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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

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Introduction

- 1.1 This document presents a Non-Technical Summary of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) that has been prepared in relation to the proposed development of a lateral extension to an existing limestone quarry at Ardgaineen, Claregalway, Co. Galway.
- 1.2 Key areas of information presented within this EIAR concern the nature and extent of the Proposed Development, the character of the receiving environment and likely interactions between the two that could result in significant environmental impacts. Information presented on the receiving environment identifies the intrinsic value and importance of potential impact receptors.
- 1.3 In addition to the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, a number of stand alone assessment reports are included with the Planning Application, including:
 - Planning Statement;
 - Appropriate Assessment: Stage 1 Screening Report;
 - Water Framework Directive Assessment Report.

The Applicant

- 1.4 Harrington Concrete and Quarries Ltd. is a family-run business and one of the largest independent manufacturers of concrete and quarry stone products in Ireland. Established in 1971, the company operates concrete production facilities in various locations, including Castlebar, Claregalway, and Ballisodare. Over the years, the company has gained a solid reputation in the construction and quarrying industries, providing services and materials for local road projects and other public infrastructure works.
- 1.5 With more than 130 employees, Harrington Concrete and Quarries is committed to sustainable practices and minimising its environmental impact through efficient resource management, responsible sourcing of raw materials, and adherence to environmental regulations.
- 1.6 The company has previously worked as a contractor on significant infrastructure projects, such as Ireland West Airport Knock. Its operations span concrete manufacturing, quarry stone extraction, and block production, supplying vital materials for the construction sector.
- 1.7 Harrington Concrete and Quarries are known for their commitment to environmental sustainability, continuously seeking ways to integrate eco-friendly practices in their operations. This includes managing waste, energy use, and ensuring compliance with environmental standards.
- 1.8 For this particular project, the company is seeking to expand its limestone quarry at Ardgaineen, Claregalway, which involves a lateral extension of the existing quarry, continuing their well-established extraction operations.

The Application Site

- 1.9 The proposed lateral extension covers approximately 6.1 hectares. The current quarry area has been used for rock extraction for several years. The extension is located adjacent to the existing quarry, and much of the land involved is currently used for agricultural purposes. The site is accessible via the L6182 road, which connects to the N83 national route.

The Proposed Development

Introduction

Existing Environment

- 1.10 The current operational limestone quarry at Ardgaheen spans approximately 10.55 hectares. The site includes various infrastructure like processing plants, offices, and a weighbridge. Quarrying operations involve blasting, crushing, and screening to produce aggregates for construction, with ancillary activities such as asphalt and concrete manufacturing.

Proposed Development

- 1.11 The project proposes a lateral extension of the existing quarry over an area of 6.1 hectares, and a further 4.35 hectares of existing extraction area, with a total application site area of 12 hectares. The total aggregate reserves available for extraction are estimated to be 5.5 million tonnes. Quarrying will continue for 25 years, with an additional two years for final site restoration.

Operational Phase

- 1.12 The development will include fixed and mobile crushing and screening of the extracted rock within the quarry void, with the material stored on-site for use in asphalt, concrete, or block manufacturing. Extraction will be phased, and blasting will occur approximately 1–3 times per month based on demand.

Restoration Plan

- 1.13 Once extraction is completed, the site will be restored to a natural habitat. The quarry void will be allowed to fill with water to create a lake, and the surrounding land will be restored with native vegetation. Landscaping and visual screening berms will be established along the boundaries to reduce visual, air and noise impacts.

Site Infrastructure

- 1.14 The existing infrastructure, including site roads, parking, weighbridge, and utilities, will remain in place to support the continued quarry operations. Wheelwash facilities will ensure that no materials are tracked onto public roads.

Environmental Control

- 1.15 The site will continue to operate under strict environmental controls, including dust suppression, noise mitigation, and water management systems. Regular environmental monitoring will continue to be conducted for dust, noise, and water quality, ensuring compliance with the relevant regulations.

Final Restoration

- 1.16 After the cessation of extraction activities, all machinery and infrastructure will be removed, and the site will be left for natural recolonisation. The restoration plan aims to promote biodiversity and provide long-term ecological benefits.

Alternatives

- 1.17 This section explores the alternatives considered for the proposed lateral extension of the limestone quarry at Ardgaheen. The assessment examines various potential options for the development, including the 'Do Nothing' scenario, alternative sources of aggregates, different locations, and different designs and processes.

Need for the Development

- 1.18 There is a significant and growing demand for construction aggregates, particularly limestone, due to increased infrastructure development, housing construction, and public works projects in Galway and Ireland. The quarry provides a local source for these materials, reducing the need for long-distance transportation, which in turn lowers environmental impacts such as carbon emissions.

The 'Do Nothing' Scenario

- 1.19 If the quarry extension does not proceed, the existing quarry operations will cease, which would negatively affect local manufacturing facilities for concrete and asphalt. This could lead to increased costs and environmental impacts associated with importing aggregates from other locations. It would also have broader economic implications for local industries that rely on a steady supply of limestone.

Alternative Sources of Aggregates

- 1.20 Recycled materials, such as crushed concrete or asphalt, and manufactured or marine-derived aggregates were considered as alternatives. However, these materials often do not provide the same quality or properties as natural limestone, and are not available in the required quantities to meet demand in the region.

Alternative Locations

- 1.21 Since minerals can only be extracted where they naturally occur, finding a new location for limestone extraction would require opening a new quarry, which would involve significant environmental and planning challenges. Expanding the existing quarry, which has established infrastructure and a history of compliance, is considered more efficient and less environmentally disruptive than developing a new site.

Alternative Designs/Layouts

- 1.22 Three design alternatives were considered: deeper extraction, lateral extension westwards and a wider extension with a higher floor level. The chosen option—a lateral extension with a final floor level of 4 meters—was selected to minimise groundwater management complexities while optimising resource extraction.

Alternative Processes

- 1.23 Rock breaking and other extraction methods were evaluated but deemed less efficient than blasting. Blasting remains the preferred method, as it allows for more effective extraction, but will be conducted under strict environmental controls to mitigate noise, vibration, and dust impacts.

Conclusion

- 1.24 The assessment concludes that no viable alternatives would meet the project's objectives while minimising environmental and operational impacts. Extending the existing quarry is the most practical and sustainable option to ensure a reliable supply of aggregates for the region's ongoing construction needs.

Summary of Environmental Effects

Population and Human Health

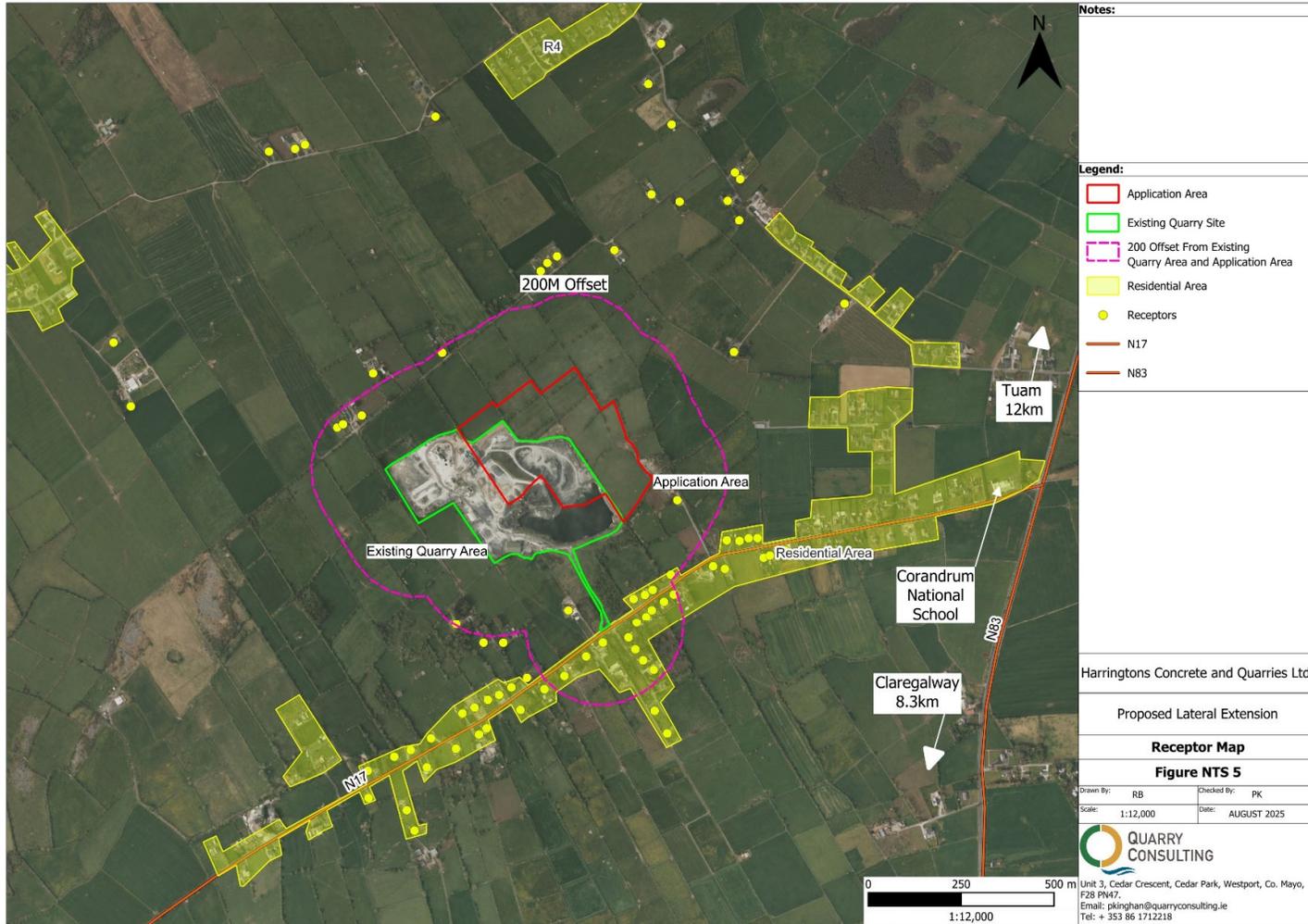
- 1.25 Residences within the general area consist of a one-off rural houses, typically arranged as ribbon development along the local road network. This is particularly apparent along the L6182 to the south of the site which has a long history of this form of development evident on the Historic 6 inch and 25 inch maps. There are also examples of more dispersed dwellings and farmsteads in the vicinity of the site, including along the local road to the west and north of the site. **Refer to Figure NTS 5.**
- 1.26 A detailed assessment was conducted to identify potential impacts on air quality, noise, water quality, and traffic, which are key factors influencing health outcomes.
- 1.27 The quarry extension is not expected to alter local settlement patterns or property values significantly, as quarrying activities are well-established in the area. The operation of the quarry will continue to support local employment, sustaining approximately 30 direct jobs and numerous indirect roles in transportation, material supply, and related sectors.
- 1.28 Potential health risks from quarrying activities, such as exposure to dust and noise, are carefully controlled through stringent mitigation measures. Regular monitoring of dust and noise levels, as well as water quality, will ensure that the site continues to operate within safe limits as established by regulatory authorities. This includes managing dust from quarry operations to reduce the risk of respiratory issues and maintaining compliance with health and safety regulations to prevent accidents.
- 1.29 The long-term impact of the project is expected to be positive, as the restoration of the quarry site post-operations will create a range of natural habitats, enhancing local biodiversity and contributing to environmental quality.

Biodiversity

- 1.30 This chapter provides an assessment of the potential ecological impacts of the proposed limestone quarry extension at Ardgaineen, Co. Galway, focusing on its effect on local biodiversity. The evaluation, known as an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA), examines the site's habitats and species and follows guidelines from both Irish and European legislation. The EclA aims to identify significant ecological features and mitigate any negative impacts caused by the development.
- 1.31 The assessment includes baseline ecological surveys, including the identification of important habitats such as grasslands, hedgerows, and quarry areas. It also highlights key species present in the area, including bats, birds (notably the peregrine falcon), and small mammals.
- 1.32 The report outlines the potential impacts during the operational phase of the quarry extension, such as habitat loss and noise disturbance, as well as post-operational restoration to natural habitats. Mitigation measures, such as preserving existing hedgerows and planting trees, will help reduce the negative impacts on biodiversity. Additionally, the report concludes that there are no significant adverse effects expected on key ecological features with the proper mitigation in place.

