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Introduction

Background

- 4.1 This Chapter of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) relates to the potential effects of the extension of the sand & gravel pit at Kilmore, Brinny, Co. Cork on population and human health.
- 4.2 There are a number of sources of effects from the proposed development with potential to impact on population, human health. These include noise, visual, air quality, and traffic. The potential effects on population, human health with respect to air quality, noise, landscape and visual impacts, air quality, and traffic impacts are addressed separately in Chapters 8, 10, 13, and 14 of the EIAR.
- 4.3 The application site extends to c. 18.3 hectares and the extension lands and part of the existing sand & gravel pit. The existing site and proposed development are shown on EIAR Figures 2-1 and 2-2. The proposed development includes phased extraction and restoration of the lands to agricultural use, refer to EIAR Figure 2-4.
- 4.4 Throughout this chapter the 'proposed development' refers to the project described and set out in EIAR Chapter 2 – Project Description.

Scope of Work / EIA Scoping

- 4.5 The objective of the Directive (Directive 2011/92/EU), as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU, is to ensure a high level of protection of the environment and human health, through the establishment of minimum requirements for environmental impact assessment (EIA), prior to development consent being given, of public and private developments that are likely to have significant effects on the environment.
- 4.6 In the context of 'population and human health, Article 3.1 states that 'the environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe, and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case, the direct and indirect significant effects of a project on a number of factors inclusive of population and human health'.
- 4.7 In reference to "human health", in the context of implementing the 2014 Directive, the Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (August 2018) refer to European Commission guidance which states that

"Human health is a very broad factor that would be highly project dependent. The notion of human health should be considered in the context of other factors in Article 3(1) of the EIA Directive and thus environmentally related health issues (such as health effects caused by the release of toxic substances to the environment, health risks arising from major hazards associated with the Project, effects caused by changes in disease vectors caused by the Project, changes in living conditions, effects on vulnerable groups, exposure to traffic noise or air pollutants) are obvious aspects to study. In addition, these would concern the commissioning, operation, and decommissioning of a Project in relation to workers on the Project and surrounding population"

- 4.8 Annex IV point 5(d) also refers to the need for the EIAR to include 'a description of the likely significant effects of the project on the environment resulting from, *inter alia*:
(d) the risks to human health, cultural heritage or the environment (for example due to accidents or disasters)'
- 4.9 On the basis of the guidelines, the scope of this Chapter of the EIAR is limited to a consideration of population, employment, tourism and the economy, amenity and human health in the context of the specialist environmental topics addressed by this EIAR.

Consultations / Consultees

- 4.10 No external consultations were undertaken in the preparation of this Chapter of the EIAR.

Contributors / Author

- 4.11 This chapter of the EIAR was prepared by Tim Paul (MSc, MRICS, CEng, MIQ), Chartered Minerals Surveyor and Chartered Engineer, SLR Consulting Ireland. Tim works as a planning and environmental advisor on minerals planning / EIA and development in Ireland and internationally. Over the past 20 years he has been responsible for the scoping, preparation and submission of numerous EIA's / EIAR's for sand & gravel pits and quarry developments. Tim was a lead author of the Environmental Management Guidelines for Extractive Industry (EPA, 2006).

Limitations / Difficulties Encountered

No limitation or difficulties were encountered in the preparation of this Chapter of the EIAR.

Regulatory Background

Legislation

- 4.12 There is no specific legislation relevant to this Chapter of the EIAR. Legislation, if any, which is relevant to each pathway (noise, air, soil, water, etc), is addressed elsewhere in this EIAR.

Guidance

- 4.13 This Chapter of the EIAR has been prepared on the basis of the 'Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment' (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, 2018) and *Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports* by the EPA (2022).

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Receiving Environment

The Proposed Development Site

- 4.14 The proposed development is located approximately 5km northeast of Bandon and 4km west of Innishannon in Co. Cork, refer to EIAR Figure 1-1. The existing pit and application area is bounded by agricultural lands to the west and east, the Brinny River to the south; and the local county road to the north.
- 4.15 The surrounding landuse is predominantly agricultural grazing land. There is a history of sand & gravel extraction / processing within the existing pit and there is an existing concrete plant located within the site. The MSD Brinny pharmaceutical facility is located c. 0.5 km to the east of the site. There are a number of residential dwellings located along the local county that adjoins the northern boundary of the site.

