**Blueways Ireland**

**Preliminary Blueway Assessment Form**

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**Introduction**

Accreditation has been identified by the Blueway Partnership as fundamental to ensure a consistent high standard of Blueway development on the island of Ireland.

The Blueway Partnership has set the criteria required for Blueway accreditation and will also act as the awarding body. The Blueway Accreditation Panel (a sub group of the Blueway Partnership) will be responsible for the management of the accreditation process and will be supported by a Blueway Accreditation Inspector who will carry out required inspections of Blueways on the island of Ireland.

**Preliminary Assessment**

The purpose of the preliminary assessment is to provide the opportunity for the Blueway Partnership to review the potential of a proposed Blueway to meet the Blueway Accreditation Criteria. In turn this will provide Blueway developers with invaluable feedback before further money, time and resource is invested. The feedback may provide an endorsement of the current proposal, advice on areas for improvement or determine if the proposal is not viable in its current form.

The preliminary assessment will be undertaken by the Blueway Accreditation Inspector who will provide a report and recommendations to the Blueway Accreditation Panel for ratification.

The preliminary assessment will be conducted based on information provided within this form and if required may be supported by a meeting with the Blueway Development Group to clarify/ discuss any points in the application form.

The preliminary Blueway Assessment Form can include the **current position and indeed intended actions** to meet the Blueway Accreditation Criteria. There will be an opportunity to refine and modify application details during Blueway Registration Accreditation, however, Blueways should continue to adhere to minimum standards.

Preliminary assessment is **essential**, projects may not progress directly to Blueway Registration Accreditation. It is strongly recommended that a successful preliminary assessment outcome is obtained prior to applications for capital funding or development.

**Criteria**

Detailed guidance on the Blueway Accreditation Criteria is provided within the Blueway Management and Development Guide which **should be consulted** when preparing for a Preliminary Blueway Assessment.

**Cost and Payment: 800€ + VAT (984€)**

**Contact:** Any questions or queries relating to the Blueway Accreditation Process should be addressed to

For Republic of Ireland Ciara Munnelly cmunnelly@sportireland.ie

For Northern Ireland Mike McClure [mikemcclure@sportni.net](mailto:mikemcclure@sportni.net)

**Once completed, please submit this form with accompanying information to the Blueway Accreditation Inspector,**

**Humphrey Murphey via email** - [**humphrey@ilc.ie**](mailto:humphrey@ilc.ie)

**Blueways Ireland**

**Blueway Registration Accreditation Form**

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| **Overview** | |
| Date of Submission |  |
| Name of Blueway |  |
| Lead Agency |  |
| Main Contact - Name |  |
| Main Contact - Position |  |
| Main Contact – Telephone (Landline) |  |
| Main Contact – Telephone (Mobile) |  |
| Main Contact – Email |  |
| Date Preliminary Blueway Assessment successfully achieved |  |
| **Blueway Description (Max 400 words).** See pages 7 – 11 of the Blueway Management and  Development Guide.  Provide a brief description of the Blueway proposition. This should allow somebody who is not familiar with the area to obtain a concise overview of the proposition.  This should include an overview of:   * What the visitor will experience along the Blueway * Nature of Waterway – river / lake / estuary / harbour / coast * Towns / villages / communities * Land based Trail(s) – brief description including length * Water based Trail(s) – brief description including length and access points |  |

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| **Annotated Map(s)**  The following annotated maps (PDF) at max scale 1:50,000 must accompany this form:   * Entire Blueway with all trail components * Each component trail e.g. walking trail, snorkel trail etc   At a minimum, annotations should include:   * Route of trail(s) * Trailheads * Access / Egress Points * Car Parks * Key hubs / towns / villages * Activity Providers (permanent & mobile)   Please refer to the maps throughout the application | Y / N |
| **Photographs**  A selection of photographs which illustrate the qualities of the Blueway from a visitor perspective and which identify key locations such as trailheads, trails, and waterside communities.  Photographs should be captioned and present an overview of the proposition. They should be in digital form and they can be located online in an album format if necessary. | Y / N |

