

# Appendix 3.8

## Operational and Emergency Response Plan





**Comhairle Contae Chiarraí**

---

**Kerry County Council**

**SOUTH KERRY GREENWAY  
-  
OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT PLAN  
and  
(OUTLINE) EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN**

*Prepared by:  
Capital Infrastructure Unit,  
Princes Quay,  
Tralee.*



---

## Contents

---

<b>Document Control .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Contents.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1. Introduction.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2. Code of Conduct – Greenway Charter .....</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1 Principles of the Charter/Code .....	4
2.2 Communicating the Charter .....	5
<b>3. Roles and Responsibilities of Agencies.....</b>	<b>6</b>
3.1 Kerry County Council (operational and emergency).....	6
3.2 South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd (operational).....	7
3.3 HSE and Ambulance Service (emergency) .....	7
3.4 Fire Service (emergency) .....	7
3.5 Garda Síochána (emergency).....	8
3.6 Closure due to unforeseen circumstances.....	8
3.7 Security .....	8
<b>4. Outline Emergency Response Plan.....</b>	<b>9</b>
4.1 Emergency Procedures – Incidents requiring emergency response.....	9
<b>5. Appendices .....</b>	<b>12</b>
5.1 Samples of typical signage .....	12
5.2 Public Access points along the SKG and Route Maps .....	14

## 1. Introduction

This document is intended to set out the considerations around the use and management of the South Kerry Greenway.

The document has two objectives:

- firstly, outlining the intended Operational Management Plan for the Greenway
- secondly, how the Emergency Response Plan will be developed and what principles at a minimum it will follow.

It details the guiding principles that will be followed in the development of the Emergency Response Plan (ERP) once the Greenway is operational. The ERP will be developed with the input of the emergency services and Kerry County Council considering the specifics of the greenway as constructed.

The South Kerry Greenway forms part of the infrastructure under the control of Kerry County Council.

Responsibility for the safe use of the greenway lies with its users. Users are required to comply with the statutory provisions of the road traffic acts in place and Bye-Laws that may be made by Kerry County Council to regulate and control use of the Greenway. Additionally, by using the greenway users accept the Code of Conduct for use of the facility.

The outline of what will be considered in the development of the ERP is set out in Section 3. The final ERP once developed (taking account of the specifics of the as-constructed greenway) will be reviewed and audited annually and at a lesser period if appropriate. The plan will be revised to take account issues identified in any post event review.

Should one off events be planned around the Greenway then a specific *Event Management Plan* may be required to be developed by the promoter taking account of the individual circumstances and features of the event. Such events may require other statutory consents.

The South Kerry Greenway has been designed in accordance with the TII standard Rural Cycleway Design (Offline), 2017.

## 2. Code of Conduct – Greenway Charter

A Code of Conduct and Greenway Charter will be developed to inform users of the etiquette around the use the facility and will follow the principles set out below in its development.

### **2.1 Principles of the Charter/Code**

A Greenway Charter/Code will be developed informing users regarding the use of the amenity. It will include the following descriptions.

#### **All Users Should:**

- Recognise pedestrians' priority over cyclists
- Consider and respect other users and the local environment
- Observe all local bye-laws and notices

#### **Cyclists Should:**

- Ring their bell to catch the attention of pedestrians and other users
- Pass people slowly and give people space
- Ride at an appropriate and safe speed for all
- Take special care at junctions and crossings
- Wear high-viz clothing – "be safe be seen"
- Take extra care with joining and cycling on the road and public car parks
- Adhere to the Rules of the Road

### Pedestrians Should:

- Listen for cyclist's bells
- Allow cyclists to pass safely
- Keep dogs on a leash

### Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Respect any signs, regulations, policies and special concerns for the area. Where possible travel by public transport or share cars, consider the availability of parking
- Ensure you have the skills and equipment needed for your activity and to cope with emergencies that could arise
- Check the weather forecast and always be prepared for changing weather conditions
- For environmental and safety reasons, and to minimise your impact on other users, keep group numbers small, split larger parties into smaller groups

### Be Considerate of Others

- Respect the people who live and work in the countryside
- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience
- Let nature's sounds prevail - keep noise to a minimum

### Respect Farm Animals and Wildlife

- Dogs should always be kept on a lead
- Observe wild animals and birds from a distance and avoid disturbing them
- Keep wildlife wild, don't feed wild animals or birds

### Leave What You Find

- Respect property - for example, leave gates as you find them (open or closed).
- Preserve the past – examine, without damaging – structures of interest, viaducts, tunnels, points of interest (view).
- Conserve the present, leave rocks, flowers, plants, animals and all habitats as you find them.

