

Ref: POL/POL/Project No.23765

Date; 21st August 2025

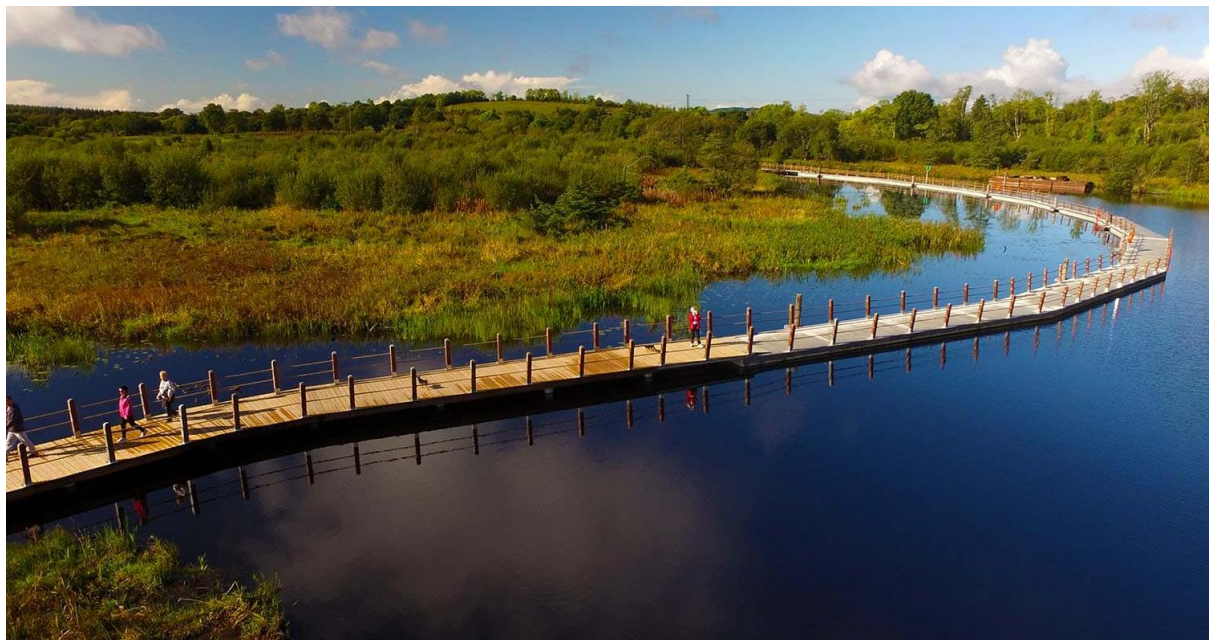
Re: Planning Ref 24/60025 - Raised Platform Walkway / Cycleway
Subject: Acers Lake Floating Walkway Visit

Introduction

At the Dinis to Torc car park walkway/cycleway project concept stage, the NPWS and MWP visited Acres Lake Drumshanbo, County Leitrim. We met with Waterways Ireland on the day of our visit. The purpose of the visit was a fact-finding mission to establish if a similar type of structure might be suitable for the proposed Dinis to Torc car park walkway/cycleway.

Acres Lake Walkway

The Acres Lake walkway is part of the wider Shannon Blueway trail network. This trail is some 200km long linking waterways and trails across Co Leitrim, Co Roscommon, Co Longford, and Co Cavan. The length of the Acres Lake walkway section is 600m, with 160m constructed as a floating boardwalk. The Boardwalk was open to the public 2017.



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Acres Lake Floating Boardwalk Observations

1. Acres Lake water level is controlled and influenced by weirs, locks, and sluices operated by Waterways Ireland. The fluctuations in water level on Acres Lake is circa 500mm.
2. The Acres Lake floating boardwalk is based on modular floating pontoons which are anchored to vertical wooden piles to prevent drift. The sliding connection to the anchor piles allows for vertical movement to account for fluctuations in water level.
3. The land trail connects directly into the floating section via a ramped section that adjusts naturally with fluctuations in water level. This works well as the fluctuations in water level is only circa 500mm.
4. Cyclists must dismount when traversing the floating boardwalk.

Floating Walkway Option from Dinis Carpark to Torc Carpark on Muckross Lake

This option considered a route along the lake shore using a floating deck walkway/cycleway which was inspired by the Acres Lake Floating Boardwalk in Co. Leitrim. However, the fluctuation in the water level on Muckross Lake cannot be controlled like that of Acres Lake in Drumshanbo, County Leitrim. The chart on the following page from OPW data gives details of fluctuation in water level in the adjacent and connected Lake from a low of 17.26m to high of 20.39m www.waterlevel.ie

The design issue with such a large difference in water level relates to the floating ramp transition between the fixed point on land to access and egress from the floating deck on the lake. This would essentially require a ramp length of up to 150m in order to ensure the gradient of the ramp in all water level scenarios remains accessible to users. From an Engineering, constructability and financial perspective this was considered unviable. Therefore, this solution was eliminated at the option selection stage during the planning and design process.



for MWP

Tomies Pier / 22071 / Waterlevel

Station number: 22071 | Last request Wednesday 20 August 2025 09:50
30/09/1973 – 18/08/2025