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| **Experience Criteria - See Section 8.1 of Blueway Management and Development Guide, pages 19 – 21, for detailed requirements for each criterion.** | |
| **Criteria** | **Proposal**  **Please detail how the Blueway meets the requirement of the criterion** |
| **Engaging Landscape / Culture and Heritage**  Offers an opportunity to appreciate and explore an attractive landscape and engage with the unique heritage and culture of the area |  |
| **Multi-activity**  Offers a combination of water and land-based trail (with connectivity to water) options | **Please provide a brief overview of how the collective of component trails meet the criterion. (Further detail on each component trail is requested within the Technical Criteria below):** |
| **Capacity Building**  A programme is in place to develop ‘Eat / Stay / Go’ and ‘Activity / Experience’ opportunities | **Please outline the robust capacity building programme in place (or already delivered) to ensure:**   * **Bars, cafés, restaurants and attractions are easily accessible from trail heads and / or trails** * **Guided activity experiences appropriate for ‘dabblers’ are available and can be booked in advance** |

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| **Criteria** | **Proposal**  **Please detail how the Blueway meets the requirement of the criterion** |
| **Community Engagement**  The value which the Blueway will bring to the nearby communities | **Identify how the local communities will engage with the Blueway through new or existing sport clubs, activities and come and try it events.** |
| **Eat / Stay / Go**  Bars, Cafés, restaurants and attractions are easily accessible from trail heads and / or trails | **Please provide a list of the eat / stay / go options that are easily accessible from trail heads and / or trails. (separate attachment) It is acceptable to provide in a map format if more convienient:** |
| **Activity / Experience Providers**  Guided activity experiences appropriate for ‘dabblers’ are available and can be booked in advance | **Please list the activity providers (and annotate location on map) including brief overview of experiences provided (separate attachment):** |
| **Length of time**  Offers an experience duration of between half a day to one day | **Please outline the anticipated duration time for each component trail and at least two visitor focused itineraries (max 1 side A4 each):** |

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| **Visitor Information**  The visitor can access information to allow them plan and enjoy their Blueway experience | **Please outline how the visitor can access information pre-trip (online) and during their trip (via visitor collateral). Please provide electronic examples of visitor collateral:** |
| **Experience Criteria - Blueway Accreditation Inspector’s Overall Assessment and Recommendations** | | |

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| **Technical Criteria - See Section 8.2, pages 22 – 24 of the Blueway Management and Development Guide** | |
| **Criteria** | **Proposal**  **Please detail how the Blueway meets the requirement of the criterion** |
| **Walking Trails**  Walking Trails are compliant with the Blueways Ireland – Management Standards for Recreational Trails | **Please provide the following details with support of annotated map(s) for each component trail:**   * **Brief description of trail (this should highlight the points of interest, views, terrain and general impression of the trail rather than providing directions)** * **Location of trail and trail head** * **Distance** * **Average length of time to complete** * **Grade – See Sport Ireland Trails Guidance** * **Has the trail undergone Sport Ireland Trail Registration Inspection? (ROI Only)** * **What actions do you intend to take to ensure the trail complies with Blueways Ireland Management Standards for Recreational Trails and in particular the Walking Trail Inspection Checklist?** |
| **Cycling Trails**  Cycle Trails are compliant with the Blueways Ireland – Management Standards for Recreational Trails | **Please provide the following details with support of annotated map(s) for each component trail:**   * **Brief description of trail (this should highlight the points of interest, views, terrain and general impression of the trail rather than providing directions)** * **Location of trail and trail head** * **Distance** * **Average length of time to complete** * **Grade – See Sport Ireland Trails Guidance** * **Has the trail undergone Sport Ireland Trail Registration Inspection? (ROI Only)** * **What actions do you intend to take to ensure the trail complies with Blueways Ireland Management Standards for Recreational Trails and in particular the Cycling Trail Inspection Checklist?** |

