

Chapter 41. Carney Village Plan

The Settlement Strategy for County Sligo designates Carney 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.

41.1 Village profile

The village of Carney is located approximately 9 km to the north-west of Sligo Town. There are sensitive landscape features close to the village, especially the Sligo Bay coastline to the west and south.

| Carney village assets | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Population | 2022 Census | 373 persons |
| | 2016 Census | 395 persons |
| | 2011 Census | 349 persons |
| | 2011-2022 | Accurate growth rate not available |
| Housing stock | 2022 Census | 156 dwellings, of which 7 holiday homes and 10 vacant |
| | 2016 Census | 153 dwellings, of which 3 holiday homes and 3 vacant |
| Service infrastructure | Water supply | Sourced from the North Sligo Regional Scheme |
| | Wastewater treatment | 2,500 PE with spare capacity of approx. 2,021 PE |
| | Road network | Served by the local road network, which provides links to the N-15 (Sligo to Donegal Road) |
| Social infrastructure | Schools | None |
| | Churches | None |
| | Sports facilities | Soccer pitch (Yeats United); Oxfield Complex, including the GAA pitch, located to the east of the village |
| | Other assets | Oxfield Community Centre |
| Sustainable transport | Train | Not available in the area |
| | Bus | Served by Bus Eireann route 474 and by the Local Link |
| | Active travel | No current proposals |

| Carney village assets | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Architectural heritage | Protected Structures | 3, including Carney Bridge |
| Natural heritage and environment | Natura 2000 sites nearby | Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC/pNHA and the Drumcliff Bay SPA |
| | Natural amenities | Sligo Bay and the woodland to the east of the village |
| | Flood risk | Present. Flood Zones A and B are mapped in Appendix 1 of the SFRA. |

41.2 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.

41.2.1 Natural heritage and open space

- A.** Protect and enhance the remaining woodland around the village, especially Oxfield Wood, Flood’s Wood and Paddy McGowan’s Wood.
- B.** Protect and enhance the banks of Carney River by preserving these areas as a wildlife corridor/river buffer zone and support improved/extended access to the river and pedestrian walkways along its course in conjunction with the development of adjoining lands.
- C.** Extend the existing Riverside Park northwards as far as the junction between the Lissadell Road/Cashelgarran Road. The existing mature trees on the land shall be protected and retained.
- D.** Provide a looped walk around Carney village by extending the existing forest walk from the Cashelgarran Road eastwards to the L-3303-0 and by providing a new footpath along the L-3303-0 back to the village centre.

The existing hedgerow along the L-3303-0 should be retained. Where removal is unavoidable, the hedgerow shall be relocated and replaced.

Any works required by the extension of the forest walk and construction of the new footpath shall be planned and located so as not to disturb nesting Herons and grazing Barnacle Geese in the adjacent forest and Nature Reserve. **[PA-194]**

41.2.2 Built heritage

- A.** Where feasible, stone walls should be preserved, enhanced and extended in a manner that is in keeping with traditional stone-walling in the vicinity. Other important non-structural elements of the built heritage need to be preserved, e.g. the old village water pump, which is a Protected Structure (County RPS item 95).

41.2.3 Village centre

- A.** Require any new development located to the west of the Main Street to front onto both the Main Street and to the green areas to its north and west.
- B.** Provide a new bus stop and shelter at appropriate locations in the village centre.