Figure 5.1 Local Receptors (© Google Maps)

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Land Soils and Geology

1.33 The Land, Soils, and Geology (LSG) chapter of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) has been prepared for the proposed lateral extension at Ardgaheen, Claregalway, Co. Galway. The development involves a 6.1 hectare extension into greenfield lands adjacent to the current quarry and deepening of the extension area to match the existing quarry floor. This summary outlines the baseline conditions, potential impacts, mitigation measures, and residual impacts associated with the proposed development.

Existing Environment

1.34 The site is located within a rural setting characterised by gently undulating, low-lying limestone terrain. The greenfield area proposed for extension currently consists of agricultural land. Comprehensive studies, including soil mapping, geological surveys, and site investigations, indicate that the area is underlain by high-quality limestone, a vital resource for construction materials. Historical and recent site investigations confirm the presence of solid limestone suitable for extraction.

Potential Impacts

- 1.35 The potential impacts of the proposed quarry extension are considered across three key phases: operational, restoration, and unplanned events.
- **Operational Phase:** The primary impact is the direct extraction of limestone, which will remove a valuable geological resource. Quarrying activities, such as blasting and mechanical removal, could also lead to dust generation, noise, and potential contamination risks from fuel storage. However, these activities are common to the existing quarry operations and are managed through established procedures.
 - **Restoration Phase:** The site will be restored post-extraction, with a plan to convert the quarry void into a water-filled feature, promoting biodiversity and enhancing visual amenity. This will change the land use from quarrying to an amenity or natural habitat.
 - **Unplanned Events:** Potential unplanned impacts include accidental spills or leaks, which could cause localised contamination. Mitigation measures will address these risks.

Mitigation Measures

- 1.36 Several mitigation strategies will be implemented to minimise adverse effects on land, soils, and geology:
- **Design and Stability:** The quarry extension design incorporates long-term stability measures for excavation faces, ensuring safe and controlled operations.
 - **Dust and Noise Control:** Measures, including water sprays and screening berms, will be used to manage dust emissions and noise, reducing the impact on nearby residential areas.
 - **Fuel and Hydrocarbon Management:** Storage facilities will be bunded, and refuelling will be strictly controlled to prevent contamination risks.
 - **Geological Heritage:** Opportunities for educational and tourism benefits are considered, including potential geological displays or leaving exposed rock faces for study, in collaboration with the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI).
 - **Restoration Plan:** A detailed plan will guide the restoration of the quarry, enhancing the post-extraction landscape to provide new habitat opportunities.

Residual Impacts

1.37 After implementing the mitigation measures, the residual impacts are deemed to be minimal:

- The primary impact remains the removal of limestone, a non-renewable resource. However, this is considered necessary for regional economic development.
- Post-restoration, the site will transform into a beneficial water-based habitat significantly improving local biodiversity and visual appeal.

Monitoring

1.38 Continuous monitoring will ensure compliance with environmental standards:

- **Dust and Noise Monitoring:** Regular checks will be conducted to ensure levels remain within permitted limits.
- **Water Quality Monitoring:** The management of surface and groundwater will be strictly monitored, as per existing discharge licenses.
- **Geotechnical Monitoring:** Quarry face stability will be routinely assessed to manage long-term safety.

Conclusion

1.39 The LSG chapter concludes that, with appropriate mitigation and restoration strategies, the proposed quarry extension will have manageable impacts on the land, soils, and geological environment. The planned development will sustain a regional resource essential for construction while offering opportunities to enhance biodiversity and landscape post-extraction. The thorough analysis, in compliance with European and national guidelines, ensures that environmental protection is a priority throughout the project lifecycle.

Water

Introduction

1.40 The proposed project involves extending an existing quarry at Ardgaheen, Claregalway, Co. Galway. This summary outlines the key aspects of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), focusing on how the extension might affect local water resources and what measures will be taken to manage these impacts.

Project Overview

1.41 The extension will allow continued extraction of limestone from the quarry. Activities will include earthworks, extraction, and dewatering (removing rainwater that falls from the surrounding lands and on the floor of the excavation, as well as groundwater). This is necessary to support local construction industries, providing essential materials like aggregates.

Water Management and Existing Conditions

1.42 The quarry currently operates with a system that collects all waters arising at the site in a sump (a low-lying area designed to gather water) and pumps it to a vegetated area for natural re-entry into the groundwater system. This ensures that the groundwater that enters the quarry is safely managed and returned to the same environment. This management system is legally governed by a Section 4 Discharge Licence (Ref W502/22) issued by Galway County Council in the year 2023.

1.43 The proposed extension has been assessed for potential impacts on local water bodies, including:

- **Groundwater:** The quarry intercepts some groundwater, which is managed to prevent contamination. Any water entering the quarry is allowed to settle in the sump so as to remove suspended solids, passed through a hydrocarbon interceptor and returned to the groundwater system in a diffuse manner in a system that adheres to the principles of a Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDs).
- **Surface Water:** The Cregg River, Lough Corrib, and other downstream water bodies could potentially be affected by sediment and runoff. However, careful water management practices aim to minimise any potential impact.
- **Management Measures and Site Operation Practices** have been designed and modelled to ensure full compliance with both the Groundwater Regulations and the Surface Water Regulations, which are Irish legal instruments enacting the European Directive named the Water Framework Directive. The requirements of the Birds and Habitats Regulations have also been considered in the management of the site.

Key Concerns and Measures

1.44 The main concerns identified include:

- **Mobilisation of Sediment:** Soil and rock movement could lead to sediment entering local water bodies.
- **Contamination from Fuel and Lubricants:** Spills could contaminate groundwater and surface water.
- **Groundwater Quality Changes:** Blasting during extraction could introduce small amounts of nitrogen-based compounds into the water system.

Mitigation Measures

1.45 To address these concerns, the project will implement several measures:

- **Sediment Control:** Vegetation, fencing, and sediment traps will be used to prevent erosion and control the movement of soil.
- **Fuel Management:** Fuelling areas will be equipped with protective systems to capture any spills, preventing contamination. Fuel storage will continue to be in secure, bunded areas (areas designed to contain spills).
- **Hydrocarbon Interceptor:** All waters leaving the site pass through a hydrocarbon interceptor as a precautionary measure.
- **Water Quality Monitoring:** Regular testing will ensure that any water leaving the site meets quality standards in compliance with the site's Section 4 Licence Conditions.
- **Flow Monitoring:** All waters leaving the site flow through a Flow Meter to ensure compliance with the site's Section 4 Licence Conditions.
- **Use of Natural Wetlands:** A designated wetland area will continue to deliver all waters arising to the groundwater system, prior to ensuring contaminants are filtered out.