Sources of Information

- 4.16 Baseline information was obtained from the following sources:
- Myplan.ie (<http://myplan.ie/index.html>);
 - Pobal.ie (<https://maps.pobal.ie/WebApps/DeprivationIndices/index.html>);
 - Historic Environment Viewer (<http://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/>);
 - Specialist environmental topic chapters of this EIAR;
 - Ordnance Survey maps;
 - Aerial photography;
 - Openstreetmap.org;
 - Live Register Statistics;
 - Census 2022.

Local Receptors

- 4.17 EIAR Figure 4-1 shows local receptors within 500m and 1000m from the application boundary for the proposed development.
- 4.18 The closest retail outlets, schools and community facilities are concentrated in the nearby towns of Innishannon and Bandon.

Population

- 4.19 Population relates to the people living in an area. This section provides an overview of the population profile for the study area, Cork County and the State between 2011 and 2022 in order to create a baseline demographic profile of the receiving environment and identify potential impacts on demographic trends arising as a result of the proposed development.

- 4.20 The study area for the purpose of assessing population has been chosen based on Electoral Division (ED) within which the proposed development is located. This incorporates the ED of Brinny.
- 4.21 The review of population is based on a Small Area ID 047058001 (shown in Figure 4.1) and the electoral division of Brinny. The change in population from 2011 to 2022, as per CSO Census data for the electoral division, County Cork, Munster and the State is also outlined in Table 4.1 below.

Table 4-1: Population Change 2011 - 2022¹

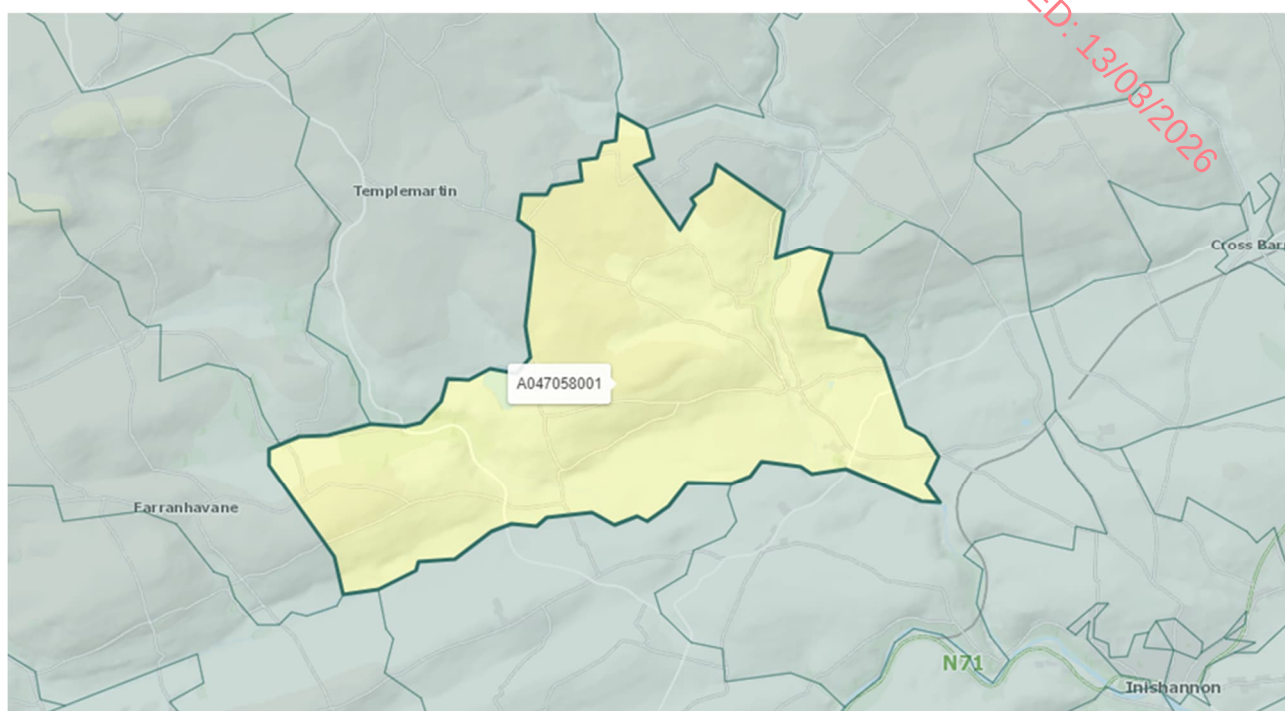
	2011	2016	2022	% Change 2011-2016	% Change 2016-2022
Small area ID 047058001	Unavailable	349	341	N/A	-2%
Brinny ED	695	652	666	-6%	+2%
Co. Cork & Cork City²	519,032	542,868	584,156	+5%	+8%
Munster	1,244,088	1,280,020	1,373,346	+3%	+7%
Ireland	4,588,252	4,757,865	5,149,139	+4%	+8%

