



17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>  
September 2024

# NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS

MACHINERY & LIVESTOCK EXHIBITION

Ratheniska, Co. Laois

## TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN



## BLUE ROUTE

### **BLUE ROUTE** - Traffic from Cork / Munster

- Traffic travelling northbound on the M8 will exit at Junction 4 (Johnstown, Urlingford) and proceed onto R439 (old N8) where it will travel to Durrow Co. Laois. From Durrow traffic will continue forward onto the N77 (old N8) to Abbeyleix. In Abbeyleix traffic will turn right onto the R425 to Ballyroan village, continue forward to Cashel Cross bearing right onto R427 to Money Cross and will proceed to parking beside the event grounds.

#### **Parking:**

- Patrons travelling this route will park in the designated **BLUE car parks** on the left and right hand side of the R427 just beside the event grounds at Ratheniska.

## PURPLE ROUTE

### **PURPLE ROUTE** - Traffic from Dublin/ Leinster/ North

- Traffic travelling southbound on the M7 will exit at Junction 15 Cappakeel, Co. Laois and proceed left onto the L3930 where it will travel to Vicarstown. In Vicarstown, it will turn right onto R427 and travel towards Stradbally Co. Laois. At Garrans Cross, traffic will turn right for approximately 1.6km and then turn left at Buddocks Cross proceeding onto Abels Corner, Stradbally where it will turn right onto N80 and immediately left onto the R427.

#### **Parking:**

- Patrons travelling this route will park in the designated **PURPLE Car Parks** on the left and right hand side of the R427 just beside the event grounds at Ratheniska.

## **BROWN ROUTE**

### **BROWN ROUTE - Traffic from Limerick/ Kerry/ South West**

- Traffic travelling northbound on the M7 will exit at Junction 17 Togher, Portlaoise and proceed left onto N77 towards Portlaoise town. Traffic will be diverted right at Meelick onto the L6310 where it will turn right onto the R426 and onto Sheffield Cross. At Sheffield Junction traffic will turn right again and proceed onto Money Cross to parking beside the event grounds. Traffic travelling northbound on the R445 (old N7) will be diverted back onto the M7 Motorway at Junction 18 where it will proceed to parking with the rest of Limerick/ Kerry/ South West traffic.

#### **Parking:**

- Patrons travelling this route will park in the designated **BROWN Car Parks** on the left hand side of the R427 just beside the event grounds at Ratheniska.

## **GREEN ROUTE**

### **GREEN ROUTE - Traffic from the West/North West**

- Traffic travelling from the west on the N80 will proceed to Mountmellick town. Approaching the town Traffic will take a left onto the L20972. Continuing on this road to take a right onto the L423. Traffic will join the R422 and travel as far as Kennels Cross, Emo, Co. Laois. At Kennels Cross traffic will turn right onto R419 and travel forward to the R445 (Old Dublin Rd), turning right and proceed towards Ballydavis, Portlaoise continuing through two roundabouts (1st and 3rd exits respectively) remaining on the R445 towards Rathbrennan, Portlaoise where traffic will turn left onto the R425 travelling forward to Bloomfield Cross. At Bloomfield Cross, traffic will turn left onto N80 and proceed to Dysart where it will turn right onto a one-way system along the L6772 as far as Ratheniska village. Traffic will proceed to parking beside the event grounds.

#### **Parking:**

- Patrons travelling this route will park in the designated **GREEN Car Parks** near the Church at Ratheniska Village near event grounds.

## **YELLOW ROUTE**

### **YELLOW ROUTE - Traffic from South East/ Carlow**

- Traffic travelling from Carlow and South East will travel through Simmons Mill Cross roads on the N80 and continue forward towards Stradbally town. Traffic will turn left off the N80 at St. Joseph's cemetery and advance onto Timogue Cross where it will continue through crossroads to L7835 (One-way system). Traffic will proceed to parking beside the event grounds

#### **Parking:**

- Patrons travelling this route will park in the designated **YELLOW Car Parks** on the left hand side of the L7835 beside the event grounds at Ratheniska.

