



Per Cent for Art Commission: N22 Baile Bhuirne – Macroom Road Development

Overview:

Cork County Council and TII (Transport Infrastructure Ireland), under the Per Cent for Art Scheme invite submissions for two public art commissions valued at €30,000 each as part of the N22 Baile Bhuirne – Macroom Road Development.

The N22 Baile Bhuirne – Macroom Road Development includes the construction of 22km of dual carriageway which will be primarily constructed offline of the existing N22.



Photo: Cork County Council drone team.

Details of Commission:

Cork County Council is seeking creative proposals from a professional artist or artist collectives in any artform or combination of art forms. Proposals should be created in response to the specific context of the area covered by the N22 development, community-focused, socially engaged or collaborative with communities of place or interest, in the

localities adjacent to the N22 Baile Bhuirne – Macroom Development. Outdoor sculptural works may also be located, if appropriate and subject to TII safety policies, in suitable areas at the Coolcour Junction or the Baile Bhuirne / Western Tie-in junction. Proposals can be for the creation of temporary, permanent or ephemeral artworks with a final public output in the area impacted by the development. Communities do not have to be identified at proposal stage.

The commissioners acknowledge the variety of methods, both new and established, that artists use to engage communities. The commissioners welcome ambitious and innovative proposals that have the capacity to connect with communities in the physical, social, environmental, cultural and historical contexts of the Baile Bhuirne to Macroom area.

This is a two – stage open competition. Stage 1 is a public open call from which a shortlist of artists will be invited to develop their proposals further.

Each budget of €30,000 is inclusive of artists’ fees and expenses, project realisation, documentation and VAT.

Proposals can be for the Macroom area, the Baile Bhuirne area, or both.

The selected artist will be asked to undergo Garda Vetting, to present a tax clearance certificate and have the capacity to indemnify Cork County Council and Transport Infrastructure Ireland within the limits prescribed by Irish Public Bodies.

Online Information Session: 5th October 2022. Please email arts@corkcoco.ie to sign up.

In-Person Site Visits: 12th October 2022. Artists must sign up in advance, capacity is limited. Please email arts@corkcoco.ie to sign up.

Application Details:

Please apply via [<FIRMSTEP LINK>](#) with the following information by **11pm on Sunday 23rd of OCTOBER 2022:**

- 500-word project proposal including methods of engagement with communities of interest and / or places, and proposed outcomes.
- Artist’s CV max. 3 pages (collaborative groups may include up to 3 pages per artist)
- PDF no larger than 10MB with recent relevant artworks, projects and activities, including titles, dates and total costs where relevant.
- Budget outline

Selection Criteria:

- Artistic Merit, quality and innovation of concept;
- Demonstration of ability, or potential, to work with a community in a socially engaged manner;
- Feasibility of proposal;
- Applicant’s ability, or potential, to carry out the project.

About the N22 Development:

The N22 development provides a 22 km road improvement from the Cork side of Macroom, bypassing the Town of Macroom, the villages of Baile Mhic Íre and Baile Bhuirne, the infamous Baile Bhuirne bends, and finishing on the improved section of the N22, just west of Baile Mhic Íre itself and before the County bounds with Kerry.



Bohill River Bridge. Photo: Jons Civil Engineering

The development has been divided into 3 sections for construction purposes:

Section 1 Bypass of Baile Bhuirne and Baile Mhic Íre; Slievereagh to Coolnacaheragh

Section 2 Middle section from Coolnacaheragh to Carrigaphooca

Section 3: Bypass of Macroom; Carrigaphooca to Coolcour

There will be interfaces between the new road development and the existing N22 at the eastern and western termini as well as two crossings of the existing road. There may be potential to have permanent artworks installed in these areas. The road will be constructed through challenging terrain which varies through the development from hilly remote land with rock outcrops at the western end, to low lying pasture lands to the east of Macroom and will cross a land-locked section of the Inniscarra Reservoir to the south east of Macroom. The project includes the construction of 130 structures, including crossings of the Sullane, Laney, Foherish and Bohill rivers. The junctions on the project will be at Slievereagh at the western end, at Toonlane east of Baile Mhic Íre, at Gurteenroe, Millstreet Road and at Coolcour at the eastern side of Macroom.