### Dispose of Waste Properly

- "If You Bring It In, Take It Out" - take home all litter and waste

In keeping with this approach litter and dog fouling receptacles will only be available at Trail head locations.

## **2.2 Communicating the Charter**

Kerry County Council will ensure that the Charter as developed will be effectively communicated to all those intending to use the greenway.

### **2.2.1 Signage – Trail Head and Route.**

Signage will be provided at the approach and entry points to the greenway.

The trail head sign will include information such as:

- The Code of Conduct for Users
- A map showing the current location relative to the route, the location and distance to facilities, places of interest
- Kerry County Council – general number for reporting/comments
- Emergency numbers – dial 112

Signage on the greenway will be consistent with the guidance on direction and information signs for use on greenways as included in the Design and Brand Guidelines.

Signage along the route will be way marked and give distances to the next access/exit point, these signs will be typically every 1km. Information signs at points of interest/views will also be incorporated into the greenway route.

Typical examples are included in Appendix 5.1 for reference.

All signage will have appropriate pictorial representation to aid understating of the information being conveyed to all users of the greenway.

### 2.2.2 Digital and print media

All the information on the Greenway will be available on the KCC website.

The specific webpage will include the following:

- A downloadable and interactive map with the route broken up into discrete sections
- Access points will be outlined
- Locations and amount of parking will be visible
- Location of facilities, toilets, points of interest will be visible
- The charter will be prominent on the site
- Additional links to pages around weather forecast, bike hire, local festivals etc.

A printed version of the map will also be prepared and be available with other tourist and visitor information.

## **3. Roles and Responsibilities of Agencies**

### **3.1 Kerry County Council (operational and emergency)**

Kerry County Council as owners of the Greenway is the principal authority for the management, operation and maintenance of the facility but may enter into partnership arrangements with local development agencies and local communities on the operational matters.

Kerry County Council, South and West Kerry Municipal District has area offices in Killorglin and Cahirciveen. The route lies within the areas that is the responsibility of both offices. Operational matters and maintenance will be co-ordinated through these offices.

#### Key responsibilities (operation):

- Route maintenance and repair – pavement, drainage, embankments, signange, fencing and border maintenance (weed control, strimming, hedge cutting, signage maintenance).
- Hedgecutting will only be completed outside the nesting season between September 1<sup>st</sup> to February 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Be responsible for the structural integrity of the paved greenway surface, associated culverts, bridges and embankments.
- Conduct audits and periodic inspections of the greenway to ensuring satisfactory maintenance performance.
- Waste management of the car parks and other locations where litter and dog fouling receptacles are placed.
- Responding to complaints.
- Severe weather closure – see Section 3.6

- Access to Greenway. Public access points have been provided along the route. These are the only public access points to be used by users of the facility. They are managed by KCC. Appendix 5.2 lists the public access points.
- Vehicular Access. The only vehicular access to the greenway is reserved for emergency and maintenance vehicles. These access points are indicated in Appendix 5.2. Each location will have a locked (but removable) chicane which will allow vehicular access to facilitate emergency or maintenance purposes. The key for the lock will be inside the coded key box beside each access point.
- Public Parking. Public parking is provided in the designated locations as indicated in Appendix 5.2. There are five car parks. The use of the car parks will be regulated by bye-laws. The car parks will be unlit and access to them controlled by KCC.

In relation to Glenbeigh trail head car park it is intended to use a monitoring system to manage parking. A digital sign at the at the junction of the regional road (R564) and local tertiary road (L11652-14) (at the junction at the bridge) will be linked to a monitoring system at the car park. This will then advise motorists if the trail head has available spaces or if the car park is full and then direct users of the greenway to the overflow car park.

- Toilet Facilities. Public toilet facilities will be provided at four locations including the trail head car parks in Reenard and Glenbeigh and at the Kells and Marina car parks.

The units have toilet and hand washing facilities and designed to be low maintenance and easy to clean. Hand dryers will be used in preference to paper towels to limit the amount of waste being generated.

Waste water will be contained within a sealed adjacent tank which will form part of the construction. The tanks will be fitted with a high level call out alarm to notify the maintenance personnel that the tank has reached the predetermined level for the call out and needs to be emptied. The emptying of the tank will be arranged by Kerry County Council and the wastewater will be transported to one of the local waste water plants for disposal.

Cleaning, removal of waste material as may arise and renewal of sanitary stocks will be undertaken by Kerry County Council.

#### Key responsibilities (emergency):

KCC will, on request act in co-operation with the emergency services.

### **3.2 South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd (operational)**

South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd. have offices in Cahirciveen.

