

NOTIFICATION FROM DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

Application ID: LA04/2016/0421/F

Belfast City Council has been notified of the above planning application. This application is being dealt with by the Department for Infrastructure as a result of it being classified as 'Regionally Significant' under Section 26 of the Planning Act (NI) 2011

Proposal:

Construction of a new multi-purpose facility at D3 for berthing of cruise ships, and for lay-by and transient storage of project cargo, break bulk and dry bulk during cruise ship off season. Development comprises the construction of 340m long solid quay with mooring dolphins, dredging of the berthing pocket and infilling behind the new quay wall using imported clean fill materials, construction of a 25m wide piled relieving slab along the quay length, with heavy duty paving surfacing on the quay/slab hinterland, access road, security gates, access barrier and kiosk at Airport Road West, modular terminal building, shore side facilities, lighting, fencing, screen bund and landscaping.

Location:

Land at D3, adjacent to the RSPB Reserve, Airport Road West, Belfast, BT3 9DY

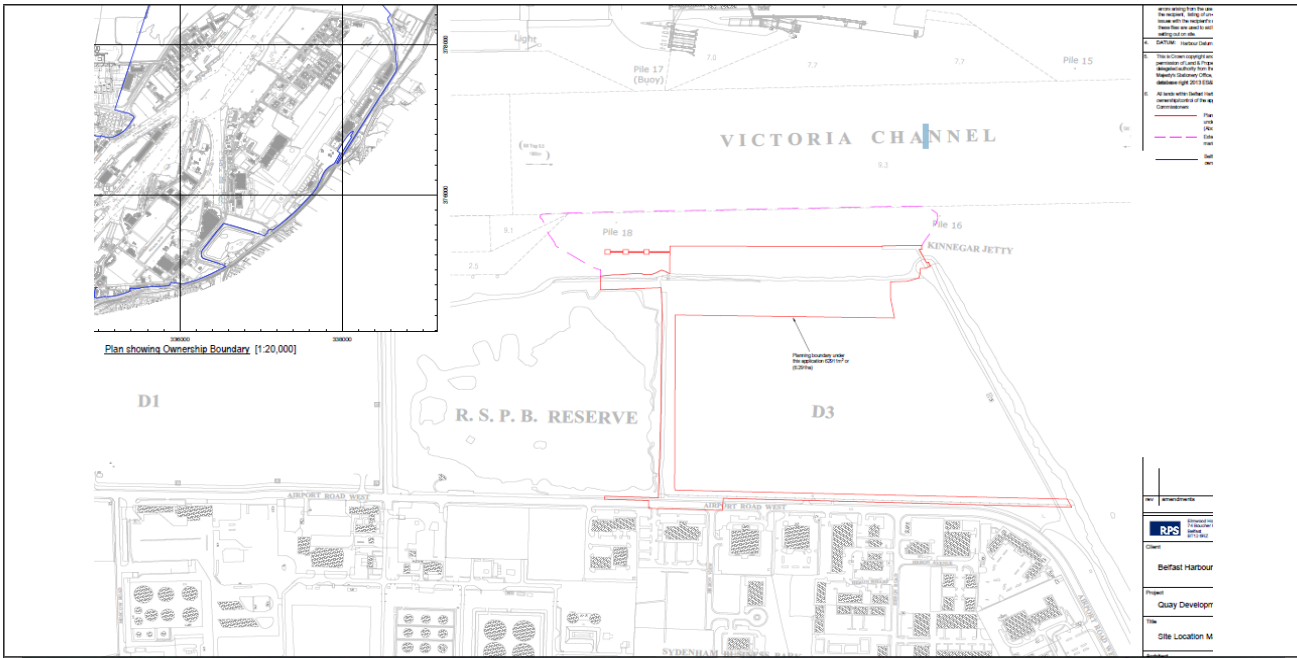
Applicant Name

Belfast Harbour Commissioners
Harbour Office
Corporation Street

Agent Name and Address:

RPS
Elmwood House
74 Boucher Rd
Belfast

Site Location Map



Background

The application was received on 1st March 2016 and is accompanied by an Environmental Statement.

The primary proposed end use of the completed infrastructure is for the berthing of cruise ships during the cruise season, generally from March through to September, to accommodate the steady growth in this sector.

During the off-season for the cruise industry, generally from October through to March, it is proposed to use the berthing facilities for lay-by, and general cargo handling such as break bulk

cargo, project cargo and dry bulk.

There are no proposals for long term storage at D3, rather the proposed development is for primarily transient storage which has no requirement for silos or storage buildings. The short term storage of bulk materials will be restricted to c.4m in height with mobile bunker wall units employed as required to facilitate storage of loose cargo. It is proposed to utilise material handlers or road going mobile cranes for offloading vessels. There will be no requirement for fixed cranes or hoppers.

Environmental Context

Three internationally designated sites are present in Belfast Lough (Belfast Lough Special Protection Area (SPA), Belfast Lough Open Water SPA and Belfast Lough Ramsar Site.

Belfast Lough also provides a nursery and spawning ground for a number of pelagic and demersal fish species as well as supporting a number of migratory fish species including Atlantic Salmon, Sea Trout and European eel. Marine Mammals found in Belfast Lough include Grey and Common seals, porpoises and bottlenose dolphins.

The Environmental Statement Covers chapters the following:

- Marine Ecology
- Air Quality and Climate
- Noise and Vibration
- Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology
- Flood Risk and Water Quality
- Coastal Processes and Hydrodynamic Modelling
- Contaminated Land
- Artificial Lighting
- Traffic and Transport
- Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage; and
- Socio-Economic

The full details of the planning application (drawings, reports and the Environmental Statement) can be accessed of the planning portal at <http://epicpublic.planningni.gov.uk>.

Recommendation:

1. Members are requested to note the above
2. To advise if they wish to make any comment on this planning application to DFI at this stage.