Map of the N22 Baile Bhuirne to Macroom Development:

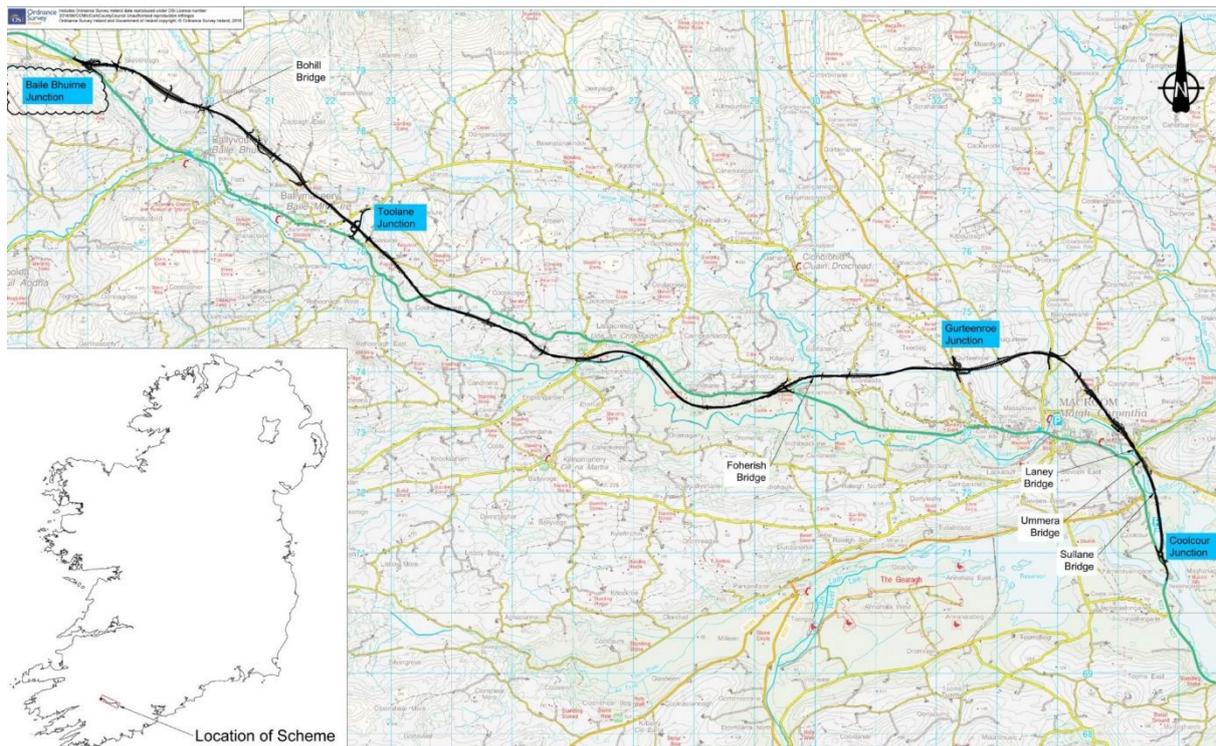


Image: Jons Civil Engineering

Four Junctions on the N22:



Baile Bhuirne Junction / Western Tie-In. Photo: Cork County Council drone team.



Toonlane Junction. Photo: Cork County Council drone team.



Gurteenroe Junction Photo: Cork County Council drone team.



Coolcour Junction. Photo: Cork County Council drone team.

Drone footage of the development in progress can be viewed here:
<https://youtu.be/A0uHFSqHY2g>

Courtesy of the Cork County Council Drone Team.

About the area:

Macroom is a market town in County Cork, Ireland, located by the River Sullane, halfway between Cork City and Killarney. The town serves an area of central Cork that is rich in agriculture and food production, which is also celebrated as part of the annual Macroom Food Festival. The town is home to several artists, arts groups and organisations including the Briery Gap theatre which is currently being renovated.



Cattle crossing, Cut 11, north of Macroom. Photo: Cork County Council drone team.

