



Heritage Works Information



LUASCROSSCITY

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*bringing
the city
together*



Removal to storage of the Lady Grattan Fountain at St. Stephen's Green

Construction on Luas Cross City (LCC) commenced in June 2013. The LCC is an extension of the Green Line which will create an interchange with the Red Line on O'Connell St. and will be 5.9km in length. There will be 13 new stops, 8 of which will be in the city centre and passengers will travel from Cabra into St. Stephen's Green in 21 minutes. It is scheduled to be operational by the end of 2017 and will enhance the public transport options for city of Dublin and surrounding areas. At a cost of €368 million euro it is the single largest capital investment project in recent years.

The construction of Luas Cross City in such a busy city is a complex undertaking requiring the involvement of different specialists at various stages. One of the most critical, interesting and indeed delicate stages is the Heritage Works. These works are ensuring the protection of important statues, items of historical and cultural significance during the project.

The contract for Luas Cross City heritage works was awarded to KN Network Services (KNN). Along with the statues, KNN is also responsible for the storage of a wide range of street furniture and paving items removed by other contractors working on the project. These items are being cleaned and carefully repaired, if needed, whilst in storage and before they are reinstated to the streets of Dublin. The removals and reinstatement are being carried out to the best possible conservation standards with the advice and input of Paul Arnold Conservation Architects.

The heritage works began with the successful removal to storage of the Lady Grattan Fountain at St. Stephen's Green in 2014. The fountain which dates from 1888 was in excellent condition and will be returned close to its original location in 2017.

THE STEINE

The removal of the Steine Sculpture which was installed on College Street in 1988, while challenging, due to the heavy concrete foundation that was poured around the standing stone, were safely completed and the Steine will be cleaned in readiness for its reinstatement in 2017.



CAST IRON BOLLARDS

These finely executed cast iron bollards are some of the oldest pieces of street furniture surviving in O'Connell Street dating from the first half of the 19th century. Originally designed as bases for lamp standards they were adopted for use as vents for a substation at this particular location in the 20th Century.

The LCC project will complete a programme of repair and replacement of some of the lost and damaged decorative cast iron scrolls on each of the bollards while in storage.



MOLLY MALONE STATUE

The temporary removal of Molly Malone took place at the end of April 2014 and in July 2014 she was returned to the streets of Dublin. The renowned statue has found a new temporary home outside St. Andrews Church, Suffolk St. for the duration of the remaining Luas Cross City works, where she continues to be one of the city's most popular tourist attractions.

In advance of the installation into the Suffolk St. location a team of specialists in conservation, historic stonework and bronze carried out inspections and repairs on the statue. Molly has been re-welded in spots, steam cleaned and a new coating of micro-crystalline wax applied to protect her from the elements.

THOMAS MOORE STATUE

The careful removal of Thomas Moore statue was successfully carried out in May 2014. Extensive pre-work surveys including laser scanning and detailed examinations of the condition of the bronze and surrounding stone plinth were undertaken in advance. These examinations showed that the statue was in very good condition, particularly when taking into account its age (the statue was placed in College Green back in 1857).

LCC in conjunction with Dublin City Council plan to carry out some much needed bronze repair works. The works will be in the form of repatination - this involves a thorough steam clean of the bronze followed by the reapplication of a chemical patina. This will ensure a match to the finish that was originally applied in the 19th century. Reinstatement will take place close to its current location when the Luas works are nearing completion in the area.



FATHER MATHEW STATUE

To facilitate the LCC track alignment within the central median of O'Connell Street Upper, the Fr. Mathew Statue was carefully removed by KNN, in June 2015.

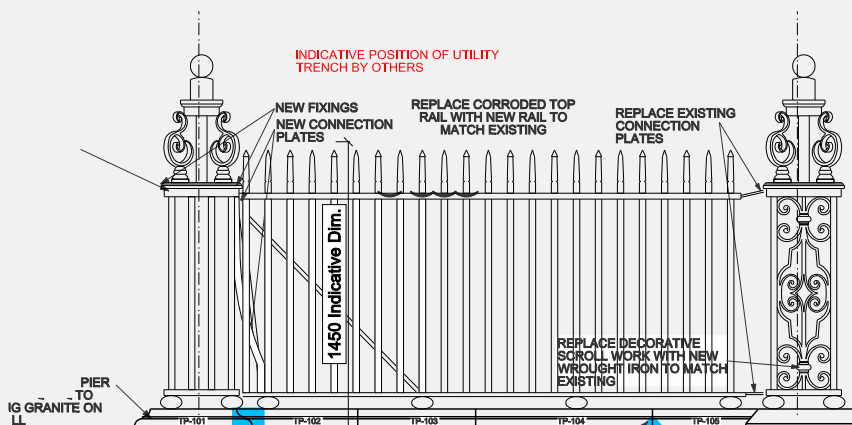
The works commenced with the removal of the marble statue of Fr. Mathew, followed then by the careful removal of the limestone plinth - one stone at a time. Each stone was recorded and numbered to ensure the accurate reinstatement of the statue later on.

These careful works took three weeks in total to complete. The statue was then delivered to a secure storage facility where close assessment of the condition was carried out. This examination showed that the statue was in excellent condition and will require only some minor conservation works before reinstatement. LCC are in discussions with Dublin City Council and the Capuchin Order with regard to agreeing an appropriate new location within Dublin City Centre for the reinstatement of the statue.



ROTUNDA HOSPITAL RAILINGS

In December of 2014 a section of historic railings and gates were carefully removed from the perimeter of the Rotunda Hospital on Parnell Street. Once delivered to the workshop these were carefully cleaned of years of layers of paint and quite an amount of rust which had accumulated. This then allowed a full assessment of their condition to be done and conservation and repair works are due to be undertaken on the wrought iron in the coming months.



PEOPLE'S ISLAND & OTHER WORKS

The People's Island is an art work by Rachel Joynt which was installed at the northern end of Westmoreland Street in 1988. As part of the LCC works the Island is now being re-imagined by Rachel and will be installed in a new configuration in 2016.

Other works which have been continuing since 2014 include the careful recording and lifting of historic granite paving and kerbs throughout the City Centre. Extensive areas of historic granite paving were recorded and lifted from College Green, Dawson Street and Dominick Street. The level of details of these records, will allow for the accurate reinstatement of these important historical street patterns.



HERITAGE ITEMS AFFECTED BY WORKS

Many of the items affected by the works are due to be reinstalled near their original location once works have been completed. Some items, such as the Molly Malone statue have been given new temporary homes during the remainder of the works. LCC are in discussions with Dublin City Council and the Capuchin Order with regard to agreeing an appropriate new location within Dublin City Centre for the reinstatement of the Fr. Mathew statue.





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