

# Chapter 34. Aclare Village Plan

The Settlement Strategy for County Sligo designates Aclare as a **village sustaining rural communities**. The village has adequate infrastructural capacity for small-scale development and can offer a viable alternative to rural one-off housing.

## 34.1 Village profile

Aclare is located approximately 10 km west of Tobercurry, along the local road L- 4803. The village centre retains its historic form and many historic buildings, of which three are Protected Structures.

The village is crossed by the River Eighnagh (or Lough Talt River), which forms part of the River Moy SAC.

Aclare village assets		
Population	<b>2022 Census</b>	107 residents in the statistical small area which extends outside the village plan limit
	<b>2016 Census</b>	114 residents in the statistical small area which extends outside the village plan limit, 257 residents in the Aclare ED
	<b>2011 Census</b>	292 (Aclare ED)
	<b>% change</b>	– 13.6% (Aclare ED)
Housing stock	<b>2016 Census</b>	81 dwellings within the statistical small area, of which 28 vacant
	<b>2022 Census</b>	80 permanent dwellings, of which 21 vacant
Service infrastructure	<b>Water supply</b>	Sourced from Lough Talt Regional Water Supply
	<b>Wastewater treatment</b>	750 PE with spare capacity of approx. 694 PE.
	<b>Road network</b>	Served by the local road network, which provides links to the R-294 (Tobercurry to Ballina Road) and the N-17 (Sligo to Galway Road)
Social infrastructure	<b>Schools</b>	Pupils attend two primary schools, located 3 km to the north of Aclare (Castlerock National School) and 5 km to the east (Banada National School)
	<b>Churches</b>	Parishioners attend the church in Kilmacteige to the west of the village
	<b>Sports facilities</b>	Sports ground located to the west of the village

Aclare village assets		
	<b>Other assets</b>	Small landscaped park in the village centre; health centre, childcare centre, community hall, sports grounds, graveyard – all located to the west of the village
<b>Sustainable transport</b>	<b>Train</b>	Not available in the area
	<b>Bus</b>	Served by Bus Eireann route 479 and the Local Link
	<b>Active travel</b>	No current proposals
<b>Architectural heritage</b>	<b>Protected Structures</b>	6, including Aclare Bridge
<b>Natural heritage and environment</b>	<b>Natura 2000 sites nearby</b>	River Moy SAC
	<b>Natural amenities</b>	River Eighnagh (or Lough Talt River)
	<b>Flood risk</b>	<b>Present.</b> Flood Zones A and B are mapped in <b>Appendix 1 of the SFRA</b>

## 34.2 Village-specific objectives

**Note:** These objectives must be considered in conjunction with the urban development policies for towns and villages contained in **Chapter 10 Urban Development Principles** (Vol. 2) and the general development policies and objectives set out in Volume 3 of this Plan.

### 34.2.1 Natural heritage and open space

- A.** Ensure, where possible, the retention of woodland, trees and vegetation along the riverbank and adjoining areas.
- B.** Support the improvement of access to the river by providing riverside walkways in conjunction with the development of any adjoining lands.

### 34.2.2 Village centre

- A.** Any development proposal on the lands zoned Rural Village along both the L-4804 (The High Road) and the L-4801 (The Low Road) should create an appropriate streetscape.

### 34.2.3 Community facilities

- A.** Direct any proposal for new community facilities serving the Aclare area to lands zoned CF, to the east of River Eighnagh.
- B.** The lands zoned for community facilities should be developed on a coordinated basis to form a community complex. Access, car-parking, pedestrian links, open spaces and other services/facilities should be developed in such a way as to enable shared use by all occupants of the scheme.
- C.** The development of the community complex shall incorporate an appropriately linked and overlooked open space along the riverside buffer zone.
- D.** Any development proposal on the CF zoned lands should:
  - provide an appropriate aspect along the riverside buffer zone;
  - provide on-site car parking;
  - create a suitable streetscape insofar as is feasible.

### 34.2.4 Business, industry and enterprise

- A.** Reserve lands to the west of the existing McGuinness Technology Park to accommodate additional business, enterprise and industrial development.