- 4.22 The data presented in Table 4-1 demonstrates that the population of Brinny ED decreased by 6% between 2011 and 2016. This is dissimilar to population trends witnessed across Cork City and County combined, Munster and the State for the same period which experienced a 3-5% growth in population. The population within Brinny ED showed a slight increase of 2% between 2016 and 2022, although the Small Area level showed a decrease of 2%.

¹ <https://visual.cso.ie/?body=entity/ima/cop/2022>

² Owing to the expansion of the Cork City administrative boundary between 2016 and 2022 it is more useful to compare Cork City and Cork County population figures across the census periods

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Figure 4-1: Extent of Small Area ID 047058001

- 4.23 In 2022, the total population in the combined County and City of Cork was 584, 156, of which Males numbered 288,845 and Females were 295,11. The census results indicate that the rate of population growth in the intercensal period in Brinny has fallen below trends at the county, provincial and national level.

Household Statistics

- 4.24 Table 4-2 sets out the number of households and average household size (in persons) for the State, Cork City, Cork County and Brinny ED for the 2011, 2016 and 2022 census periods, respectively.
- 4.25 The total number of households within Brinny ED increased from 206 to 232 between the 2011-2022 Census, representing an increase of 12.6%. Because of an increase in the Cork City administrative area between the 2016 and 2022 census periods, a direct comparison on total number of households within those areas is not possible. However, within the combined Cork County and City areas, there was a growth of 12.4% in household numbers between 2011 and 2022. Similar but lower growth rates were also recorded for the state with a figure of 11.3% during the same period. In all cases, the growth of household numbers between 2016 and 2022 was higher than between 2011 and 2016.

Table 4-2: Number of Households and Average Household Size 2011-2022

Area	2011		2016		2022	
	No. of Households	Avg. Size (Persons)	No. of Households	Avg. Size (Persons)	No. of Households	Avg. Size (Persons)
State	1,654,208	2.8	1,702,289	2.9	1,841,152	2.8
Cork City	47,163	2.5	49,411	2.5	83,391	2.7

Area	2011		2016		2022	
	No. of Households	Avg. Size (Persons)	No. of Households	Avg. Size (Persons)	No. of Households	Avg. Size (Persons)
Cork County	140,856	2.8	146,442	2.8	127,971	2.8
Brinny ED	206	3.1	215	3.1	232	2.9

4.26 The average size of households (in persons) has generally remained the same for the State and Cork County. Brinny ED has seen a reduced household size in line with observed increased household numbers at a higher pace than population growth. It is likely that the increased average household size in Cork City administrative area is linked with the widened boundary radius from the city centre and thus including more suburban areas.

Age Structure

4.27 The age structure of Brinny ED recorded in the 2011 and 2022 census is largely in line with that of the national age structure of County Cork as detailed in Table 4-3.

