

Development Applications Unit
The Manager
Newtown Road
Co. Wexford
Y35 AP90

Date: 13 July 2022

Re: BusConnects Belfield/Blackrock to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme
Co. Dublin

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above-mentioned proposed road development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter. Please note that the proposed road development shall not be carried out unless the Board has approved it or approved it with modifications.

The Board has also received an application for confirmation of a compulsory purchase order which relates to this proposed road development. The Board has absolute discretion to hold an oral hearing in respect of any application before it, in accordance with section 216 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended. Accordingly, the Board will inform you in due course on this matter. The Board shall also make a decision on both applications at the same time.

If you have any queries in relation to this matter 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,

Sarah Caulfield
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737287

HA03A

Tel	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glao Áitiúil	LoCall	1890 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

Sarah Caulfield

From: Sarah Caulfield
Sent: Tuesday 12 July 2022 16:00
To: Simon.Dolan@housing.gov.ie
Subject: RE: HA29N.313509 - SID application for bus corridor

Dear Simon,

The Board acknowledges receipt of your email and attached submission.

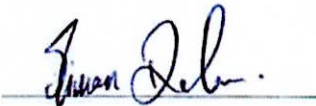
Kind Regards,
Sarah

From: Simon Dolan (Housing) <Simon.Dolan@housing.gov.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 12 July 2022 15:33
To: SIDS <sids@pleanala.ie>
Subject: HA29N.313509 - SID application for bus corridor

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



Planning Ref: HA29N.313509
(Please quote in all related correspondence)

12th July 2022

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

Via email: sids@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 Belfield/Blackrock to City Centre bus corridor scheme at Belfield/Blackrock to City Centre.

A chara

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

Nature Conservation

Having considered the documentation supporting the present SID application, this Department's main concerns from a nature conservation perspective relate to the potential of pollutants mobilised during the construction phase of the proposed development having detrimental effects on the Williamstown Creek and Booterstown Marsh sections of the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA), and the loss of treeline, hedgerow mixed broadleaved woodlands and scattered trees and parkland habitat along sections of the planned bus corridor.

It is proposed to site the Construction Compound for this scheme for the duration of its construction phase on an area of existing hardstanding located immediately adjacent to Williamstown Creek off the Rock Road, described in the documentation supporting this application as Booterstown Carpark in Blackrock Park. This hard standing area lies beside the outlet to Dublin Bay from Williamstown Creek which also serves to allow the tidal movement of sea water from the bay up and down Williamstown Creek into

Aonad na nIarratas ar Fhorbairt

Development Applications Unit

Oifigí an Rialtais

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Booterstown Marsh. Booterstown Marsh and Williamstown Creek are primarily of conservation significance as foraging habitat and roosting areas for wintering Special Conservation Interest bird species for the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA. Pollutants mobilised from the construction compound, particularly hydrocarbons, could potentially therefore directly detrimentally affect SCI bird species utilising the marsh and creek and/or also detrimentally affect the foraging habitats of these bird species in the marsh and creek. Entering Dublin Bay through the outlet from Williamstown Creek such pollutants could also detrimentally affect SCI bird species in the wider South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA and habitats which the South Dublin Bay Special Area of Conservation has been designated to protect. Similarly, the construction of the proposed bus corridor along the Rock Road adjacent to Booterstown Marsh could possibly result in pollution of the marsh with impacts on SCI bird species and their habitats there.

The Natura Impact Statement (NIS) supporting the present application recognises the potential for pollution arising from the proposed construction compound and the laying out of the bus corridor along the Rock Road detrimentally affecting Booterstown Marsh and the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA as a whole, and various appropriate measures to prevent any pollution arising from the compound or other works associated with the construction of the bus corridor are set out in the NIS, and in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and the Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) also prepared in support of this application. An Environment Response incident response Plan has in addition been prepared to provide for the effective mitigation of any accidental spillages that do occur. If these various plans are fully adhered to and implemented during the construction of the proposed bus corridor this Department considers that any detrimental effects to the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary and the South Dublin Bay SAC should be successfully avoided.

It is noted from the Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) submitted in support of this application that to facilitate the proposed bus corridor development it is intended to permanently remove altogether 1040 m of hedgerows and 4157 m of treeline comprising 329 trees, the latter approaching almost a quarter of the 1299 trees identified along and adjacent to the proposed bus corridor's route. These trees and hedgerows are mainly located along the boundaries of Blackrock Park and Blackrock College with the Rock Road, and the boundaries of Elm Park Golf Club and RTE grounds with Nutley Lane. Other trees are to be lost in Ballsbridge and along the boundary of the undeveloped land north of Booterstown Marsh with the Rock Road.

Though not of national conservation significance the habitats formed by these trees and hedgerows, namely treelines, hedgerows, mixed broadleaved woodland and scattered trees and parkland, can be considered (as recognised by the EIAR) as of local importance, higher value in the urban/ suburban context in which they occur, and the resulting biodiversity loss must therefore be considered significant and regrettable. It will be made up for to some extent in the longer term by the planting of 349 street trees and 550 m of hedgerow as part of the landscaping of the proposed bus corridor, but if trees or other vegetation are removed during the bird breeding season there it is likely the direct destruction of birds nest, eggs and nestlings may result.



Recommendations

In the light of the above the NPWS recommends that any planning permission granted in response to the present application should be subject to the following conditions:

1. That the measures proposed to avoid detrimental effects on the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA and South Dublin Bay SAC arising from the development of the proposed bus corridor set out in the NIS, CEMP and SWMP submitted in support of the present application shall be implemented in full.

Reason: To avoid the proposed bus corridor detrimentally affecting SCI bird species and Qualifying Habitats for which the South Dublin Bay European sites are designated under the Birds and Habitats Directives.

2. That no removal of trees or vegetation shall occur during the main bird breeding season from March to August inclusive.

Reason: To avoid the destruction of bird nests, eggs and nestlings.

In addition it is recommended that in the interest of protecting local biodiversity. Belfield/Blackrock to City Centre bus corridor scheme the applicant should be required review the removal of trees and hedgerows it proposes to facilitate the construction of the proposed bus corridor to determine whether all such removals are necessary, and in that if the removal of large mature specimen trees is found to be necessary, it should be considered where feasible transplanting such trees to sites immediately adjacent to their present locations.

You are requested to send further communications to this Department's Development Applications Unit (DAU) at referrals@housing.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

Simon Dolan
Development Applications Unit
Administration