- 1.46 The EIAR concludes that with the mitigation measures in place, there will be no significant long-term impacts on local water resources. The project will not increase the overall rate of water extraction, and the current system of recharging water back into the ground will continue.
- 1.47 **Cumulative Impacts:** Other nearby quarries and developments (existing and currently proposed) were considered, and no combined effects on water resources were identified. The project's impact is expected to be minimal in the wider context of the region's groundwater system.

Worst-Case Scenario

- 1.48 A worst-case scenario would involve the discovery of a new, large water channel (conduit) during excavation, which could lead to increased water flow into the quarry. If this were to happen, the quarry would be managed as a lake. This scenario is unlikely, as extensive investigations have found no evidence of such channels. The primary component of the application is the lateral extension into the greenfields immediately adjacent and to the east, and north east, of the existing quarry. One of the design features of the proposal is that the new area will be extracted only to the same elevation level as the existing quarry's floor. Given that groundwater flows from east to west, in the direction of Lough Corrib, a wall of limestone is already visible and there are no conduits and no suggestions of any weaknesses in the limestone beneath the application area.

Conclusion

- 1.49 The proposed quarry extension has been designed to minimise environmental impacts, particularly on water resources. Through careful planning, ongoing monitoring, and robust management practices, the project aims to continue operating safely and sustainably. All measures comply with existing regulations, ensuring that water bodies, including Lough Corrib, remain protected.
- 1.50 The EIAR confirms that, with the mitigation strategies in place, there will be no significant negative effects on the environment. The project will contribute to local economic development by providing essential construction materials while safeguarding natural resources.

Climate

- 1.51 The proposed extension of the existing limestone quarry at Ardgaheen, Co. Galway has been assessed for potential impacts on climate change and greenhouse gas emissions. The project is located in a rural area near Claregalway, surrounded by agricultural lands. Quarry operations involve activities that contribute to carbon emissions, particularly through machinery use, transportation of materials, and processing of aggregates.
- 1.52 The project will comply with national climate legislation, including the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2021, which mandates a 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. The quarry operations will implement mitigation measures to minimise carbon emissions, including energy-efficient practices and regular maintenance of machinery.
- 1.53 The proposed development is not of sufficient scale to have any direct or indirect impacts on the regional or local climatic conditions.

- 1.54 Many developments have the potential to emit greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to the atmosphere during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the development. GHG emissions from the proposed development at Ardgaheen have been calculated using the Transport Infrastructure Ireland Carbon Tool. A detailed carbon footprint assessment report can be found in EIAR: Appendix 9.B. Measures will be implemented to assess and/or monitor greenhouse gas emissions and to reduce these wherever practically possible.
- 1.55 The carbon footprint assessment shows that the proposed development will not make a significant contribution to global carbon concentrations.
- 1.56 In terms of **climate resilience**, the project has been evaluated for risks associated with extreme weather events, such as flooding, high winds, and temperature extremes. Mitigation measures, such as a comprehensive surface water management plan, have been proposed to ensure the project's long-term sustainability and ability to withstand climate-related challenges.
- 1.57 Cumulatively, the proposed quarry extension is not expected to have significant impacts on local or global climate patterns. It aligns with Ireland's long-term climate goals, with efforts to minimise emissions and improve sustainability.

Air Quality

- 1.58 This report evaluates the potential air quality impacts of extending and continuing the use of a quarry at Ardgaheen, Claregalway, Co. Galway. The assessment was conducted by Aisling Cashell, an Environmental Consultant at AWN Consulting, and reviewed by Dr. Joanna Arndt, a Principal Environmental Consultant at the same firm 1.

Key Findings:

- 1.59 **Air Quality Standards:** The assessment was based on national and European air quality standards, which set limits for various pollutants to protect human health and the environment.
- 1.60 **Dust and Particulate Matter:** The main sources of emissions at the quarry include dust from crushing, screening, and transportation of materials. The report found that dust levels are expected to remain within acceptable limits, with the highest dust deposition levels predicted to be well below the regulatory limits.
- 1.61 **Mitigation Measures:** Several measures are in place to control dust emissions, including a wheel wash for trucks, covering fine materials, and using a sprinkler system for dust suppression. These measures are expected to effectively minimise dust emissions.
- 1.62 **Monitoring:** Ongoing monitoring of dust deposition is recommended to ensure compliance with air quality standards. If monitoring indicates potential issues, additional mitigation measures will be implemented.
- 1.63 **Human Health:** The assessment concluded that the quarry's operations would not significantly impact human health, as emissions of particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) are predicted to be well within national and EU air quality limits.
- 1.64 **Meteorological Conditions:** Weather conditions, such as rainfall and wind speed, play a significant role in dust dispersion. The prevailing winds in the area are westerly to south-westerly, which helps disperse dust away from sensitive receptors.
- 1.65 **Residual Impacts:** With the implementation of mitigation measures, the risk of significant dust impacts is further reduced. The report concludes that there will be no significant adverse effects on air quality for both human and ecological receptors.

Noise and Vibration

- 1.66 This chapter examines the potential noise and vibration impacts of the proposed extension at the Ardgaheen Quarry in Claregalway, Co. Galway. The assessment is based on both measured and predicted noise levels while considering the effects on nearby residences and other sensitive locations.
- 1.67 Two noise monitoring surveys were conducted in 2018, one in April and another from October to November, and an additional survey was carried out in April 2025 to assess existing noise conditions. The proposed development will not increase the overall intensity of operations but will relocate primary and secondary crushing and screening activities to the quarry floor, reducing noise at the surface level.
- 1.68 Key sources of noise, such as crushing, screening, and the use of trucks and loaders, were measured during operations. Noise levels from the quarry were found to be within acceptable limits as set by regulatory guidelines, and predicted noise levels for the proposed development are expected to remain compliant.
- 1.69 Mitigation measures already in place, including the relocation of noisy equipment to lower levels and the use of modern, quieter machinery, will be supplemented by further measures such as additional screening berms. Ground vibration from blasting activities has been continuously monitored, with results showing ground vibration levels well within regulatory guidelines and well below the potential of damage.
- 1.70 Overall, the noise and vibration impacts of the development are predicted to be minor, and with the continued application of mitigation measures, no significant adverse effects on the surrounding area are anticipated.