Table 4-3: Percentage of Population per Age Category Census 2016 and 2022

Age	Brinny ED		Cork City		County Cork		State	
	Pop % 2016	Pop % 2022	Pop % 2016	Pop % 2022	Pop % 2016	Pop % 2022	Pop % 2016	Pop % 2022
0 to 4	8.59	3.90	5.02	3.17	7.51	6.01	6.96	5.74
5 to 9	8.74	7.21	4.80	3.49	8.25	7.24	7.47	6.65
10 to 14	7.67	8.71	4.46	3.64	7.15	8.02	6.71	7.27
15 to 19	7.67	7.06	6.31	3.74	6.45	6.86	6.36	6.56
20 to 24	4.14	5.71	10.12	4.90	4.74	4.88	5.75	5.96
25 to 29	3.53	4.80	9.11	4.80	5.03	4.31	6.46	5.74
30 to 34	4.91	2.55	8.86	4.81	7.02	5.35	7.81	6.45
35 to 39	7.98	5.56	7.37	4.89	8.36	6.99	8.39	7.44
40 to 44	7.82	8.26	6.00	4.72	7.94	8.19	7.72	7.99
45 to 49	6.60	7.81	5.58	4.09	7.27	7.78	7.06	7.25
50 to 54	7.06	7.66	5.99	3.75	6.57	7.01	6.30	6.60
55 to 59	6.29	7.21	5.72	3.65	5.69	6.31	4.62	5.97
60 to 64	5.67	5.56	4.96	3.31	5.03	5.45	5.02	5.30
65 to 69	5.52	4.95	4.56	2.70	4.41	4.84	4.44	4.62
70 to 74	3.37	5.11	3.26	2.33	3.30	4.13	3.41	3.94
75 to 79	2.91	3.30	3.22	1.86	2.27	3.10	2.42	3.00
80 to 84	2.30	2.40	2.32	1.28	1.64	1.86	1.70	1.88
85+	1.38	2.25	1.70	1.07	1.35	1.67	20.32	1.64
Total	652	666	125,657	224,004	417,211	360,152	4,761,865	5,149,139

- 4.28 The age profile of Brinny ED is comprised of a larger population of people aged 0-19 than Cork City, Cork County or the State in both the 2016 and 2022 census. The 20-24 and 25-29 age groups increased a little, and there was a marked decrease in the 0-4 age group in Brinny ED during the last census period. Ages 35 through to 59 are in general alignment with Cork City, Cork County and the State while ages 65 through to 85+ are generally higher than Cork City, Cork County and the State. Young adults aged roughly 25-34 appear to be a smaller portion of the population when compared to Cork City, Cork County and the State.

Socio-Economics

- 4.29 This section provides an overview of the socio-economic, employment and economic activity associated with the receiving environment (Brinny ED), Cork City Cork County and the State, in order to provide an understanding of the overall socio-economic profile of the receiving environment.
- 4.30 Live register data (CSO, 2024) provides information relating to the number of people registering for Jobseekers Benefit, Jobseekers Allowance, or for various other statutory entitlements. The figure is useful to gauge unemployment estimations for an area; however, it is noted that the Live Register data includes part-time workers (working up to three days per week), seasonal workers and casual workers who are entitled to Jobseekers Benefit or Jobseekers Allowance and therefore, cannot be relied upon entirely for conclusive employment data. Table 4-4 notes the live register data for the area.

Table 4-4: Live Register Data for Cork County, Cork City and the State 2017-2024 (yearly average)

	2017	2018	2019	2020 ³	2021	2022	2023	2024 ⁴
Cork County	23,297	19,341	16,104	16,580	14,311	14,916	14,740	14,713
Cork City	9,962	9,115	6,502	6,782	5,683	6,059	5,849	5,852
State	258,580	220,065	195,370	211,492	175,360	179,876	179,422	174,881

- 4.31 Between 2017-2019, the average number of people on the live register steadily dropped in Cork County, Cork City and the State. Cork City saw the largest proportional drop in registered unemployment with a 35% decrease between 2017 and 2019. Cork County saw a 31% decrease in registered unemployment in the same period and the State's figures showed a 24% decrease in registered unemployment between 2017 and 2019.
- 4.32 Between 2019 and 2020, numbers on the live register begin to show another rise, likely due to the economic downturn associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The state witnessed a higher rise in unemployment in 2020 than that within Cork City and Cork County.
- 4.33 The closest Social Welfare Office to the application site within Cork is in Bandon, which covers the areas of Bandon, Innishannon and the immediate surrounds. According to the March 2024 Live Register statistics, there were 443 persons in the

³ Totals for 2020 do not include persons in receipt of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP)

⁴ Data to March 2024 <https://data.cso.ie/>

Bandon area on the live register. This figure has dropped with 509 persons on the live register in March 2021, 549 in March 2020 and 522 persons in March 2019.

- 4.34 The population of Brinny and County Cork categorised by occupation⁵ at the time of Census 2022 is shown in Table 4.5 below. This shows that the population of Brinny is more likely to be engaged in Professional, Managers, Directors and Senior Officials and Skilled Trade occupations than the population of the wider county. The population of Brinny is also slightly more likely to be engaged in Process, Plant and Machine Operative occupations but less likely to be engaged as Administrative and Secretarial Occupations than the County as a whole.

