

Protection of Water Bodies Office  
Environment & Transportation Department,  
14 Lower Bridge Street, Floor 1, Usher's Quay,  
Dublin City, D08 XHF1

### **Sandymount carriageway collapse – April 2024**

17<sup>th</sup> April 2024

#### **Roy O'Connor, Senior Engineer, reports on the matter as follows:**

On the afternoon of Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup> April, Dublin City Council (DCC) received a report of a 'sinkhole' appearing in Sandymount Green outside the Mace shop (see Appendix A).

Dublin City Council's Roads Maintenance on-call crew attended the location thereafter and made an initial assessment of the extent of void and made the location safe in a temporary capacity (approximately 7pm finished onsite).

On Thursday morning (11<sup>th</sup> April) staff from the Environmental Protection Division (Surface Water Management section) assessed the extent of void to determine the likely cause of the exposed void under the carriageway (Appendix B). The void under the carriageway covers an area of approximately 5x5m square and approximately 1.2m in depth. Initial assessment of the cause appears to be that the void was formed over a prolonged period of time, whereby the sandy soils (typically to the Sandymount area) have slowly washed into the drainage network, forming the void which eventually undermined the structural integrity of the carriageway layer above.

Within the void a number of significant utility services were exposed, including:

- Uisce Eireann 9 inch water supply main;
- Uisce Eireann foul sewer and exposed manhole;
- ESB Networks high voltage (220kv) supply line;
- ESB Network local network (110kv) supply line;
- Private 9 inch drain from adjacent property/properties (broken), and;
- A collapsed Surface water gully and connection to foul sewer (broken).

Temporary traffic management plans were put in place to allow the safe passage of traffic and pedestrians through the junction and to ensure access to local businesses and properties is unimpeded. This included a 4 way stop/go traffic management arrangement (Thursday evening) which continues to be in place due to the unsafe nature of the site location being on a well trafficked bend on the road.

Over the Thursday and Friday arrangements to reconstruct the void and reinstate the site were put in place and agreed with other pertinent utility service providers. Due to the proximity of the services, in particular the High voltage ESN line, a coordinated plan was required to ensure

compliance with Health & Safety requirements and an ESN safety coordinator has been present on site during any works to date. The safety of the public and our staff is paramount in delivering a fully reinstated carriageway.

With the challenging location of the site and the constrained conditions amongst the utility services, we expect the reconstruction of the carriageway by the end of this week (Friday 19<sup>th</sup>). We expect to complete that work without interrupting any strategic utilities (ESB, foul drainage & water supply).

To reconstruct the carriageway it has been necessary to excavate around existing services to a depth of over 2.7m in order to ensure the integrity of newly constructed carriageway. New connections for private drains, gully drains and manhole construction improvements are now included in the ongoing work (Appendix C). The final opening of the site (with temporary reinstatement\*) is expected by next Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> at latest. Traffic management arrangements will be maintained until such time.

The ongoing work will also include a cleaning (jetting) of the drainage sewers and nearby gullies around Sandymount Green (Appendix C also). Note: Gullies around Sandymount Green were last serviced and cleaned in January 2024, no reported issues at that time.

DCC site staff have maintained daily communication with adjacent businesses to keep business owners updated on progress of the works and likely timelines to completion. Accessibility to businesses has not been impeded during the course of this site work and delays to traffic, including public transport buses, has been minimalized.

\* A temporary reinstatement is put in place on completion of backfilling an excavation/void in the carriageway. It typically allow 2-3 months for the earthworks to settle/compact prior to constructing the final reinstatement of the carriageway, including road markings. The temporary reinstatement will be monitored over that duration.

**Contact:**

Roy O'Connor, Senior Engineer, Protection of Water Bodies Office  
[roy.oconnor@dublincity.ie](mailto:roy.oconnor@dublincity.ie) or 01 - 222 2930

## Appendix A

Location of the collapse on Sandymount Green, specifically on the carriageway surrounding the gully visible in the foreground of the photo below:



## Appendix B

Temporary site cordoned off (Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>) prior to deployment of traffic management plan.



**Appendix C**

Site photos from Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>:

