

Our Case Number: ABP-318220-23



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Development Application Unit
C/O The Manager
Government Offices
Newtown Road
Wexford
Co. Wexford
Y35 AP90

Date: 13 August 2025

Re: N6 Galway City Ring Road
Galway.

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Coimisiún Pleanála has received your recent letter in relation to the above mentioned proposed road development. The contents of your letter have been noted.

If you have any queries in relation to this matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Commission at laps@pleanala.ie.

Please quote the above-mentioned An Coimisiún Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Commission.

Yours faithfully,

Lauren Griffin
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737244

HA06

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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
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D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Aisling Reilly

From: LAPS
Sent: Tuesday 5 August 2025 12:58
To: Aisling Reilly
Subject: FW: S177AE Application, Galway City Ring Road
Attachments: S177AE Galway Ring Road.pdf

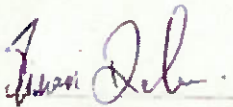
From: Simon Dolan (Housing) <Simon.Dolan@npws.gov.ie>
Sent: Friday, August 1, 2025 2:08 PM
To: LAPS <laps@pleanala.ie>
Subject: S177AE Application, Galway City Ring Road

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



Planning Ref: 177AE-N6 Galway Ring Road
(Please quote in all related correspondence)

01 August 2025

The Secretary
An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Via email: laps@pleanala.ie

Re: Notification under the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended

Proposed Development: S177AE application for N6 Galway City Ring Road (GCRR) around Galway City.

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

The following observations are made by the Department in its role as a prescribed body under planning legislation and as the authority with overarching responsibility for nature conservation and the nature directives (i.e. the Birds and Habitats Directives). The observations are not exhaustive and are intended to assist An Coimisiún Pleanála in its review and evaluation of the current proposal in the context of, among other things, obligations and commitments in relation to nature conservation, European sites, biodiversity and environmental protection generally. These observations are should be read together with all relevant previous Departmental observations.

Recommendations:

1. Section 9 of the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) states that advance treatment of invasive species may be required, such as Japanese Knotweed, and will be decided on a site-by-site basis. For example, in summary Table 9.2, areas of confirmed Japanese Knotweed within the development footprint states that "*isolating the species may not be possible, likely that treatment may be required*". The Department recommends all third Schedule non-native species subject to restrictions under Regulations 49 and 50 Part 1: Plants listed in S.I. No. 477/2011 European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011

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



identified in the development zone should be treated prior to the commencement of construction works.

2. In relation to Water Quality Monitoring, the Natura Impact Statement (NIS) section 10.5 states *"regular monitoring of downstream receptor water quality...will be carried out"* and section 8.5 in CEMP states the *"Local Authority will make recommendations on the water quality parameters to be assessed, sampling intervals and locations"*. Monitoring is essential to assess the effectiveness of any mitigation measures outlined in the NIS and Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). The Department recommends the details should be agreed before any consent is granted.
3. Regarding stockpiling of surplus materials, the Department notes the commitment for no stockpiling on lands within a European site (NIS 2.4.8 and CEMP 8.4.3), and stockpiling of materials will be 50m away from Annex I habitat within a designated site. Annex I habitats outside designated sites have not been explicitly considered here, and the Department recommends no stockpiling on Annex I habitats outside designated sites.

Technicalities:

- A. Lough Corrib SAC – The Statutory Instrument for this site was published in 2022. 'EUROPEAN UNION HABITATS (LOUGH CORRIB SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION 000297) REGULATIONS 2022' - S.I. no 384 of 2022. Therefore Lough Corrib is no longer a candidate SAC (cSAC). Lough Corrib is referred to as a cSAC in some updated reports, for example the 'River Corrib Bridge Constructability Report – updated March 2025'.
- B. The Department notes the aquatic vegetation in the River Corrib has been reclassified, on a precautionary basis, as corresponding to the Annex 1 habitat 'Vegetation of Flowing Waters 3260'. The NIS states *'At the site of the proposed River Corrib bridge where the elevated structure passes over habitats within the SAC, including Annex I habitat, Vegetation of Flowing Waters 3260...'*. However, some maps have not been updated to reflect this change. For example, plate 2 at the start of the NIS technical summary, and plate 8.1 in EIAR. The Department recommends An Coimisiún Pleanála take this into account.
- C. The requirement for an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) is stated in the NIS and EIAR. However, the CEMP makes reference to an Environmental Manager (EM) and there is no ECoW role outlined. The Department recommends An Coimisiún Pleanála takes this into account.

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

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Simon Dolan', is written over a horizontal line.

Simon Dolan
Development Applications Unit
Administration