Table 4-5: Population of Brinny ED and County Cork⁶ by Occupation

Occupation	Brinny		County Cork	
	No.	%	No.	%
Managers, Directors and Senior Officials	25	7.9	12,887	7.6
Professional Occupations	87	27.6	33,695	19.8
Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	38	12.1	19,075	11.2
Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	16	5.1	14,558	8.6
Skilled Trades Occupations	55	17.5	28,627	16.8
Caring, Leisure and Other Service Occupations	26	8.3	12,951	7.6
Sales and Customer Service Occupations	14	4.4	9,675	5.7
Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	29	9.2	14,674	8.6
Elementary Occupations	11	3.5	12,595	7.4
Not stated	14	4.4	11,207	6.6
Total	315	100%	069,944	100%

- 4.35 The employment make-up of an area is an important element of its socio-economic profile. The CSO Census of Population 2022 shows that employment within Brinny ED is weighted towards commerce and trade/ professional services and manufacturing industries than the wider population in Co. Cork, refer to Table 4-6 below. The population of this ED is less likely to be employed in sales and administrative industries

⁵https://census.cso.ie/sapmap2016/Results.aspx?Geog_Type=ED3409&Geog_Code=2AE196291F1A13A3E05500000000001#SAPMAP_T13_1301

⁶ Census data from Cork County Council is chosen as more representative than Cork City given the rural nature of the site

Table 4-6: Persons at Work in Brinny ED and County Cork by Industry

Industry	Brinny		County Cork	
	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	29	9.4	10,476	6.5
Building and construction	20	6.5	10,367	6.4
Manufacturing industries	55	17.8	28,798	17.9
Commerce and trade	67	21.7	34,664	21.5
Transport and communications	25	8.1	10,875	6.7
Public administration	17	5.5	7,854	4.9
Professional services	67	21.7	37,711	23.4
Other	29	9.4	20,426	12.7
Total	309	100.00%	161,174	100.00%

Indices of Deprivation

- 4.36 Pobal is an organisation that works on behalf of Government to support communities and local agencies toward achieving social inclusion and development. The organisation produces mapping information⁷ including on deprivation indices in order to identify areas in need of social/community investment. The overall levels of deprivation have been based on census data in relation to demographic profile, social class composition and labour market situation. According to the deprivation indices based on 2022 census data, Brinny ED is categorised as marginally above average (i.e. slightly advantaged).

Recreation, Amenity and Tourism

- 4.37 This section provides an overview of the recreation, amenity and tourism value in the immediate area, County Cork and the State in order to assess the potential effects arising from the proposed development.
- 4.38 Tourism is one of the major contributors to the national economy and is a significant source of full time and seasonal employment, particularly in remote rural areas which lack industry bases. Tourism statistics published by Fáilte Ireland⁸ for the South West region are reproduced in Table 4-7 below. Compared to the other regions of Ireland, the tourism sector in the region is extremely strong in terms of both visitor numbers and revenue generated. The South West region is particularly strong in terms of domestic tourism.

⁷

https://data.pobal.ie/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=3b0acba7eb694ffa85340a60f81d516c#data_s=id%3AdataSource_1-18b85a45500-layer-28-18b85a42b18-layer-27%3A5822

⁸

https://www.failteireland.ie/FailteIreland/media/WebsiteStructure/Documents/Research/Key%20Tourism%20Fact%20and%20Figures%202023/FI_Key-Tourism-Facts-2023_National-Summary.pdf?ext=.pdf

Table 4-7: South West Regional Performance (Tourism in 2023)

Region		Britain	Mainland Europe	North America	Other Areas	All Overseas	Northern Ireland	Domestic Trips
South West	Tourists (000s)	407	437	396	81	1,321	56	3,031
South West	Tourist Revenue (€M)	226	381	285	70	962	26	839

- 4.39 Feedback obtained from Fáilte Ireland from visitors reveal hiking and cross country walking as particularly popular amongst visitors to the Country as a whole. The economic importance of sustaining the natural environment is evident in the appeal of this type of activity as well as other outdoor pursuits such as cycling, golf, angling and equestrian activities. Doneraile Park and Blarney Castle & Gardens were the top fee-charging attractions in the Cork area in 2023. Doneraile Park was visited by 523,800 persons and Blarney Castle & Gardens was visited by 470,000 persons.
- 4.40 The tourism sector was heavily impacted by the Covid emergency in 2020 and has been steadily recovering since. The 'Tourism Barometer' issued by Fáilte Ireland in January 2025 reported that Ireland had mixed results in 2024, with 46% of businesses increasing their revenue in 2024, 18% sustaining the same level and 36% reporting a decrease. Restaurants and cafés reported the most decline.
- 4.41 Recreation and tourism amenities located within the vicinity of the proposed development are listed below. They are all located over 2 km from the site boundary.
- Castlenalacht Standing Stones, located c. 2.7km from the site boundary
 - Castlenalacht Lake, located c. 2.8km from the site boundary.
 - Clare O'Leary's Walk, located c. 2.2km from the site boundary
 - Dromkeen Wood Forest Walk, located c. 3.8km from the site boundary