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| **Criteria** | **Proposal**  **Please detail how the Blueway meets the requirement of the criterion** |
| **Shared Use Trails**  Shared Use Trails are compliant with the Blueways Ireland – Management Standards for Recreational Trails | **Please provide the following details with support of annotated map(s) for each component trail:**   * **Brief description of trail (this should highlight the points of interest, views, terrain and general impression of the trail rather than providing directions)** * **Location of trail and trail head** * **Distance** * **Average length of time to complete** * **Has the trail undergone Sport Ireland Trail Registration Inspection? (ROI Only)** * **What actions do you intend to take to ensure the trail complies with Blueways Ireland Management Standards for Recreational Trails and in particular the Shared Use Trail Inspection Checklist?** |
| **Snorkel Trails**  Snorkel Trails follow the guidelines of the Irish Underwater Council | **Please provide the following details with support of annotated map(s) for each component trail:**   * **Brief description of trail (this should highlight the points of interest and general impression of the trail rather than providing directions)** * **Location of trail and trail head** * **Distance** * **Average length of time to complete** * **Grade – See Irish Underwater Council Guidelines**   **Please demonstrate how the above information will be informed by either an Irish Underwater Council or British Sub Aqua – Ireland Region suitably qualified / experienced technical expert.** |

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| **Paddling Trails**  Paddling Trails follow the Blueway Paddling Trail Guidelines | **Please provide the following details with support of annotated map(s) for each component trail:**   * **Brief description of trail (this should highlight the points of interest, views, terrain and general impression of the trail rather than providing directions)** * **Nature of Waterway – river / lake / estuary / harbour / coast** * **Location of trail, trail heads, access and egress points** * **Overall distance and distance between trail heads and access / egress points** * **Average length of time to complete** * **Grade – See Appendix 5 Blueway Management and Development Guide** * **Proposals for trail heads, access / egress points – parking, staging area, access** * **Proposals for portage of hazards (if applicable)**   **Please demonstrate how the above information will be informed by either a Canoeing Ireland, Canoe Association of Northern Ireland suitably qualified / experienced technical expert.** |
| **Sailing and Windsurfing Sites**  Sailing & Windsurfing Activities are compliant with Irish Sailing and/or RYANI Accreditation standards. | **Sailing and windsurfing activities should take place in centres that have either Irish Sailing or RYANI accreditation.** |

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| **Criteria** | **Proposal**  **Please detail how the Blueway meets the requirement of the criterion** |
| **Signage**  All signage follows with Blueway Signage Guidelines | **It is recognised that signage will not be in place during preliminary assessment therefore please outline proposals for signage including the following:**   * **Directional** * **Trailhead identification** * **Trailhead information** * **Waymarking** |
| **Trailhead Facilities**  Trailheads are clearly identified and offer adequate parking  Toilets and changing facilities are available within close proximity of water-based trails | **Please identify the existing or proposed trailhead facilities along the Blueway.** |
| **Managing User Conflict**  Consideration and identification of steps to mitigate against potential conflict with waterway / trail users has been undertaken | **Please provide details of any potential for visitor conflict identified and mitigation steps e.g. signage, code of conduct, zoning, consultation, awareness campaigns:** |

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| **Accessibility / Inclusivity**  Reasonable steps have been undertaken to provide disabled access | **Please provide information regarding any external consultation undertaken with relevant organisations to inform this section e.g. Cara, Irish Wheelchair Association, Disability Sport NI. Please outline any action taken:** |
| **Technical Criteria - Blueway Accreditation Inspector’s Overall Assessment and Recommendations** | |

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| **Access Criteria - See Section 8.3, pages 26 – 27 of the Blueway Management and Development Guide for detailed requirements for each criterion.** | |
| **Criteria** | **Proposal**  **Please detail how the Blueway meets the requirement of the criterion** |
| **Landowner / Authority Agreement**  Access is permitted by all landowners and relevant authorities – public and private for a minimum period of 10 years. | **Please provide an indication of engagement to date with public and private landowners** |
| **Insurance**  Public liability insurance is in place providing indemnity for all infrastructure, land-based trails and water trails’ access and egress points. | **Please outline how you propose to meet the insurance requirements** |
| **Access Criteria - Blueway Accreditation Inspector’s Overall Assessment and Recommendations** | |

