



**WATERFORD CITY &  
COUNTY COUNCIL  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
DUNHILL TOURISM  
WALKING TRAIL CLG**



**Anne Valley Walk:  
Phase 3 Improvement  
Works**



**Part VIII Planning  
Report**

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Plate 1 – Location of Trail

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Front cover images: John Foley Images

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

The Anne Valley Walk is a 5km recreational walking between Dunhill and Annestown. The initial phase of the project from Ballyphilip Bridge to Dunhill Castle was completed in 2013. Phase 2 which saw the walk developed southwards to Annestown was officially opened in 2018. Since its development the walk has proved very popular with locals and visitors alike.

## **2 PROJECT BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 OVERVIEW**

The current proposal (phase 3) is to raise a 940 metre (approx) section of the walk in the townlands of Kilcannon and Ballynagorkagh, south of Dunhill Castle by an average of 850mm, as this section has been prone to flooding, particularly during periods of heavy rainfall. Waterford City & Council Council and Dunhill Tourism Walking Trail CLG have secured funding under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme in order to carry out the proposed improvement works.

### **2.2 SCHEME LOCATION**

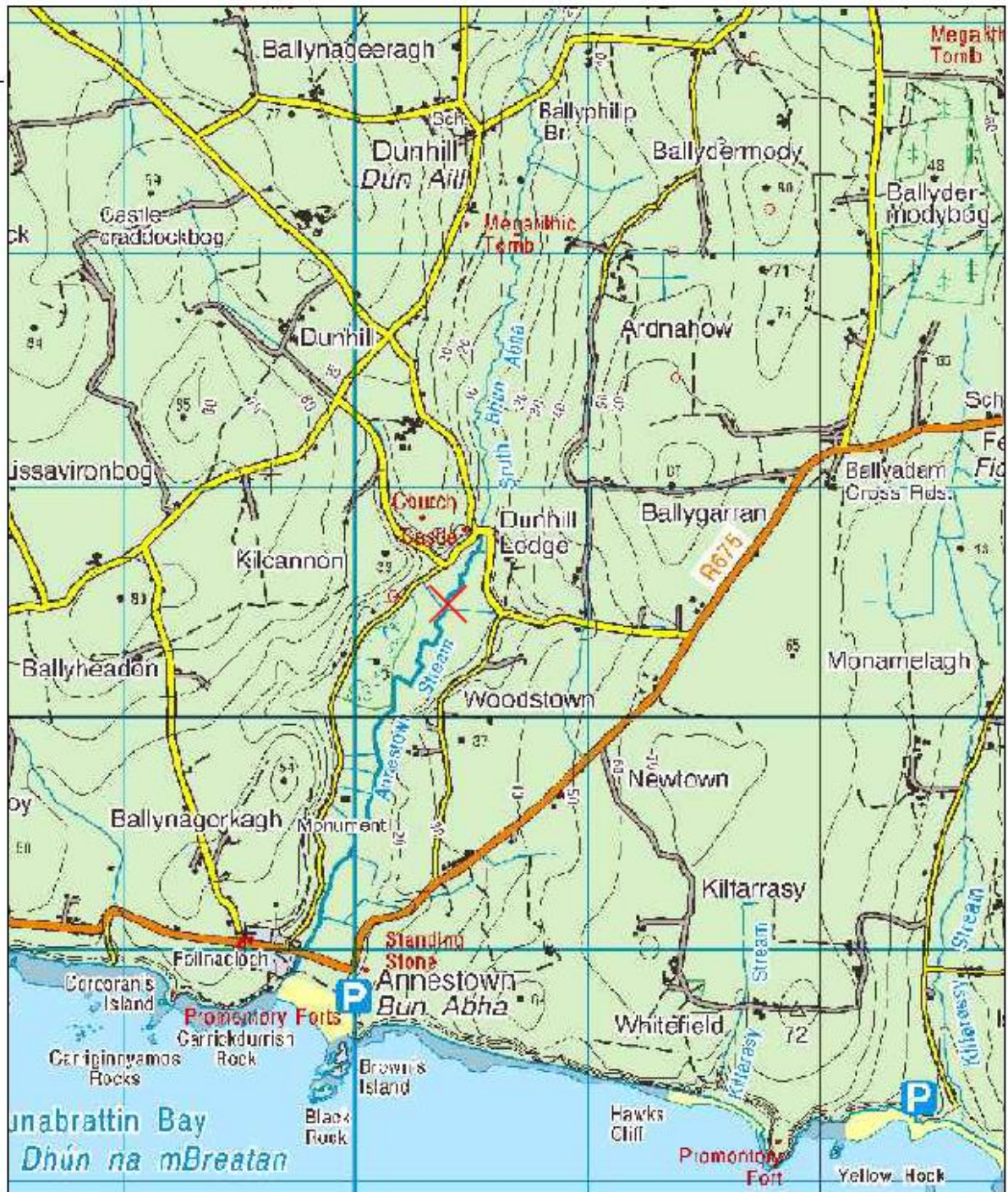
The location of the current proposed scheme is in the townland of Kilcannon, Co. Waterford between access points 52.15531, -7.26619 and 52.15105, -7.27136 (approximately), a section of Anne Valley Walk just south of Dunhill Castle.