Impact Assessment

Evaluation Methodology

- 4.42 The evaluation of effects on employment, the economy, human health and amenity comprises a qualitative assessment based on the quantitative and qualitative analysis of potential effects on the environment undertaken in other chapters of this EIAR. The assessment takes into account a review of relevant literature and professional judgement in relation to impact on population and human health.

Economy

Construction Stage Impacts

- 4.43 The planning application is for extension of the existing sand & gravel pit. Topsoil and subsoil stripping will be required in the extension area. These soils will be retained on site for use in restoration of the lands to agricultural use following

cessation of extraction. No construction stage impacts on economy have been identified.

Operational Stage Impacts

- 4.44 The sand & gravel pit will be a significant source of raw materials for the construction sector. The continued development of proven sand & gravel reserves at the site is required to ensure that Keohane readymix meets the demands of the market(s) they have built up in the region, including supply, to the local construction industry, infrastructure projects and Local Authorities.
- 4.45 The proposed development is of strategic importance in relation to the construction of new housing in particular and this is underlined by national objectives in relation to house building. The recently adopted National Planning Framework targets the delivery of 550,000 additional households in Ireland to 2040 (National Policy Objective 32).
- 4.46 This is a medium-term, direct and positive effect on the local and regional economy.

Employment

Construction Stage Impacts

- 4.47 The planning application is for extension of the existing sand & gravel pit. Topsoil and subsoil stripping will be required in the extension area. These soils will be retained on site for use in restoration of the lands to agricultural use following cessation of extraction. Employment will continue in line with that outlined under the Operational Stage below.

Operational Stage Impacts

- 4.48 The development will provide direct employment for up to 5 people (1 no. Manager; 3 no. Excavator / Shovel / Haul Truck Drivers and 1 no. Plant Operator) directly on-site, with 3 no. full-time drivers associated with the aggregate haulage and concrete deliveries. This employment will be secured for the operational duration of the development i.e. 15 years, with final restoration being carried out over a 2 year period (giving a total duration of 17 years). The development will also support further indirect employment through supplier and maintenance contracts.
- 4.49 This is a medium-term, direct and positive effect on employment.

Post – Operational Stage Impacts

- 4.50 Following the cessation of operations, the application site will be restored with final restoration being carried out over a 2 year period as stated above. The cessation of operations after restoration would result in the loss of jobs related to the extraction and restoration operations at the site. In the long term, the closure of the pit will result in a long term negative effect on employment.

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Tourism

Construction Stage Impacts

- 4.51 The planning application is for extension of the existing sand & gravel pit. Topsoil and subsoil stripping will be required in the extension area. These soils will be retained on site for use in restoration of the lands to agricultural use following cessation of extraction. No construction stage impacts on tourism have been identified.

Operational Stage Impacts

- 4.52 The potential for impacts on these tourism assets in relation to landscape and visual impact (scenic routes, protected views etc.) and traffic receptors has been considered in chapter 13 and 14 respectively. This shows that the potential for adverse effects on existing tourism assets is negligible.

Human Health

- 4.53 The key pathways in relation to human health in this instance are Water (EIAR Chapter 7), Air Quality (EIAR Chapter 8) and Noise (EIAR Chapter 10).

Construction Stage Impacts

- 4.54 The planning application is for extension of the existing sand & gravel pit. Topsoil and subsoil stripping will be required in the extension area. These soils will be retained on site for use in restoration of the lands to agricultural use following cessation of extraction. With implementation of the management and mitigation measures set out in the EIAR chapter 7 Water, Chapter 8 – Air Quality, and Chapter 10 – Noise no significant construction stage impacts on human health are envisaged.

