



Declaration

In accordance with Part IV, Section 57 (2) of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 2000 (as amended).

Louth County Council:

This declaration specifies what works would, or would not, in the opinion of the planning authority materially affect the character of the protected structure, or any element thereof, and, as a result, require planning permission. Under the Act, protection extends to the entire structure including its interior and the land lying within its curtilage. It also extends to any other structures lying within the curtilage of the protected structure, to their interiors and to all fixtures and features that form part of the interior or exterior of any of these structures. Where specified in the Record of Protected Structures, protection may also extend to any other feature within the attendant grounds of the protected structure.

Nothing in this declaration exempts works that would not otherwise be exempt from a requirement for planning permission. Changes of use or intensification of the current use may require planning permission. If in doubt, the owner/occupier should consult the planning authority for further advice before commencing any works.

This Declaration may be referred to An Bord Pleanála for review within 4 weeks of its issue, upon payment of the requisite fee in accordance with Part IV, Section 57 (8) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended.

Applicant Name:	National Graves Association		
Status (i.e. Owner or Occupier):	Owner		
Date of Request for Declaration:	23 rd June 2025	Date of Inspection:	18 th August 2025
Date of Issue of Declaration:	28 th August 2025	Previous Declarations:	N/A

Address:		Location:	
Name of Building:	Dundalk Gaol,	National Grid:	E N
Address 1:	Perimeter Wall, The Crescent, Ardee road, Dundalk	O.S. Map Type:	

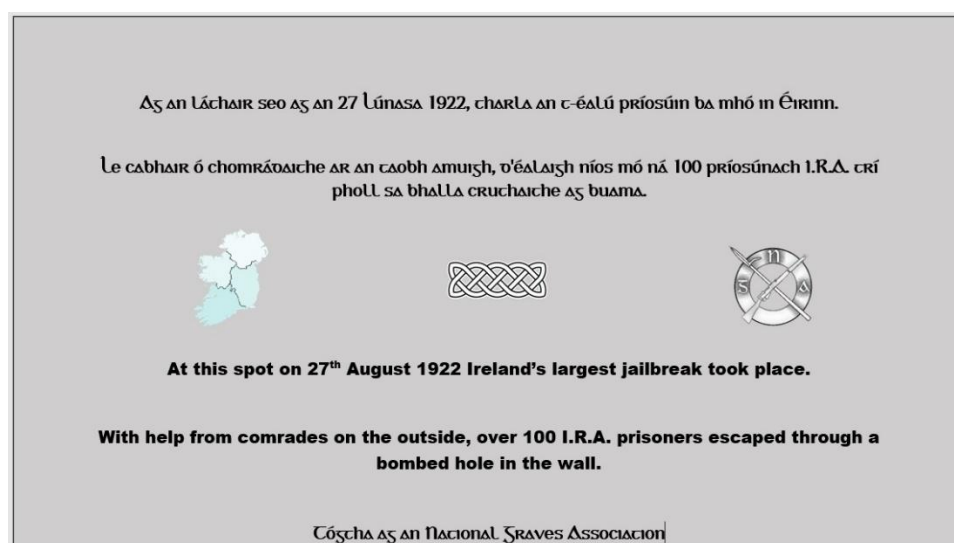
Protection Status: Under the Planning and development Act 2000 (as amended)	<u>Y</u> / N		Details:
Record of Protected Structures:	Y x	N	D311
Architectural Conservation Area:	Y	N x	
Under the Planning and development Act 2000 (as amended)			
Record of Monuments and Places:	Y	N x	
Zone of Archaeological potential:	Y	N x	
Preservation Order or Temporary P.O.	Y	N x	

NIAH Registration No. (if applicable):

13707048 and 13707049

Introduction:

The referrer has sought a Section 57 Declaration as per the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) in respect of the erection of a 750mm x 500mm x 50mm plaque on the Dundalk Gaol perimeter wall. The plaque is to commemorate the Prison escape of 1922.

Figure 1: Plaque to be placed on the wall below**Figure 2- Mock up of plaque on the wall**

**Protection Status:**

Under the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) is set out in the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027, as varied. The subject building is located within the curtilage of a protected structure under record D311 as is described as: *c.1850 former Gaol*

Planning History:**Planning history on the subject site:**

There is a significant planning history on the subject site none of which are directly relevant to this Section 57 declaration

Enforcement:

No enforcement cases on the subject site relevant to this declaration

Description of the Structure:

The building is described in the RPS of the Louth CDP 2021-2027 as a *c.1945 detached thirteen-bay two-storey over basement stone former gaol, incl boundary walls.*

It is also included within the NIAH Registry (Reg No. **13707048**) with the description- *'Walls, built c. 1850, forming boundary around Dundalk Garda Station. Squared random coursed sandstone and limestone walling, half-round granite coping; walls flanking east main gaol block with round-headed arches, ashlar granite surrounds, painted vertically-sheeted gates; entrance to west, square-profile piers, flanking walls forming splayed entrance; square-profile piers to north, granite caps, cast-iron gates. Squared coursed low wall to east of front building, granite coping; sneaked stone walling to north and south of front building, granite coping, cast-iron railings, spear and axe finials, dressed ashlar limestone piers with stepped panels and square caps, wrought-iron gates.'*

Referral Question:

Would works materially affect the character of the protected structure and as a result, require planning permission?