Visual and Landscape

- 1.71 **Landscape Impact:** The proposed quarry extension will alter the landform and land cover in the area. However, the landscape is classified as having **low sensitivity**, meaning it can accommodate change without significant adverse effects. The extension is expected to result in only localised impacts, visible mainly from short distances. The loss of hedgerows and stone walls will be offset by the creation of screening berms and additional planting to blend with the surrounding environment.
- 1.72 **Visual Impact:** Visual effects are also expected to be localised, with key visual receptors identified within a 2km radius of the site. Most views are already influenced by the existing quarry, and the extension is unlikely to introduce significant new visual elements. The planting of screening berms will further reduce the visibility of the quarry extension from sensitive viewpoints, including local roads and residential areas.

Mitigation Measures:

- 1.73 The primary mitigation measures include **planting native trees** along the berms, constructing screening berms to reduce visual intrusion, and implementing a **restoration plan** for when quarrying operations cease, which will enhance the biodiversity of the area.

Residual and Cumulative Effects:

- 1.74 Residual landscape and visual effects are expected to be **slight to imperceptible** due to the low sensitivity of the landscape and the screening measures implemented. **No significant cumulative effects** are anticipated, as no other major developments are planned in the vicinity.
- 1.75 The proposed development is considered manageable within its landscape context, with minimal visual disruption once mitigation measures are established.

Traffic

1.76 This chapter assesses the potential traffic impacts associated with the proposed lateral extension of an existing limestone quarry at Ardgaheen, Claregalway, Co. Galway. The quarry will continue operating using the same extraction methods, with no major changes in traffic volume expected.

Key Findings:

1.77 **Existing Operations:** The quarry currently operates from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm on weekdays and 8:00 am to 2:00 pm on Saturdays. No operations occur on Sundays or public holidays. Quarry traffic consists of light vehicles (LVs) and heavy goods vehicles (HGVs), contributing to approximately 43,796 vehicle movements per year.

1.78 **Traffic Scenarios:** Three traffic scenarios were analysed:

- Scenario 1: No development traffic (baseline conditions).
- Scenario 2: Continuation of current quarry operations.
- Scenario 3: Proposed extension with additional quarry traffic.

1.79 **Traffic Impact:** The analysis shows that all road junctions, including the quarry entrance and the nearby N83 road, will continue to operate well within capacity under all scenarios, even up to the design year of 2040. The additional traffic generated by the proposed quarry extension is not expected to have a significant impact on the local road network.

1.80 **Mitigation Measures:** Existing mitigation measures, such as maintaining visibility splays at the entrance and ensuring that HGVs are covered to reduce dust emissions, will continue. No additional construction traffic is anticipated, and the operational phase will involve regular monitoring to minimise impacts.

1.81 **Residual Impacts:** With the proposed mitigation measures, the traffic impacts of the development are expected to remain imperceptible and within acceptable limits for the surrounding area.

Cultural Heritage

1.82 The chapter aims to evaluate whether the continued quarrying activities in Ardgaheen, Co. Galway, will affect any known or unknown archaeological sites, monuments, or structures of historical significance.

1.83 **Methodology:** The assessment follows standard procedures, reviewing existing records, historical documents, maps, and previous surveys. This includes site visits, geophysical surveys, and archaeological excavations. Key sources include the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and the Galway County Development Plan.

Existing Heritage:

1.84 The area has a rich history, dating back to the prehistoric, medieval, and post-medieval periods.

1.85 While a number of sites in the wider region are of archaeological interest, no significant monuments or structures have been identified within the immediate project area.

1.86 Some features initially thought to have archaeological value (e.g., a ring-barrow and an enclosure) were found to be of modern or agricultural origin.

1.87 **Consultation:** The report highlights communication with the Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht, which concluded that there are no significant impacts on known archaeological sites or features within the development area.

Impact Assessment:

- 1.88 No direct or indirect impacts on known archaeological or cultural heritage sites are anticipated.
- 1.89 The possibility of disturbing unknown subsurface archaeological deposits during development exists, but this risk is considered low.
- 1.90 **Mitigation:** A key recommendation is that any topsoil stripping in unassessed areas should be monitored by a qualified archaeologist to ensure that any unexpected archaeological finds are properly recorded and preserved.
- 1.91 **Conclusion:** Overall, the proposed quarry extension is not expected to have a significant impact on the area's cultural heritage, provided that proper monitoring and mitigation measures are in place.

Material Assets

- 1.92 The chapter addresses how the development may affect important material assets, both of human and natural origin, focusing on land use, property, transport, public utilities, geological resources, and waste.

Human Origin Assets:

- 1.93 **Land Use:** The extension involves converting agricultural land into a quarry. The impact is considered neutral, as the existing quarry already influences the area.
- 1.94 **Property:** There are nearby residences, but mitigation measures will minimise any significant impact on property values, noise, or air quality. No significant adverse effects on property are expected.
- 1.95 **Transport Network:** The N83 road provides access to the quarry. The development will not lead to a significant increase in traffic, and the impact on local transport is not expected to be substantial.
- 1.96 **Recreational Facilities:** No recreational facilities will be affected, as the site is distant from such amenities.
- 1.97 **Public Utilities:** There will be no significant impact on public utilities like electricity, water, or communication infrastructure.

Natural Origin Assets:

- 1.98 **Land and Geological Resources:** Quarry operations will result in the removal of limestone, a valuable natural resource. However, the extraction process is well-managed, and post-operation restoration will aim to enhance biodiversity.
- 1.99 **Raw Materials and Waste:** The quarry will use small amounts of materials like fuel and produce minimal waste. Appropriate waste management protocols will minimise environmental risks.
- 1.100 **Mitigation Measures:** Various strategies are proposed to manage the impacts, including noise reduction, dust control, and restoring the site post-quarrying. Monitoring of waste management and other operational aspects will ensure compliance.
- 1.101 **Residual Impacts:** After mitigation, the remaining impacts on material assets are minimal and not significant. The site's post-operational restoration offers potential benefits in terms of biodiversity gain.
- 1.102 In summary, the chapter concludes that with proper management and mitigation, the quarry extension is unlikely to have any significant negative effects on material assets of both

Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Client: Harringtons Concrete and Quarries

