provided as follows:

- ⊗ **Navan to the Broadboyne Bridge**
This EPR would extend along the south bank of the river along the existing towpath, positioned between the river and the canal.
- ⊗ **Broadboyne Bridge to Slane Bridge**
This EPR would extend along the historic towpath. The route would utilise Broadboyne Bridge to gain access to the route on the north bank of the river from Broadboyne Bridge to Carrickdexter Lock. At this point the route would stay on the north bank of the river up as far as Slane Castle. The route would then cross the river on a new bridge and progressing along the south bank towards Slane Bridge.
- ⊗ **Slane Bridge to Brú na Bóinne**
The EPR would progress along the south bank of the river as far as Morgan's Lock. The route would divert onto a newly formed path along field boundaries adjacent the river and the local road progressing towards Broe Lock. It would then join back up with the existing towpath towards the visitor centre.
- ⊗ **Brú na Bóinne to Oldbridge Estate**
This EPR would progress entirely along the line of the historic towpath along the south bank of the river.
- ⊗ **Oldbridge Estate**
This proposed route would progress along the line of the existing towpath along the north west boundary of Oldbridge Estate. At Obelisk Bridge the route would then progress as a separate path parallel to a local road towards the main gates at Oldbridge.

The EPR subject of this public consultation process is indicative only and is subject to change based on feedback from the public, stakeholders and the further consideration of same.

Public Consultation Roadmap

The Public Consultation Roadmap provides information on the Project Timeline.

Period	Studies & Research	Publications & Milestones	Public Participation
2020	Study Area Identification Data Collection and Constraints Development	Study Area and Constraints Mapping & Reports	Stakeholder Engagement
2021	Greenway Stage 1 Preliminary Options Assessment and Navigation Condition Assessment	Greenway Route Options Identification and Canal Condition Identification	Public Consultation
CURRENT STAGE			
2022/ 2023	<i>Greenway Stage 2 Detailed Options Assessment and Navigation Feasibility Assessment</i>	<i>Greenway Emerging Preferred Route Identification and Canal Feasibility</i>	<i>Public Consultation</i>
2024	Preferred Greenway Route Design Development	Preferred Route Preliminary Design	Public Consultation
2024/ 2025	Complete Project Appraisal, EIA, AA and Statutory Documents	Planning Submission Preparation	An Bord Pleanála Pre-Planning Consultation
2025/ 2026	Subject to An Bord Pleanála Approval; Make Planning Submission	Issue of Planning Submissions & Orders	An Bord Pleanála Statutory Consultation including potential Oral Hearing



Artist's impression of the Boyne Greenway looking east with Ardmulchan Church on the horizon.

Public Consultation Material

In addition to this brochure there is also further public consultation material provided on the Meath County Council website, consult.meath.ie/boynegreenway which will provide you with further information. There are as follows:

- ⊗ Greenway Summary Report
- ⊗ Navigation Restoration Summary Report
- ⊗ Frequently Asked Questions
- ⊗ Questionnaire
- ⊗ Emerging Preferred Route maps
- ⊗ Greenway Concept Perspective Sketches
- ⊗ Video Animation

How to submit your feedback

We are seeking your input and suggestions which can be made in the following ways:

- ⊗ Making a submission on the Meath County Council Consult website, consult.meath.ie/boynegreenway
- ⊗ By email to: activetravel@meathcoco.ie
- ⊗ Or by post to:
The Boyne Greenway and Navigation Restoration, Transportation Department,
Meath County Council,
Buvinda House, Dublin Road
Navan, County Meath, C15 Y291

Submissions should be headed “The Boyne Greenway and Navigation Restoration”. Deadline is as noted on the Meath County Council’s website with respect to the scheme. Any submissions shall state your name, address and where relevant, the body or organisation represented.

All comments, including names and address of those making submissions in regard to this scheme will form part of the statutorily required report to be presented to the monthly meeting of Meath County Council. Accordingly, these details will be included in the meeting minutes of that meeting and may appear in the public domain.

Key Dates: Public Consultation Display Period will run from the 11th December 2023 to the 29th January 2024 with Submissions accepted up to 5:00pm on the 9th February 2024.



Artist's impression of the Boyne Greenway looking east with Slane Castle in the background.

Contact Us

For further information please visit meath.ie/boynegreenway. If you have a query, about making your submission or questions about the Boyne Greenway and Navigation restoration, please contact us at:

Email: activetravel@meathcoco.ie

Tel: (046) 9097150