## **GREY ROUTE**

### **GREY ROUTE - Traffic from South East (Kilkenny)**

- Traffic travelling from Kilkenny/South East along the N78 will turn left at Newtown Cross Roads and continue forward along the R430 to The Swan. Just outside The Swan Village, traffic will turn right onto the R426 and continue to Timahoe Village. In Timahoe Traffic will continue through the village on the R426 towards Money Cross. At Loughteague Lane, traffic will turn right onto L78354.

#### **Parking:**

- Traffic will proceed to parking by turning right off the L7837 into the **GREY Car Park** beside the event.

Vehicle passes should be clearly visible on approach to Traffic Points to assist Gardai in ensuring you are directed appropriately and in an efficient manner.

## EXHIBITOR PARKING

**Exhibitors displaying a **Field Pass** will be directed to the Exhibition Arena **up to 8am**. No vehicle movement before 7pm. Do not park on the exhibition site or indoor designated parking area if you need to leave the trade arena before 7pm. This is an emergency services condition and this time may be extended at the discretion of, and as directed by Gardai.**

### BLUE ROUTE

Exhibitors on this route will park on the left hand side of the R427 just before they reach the **Blue Car Park**. This exhibitor's car park is adjacent to the event site.

### PURPLE ROUTE

Exhibitors on this route will park on the left hand side of the R427 after being directed past the entrance to the **Purple Car Park**. These grounds are adjacent to the event site.

### BROWN ROUTE

Exhibitors on this route will exit left off the R426 at Lamberton Cross and proceed towards Ratheniska Village where they will merge with the **Green Route** and park along with exhibitors on this route at a section of the **Green Car Park** adjacent to the Grounds.

### GREEN ROUTE

Exhibitors on this route will continue to the end entering into the **Green Car Park**. A section of the car park is set aside for exhibitors and is adjacent to the event site.

### YELLOW ROUTE

Exhibitors on this route will park on the Right hand side of the L7835 after being directed past the entrance to the **Yellow Car Park**. These grounds are adjacent to the event site.

### GREY ROUTE

Exhibitors on this route will travel past the entrance to the **Grey Route** Car Park to Money Cross merging right onto the R427 with the **Blue Route** turning left just before they reach the **Blue Car Park**. This exhibitor's car park is adjacent to the event site.

## COMPETITORS PARKING

ACCESS TO COMPETITOR ASSEMBLY YARD AREA WILL BE VIA BROWN OR BLUE ROUTES ONLY

The following will apply in relation to the National Ploughing Competitors.

- A)** Competitors travelling the **BLUE Route** (Cork) will turn left at Money Cross and onto the R426 and drive a short distance until directed to park on the left side of roadway where Assembly Yard will be clearly signed.
- B)** Competitors travelling the **PURPLE Route** (Dublin) will continue onwards on N80 from Abels Corner in Stradbally to Bloomfield Cross where it will turn left onto Sheffield Cross and Lamberton Cross and continue straight towards Money Cross until directed to park on the right side of road where Assembly Yard will be clearly signed.
- C)** Competitors travelling the **BROWN Route** (Limerick) will continue as normal and at Lamberton Cross they will continue straight towards Money Cross until directed to park on the right side of road where Assembly Yard will be clearly signed.
- B)** Competitors travelling the **GREEN Route** (West) will continue as normal until reaching Bloomfield Cross where it will turn left onto Sheffield Cross and Lamberton Cross and continue straight towards Money Cross until directed to park on the right side of road where Assembly Yard will be clearly signed.
- E)** Competitors travelling the **YELLOW Route** (South East) will continue forward in Stradbally Village at Court Sq, where it will continue straight to Bloomfield Cross where it will turn left onto Sheffield Cross and Lamberton Cross and continue straight towards Money Cross until directed to park on the right side of road where Assembly Yard will be clearly signed.
- F)** Competitors travelling the **GREY Route** (South East) will continue forward in Timahoe Village onto Money Cross. They will be directed through the crossroads and directed to park on the left side of road where Assembly Yard will be clearly signed.

