



PUNCHESTOWN FESTIVAL 2026

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

PUNCHESTOWN RACECOURSE, NAAS, CO. KILDARE

TUESDAY 28 APRIL – SATURDAY 2 MAY 2026



GENERAL ADVICE

- Expect heavy traffic and delays, especially at peak times
- Arrive early to avoid congestion
- Use public transport or shuttle services where possible
- Follow Garda directions and event signage at all times

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

- Gardaí will manage traffic in Naas and surrounding areas
- Directional signage will be in place on all major routes
- Key junctions will be staffed by Garda personnel

EVENT ENTRY POINTS

- R410** (Blessington Road) → Beggars End Cross → **BEGGARS END GATE**
- R411** (Ballymore Eustace Road) → Watch House Cross → **MAIN GATE**

SPECIAL VEHICLE ACCESS

- HORSEBOXES** → Main Gate (stable area)
- TAXIS / SHUTTLES** → Main Gate or Beggars End Gate (designated drop-off) → Exit via Ballymore Road or Walshestown / Balltrecacy routes
- PRIVATE COACHES** → via R410 → Beggars End Gate

PRIMARY TRAVEL ROUTES

- FROM DUBLIN / NORTH (M1, N2, N3, N4)**
M50 → N7 (Dublin/Limerick Road)
Exit 9 (Naas) → R410 (Blessington Road) → Punchestown
- FROM SOUTH DUBLIN**
Option A: N81 → Blessington → R410
Option B: N81 → Ballymore Eustace → R411 → Punchestown
- FROM SOUTH EAST (M9, N9, N78, N80)**
Via Carlow/Athy → Kilcullen → Naas Road
At Mylestown Cross → right onto L2023 → Punchestown
Alternative Route:
M9 → Exit 10 (Naas)
Divert at Chadwick's → South Ring Road → R411
- FROM SOUTH / SOUTH WEST (N7 / M7)**
Exit 11 (Newbridge) → Kilcullen → follow Route 3
- ADDITIONAL SOUTH EAST ROUTE**
N81 → Ballymore Eustace → R411 → follow signage

COLLECTIONS DESIGNATED AREAS

- MAIN GATE DESIGNATED AREA**
 - All collections take place at the designated collection zone at the Main Gate.
 - Follow event signage and Garda directions.
 - Arrive before the second last race.
 - Use only the marked collection point – no roadside pick-ups.
- BEGGARS END DESIGNATED AREA**
 - Collections also available at the designated area at Beggars End Gate.
 - Access via R410 (Blessington Road).
 - Follow signs for "Beggars End Pick-Up".
 - Stay within the official collection zone – no stopping on approach roads.

ONE-WAY TRAFFIC SYSTEM (IF ACTIVATED)

BEFORE RACING	AFTER RACING
Two lanes INTO venue from both approaches All exiting traffic restricted	Two lanes OUT OF venue No entry allowed during peak exit period

EXIT ROUTING

MAIN GATE EXIT ROUTE	BEGGARS END EXIT ROUTE
Toward Watch House Cross → Naas South	Toward Beggars End Cross → Naas North

FRIDAY-ONLY TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS

- Buses and large vehicles cannot turn right at Mylerstown Cross
- Must instead: → Continue to Naas → use South Ring Road (R447)
- PICK-UPS (FRIDAY)**
All buses, taxis, and pick-up vehicles must be on-site before the second last race
- FRIDAY ENTRY ROUTES FOR PICK-UPS (AFTER 2ND LAST RACE)**
 - BALLYMORE EUSTACE ROAD ENTRANCE**
 - WALSHESTOWN / BALLTRECACY ENTRANCE**

PARKING ARRANGEMENTS

- Free car and bus parking on-site
- Clearly signposted parking zones
- Accessible parking available (check event website)

PARKING RESTRICTIONS

- No parking allowed on approach roads
- Illegally parked vehicles will be towed

TAXI & SHUTTLE OPERATIONS

DROP-OFF	PICK-UP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Via Main Gate or Beggars End Gate Drop at designated areas Must exit immediately afterward 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must arrive before the second last race Collection at Main Gate / designated areas

COACHES / BUSES

- Enter via R410 (Blessington Road)
- Exit via R411 (Ballymore Eustace Road)
- One-way system may apply

LOCAL ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

- No access from Mullacash Cross → Watch House Cross during exits
- Diversions via Killashee → Naas
- Some residential disruption expected

PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPTIONS

SHUTTLE BUS (NAAS TOWN)	COACH SERVICES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Runs daily before and after racing Pickup/drop-off: Poplar Square, Naas Paid service Recommended to reduce congestion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct transport from Dublin City Centre Private coach hire available

FINAL TIPS

- Plan your route in advance
- Follow Garda instructions at all times
- Take note of where you parked
- Allow extra time leaving the venue