Macroom has witnessed conflict over the centuries including the 978AD battle where Brian Ború avenged his brother's death and became King of Munster; the 1650 Battle of Macroom as part of the Cromwellian conquest; and in modern history the Land War, the War of Independence and the Civil War. In 1843 a Famine workhouse opened and by 1851 held 2,124 people.



Macroom. Photo: Cork County Council drone team.

Carrigaphoooca Castle is situated on the outcrop of rock called *The Friary Rock* in Macroom, County Cork. It is a 16th century tower of 4 storeys below a vaulted roof and turrets on opposing corners at the top. It was built by Dermot Mór MacCarthy sometime between 1436 and 1451. A staircase was added in the 1970's. There is a stone circle two fields to the east of the castle.



Carrigaphoooca Castle. Photo: Cork County Council drone team.



Baile Mhic Íre. Photo: Cork County Council drone team.

The Gearagh is close to Macroom. This diverse eco-system and is home to huge variety of fish, birds, trees, plants, and animals such as kingfishers, otters, and whooper swans. It is the only ancient post glacial alluvial forest left in Western Europe. It has been a statutory nature reserve since 1987 and is also part of the Lee river Hydroelectrical scheme. The wider geographical area for this scheme is also a habitat for bats, the Kerry slug, freshwater pearl mussels and owls. The N22 development traverses the upper reaches of the Carrigadrohid Reservoir, which is located on the River Lee, upstream of the two hydro power stations. The lake is predominantly associated with coarse fishing for bream, rudd, roach, pike and perch.



Baile Bhuirne Photo: Cork County Council drone team.

Baile Bhuirne is a Gaeltacht Mhuscraí village located between Macroom and the Kerry border. In the 2016 Census 21% of the population of "An Sliabh Riabhach" electoral division spoke Irish on a daily basis outside of the education system.

The *Slí na Gaeltacht Muscraí* is part of the Beara-Breifne Way and passes through the site of the new N22. A pedestrian underpass has been constructed beneath it near Baile Bhuirne to accommodate walkers along the route. This route traces part of the fourteen-day march taken by Donal O'Sullivan Beara and one thousand supporters from Beara to Leitrim 1603. Baile Bhuirne is associated with Saint Gobnait, the 6th century patron saint of bees and beekeeping. There is a pilgrimage site with a well in the area. Her Pattern Day is the 11th February. The area is also associated with Saint Abban.

An Ionad Cultúrtha an Dochtúir Ó Loinsigh is an arts centre serving the Gaeltacht Mhuscraí, located in Baile Bhuirne. It offers a yearlong arts programme including visual art, music, residencies for visiting artists and courses for the general public.



Cill na Martra Road. Photo: Cork County Council drone team.

Saint Laichtín is believed to have founded a monastery in the Cill na Martra area in the 8th century, and the village name of *Church of the Martyr* likely refers to him. Cill na Martra has been home to the Toy Soldier factory since 1976. Founded by Lars and Gunilla Edman, it manufactures and sells a range of military and fantasy figurines and home-making kits. There is also a visitor centre.

On 7th July 1918, Volunteers led an armed attack on two Royal Irish Constabulary Constables in Béal a Ghleanna, on the road between Baile Mhic Íre and Béal Átha an Ghaorthaidh.

The Cúil na Cathrach ambush took place on 25 February 1921, 4.6km east of the village of Baile Mhic Íre. Some 62 volunteers of the IRA 1st Cork Brigade Flying Column fought against some 70 soldiers and 7 constables of the Macroom based Auxiliary Division of the Royal Irish Constabulary, known as the Auxiliaries.

Resources:

For images, updates and maps please go to: <http://www.n22bbm.ie/>

Slí Ghaeltacht Mhúscraí: <http://www.sligaeltachtmuscrai.com/sgm.html>

Environmental Impact Assessment: <https://www.corkrdo.ie/major-schemes/forbairt-bothair-n22-baile-bhuirne-maigh-chromtha/>

More information on the archaeology of the N22 can be seen at <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=bbb0a3836abe47bbbbe472991a1915f2>

Brief archaeological summary and images : <https://www.rubiconheritage.com/n22-macroom--baile-bhuirne.html>