Key responsibilities (operation):

- In partnership with KCC they will be responsible for designated sections of the route for fencing and border maintenance (weed control, strimming, hedge cutting)
- Under a maintenance agreement, local landowners may undertake maintenance of fences bounding their property or request SKDP to undertake the maintenance instead.

### **3.3 HSE and Ambulance Service (emergency)**

- Respond to any situations that they are tasked to by their co-ordination centre.

### **3.4 Fire Service (emergency)**

- Respond to any situations that they are tasked to by their co-ordination centre.

### **3.5 Garda Síochána (emergency)**

- Respond to any situations that they are tasked to by their co-ordination centre.

### **3.6 Closure due to unforeseen circumstances**

#### **3.6.1 Severe Weather Route Closure.**

User responsibility requires that users will have to have regard to the environment and weather conditions and to have regard to any public notices issued by the Council or the principal emergency response agencies either on social media, local media or site notices.

#### **3.6.2 Closure due to bio-security event**

If, on the recommendation of the relevant Competent Authority (in this case the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine) that a closure of the greenway is necessary as part of a co-ordinated response to address a bio-security event then the greenway will be closed at all the access points (public and where the greenway crosses private roads/access ways).

All access points will be fully closed using the barriers/gates and temporary signs posted advising of the closure and the reasons for same.

The website will also be updated advising of the closure and its reason.

The greenway will remain closed for use until the Department advises that it is acceptable to reopen the facility.

### **3.7 Security**

There is no vehicular access to the greenway from the public access points save for emergency and maintenance vehicles. At all such locations there will be locked chicanes – the key to unlock these will be available within the key coded box.

Only designed personnel and the emergency services will have access to the key code to get access for the purpose such as maintenance or emergency response.

The key which will be required to open the chicane will be within the locked device as shown over. The code to open the lock and retrieve the key will be the same for all public access points on the greenway.



## 4. Outline Emergency Response Plan

### 4.1 Emergency Procedures – Incidents requiring emergency response

A detailed Emergency Response Plan (ERP) – which will take account of the as-constructed features of the greenway will be developed in conjunction with emergency service providers and will form part of the Safety File for the project.

The final ERP will be developed taking account of the following details.

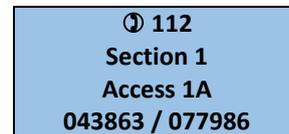
#### Location

The greenway will be identified in 'sections' on the overall route map, for example Section 1; Reenard to Cahirciveen.

The public access points to the section will be clearly identified on the maps with a letter and GPS co-ordinate.

This information will be posted along the route at a predefined spacing (typically 250m centres). There will be marker plates on posts adjacent to the greenway indicating the section no, closest access point and your current location in GPS co-ordinates, for example:

Emergency phone contact:  
This line indicates the section on the greenway you are on:  
Your closest public access point is point 1A:  
Your current gps co-ordinates are (Easting/Northing):



The final design and layout of the sign will make provision for pictorial representation of the above information so as to avoid any confusion with regard to the language in which the sign is presented.

In the case of emergency if these details are given to the responder they will know where to dispatch the emergency services to (which is the closest public access point) and the exact location of the incident.

At intervals of 1km there will be general information plates indicating where facilities are next available, your distance and location.

#### Response procedure

Emergency Services will be tasked on foot of calls to the emergency response number.

#### Vehicular access

Vehicular access is managed by KCC and appropriate points of access are available for emergency vehicles as may be required. These will be clearly marked on the ERP.

The locked chicanes will have a coded key box located adjacent to the access point which will allow vehicular access for personnel with the code (which will be in the ERP).

There are a few locations on the route which act as constraints to the movement of vehicles.

These have been set out in Table 4.1 which also indicates the maximum distance from a public access point to any given point on the greenway. These include the Kells underpass which has a height restriction of 2.7m, structures such as Nimmo's bridge, Kells viaduct, Cahirciveen bridge, boardwalk section which are not designed for vehicular traffic. In such locations access to the east or west side of the structure will be from that side (eg eastern access to eastern side etc.)

### Ambulance Service

The width of the pavement will allow direct access to the incident location by the ambulance.

The 5m width of the greenway allows for turning of the ambulance so it can return on the same route as it entered. Alternatively, it may be able to continue to the next public access point if more efficient depending upon the circumstances of the incident.

The scheme drawings include all such locations and they will be included in the ERP.

There are some locations where the full 5m corridor is not fully available – for example Drung Hill. In this instance, they may have to reverse as far as practical along the route and the casualty is then evacuated by hand to that point if deemed appropriate by the incident controller. The access points are included in the drawings for inclusion in the ERP. There is walking access at Nimmo’s Bridge (which is broadly an intermediate point on the Drung Hill stage leg of the route) and the ambulance may be stationed on the N70 adjacent.