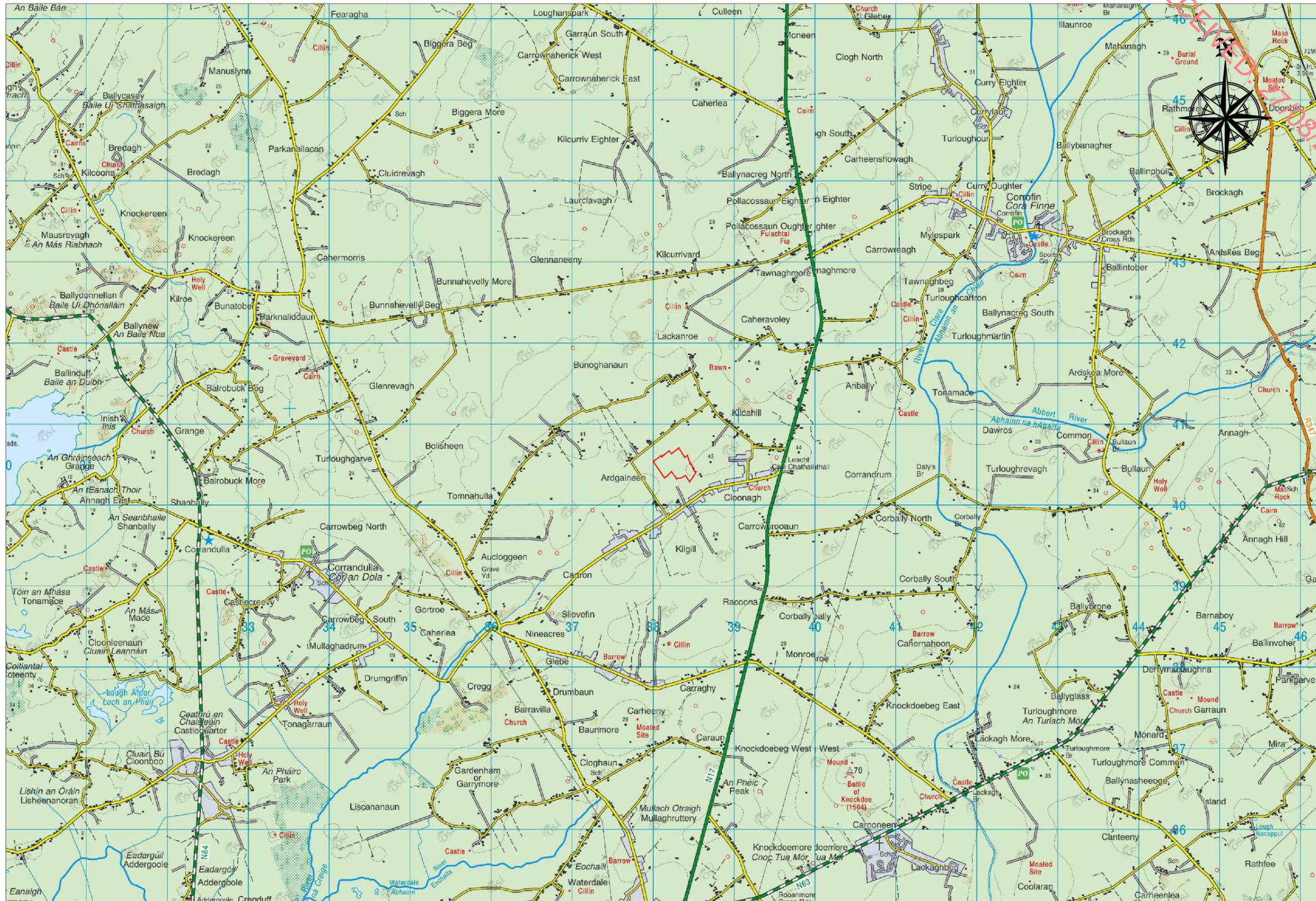
Ref. No.: 03.23

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human and natural origin. The site's eventual restoration is expected to result in long-term positive environmental outcomes.

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NOTES

LEGEND

APPLICATION AREA

Extract from Ordnance Survey Discovery Series Mapping
 Ordnance Survey Ireland Licence No. CYAL50187128 (c) Ordnance Survey Ireland / Government of Ireland.



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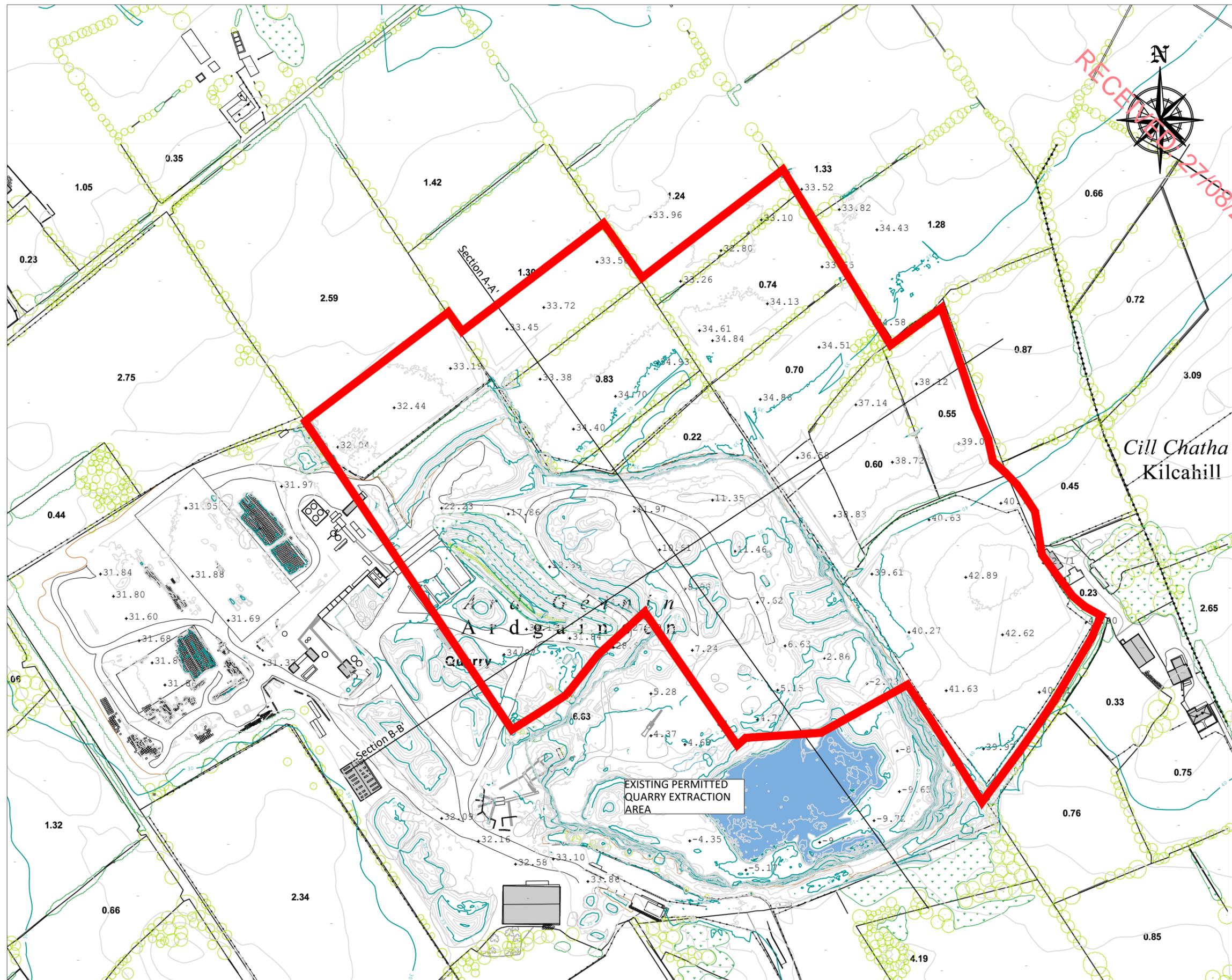
HARRINGTON CONCRETE AND QUARRIES