Cúil na Cathrach War of Independence ambush site, details of which can be found here: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/d7e5d00d05b842f58c87d176d5b9a192>

Múscraí Gaeltacht Heritage Plan, as Gaeilge: <https://www.corkcoco.ie/sites/default/files/2021-11/plean-oidhreachta-mhuscrai-plean-caomhnaithe-bainistiu-agus-leirleamh-2018-2032-pdf.pdf>

Múscraí Gaeltacht Heritage Plan, English [Microsoft Word - Múscraí Gaeltacht CMIP Final Draft Jan 2019.docx \(corkcoco.ie\)](#)

Several schools in the area of the N22 development feature in the Dúchas School Folklore Collection: <https://www.duchas.ie/en/plc/11583>

An outline of the archaeology on the N22 Road scheme:



Ceramic Gaming Piece found in Kilclug 1, Photo: Cork County Council

A total of 25 sites of prehistoric date were excavated along the route of the new N22 prior to construction commencing. The majority of these consisted of Bronze Age burnt mounds or *fulacht fiadh*, an enigmatic site type where stones were heated in a fire before being placed in a prepared water-filled trough in the ground, the purpose being to heat the water for various reasons, bathing or cooking being the most likely explanation in most cases. Such troughs are often either stone or timber lined, and many complex examples with well-preserved wooden lining were seen here. These sites were found in many locations along the scheme. Further prehistoric sites included a Bronze Age cremation burial of a young woman.

A further 25 sites were excavated along the route of the N22 of historic date, including settlements, mills and kilns. Charcoal production pits, related to metal working, were also seen.

Part of a large early medieval ringfort settlement enclosure was excavated at Ballymakeery. The upper part of a fine rotary quern (used for hand milling of grain) was recovered from the ditch fill. Ringforts were the enclosed farmsteads of the time and were likely built with defence or security in mind.

Lime kilns are one of Ireland's most numerous and widely distributed industrial monuments, and date mainly to the 18th and 19th century. Lime was used traditionally for agricultural purposes and also for lime bonding/rendering in stone walls, houses and castles. An unusual rectangular example excavated at Carrigaphooca on the N22 dates to the mid-1600s. More typical circular kilns (dry-stone built) of likely 18th/19th century date were excavated at Coolyhane and Cappagh West.

While excavating the remains of a 19th century farmstead at Killaclug beside the Foherish River, the lower elements of a much earlier water mill were unearthed. Arguably one of the most exciting discoveries along the route of the N22, this mill was built and rebuilt a number of times, with its first phase likely dating to about the late 1400s. Various rebuilds in the 1500s were noted, and continuing evidence of use into the late 1700s. Several broken millstone parts were recovered at the site, as well as evidence of everyday life, pottery, glass, clay tobacco pipes and much more besides.

An outline of the ecology on the N22 Road scheme:

Freshwater Pearl Mussel

The water quality of the area is very high and supports salmon, trout and a wide range of species including the Freshwater Pearl Mussel, which is European protected and an endangered species.

All works on the scheme need to consider mitigation measures for Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchments, as the entire area is the zone of influence that can negatively affect FPM. FPM is present from upstream of the uppermost location of construction, through the Sullane River, downstream to the Gearagh and through the Lee River downstream.

Freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) is a bivalve mollusc found in clean, fast-flowing rivers, and occasionally in lakes. The freshwater pearl mussel is listed on Annex II and Annex V of the EU Habitats Directive and is also protected under the Wildlife Act 1976 (as amended). Any works affecting water bodies is strictly controlled to minimise the impact to the water quality of the area. The ecological and fisheries value of the watercourses is maintained through sensitive design and construction methods. The Sullane Freshwater Pearl Mussel population is not designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) population and is not listed in the Freshwater Pearl Mussel Objectives Regulations (2009), however, the restrictions on siltation cited in these regulations, i.e. *'No artificially elevated levels of siltation'*, apply for the protection of this Annex II species outside of any designated conservation site. As an advance works contract, turbidity meters were installed for baseline monitoring in each of the Rivers: Owengarve, Bohill, Sullane at Ballyvourney, Foherish, Laney, Sullane at Ummera, Sullane at River Crossing. Since construction commenced, the Contractor has their own turbidity monitors in place in these areas.

