



19th-21st
September 2023

National Ploughing Championships

MACHINERY & LIVESTOCK EXHIBITION

Ratheniska, Co. Laois

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN



An e-copy of Traffic Routes is available by following link:

<https://arcg.is/14nDnO3>

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 via the Windy Gap. At Court Square, Stradbally, traffic will turn left onto the L3837 (Timahoe Rd) and go to Timogue Cross Roads where it will turn right onto 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.

Exhibitor/Official Car Park Pass will be valid until 10am, or when car park is full, at which time you should proceed as direct by Gardai at Traffic Points.

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

The ploughing competitors' Assembly Area is located on the right hand side of the roadway as you travel from Lamberton Cross to Ratheniska Village. This entrance will be clearly marked.

The following will apply in relation to the Ploughing Competitors.

- A)** Competitors travelling the **BLUE Route** (Cork) will turn left at Money Cross and onto Lamberton Cross where it will turn right and onto the said grounds.
- B)** Competitors travelling the **PURPLE Route** (Dublin) will continue onwards from Abels Corner in Stradbally to Bloomfield Cross where it will turn left onto Sheffield Cross and Lamberton Cross and turn left onto the said grounds.
- C)** Competitors travelling the **BROWN Route** (Limerick) will continue as normal and at Lamberton Cross they will turn left and onto the said grounds.
- D)** Competitors travelling the **GREEN Route** (West) will continue as normal and on arrival in Ratheniska will turn left and immediately right into the said grounds.
- E)** Competitors travelling the **YELLOW Route** (South East) will continue forward in Stradbally Village at Court Sq, where it will join the Purple Route and proceed
- 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 will join competitors from Cork and proceed as set out in "A" above.

HUNT CHASE PARKING

- The grounds for the Hunt Chase are located on the left hand side of the roadway just past the G.A.A field in Ratheniska Village.
- Participants are asked to pay specific attention to Garda Traffic Plan for Hunt Chase Parking. All participants MUST follow the N80 to Bloomfield Cross, and onto Sheffield Cross veering left onto R426 to Lamberton Cross. At Lamberton Cross turn left to Ratheniska Village and past G.A.A. pitch to said grounds on the left.
- 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 **Blue Car Park**.
- All such traffic from the **BROWN** and **GREEN** routes will be directed to parking adjacent to the entrance to the Hunt Chase, just past the GAA Centre in Ratheniska Village.

BUS PARKING

- All buses travelling on the **BLUE Route** will continue past the entrance of the **Blue Car Park** and park across from the event site in the Triangular Field.
- All buses travelling along the **BROWN Route** will divert off at Lamberton Cross and also Ratheniska Village and park in the GAA Grounds.
- All buses travelling along the **PURPLE**, **GREEN** and **YELLOW** routes will converge at Abels Corner and proceed to the section of the **Purple Car Park** set aside for Bus Parking.

SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE

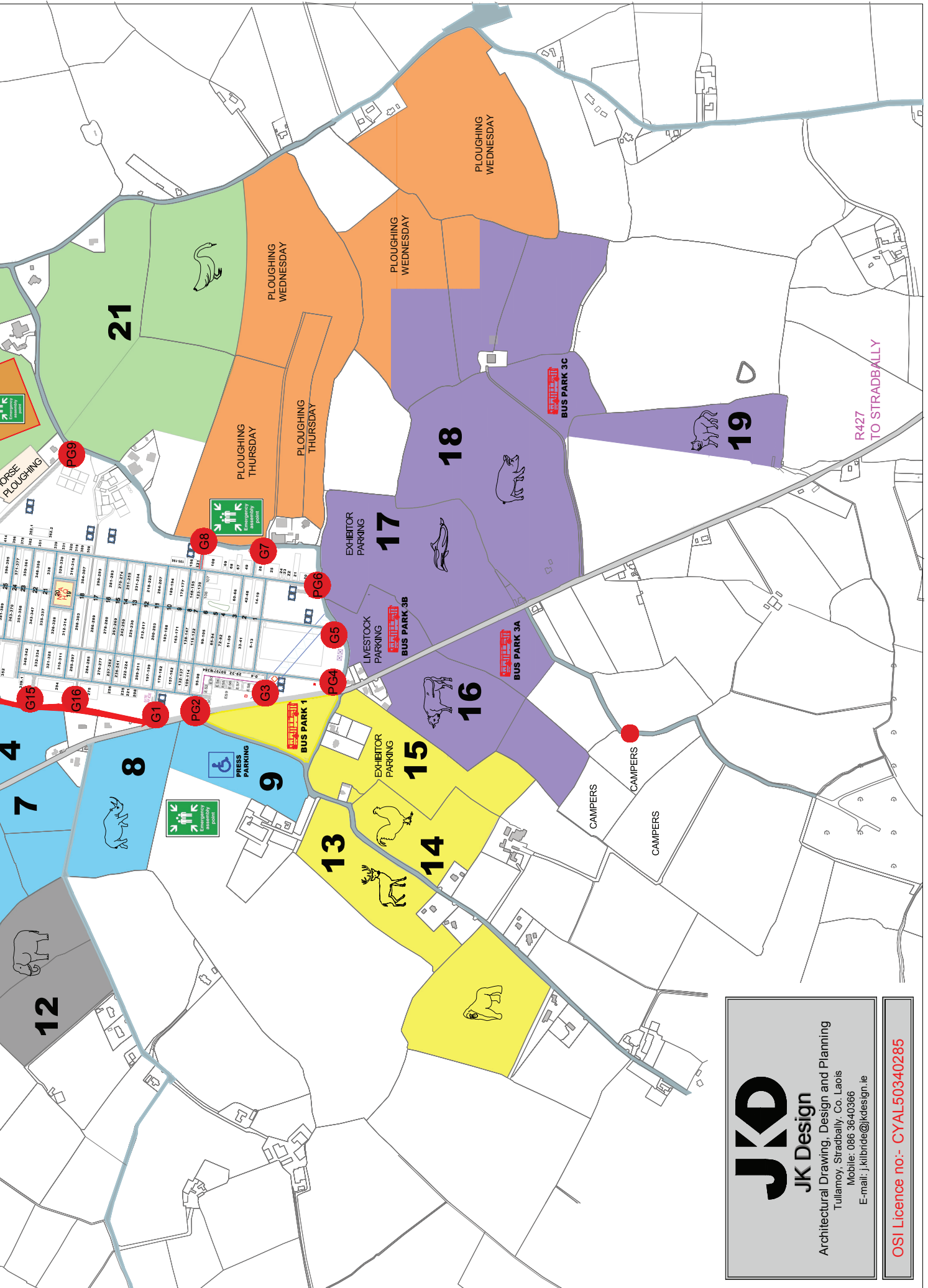
A Shuttle Bus Service will be operated by Bus Eireann from Portlaois, Portarlington and Athy Train Stations to the Village of Ratheniska. The times of this service will operate to suit the train times. The drop off and pick up point are less than a 10 minute walk from the Trade Exhibition.

NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023 RATHENISKA, CO LAOIS

CARPARK MAP

GATES LEGEND	
G	GATE
PG	PEDESTRIAN GATE

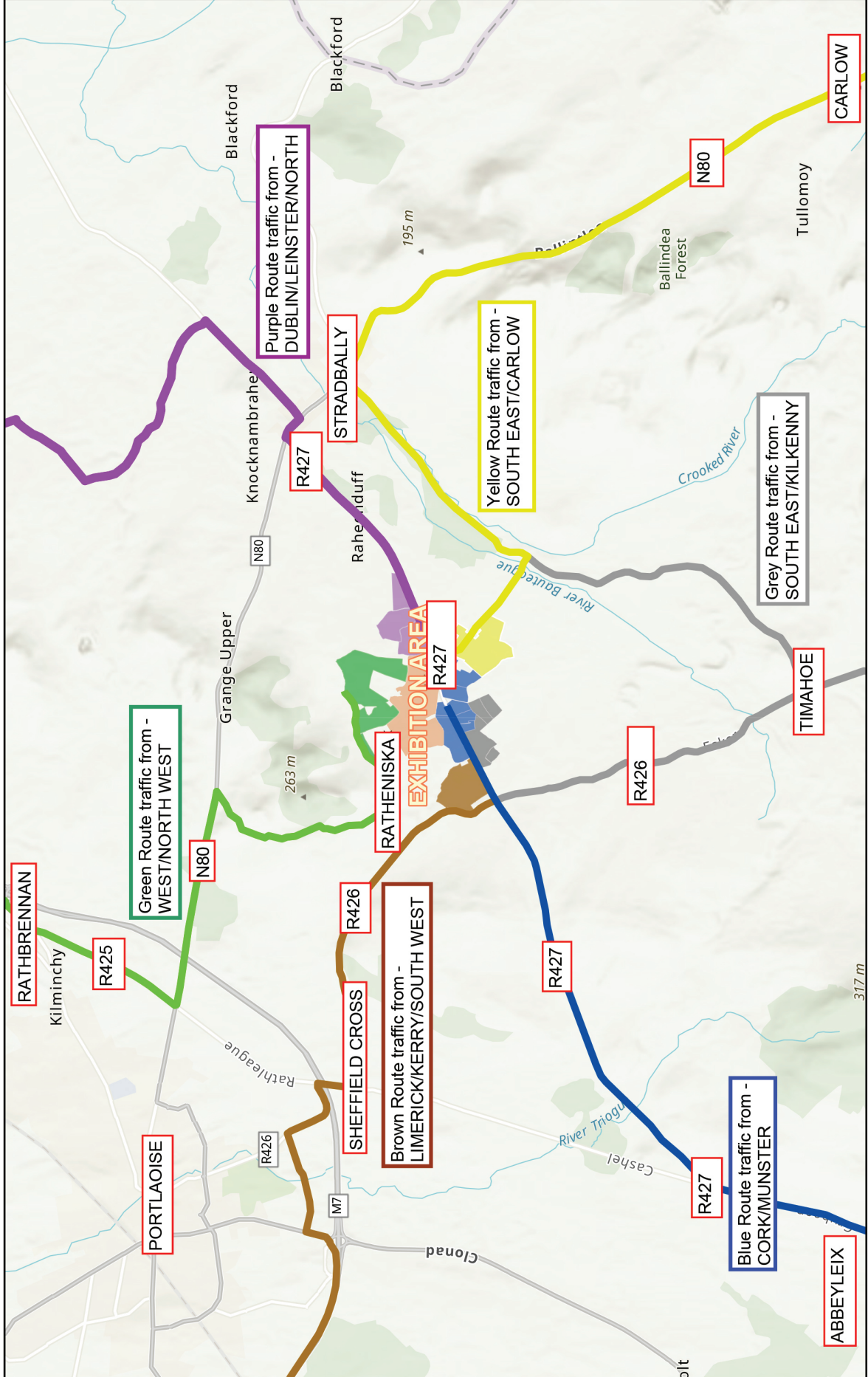




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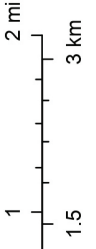
OSI Licence no.: C-YAL50340285

NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS RATHENISKA 2023



8/12/2022

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- Blue Route
- Green Route
- Blue Car Park
- Green Car Park
- Purple Route
- Yellow Route
- Purple Car Park
- Yellow Car Park
- Brown Route
- Grey Route
- Brown Car Park
- Grey Car Park
- Exhibition Area
- World Hillshade

Esri, UK, Esri, HERE, Garmin, Foursquare, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/ NASA, USGS, Esri, Ordnance Survey, NASA, NGA, USGS
mapguy @ags

CHECKLIST FOR TRAVELLING TO PLOUGHING 2023

- ▶ **Tickets must be pre-purchased online @ www.npa.ie. Children Under 12 are free but must have a valid ticket and be accompanied by a paying adult. 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 are running shuttle bus services from Portlaoise, Portarlington and Athy Train Stations. The shuttle bus drop off and pick up point are less than a 10 minute walk from the Trade Exhibition.
- ▶ Bus Eireann Shuttle Bus fees:
 - Adult Return €12 / Couples €20
 - Senior Citizen Return €9
 - Child Return (under 16) €5
 - 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
- ▶ 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 colour of the over-head flying blimp and the number/colour/animal sign in your car park at entrance. If you have a smartphone take a picture of the animal sign.
- ▶ Download Garda Map App <https://arcg.is/14nDnO3> for event & traffic updates
- ▶ Event opens to the public at 9am & closes at 6pm
- ▶ Important contacts for traffic updates:
 - www.npa.ie – @npaie
 - www.garda.ie – @gardatraffic
 - www.theaa.ie – @aaroadwatch

