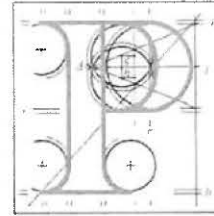


Our Case Number: PA0033



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Development Application Unit
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Newtown Road
Co. Wexford

Date: 06 February 2025

Re: Galway Harbour Extension
Renmore and Townparks Townlands, Galway

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

The Board will revert to you in due course with regard to the matter.

Please be advised that copies of all submissions / observations received in relation to the application will be made available for public inspection at the offices of the local authority and at the offices of An Bord Pleanála when they have been processed by the Board.

More detailed information in relation to strategic infrastructure development can be viewed on the Board's website: www.pleanala.ie.

If you have any queries in the meantime please contact the undersigned officer of the Board. Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

Lauren Griffin
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737244

PA04

| | | |
|--------------------|---------|--|
| Teil | Tel | (01) 858 8100 |
| Glaó Áitiúil | LoCall | 1800 275 175 |
| Facs | Fax | (01) 872 2684 |
| Láithreán Gréasáin | Website | www.pleanala.ie |
| Ríomhphost | Email | bord@pleanala.ie |

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 64 Sráid Maoilbhríde | 64 Marlborough Street |
| Baile Átha Cliath 1 | Dublin 1 |
| D01 V902 | D01 V902 |

Lauren Griffin

From: Lauren Griffin
Sent: Thursday 6 February 2025 14:57
To: Simon Dolan (Housing)
Subject: RE: SID application for Galway Harbour Extension

A Chara,

The Board acknowledges receipt of your email, official correspondence will issue in due course.

Kind regards,

Lauren

From: Simon Dolan (Housing) <Simon.Dolan@npws.gov.ie>
Sent: Thursday 6 February 2025 14:32
To: LAPS <laps@pleanala.ie>
Subject: SID application for Galway Harbour Extension

Caution: This is an **External Email** and may have malicious content. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact the ICT Helpdesk.

A Chara,

Attached please find the Nature Conservation recommendations.

Regards,



Simon Dolan

An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Executive Officer
Aonad na nIarratas ar Fhorbairt
Development Applications Unit
Oifigí an Rialtais

**An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht**
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



Planning Ref: Galway Harbour Extension
(Please quote in all related correspondence)

06 February 2025

Secretary
An Bord Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Via email: laps@pleanala.ie

Re: Notification to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

Proposed Development: SID application for an extension to Galway Harbour

A chara

I refer to correspondence received in connection with the above. Outlined below are the Heritage related observations/recommendations co-ordinated by the Development Applications Unit under the stated headings.

Nature Conservation

The previously submitted Natura Impact Statement ("NIS") and subsequent Addenda/Errata documents (2014, 2015, 2019, and 2022) assessed the potential impacts on the surrounding area of Galway Harbour due to the proposed development, including the positive impacts associated with the proposed compensatory measures at Tawin Island.

The Department notes that a review of current legislation, guidance, and Natura 2000 conservation objectives documents were completed by the applicant to determine if any information in the original NIS and subsequent Addenda/Errata documents had become outdated or to include any new information that could supplement the data already submitted. Additional surveys were completed by the applicant to update the assessment of the environment over which the proposed development would occur.

The Department notes that the applicant compared the studies carried out over multiple years for intertidal benthic flora, fauna, and sediments and only small variations were seen in abundance and community types. The overall variation was not considered significant or to result in any change to the conclusions reached in the NIS and subsequent Addendum/Errata.

Aonad na nIarratas ar Fhorbairt

Development Applications Unit

Oifigí an Rialtais

Government Offices

Bóthar an Bhaile Nua, Loch Garman, Contae Loch Garman, Y35 AP90
Newtown Road, Wexford, County Wexford, Y35 AP90



In comparing the studies carried out over multiple years for subtidal benthic fauna only small variations were seen in abundance and community types. Some variations could be seen in the sediment composition at some of the stations analysed. It is noted that the applicant regards that the overall variation in faunal communities and sediments is not considered significant and does not change the conclusions reached in the original NIS and subsequent Addendum/Errata.

Following the field surveys, it is confirmed that the conclusions in relation to the Lough Atalia and Renmore Lough remain valid as no significant changes to the baseline have occurred since the original 2013 survey. The conclusions reached in the original NIS and subsequent Addendum/Errata remain valid for the purpose of this assessment.

In regard to intertidal habitats, the Department notes that there have been no significant changes to the Stony Bank Habitat [1220] at Renmore since the original surveys Skeffington, M (2014) and Conaghan, J (2017). A minor change had occurred to the south of Renmore but due to the dynamic nature of shingle bank habitats, it was not considered significant. There have been no significant changes to the Saltmarsh Habitats CM1 /CM2 from the original surveys carried out.

It is noted in the conclusion of the NIS addendum document that “the description of the development has not changed and the methods proposed, site layout, design and the proposed operations all remain the same”. The updated surveys were carried out to inform and validate the updated assessment. The evaluation for marine and coastal habitats has not changed and the conclusion of the Natura Impact Statement Addendum 2024 is that there will be “no additional significant impact to Galway Bay SAC”. This conclusion is supported by the available information.

You are requested to send any further communications to this Department's Development Applications Unit (DAU) at manager.dau@npws.gov.ie where used, or to the following address:

The Manager
Development Applications Unit (DAU)
Government Offices
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

Is mise, le meas



Simon Dolan
Development Applications Unit
Administration