Kerry Slug Habitat

The N22 Baile Bhuirne to Macroom road development scheme was approved by An Bord Pleanála in 2011. Condition 2 of the An Bord Pleanála approval for the scheme states that:

"Prior to commencement of construction, the road authority shall engage a competent malacologist to draw up in agreement with the NPWS an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) to identify, create and manage a suitable receiving environment for the long-term trans-location of the Kerry Slug in the area affected by the proposed road, generally in accordance with the recommendation submitted by the NPWS to the oral hearing. Construction works and design details shall comply with the requirements of the EMP which shall also be subject to the conditions of the Derogation Licence.

Reason: *To avoid deterioration of the habitat and maintain genetic connectivity in a population of a strictly protected species."*

The Kerry Slug *Geomalacus maculosus* Allman is a mollusc with no external shell, a member of the gastropod family Arionidae which is widely distributed in the Palaearctic. The genus *Geomalacus* consists of four known species, all of which have a very restricted distribution. The Kerry Slug has a very limited range. Populations of this species are limited in the world to north-western Iberia and south-west Ireland, with a recent Irish addition to the range since 2010 in West Galway (Kearney, 2010).

The distribution of the slug has been described as "Lusitanian", as it inhabits the Atlantic region of Iberia and Ireland (Scharff, 1893). The species is closely associated with and restricted to the sandstone geology of west Cork and Kerry (Boycott 1934; Platts & Speight 1988; Moorkens & Killeen, 2009) where it has been recorded from 50 10km squares since 1965 (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010).

Due to a reported decline in its core Iberian range (Platts & Speight 1988), the Kerry Slug was listed as a **strictly protected** fauna species in Appendix II of the Bern Convention and subsequently in Annex IV(a) of the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EC, which is an Annex for species requiring strict protection.

The Kerry Slug (*Geomalacus maculosus*) is listed on Annex II and IV of the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EC. The slug is also protected under the Wildlife Act 1976 (as amended) having been added

under Statutory Instrument No. 112 of 1990. For this reason, Cork County Council took the decision to apply for and fulfil the derogation licence and destroy the Kerry slug habitat that was found to be in the working area along the road construction Lands Made Available (LMA) in advance of the main road construction contract commencing. The destroyed habitat and LMA that is not Kerry slug habitat are available to the Contractor to build the road without encountering Kerry Slug. Outside the LMA are either preserved Kerry Slug habitat areas or created Kerry Slug habitat areas. To provide absolute certainty to the Contractor, demarcation fencing has been erected to ensure that the Contractor cannot unknowingly enter either preserved Kerry slug habitat or created habitat. As the Kerry Slug is strictly protected under the Habitat's Directive, the Contractor must ensure that mitigation measures are in place under Section 24 of Schedule 4 of the Construction Requirements, Annex 1 to Part 1.

Bird Species:

The following bird species are those recorded in the vicinity of the road development that are of high conservation concern: Hen Harrier; Barn Owl, Merlin; Lapwing; Curlew, Black-headed Gull and Kingfisher.

Bat Species:

An old farm shed with roosts of three bat species, Natterer's Bat (*Myotis nattereri*), Brown Long-eared Bat (*Plecotus auritus*), and Lesser Horseshoe Bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*), needed to be demolished to facilitate the construction of support structures for a raised section of the N22 Baile Bhuirne to Macroom Road across the River Bohill. A new compensation roost was constructed nearby in late April-early May 2019, and the old one demolished under a bat derogation license granted by the NPWS, DER-BAT 2019-08. The original roost hosted a summer day roost of Natterer's Bat in the cavity wall, and also a small day and night roost of Brown Long-eared Bat in the cavity wall, and a small occasional night roost only of Lesser Horseshoe Bat.

In fulfilment of the bat license conditions, Cork County Council commissioned a licensed bat specialist, Doctor Isobel Abbott (IA), to supervise the construction of the new roost, and to monitor its occupancy during the main bat active season in 2019 and in 2020 (monitoring reports emailed to the NPWS) and again during 2021.

Roost enhancement measures were commissioned by Cork County Council during November 2020.