Table 4.1 below summarises the maximum distances for direct transfer to an ambulance.

### Fire Service

The width of the pavement will allow direct access to the incident location by the fire service. There are a number of agricultural crossing points along the route – these (if required) can be opened to allow the vehicle to turn as may be required or alternatively, it may be able to continue to the next access point if more efficient depending upon the circumstances of the incident.

There are a few locations where direct access is not readily feasible – for example Drung Hill. In this area the incident would be tackled directly from the N70 – this will allow the fire tender to refill its tanks without difficulty as required. The proximity of the N70 to the route will mitigate any direct access issue at this location.

The scheme drawings include all such locations and they will be included in the ERP.

### ERP Audit and Review.

As outlined in section 2.2 the ERP once developed will be audited and reviewed at least annually and more frequently if required. The review of any mobilisation events will inform the revision/updating of the plan.

*Table 4.1: Maximum distances along route section from public access point*

Section	Access point	Chainage	Location Access point ↓ Critical points along section ↓	Description of access	Distance to public access	Road
1	a	0	Reenard – Trail head	Car Park/Public Road		L-4005-0
			Mid-point 1a/1b	From 1a or 1b	1,190	
1	b/c	2,380	Garranearagh	Public road		L-12703-0
			Mid-point 1c/1d	From 1c or 1d	757	
1	d	3,895	Off Marina Road, Cahirciveen	Public Road		
			On road section between 1d and 2a	On public road	N/A	
2	a	4,890	Bridge Street, Caherciveen	Public Road		L-4071
			West side of bridge	From 2a	180	
2		5,070 - 5,380	On bridge (210m) – possibly 210m manually	No vehicle access, west side of bridge to 2a	390	
			East side of bridge	From 2b	2,480	
2	b/c	7,860	Cloghane (East)	Public Road		L-7528
			Mid-point 2c/2d		260	
2	d/e	8,380	Cloghane (East)	Public Road		L-7620
			Mid-point 2e/2f		1,185	
2	f	10,750	Dooneen	Public Road		L-11561
2	g	10,900	Dooneen			
			Western entrance to Kells underpass (14,650)	No vehicle access through underpass	3,750	
			Eastern entrance to Kells underpass (14,700)	No vehicle access through underpass	450	
2	h/j	15,150	Blouerdah	Public Road		L-7521
			Mid-point 2j/2l		1,160	
2	l	17,470	Knockaneyouloo	Public Road		L-7520
2	m	17,550	Knockaneyouloo			
			Mid-point 2m/3a		375	
3	a	18,250	Kells car park	Car Park/Public Road		NS N70
			Mid-point 3a/3b		1,400	
3	b/c	21,050	Gortaforia	Public Road		NS N70
			Gleensk viaduct – no vehicle access (21,650)	West side of viaduct	550	
			Gleensk viaduct – no vehicle access (21,850)	East side of viaduct	3,820	
3	d	23,800	Kilkeehagh (Nimmo's Bridge)	Emergency Access only - no vehicle access	1,870	NS N70
3	e	25,670 - 26,900	Coolnaharragill Lower	Public Road – on road section		L-11652
			Mid-point 3e/3f		270	
3	f	27,450	Coolnaharragill Lower	Public Road		L-7518
		27,610 - 27,700	Boardwalk section (west 27,610)	To Boardwalk section - no vehicle access	160	
			Boardwalk section (east 27,700)	To Boardwalk section - no vehicle access	1,605	
3	g	29,305	Drom	Public Road		L-11646
			Mid-point 3g/3h		597	
3	h	30,500	Curra			
3	h	30,500 - 30,950	Curra	Public Road – on road section		L11652
			Mid-point 3i/3j		487	
3	i	31,925	Glenbeigh - Trail head	Car Park/Public Road		L-11652-14
		N/A	Glenbeigh Quarry (not on-line)	Car Park/Public Road	N/A	R-564

## 5. Appendices

### 5.1 Samples of typical signage

Below is a sample of a typical greenway map board which will be at each trail head location:

**Greenway Waterford Greenway**  
Waterford to Dungarvan

**WALKING AND CYCLING ADVICE**

This section of text to be used for a description of the Greenway. It should include details on distance and any unique details that will add to the user experience and/or safety.

**Be prepared** - Although the route is off road, you still need to take special care at or near all road junctions. Ensure you have the fitness, equipment and time for the walk or cycle. Check the weather forecast and be prepared for changing weather conditions.