Operational Stage Impacts

- 4.55 The operational stage of the development would relate to the extraction & processing of sand & gravel and the restoration of the site to agricultural use.
- 4.56 During the operational stage, the potential impacts on air, noise, and water may include the following:
- the generation of dust and noise, through the extraction & processing of sand & gravel;
 - the generation of noise by the operation of plant and machinery;
 - the leakage or spillage of fuels or other materials to soil and, ultimately to groundwater or surface water.
- 4.57 As outlined in Chapters 7, 8 and 10 of this EIAR, existing best practice mitigation and management measures are in place at the pit and will continue to be implemented. There is also an established environmental monitoring programme in place. With continued implementation of the existing management measures, the proposed development will not have a significant impact on the water environment; will not have a significant dust deposition impact on human receptors; and will have a negligible noise impact on human receptors.

- 4.58 On this basis, it is considered that there would be no likely significant effect on human health during the operational stage.

Post – Operational Stage Impacts

- 4.59 Following restoration, the potential effects on air and noise would cease owing to the cessation of extraction operations, the cessation of machinery operation and the growth of vegetation. The implementation of mitigation measures during the operational stage and the removal of all plant and machinery during restoration will ensure that there would no residual effects on soil and water during the post-operational stage.

Amenity

- 4.60 The key matters in relation to amenity in this instance are Air Quality (Chapter 8), Noise (Chapter 10), Landscape (Chapter 13) and Traffic (Chapter 14).

Construction Stage Impacts

- 4.61 The planning application is for the extension of the existing sand & gravel pit. Topsoil and subsoil stripping will be required in the extension area. These soils will be retained on site for use in restoration of the lands to agricultural use following cessation of extraction. With implementation of the management and mitigation measures set out in the EIAR chapter 7 Water, Chapter 8 – Air Quality, and Chapter 10 – Noise no significant construction stage impacts on amenity are envisaged.

Operational Stage Impacts

- 4.62 During the operational stage, the potential impacts on air, noise, and traffic include the following:
- the generation of dust and noise, through the extraction & processing of sand & gravel ;
 - the generation of noise by the operation of machinery;
 - the generation of traffic by the export of sand & gravel and value-added products from the site.
- 4.63 The landscape and visual impact assessment (refer to EIAR Chapter 14 – Landscape) has shown that the proposed operations at the application site will not have a significant effect on any of the landscape and visual receptors. Further to that, no designated landscapes, protected views or scenic routes will be affected.
- 4.64 As outlined in Chapters 8 – Air Quality, 10 – Noise and 14- Traffic of this EIAR, existing best practice mitigation and management measures are in place at the pit and will continue to be implemented. Based on these measures, the proposed development will not have a significant dust deposition impact and will have a negligible noise impact on amenity in the vicinity of the site. The results of the traffic assessment confirm that the development will have a negligible impact on traffic flows on the existing road network.

- 4.65 On this basis, it is considered that there would be no likely significant effect on amenity during the operational stage.

Post – Operational Stage Impacts

- 4.66 The lands within the site will be restored to agricultural use on a phased basis.
- 4.67 Following restoration, the potential effects on air, noise, and traffic related to the proposed development would cease owing to the cessation of extraction operations and the completion of restoration operations and the growth of vegetation. On this basis, it is considered that there would be no likely significant effect on amenity during the post-operational stage.

Unplanned Events

- 4.68 According to the EPA guidelines, unplanned events, such as accidents, can include “spill from traffic accidents, floods or land-slides affecting the site, fire, collapse or equipment failure on the site”. The 2014 EIA directive refers to “major accidents, and/or natural disasters (such as flooding, sea level rise, or earthquakes)”.
- 4.69 In this instance, the vulnerability of the proposed development to accidents, unplanned events or natural disasters is relatively limited owing to the established nature of the techniques and procedures to be followed, the material to be handled on site and the rural location of the proposed works remote from sensitive receptors.
- 4.70 Unplanned events in relation to the proposed development could potentially relate to:
- Land instability during extraction;
 - Spill from traffic accidents;
- 4.71 The HSA Safe Quarry Guidelines to the Safety Health and Welfare at Work (Quarries) Regulations 2008 As Amended will continue to be implemented and will limit the potential for unplanned events in the form of instability during extraction. The final restoration will provide for a stable landform restored to agricultural use.
- 4.72 Chapter 7 (Water) notes that accidental spillages or leaks of fuels or chemicals during site activities could happen without proper control and supervision. Appropriate mitigation measures and monitoring will continue to be implemented to ensure that there are no potential impacts on the water environment as a result of unplanned events at the site.
- 4.73 The traffic assessment, carried out as part of the EIAR (Chapter 14), indicates that existing road network can accommodate the proposed development. It is considered that the risk of an accident resulting in a spillage from traffic associated with the development would be no greater in relation to this development than it is for any other form of development that relies on the transportation of goods and materials by HGVs. The potential for significant impacts on employment, human health in the wider population or amenity as a result of a road spillage is likely to be very low and any such effects would be temporary.