## HUNT CHASE PARKING

- Hunt Chase/Pony Games is located directly inside Gate 11. All Vehicles must access site via Ratheniska Village approaching via Bloomfield Cross from **BROWN Route** .
- There will be STRICTLY NO ACCESS to Hunt Chase parking via any other route.

## DISABILITY PARKING

- All such traffic from the **PURPLE** and **YELLOW**, **BLUE** and **GREY** routes will be directed to parking in **Yellow Car Park**.
- All such traffic from the **BROWN** and **GREEN** routes will be directed to parking adjacent to entrance 10 of event site.

## BUS PARKING

**Bus drivers MUST have the contact information of their passengers in order to arrange reloading in the evening.**

- All bus and coach operators must register their information with NPA pre-event if they plan to bring vehicles to the National Ploughing Championships, 17th to 19th of September, Ratheniska, Co. Laois. Please email [office@npa.ie](mailto:office@npa.ie) ; include date of attendance, bus size and contact number for bus driver.
- All buses will approach NPC site from Stradbally (R427). Less than 1km from site buses will be directed to turn right onto laneway proceeding to event bus park. Weather permitting, buses will park on stubble/grass field. There is **NO HARCORE PARKING ON PLOUGHING SITE**. In the evening buses will be directed to leave the bus park via the metal roadway and back onto R427 where they will proceed towards Stradbally.
- In the event of inclement weather preventing buses parking on stubble/grass field, bus drivers will be directed to unload in the hard-core drop-off area within the bus park, exit the field via the metal roadway, proceed back onto R427 and park in the alternative hard-core bus park in Stradbally. In the evening buses will return to bus park drop-off area, re-load and exit the bus park via the metal roadway, back onto R427 and proceed towards Stradbally.

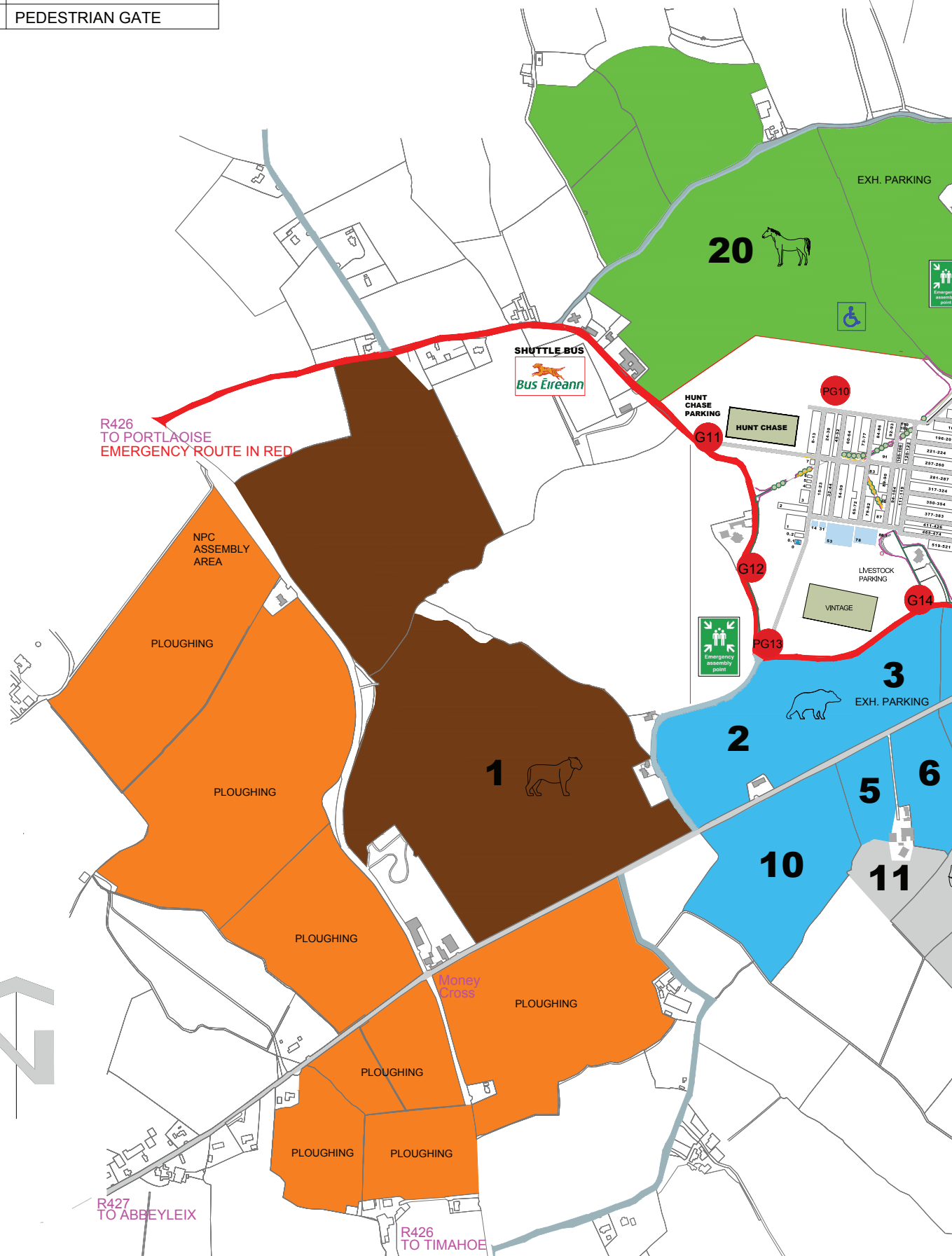
## SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE

- Bus Eireann will be running a Shuttle Service from Portlaoise, Portarlington, and Athy Train Stations, offering an enhanced service this year thanks to an expanded fleet of shuttle buses, real-time tracking updates, and the convenience of purchasing shuttle bus tickets or combi rail/bus tickets online in advance.
- Tickets for the Shuttle Bus can be conveniently purchased in advance on [expressway.ie](http://expressway.ie), while Combi Bus/Rail tickets are available for purchase on [irishrail.ie](http://irishrail.ie).
- Pre-booking is required for Shuttle Bus services from Athy Train Station. There will not be a 'walk-up' option on event days at Athy. A 'walk-up' service will be offered at Portlaoise and Portarlington stations.
- The times of this service will operate to suit the train times. The drop off and pick up point are conveniently located within a 10-minute walking distance from the Trade Exhibition.

# NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

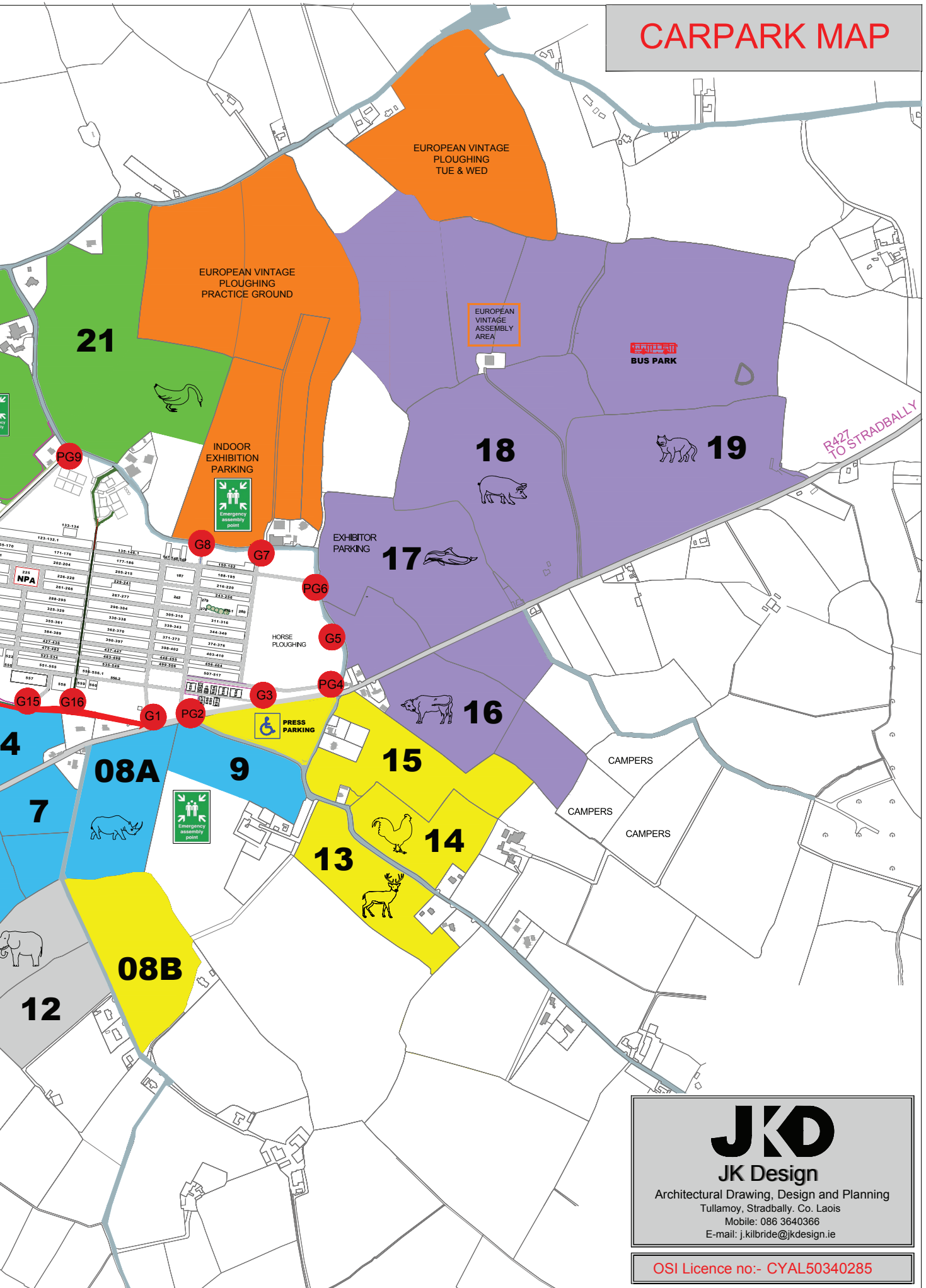
## RATHENISKA, CO LAOIS

GATES LEGEND ●	
G	GATE
PG	PEDESTRIAN GATE





# CARPARK MAP



**JKD**  
JK Design  
Architectural Drawing, Design and Planning  
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## CHECKLIST FOR TRAVELLING TO PLOUGHING 2024

- ▶ **Tickets must be pre-purchased online @ [www.npa.ie](http://www.npa.ie) to guarantee entry on day of choice. Children Under 12 are free but must be accompanied by a paying adult.**
- ▶ Visitors are not guaranteed access to site after 3pm due to traffic leaving site & gates will close at 4 pm.
- ▶ Tickets will be scanned at entry. PRINT YOUR TICKET or SCREENSHOT ticket barcode on your mobile device to avoid delays at gate.
- ▶ If you can take the train do - Bus Eireann will be running a Shuttle Service from Portlaoise, Portarlinton, and Athy Train Stations, offering an enhanced service this year thanks to an expanded fleet of shuttle buses, real-time tracking updates, and the convenience of purchasing shuttle bus tickets or combi rail/bus tickets online in advance.