**Be considerate of other people** - This route is mixed use - while walking be aware of cyclists approaching, train appropriately and do not block entrances or other cars. Leave gates as you find them. Do not damage property.

**LEAVE NO TRACE**  
www.leaveanotrace.org  
www.bavemore.com  
www.waterfordgreenway.com

We welcome feedback about your experience. Please contact us at info@waterfordgreenway.com  
For more information visit www.waterfordgreenway.com

For further local information please contact either:  
Waterford County Council  
\*853 05223 4567

**1-2 Waterford to Kilmeeaden**

Distance 16km (one-way)  
Duration (estimate) Walking: 3hr 30mins - 4hrs (one way)  
Cycling: 2hr 15mins - 2hrs (one way)  
Minimum Gear Walking shoes, rucksack, a drink and mobile phone  
Description Purpose-built, off-road multi-activity trail, on level terrain. Some unbound surfaces with loose gravel.

**2-3 Kilmeeaden to Kilmacthomas**

Distance 20km (one-way)  
Duration (estimate) Walking: 4hr 30mins - 4hrs (one way)  
Cycling: 2hr 15mins - 2hrs (one way)  
Minimum Gear Walking shoes, rucksack, a drink and mobile phone  
Description Road sections, beware of traffic and obey rules of the road. Multi-activity trail, on level terrain.

**3-4 Kilmacthomas to Dungarvan**

Distance 16km (one-way)  
Duration (estimate) Walking: 4hr 30mins - 4hrs (one way)  
Cycling: 2hr 15mins - 2hrs (one way)  
Minimum Gear Walking shoes, rucksack, a drink and mobile phone  
Description Purpose-built, off-road multi-activity trail, alongside canal and disused canal on level terrain.

**MAP LEGEND**

You are here

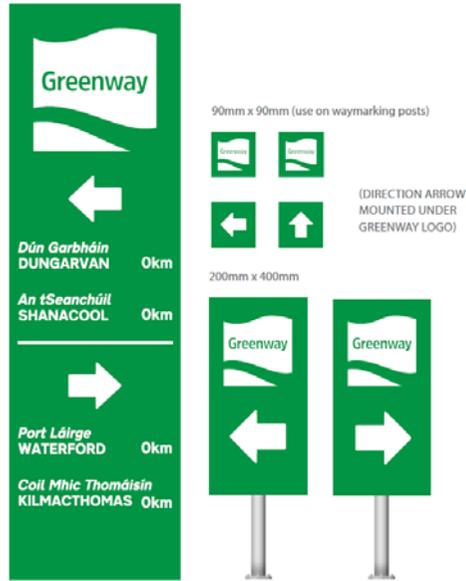
Cafe/Restaurant Historical Building/Ruins Camping Hotel Public House Shops Parking

Waterford Logo here

THE IRISH SPORTS COUNCIL National Trails Office

Samples of typical signage are set out below.

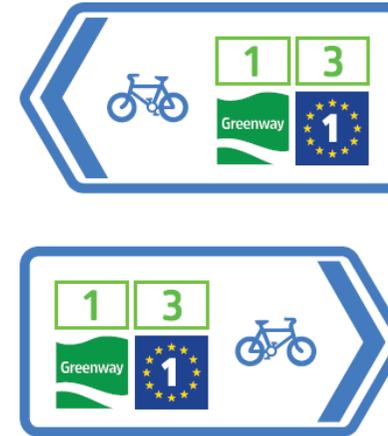
Off-road (on-trail) directional signage:



Advance directional signs: On-road direction sign



On road directional sign



Sample of typical trail head welcome sign:



**5.2 Public Access points along the SKG and Route Maps**

<i>Site Ref</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Description of access</i>	<i>Road</i>
1	Reenard – Trail head	Car Park / Public Road	Local Primary L-4005-0
2	Garranearagh	Public Road	LT L 12703-0
3	Off Marina Road, Cahirciveen	Car Park/ Public Road	
4	Bridge Street, Caherciveen	Public Road	L4071
5	Cloghane (East)	Public Road	L7528
6	Cloghane (East)	Public Road	L7620
7	Dooneen	Public Road	L11561
8	Blouerdah	Public Road	L7521
9	Knockaneyouloo	Public Road	L7520
10	Kells Car Park	Car Park / Public Road	National Secondary N70
11	Coolnaharragill Lower	Public Road	L11652
12	Coolnaharragill Lower	Public Road	L7518
13	Drom	Public Road	L11646
14	Curra	Public Road	L11652
15	Glenbeigh - Trail head	Car Park / Public Road	Local Tertiary L11652-14
16	Glenbeigh Quarry (not on-line)	Car Park / Public Road	Regional R-564