Cumulative / Synergistic Impacts

- 4.74 The environmental consideration that has the greatest potential for significant cumulative impact on population and human health, and, in particular, on amenity, is traffic. This is assessed and discussed in the traffic impact assessment presented in Chapter 14 of this EIAR. That assessment concludes the traffic generation associated with the development. The results of the traffic and transport assessment confirm that the development will have a negligible impact on traffic flows on the existing road network.

Transboundary Impacts

- 4.75 It is not anticipated that the impacts of the proposed development would have any significant transboundary effects on population and human health.

Interaction with Other Impacts

- 4.76 It is not anticipated that the effects of the proposed development on population and human health would interact significantly with other impacts. The impact of residual effects relating air, noise, water, soil, landscape and traffic on employment, human health and amenity are addressed above.

‘Do-nothing Scenario’

- 4.77 In a ‘do-nothing scenario’, the sand & gravel resource at Kilmore, Brinny, would not be developed and the existing site would continue to operate under planning permission ref. 24/06269. On expiry of this permission, this would result in an adverse effect on employment and the local economy because the workforce would not continue to be employed at the site.

Mitigation Measures

Construction Stage

- 4.78 The planning application is for the extension of the existing sand & gravel pit. Topsoil and subsoil stripping will be required in the extension area. These soils will be retained on site for use in restoration of the lands to agricultural use following cessation of extraction. EIAR Chapter 6 – Land Soils Geology sets out the soil management measures that will be implemented at the site. Management and mitigation measures as set out in the EIAR Chapters 7 - Water, 8 – Air Quality, and 10 – Noise will be implemented during the construction stage.

Operational Stage

- 4.79 Mitigation measures to be adopted in relation to population and human health during the operational stage will relate to minimising the effect of the development on surrounding local receptors in relation to dust, noise, water, soil, traffic and landscape. The existing mitigation and management measures implemented at the pit relate primarily to avoidance, prevention and reduction and are discussed in

Chapters 7 - Water, 8 – Air Quality, 10 – Noise, 13 - Landscape and 14 - Traffic of the EIAR.

Post – Operational Stage

- 4.80 Consistent with the nature of the proposed final restoration works (returning the lands to beneficial agricultural afteruse) following permanent cessation of extraction activities a number of mitigation measures will be adopted in relation to population and human health during the post-operational restoration works. Such measures will be similar to the existing mitigation and management measures implemented at the pit and relate to minimising the effect of the development on surrounding local receptors in relation to air, noise, water, traffic and landscape. These measures relate primarily to avoidance, prevention and reduction and are discussed in Chapters 7, 8, 10, 13 and 14 of the EIAR.

Residual Impact Assessment

Construction Stage

- 4.81 The planning application is for extension of the existing sand & gravel pit. Topsoil and subsoil stripping will be required in the extension area. These soils will be retained on site for use in restoration of the lands to agricultural use following cessation of extraction. With implementation of the management and mitigation measures no significant residual construction stage impacts will arise.

Operational Stage

- 4.82 As shown in Chapters 7, 8, 10, 13 and 14 of this EIAR, the mitigation and management measures would successfully eliminate or reduce the effects of the proposed development during the operational phase to acceptable levels. No further specific mitigation measures are required in relation to population and human health.

Post – Operational Stage

- 4.83 As shown in Chapters 7, 8, 10, 13 and 14 of this EIAR, the mitigation and management measures would successfully eliminate or reduce the effects of the proposed development during the post-operational phase to acceptable levels. No further specific mitigation measures are required in relation to population and human health.

Monitoring

- 4.84 As outlined in Chapters 7, 8 and 10 of this EIAR, monitoring in relation to the proposed development will continue to be undertaken in respect of noise, air quality (dust deposition), and water. On this basis, no further specific monitoring is required in relation to population and human health.

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