### **2.3 EXISTING ENVIRONMENT**

The Anne Valley Walk is a 5km recreational trail located between Dunhill and Annestown, Co. Waterford. It is situated 13km west of Waterford City, 8km west of Tramore and 24km east of Dungarvan. The path runs through the Anne Valley Wetlands along the riverbank of the Annestown Stream which flows south to Dunabrattin Bay at Annestown. The initial 2.2km trail from Dunhill village to Dunhill Castle was developed in 2013 with support from LEADER Funding. A second development phase further extended the trail south to Annestown Village in 2018. This easy grade trail is 2m wide with a gentle slope and level surface. This trail is popular with visitors and locals, all year round.



Plate 1 – Location of Trail and proposed improvement scheme:



## 2.4 SCHEME JUSTIFICATION

Since 2013 this the Anne Valley Walk has greatly benefitted the community and has become a real asset as in this part of rural east Waterford. The walk has created footfall into the villages of Dunhill and Annestown. The walk has greatly benefitted the existing services in the local area.

The trail is of benefit to Dunhill Multi Education Centre and the participants in the Tourism Trails Programme. Schools and colleges have undertaken fieldtrips to this unique wetland environment. Sport Ireland Outdoors has made use of the trail as a location for some of its training courses.

Outdoor nature enthusiasts such as bird watchers are also attracted by the wetlands and the opportunity afforded to observe flora and fauna.

The local community host charity and community events at the trail. It is a valuable amenity for the entire community in terms of rural recreation and promotion of health & well being.

## 2.5 PRE-PART 8 CONSULTATION

Waterford City & County Council has been planning these improvement works in collaboration with the local community, Dunhill Tourism Walking Trail CLG and Waterford Leader Partnership since the issue of flooding was identified.

## 3 LEGISLATION

Waterford City and County Council is now submitting the proposed scheme for the necessary planning procedure required by the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) in accordance with the requirements of Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended).

**In accordance with section 80(1)(b) and 80(1)(k) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) Part 8 planning approval is required for the upgrade of the Anne Valley Trail at Kilcannon and Ballynagorkagh, Co. Waterford.**

## 4 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

### 4.1 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED SCHEME

The current proposal (phase 3) is to raise a 940 metre (approx) section of the walk in the townland of Kilcannon, south of Dunhill Castle by an average of 850mm, as this section has been prone to flooding, particularly during periods of heavy rainfall. Waterford City & Council Council and the local community group have secured funding under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme in order to carry out the proposed improvement works. Please see draft scheme maps and drawings attached for information only

### 4.2 DESIGN STANDARDS

- *Management Standards for Recreational Trails, 2008, National Trails Office*
- *Classification and Grading for Recreational Trails, 2008, National Trails Office*
- *Walking Trails Criteria for Ireland, 2020, Sport Ireland Outdoors*

### 4.3 PAVEMENT CONDITION

The pavement condition will be in keeping with the existing trail surface and is outlined in the scheme drawings which are appended to this report.

#### **4.4 LAND ACQUISITION**

There is no requirement for land acquisition as this amenity is subject to a permissive access agreement between landowners and Dunhill Tourism Walking Trail CLG

#### **4.5 EXTINGUISHMENT OF PUBLIC RIGHTS OFWAY**

There are no extinguishment of public rights of way.

#### **4.6 DRAINAGE**

A Stage II Flood Risk Assessment has been carried out in accordance with '*The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities*' (DoEHLG, 2009), and has been appended to this Part VIII Planning Application.

#### **4.7 UTILITIES**

There are no buried or overhead utilities existing along the proposed trail route.

#### **4.8 SIGNING AND LINING**

There will be no requirement for lining of the trail.

Existing trail signage will not be impacted by this development.

## **5 APPENDICES ACCOMPANYING THIS APPLICATION**

- 5.1 AA Screening Report
- 5.2 Stage II Flood Risk Assessment Report
- 5.3 Ecological Impact Assessment Report
- 5.4 Drawings
- 5.5 Part VIII Newspaper Advertisement