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| **Safety Criteria - See Section 8.4, pages 28 – 29 of the Blueway Management and Development Guide for detailed requirements for each criterion.** | |
| **Criteria** | **Proposal**  **Please detail how the Blueway meets the requirement of the criterion** |
| **Suitability**  The experience is suitable for the ‘dabbler / novice’ with little to no skills or prior experience in undertaking adventure activities | **Please provide a summary of grading for each component trail** |
| **Responsibility**  Visitors are not exposed to hidden dangers.  Visitors should be aware of the risks they will face and that safety is a shared responsibility between the visitor and the Blueway Manager. | **Please outline the hazards / risk identified, the mitigation steps and the competence of the person undertaking the assessment. (separate attachment)** |
| **Activity Providers / Experiences**  A programme is in place for activity providers to demonstrate their safety credentials | **Please outline how an activity provider permit scheme will be established and how it will be administered** |
| **Safety Criteria - Blueway Accreditation Inspector’s Overall Assessment and Recommendations** | |

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| **Conservation and the Environment Criteria - See Section 8.5, pages 30 – 37 of the Blueway Management and Development Guide for detailed requirements for each criterion.** | |
| **Criteria** | **Proposal: Please detail how the Blueway meets the requirement of the criterion** |
| **Statutory Approval**  Evidence of consultation and approval with appropriate statutory bodies can be demonstrated | **Please provide a list of statutory designations (natural and built) identification along the Blueway, the outcome of consultation / screening and proposed approach to action any necessary recommendations.**  **Please provide a list consultation undertaken with statutory bodies from which approval may be required** |
| **Biosecurity & Invasive Species**  Proactive measures are in place to stop the spread of invasive species and harmful pathogens |  |
| **Environmental Education**  The Leave No Trace Ireland Principles have been incorporated |  |
| **Litter**  The Blueway is free from litter and fly-tipped waste | **Please highlight actions within management plan to ensure this criterion is met.** |

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| **Conservation and the Environment Criteria - Blueway Accreditation Inspector’s Overall Assessment and Recommendations** |

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| **Sustainability Criteria - See Section 8.6, pages 38 - 43 of the Blueway Management and Development Guide for detailed requirements for each criterion.** | |
| **Criteria** | **Proposal**  **Please detail how the Blueway meets the requirement of the criterion** |
| **Management Group**  A Blueway Management Group is in place – led by a Local Authority or State Agency | **Please provide details of all organisations included within the Blueway Management Group outlining their roles and responsibilities**  **Please also include a frame of reference for the project (separate attachment)** |
| **Management Plan**  A Blueway Management Plan is in place | **Please provide a Blueway Management Plan (separate attachment)** |
| **Visitor Feedback**  A formal process is in place to monitor the impact of the Blueway | **Please indicate what visitor feedback system is envisioned (surveys, comment box, online feedback).** |
| **Sustainability Criteria - Blueway Accreditation Inspector’s Overall Assessment and Recommendations** | |

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| **Declaration** | |
| I confirm that the organisation named on this application has given me the authority to complete this  application on its behalf.  I confirm that, as far as I know, the information in this application is true and correct.  I understand that the preliminary assessment is an indication of the Blueway’s potential to meet the accreditation criteria. I understand that following a successful preliminary assessment the Blueway will still be subject to a further Blueway Registration Accreditation. | |
| **Name** |  |
| **Position** |  |
| **Organisation** |  |
| **Date** |  |

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| **Checklist – Additional attachments required** | **Attached** |
| Completed Preliminary Blueway Assessment Form | Y / N |
| Annotated Map(s) of Blueway. Max Scale 1:50,000 | Y / N |
| Photographs (Max 12) | Y / N |
| Project Frame of Reference | Y / N |