**PROPOSED QUARRY EXTENSION
 ARDGAHEEN, CLAREGALWAY,
 CO. GALWAY**

SITE LOCATION

FIGURE NTS 1

Scale 1:50,000	Date OCTOBER 2024
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- NOTES
1. Topographical Survey Data from Drone Survey completed in July 2023 & September 2024;
 2. All points are coordinated relative to Irish Transverse Mercator (ITM);
 3. All elevations are relative to Malin Head;
 4. REFER TO FIGURE 3.3 FOR CROSS SECTIONS.

LEGEND

APPLICATION AREA c. 12 Ha.

RECEIVED 27/10/2025



Cill Chatha
Kilcahill

Ardgaineen
Quarry

EXISTING PERMITTED
QUARRY EXTRACTION
AREA

Extract from Ordnance Survey 2,500 Scale Mapping - Map No. 3087-A and 3087-B

Ordnance Survey Ireland Licence No. CYAL50187128 (c) Ordnance Survey Ireland / Government of Ireland.

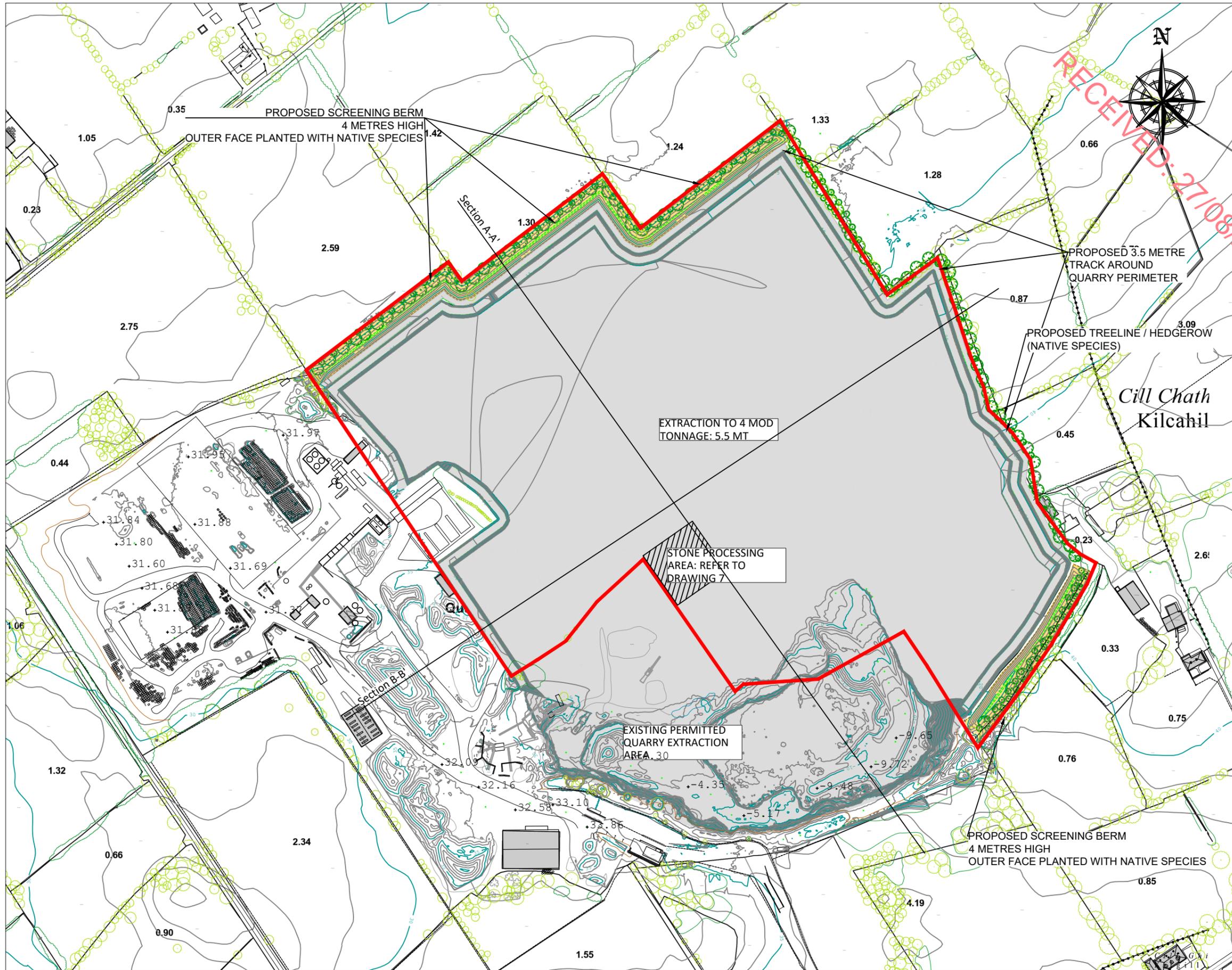


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HARRINGTON CONCRETE AND QUARRIES
PROPOSED QUARRY EXTENSION
ARDGAINEEN, CLAREGALWAY,
CO. GALWAY
EXISTING SITE LAYOUT

FIGURE NTS 2

Scale 1:2,500	Date OCTOBER 2024
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NOTES

Extract from Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Mapping
- Map No. 3087-A & 3087-B

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REFER TO FIGURE 3.3 FOR CROSS SECTIONS

LEGEND

 APPLICATION AREA
12 Ha.