- ▶ Tickets for the Shuttle Bus can be conveniently purchased in advance on [expressway.ie](http://expressway.ie), while Combi Bus/Rail tickets are available for purchase on [irishrail.ie](http://irishrail.ie).
- ▶ Pre-booking is required for Shuttle Bus services from Athy Train Station. A 'walk-up' service will be offered at Portlaoise and Portarlinton stations. The times of this service will operate to suit the train times.
- ▶ Bus Eireann Shuttle Bus fees:
  - Adult Return €15
  - Senior Citizen Return €10
  - Child Return (under 16) €10
  - Family Return €30
- ▶ If you are driving to the event we advise you to factor in at least double the normal journey time due to heavy volumes of traffic, and car pool where possible.
- ▶ Read the traffic plan and know the route you are travelling.
- ▶ Bring drinks and snacks especially if you are travelling with children.
- ▶ 'FBD: Keeping You Safe' child safety wristbands will be available at every entrance to the event and within the event grounds.
- ▶ If you have a vehicle pass make sure it is clearly displayed on the front windscreen of your vehicle as vehicles not displaying passes clearly may be directed into outer car parks.
- ▶ The NPA provide an un-serviced Campervan / Caravan parking site for the event. Tickets for Campervan Parking must be pre-booked on [www.npa.ie](http://www.npa.ie)
- ▶ It's Autumn, its outdoor, its Ireland – dress for Irish weather.
- ▶ Wear good footwear suitable for rough terrain.
- ▶ Follow directional signage to venue – do not use GPS.
- ▶ Note the number/colour/animal sign in your car park at entrance. If you have a smartphone take a picture of the animal sign.
- ▶ Event opens to the public at 9am & closes at 6pm
- ▶ Important contacts for traffic updates:
  - [www.npa.ie](http://www.npa.ie) – @npaie
  - [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie) – @gardattraffic
  - [www.theaa.ie](http://www.theaa.ie) – @aaroadwatch

