

Alfie Staunton

From: SIDS
Sent: Thursday 12 September 2024 09:35
To: Appeals2; Karen Byrne
Subject: FW: ABP-310461-21 Geological Survey Ireland Submission
Attachments: 20240911_GSI Submission.pdf

From: DECC Planning Notifications <PlanningNotifications@decc.gov.ie>

Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2024 2:56 PM

To: SIDS <sids@pleanala.ie>

Subject: ABP-310461-21 Geological Survey Ireland Submission

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.

To whom it may concern,

Please see attached a submission on behalf of Geological Survey Ireland (a division of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications) with regard to case number ABP-310461-21.

Please send an acknowledgement of receipt to PlanningNotifications@decc.gov.ie at your earliest convenience.

Many thanks,
Luke Thompson

Luke Thompson, Administrative Officer
Planning Advisory Division

An Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide
Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications

Teach Tom Johnson, Bóthar Haddington, Baile Átha Cliath, D04 K7X4
Tom Johnson House, Haddington Road, Dublin, D04 K7X4

PlanningNotifications@decc.gov.ie



An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough St
Dublin 1, D01 V902

09 September 2024

Re: Quarry, Windmillhill, Rathcoole, Co. Dublin – Substitute Consent
Your Ref: ABP-310461-21
Our Ref: 24/313 [c.f. 21/295 a & b]

Dear Sir/Madam,

Geological Survey Ireland is the national earth science organisation and is a division of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. We provide independent geological information and gather various data for that purpose. Please see our [website](#) for data availability. We recommend using these various data sets, when conducting the EIAR, SEA, planning and scoping processes. Use of our data or maps should be attributed correctly to 'Geological Survey Ireland'.

The publicly available data referenced/presented here, should in no way be construed as Geological Survey Ireland support for or objection to the proposed development or plan. The data is made freely available to all and can be used as independent scientific data in assessments, plans or policies. It should be noted that in many cases this data is a baseline or starting point for further site specific assessments.

With reference to your Letter dated the 21st August 2024, concerning the Substitute Consent application for a quarry at Windmillhill, Rathcoole, Co. Dublin, Geological Survey Ireland would draw your attention to our previous response to this issue in the attached letter dated 17th August 2021 (ref 21/295a). We have no further comments to make since our previous response.

Other Comments

Geological Survey Ireland would request that the operator might assist our geological heritage goals with the following (and ideally this would be written into the restoration / closure plan) and be included as a condition of planning as deemed appropriate by the planning authority / ABP:

1. Allowing access to quarry faces by appropriate scientists (upon request and with due regards to Health and Safety requirements) during quarrying to check for interesting new stratigraphies / relationships as they might become exposed and to establish if the quarry site is worthy of recognition post extraction and through aftercare/restoration planning.
2. If deemed appropriate in (1) above, leaving a representative section of the quarry face at the end of the quarry life or inclusion of information panels to promote the geology to the public or develop tourism or educational resources if appropriate depending on the future use of the site. Natural exposures are few, or deeply weathered, this measure would permit on-going improvement of geological knowledge of the subsurface.

The Geoheritage Programme tries to promote a partnership between geological heritage and active quarrying, with such measures as those outlined in the 'Geological Heritage Guidelines for the Extractive Industry', which can be downloaded [here](#). This document, written in association with Irish Concrete Federation, acts as a comprehensive guide in the sustainable extraction of natural resources while preserving the geological heritage of Ireland.

Should development go ahead, all other factors considered, Geological Survey Ireland would much appreciate a copy of any further reports detailing any additional site investigations carried out. The data would be added to Geological Survey Ireland's national database of site investigation boreholes, implemented to provide a better service to the civil engineering sector. Data can be sent to the Geological Mapping Unit, at <mailto:GeologicalMappingInfo@gsi.ie>, 01-678 2795.

I hope that these comments are of assistance, and if we can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to the Geological Survey Ireland Planning Team at GSIPlanning@gsi.ie.

Yours sincerely,
Geoheritage and Planning Programme



An Roinn Comhshaoil,
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide
Department of the Environment,
Climate and Communications



Geological Survey
Suirbhéireacht Gheolaíochta
Ireland | Éireann

An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1

17 August 2021

Re: Quarry development at Windmillhill Rathcoole, Co.Dublin - application for substitute consent

Your Ref: ABP-310461-21

Our Ref: 21/295a

Dear Sir/Madam,

Geological Survey Ireland is the national earth science agency and is a division of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. We provide independent geological information and advice and gather various data for that purpose. Please see our [website](#) for data availability. Use of our data or maps should be attributed correctly to 'Geological Survey Ireland'.

With reference to your letter dated the 16 July 2021, concerning application for substitute consent for the quarry development at Windmillhill Rathcoole, Co. Dublin, Geological Survey Ireland would like to make the following observations and comments in relation to geoheritage and other more general aspects.

We are pleased to see use of our Bedrock, Quaternary, Subsoil, Groundwater Aquifer, Vulnerability, Recharge, Source Protection Zones, Historical Groundwater Flooding, Landslide Susceptibility, Geoheritage, Aggregate Potential and Historical Quarries maps and datasets within the Remedial EIAR (rEIAR), by Golder Associates Ireland Limited.

Geoheritage

Geological Survey Ireland is in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage), to identify and select important geological and geomorphological sites throughout the country for designation as geological NHAs (Natural Heritage Areas). This is addressed by the Geoheritage Programme of Geological Survey Ireland, under 16 different geological themes, in which the minimum number of scientifically significant sites that best represent the theme are rigorously selected by a panel of theme experts.

County Geological Sites (CGSs), as adopted under the National Heritage Plan, include additional sites that may also be of national importance, but which were not selected as the very best examples for NHA designation. All geological heritage sites identified by Geological Survey Ireland are categorised as CGS pending any further NHA designation by NPWS. CGSs are now routinely included in County Development Plans and in the GIS of planning departments, to ensure the recognition and appropriate protection of geological heritage within the planning system. CGSs can be viewed online under the Geological Heritage tab on the online [Map Viewer](#).

The audit for South County Dublin was carried out in 2014. The full report details can be found [here](#). Our records show that there are no CGSs in the vicinity of the quarry development.

Other Comments

We would encourage An Bord Pleanála to use our online datasets that may be of use in assessing planning applications and for assessing Environmental Assessment Impact Reports (EIAR). Further information on our Geoheritage, Bedrock, Subsoils, Groundwater, Landslide Susceptibility and Minerals datasets can be found on the online [Map Viewer](#). Please find attached a list of our current publicly available data sets that should be considered where appropriate.



An Roinn Comhshaoil,
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide
Department of the Environment,
Climate and Communications



Geological Survey
Suirbhéireacht Gheolaíochta
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I hope that these comments are of assistance, and if we can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to contact me Clare Glanville, or my colleague Trish Smullen at GSIPlanning@gsi.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Clare Glanville
Senior Geologist
Geological Survey Ireland

Enc: Table - Geological Survey Ireland's Publicly Available Datasets Relevant to Planning, EIA and SEA processes.