RECEIVED: 27/08/2025

*Cill Chath
Kilcahil*

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HARRINGTON CONCRETE AND QUARRIES
PROPOSED QUARRY EXTENSION
ARDGAINEN, CLAREGALWAY,
CO. GALWAY

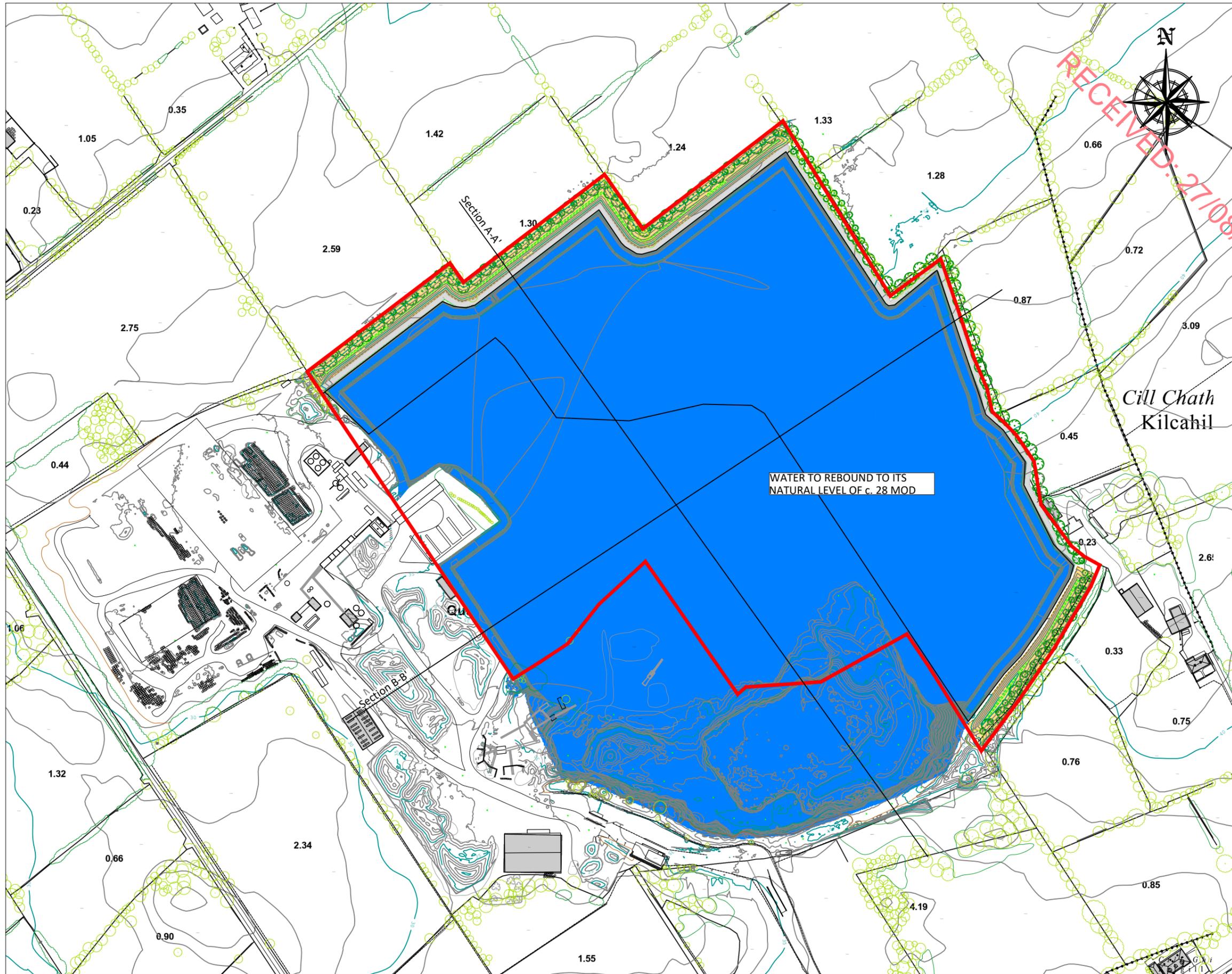
PROPOSED SITE LAYOUT

FIGURE NTS 3

Scale 1:2,500

Date OCTOBER 2024





NOTES

Extract from Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Mapping
- Map No. 3087-A & 3087-B

Ordnance Survey Ireland Licence No. CYAL50187128 (c) Ordnance Survey Ireland / Government of Ireland.

REFER TO FIGURE 2.3 FOR CROSS SECTIONS

Proposed Landscaping and Restoration Scheme

- Landscaped screening berms will be constructed along the northern and southwestern boundaries of the quarry extension area to provide visual and noise mitigation.
- The eastern boundary of the extension area will be planted with a native hedgerow and tree mix, further enhancing biodiversity and contributing to long-term ecological benefits. Once all extraction operations have been completed, the application area will be restored to a natural habitat. This will be achieved through the following measures:
 - All plant and machinery will be removed from the quarry void
 - The quarry pumps will be turned off, and all associated discharge pipe infrastructure will be removed, allowing the quarry void to fill naturally with water, creating a lake-like restoration.
 - The area will be left for natural recolonisation by locally occurring grass and shrub/scrub species.
 - All existing boundary fences and hedgerows will be retained to ensure site security.
- The restoration works will be carried out in accordance with the EPA Guidelines (2006).

LEGEND

- APPLICATION AREA
12 Ha.

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HARRINGTON CONCRETE AND QUARRIES
PROPOSED QUARRY EXTENSION
ARDGAINEN, CLAREGALWAY,
CO. GALWAY

PROPOSED LANDSCAPING & RESTORATION PLAN

FIGURE NTS 4

Scale 1:2,500

Date OCTOBER 2024