Bus Eireann Shuttle Bus Services from Portlaoise, Portarlinton and Athy Train Stations to National Ploughing Championships Tue 17th, Wed 18th & Thur 19th September  
[www.expressway.ie](http://www.expressway.ie) for more details

**Bus Eireann Shuttle Bus fees:**

Adult Return €15 | Senior Citizen Return €10 | Child Return (under 16) €10 | Family €30

**Portlaoise Train Station Shuttle Bus Timetable**

Tickets for the Shuttle Bus from Portlaoise Train Station can be conveniently purchased in advance on [expressway.ie](http://expressway.ie), while Combi Bus/Rail tickets are available for purchase on [irishrail.ie](http://irishrail.ie)  
 Walk up service will also be available at Portlaoise train station on the days of the event.

Portlaoise Train Station	7:10	7:20	7:40	8:00	8:20	8:40	9:00	9:20	9:50	10:00	11:00	11:30
Ratheniska Village	7:40	7:50	8:10	8:30	8:50	9:10	9:30	9:50	10:20	10:30	11:30	12:00

Trade Exhibition is a 10 minute walk from drop off point, enter site through Gate 10.

Ratheniska Village	14:30	15:00	15:30	16:00	16:30	17:00	17:30	18:00				
Portlaoise Train Station	15:00	15:30	16:00	16:30	17:00	17:30	18:00	18:30				

Pick up point is a 10 minute walk from Trade Exhibition, exit site through Gate 10.

**Athy Train Station Shuttle Bus Timetable**

Tickets for Shuttle Bus services from Athy Train Station MUST be pre-booked online only through [www.expressway.ie](http://www.expressway.ie). Buses operating for Athy will be based on demand only. No walk up facility available.

Athy Train Station	7:25	8:20	9:20									
Ratheniska Village	7:55	8:50	9:50									

Trade Exhibition is a 10 minute walk from drop off point, enter site through Gate 10.

Ratheniska Village	14:00	16:00	18:00									
Athy Train Station	14:35	16:35	18:35									

Trade Exhibition is a 10 minute walk from drop off point, exit site through Gate 10.

**Portarlinton Train Station Shuttle Bus Timetable**

Tickets for the Shuttle Bus from Portarlinton Train Station can be conveniently purchased in advance on [expressway.ie](http://expressway.ie), while Combi Bus/Rail tickets are available for purchase on [irishrail.ie](http://irishrail.ie)  
 Walk up service will also be available at Portarlinton train station on the days of the event.

Portarlinton Railway Station	7:15	8:00	8:30	8:40	9:15	9:55	10:00	10:15	11:30			
Ratheniska Village	8:00	8:45	9:15	9:25	10:00	10:40	10:45	11:00	12:15			

Trade Exhibition is a 10 minute walk from drop off point, enter site through Gate 10.

Ratheniska Village	14:30	15:00	15:30	16:00	16:30	17:00	17:30	18:00				
Portarlinton Railway Station	14:45	15:15	15:45	16:15	16:45	17:15	17:45	18:15				

Pick up point is a 10 minute walk from Trade Exhibition, exit site through Gate 10.