We are seeking approval to erect a plaque to mark the location where the famous prison escape from Dundalk Gaol occurred on 27 July 1922 when in excess of 100 prisoners successfully escaped from the jail. The largest jailbreak in Europe at the time.

The plaque will measure 750mm x 500mm x 50mm and be made of limestone to match the existing stone used in the wall.

The location will be on the perimeter wall of Dundalk Gaol on the Ardee Road as per the picture provided. The plaque will be visually unobtrusive and will aesthetically compliment the existing structure.

The National Graves Association will pay for the plaque's manufacture and installation and will maintain the plaque in a fitting manner. The installation will be carried out by professional, accredited stone masons using approved method of installation that will involve stainless steel dowels and resin cement.

The text will be bilingual as per the picture provided.

Legislative Provision:

Section 57(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, states:

"Notwithstanding Sections 4(1)(h) and any regulations made under Section 4(2), the carrying out of works to a protected structure, or proposed protected structure shall be exempted development only if those works would not materially affect the character of:

- a) the structure; or*
- b) any element of the structure which contributes to its special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest."*

Section 68 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, stipulates that the carrying out of any works specified in a notice under section 59 (1) or 60 (2) shall be exempted development.

Assessment:

The proposed works relate to work to a structure which is within the curtilage of a Protected Structure.

The assessment of this application is based on the supporting documentation received, which includes the Section 57 declaration form, images of the subject building, and details of the proposed plaque.

Under Section 57 (1) of the Planning Act 2000, as amended, *notwithstanding section 4(1)(h), the carrying out of works to a Protected Structure, or a proposed Protected Structure, shall be exempted only if those works would not materially affect the character of –*

- a) The structure, or –*
- b) Any element of the structure which contributes to its special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.*

Section 57 (4) of the Planning Act 2000, as amended states:

Before issuing a declaration under this section, a planning authority shall have regard to:

- (a) any guidelines issued under Section 52, and*
- (b) any recommendations made to the authority under Section 53.*

Having regard to small scale of the plaque and the proposed location on the external wall of the protected structure using approved methods of installation that will involve stainless steel dowels and resin cement, it is not considered that a plaque in this location would materially impact upon the external appearance of the structure.

Any further documentation attached (maps, photographs, sketches, notes etc.)?

- Declaration form.
- Images of subject site

Conclusion:

WHEREAS a question has arisen as to whether the proposed development detailed under Section 10 of the Request for Section 57 Declaration would or would not materially affect the character of protected structure or any element of the structure which contributes to its special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest at Dundalk Gaol, Ardee Street, Dundalk

AND WHEREAS the National Graves Association requested a declaration on the question from Louth County Council on the 23rd June 2025.

AND WHEREAS Louth County Council in considering this referral, had regard particularly to –

- a) Section 2 of the Planning and Development Act 2025.
- b) Section 4 (1)(h) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended,

- c) Section 57 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended,
- d) The Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities,
- e) The special interest pertaining to the protected structure in question and the nature and extent of works set out in the referral question in relation to the erection of a 750mm x 500mm x 50mm plaque on the perimeter wall of Dundalk Gaol.

AND WHEREAS Louth County Council has concluded that –

- (i) the stated works to the structure comprise of works and are, therefore, development, and
- (ii) the stated works would not materially affect the character of the structure, or any element of the structure which contributes to its special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest,
- (iii) the stated works would not materially affect the character of any adjoining structures, or any element of the structures which contributes to its special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest,
- (iv) the stated works would consist of the carrying out of works for the maintenance, improvement and alteration of this structure which would not materially affect the external appearance of the structure so as to render the appearance inconsistent with the character of the structure or of neighbouring structures.

NOW THEREFORE Louth County Council, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 57 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended, hereby decides that the proposed works to Dundalk Gaol, Perimeter Wall, Ardee Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth as detailed above, **constitutes development** which is **exempted development**.

Signed by Inspector



Ciarán Kelly, Assistant Planner

Date: 28th August 2025

Signed by Planning Authority Officer



Turlough King, A/Senior Planner

Date: 28th August 2025