

Spink Quarry, Knockbaun, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois

Spink Quarry

Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Section 12

Cultural Heritage

2021



Part of the Breedon Group

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12 CULTURAL HERITAGE

12.1 INTRODUCTION

Dr. Charles Mount was commissioned by J Sheils Planning & Environmental Ltd. on behalf of Lagan Materials Ltd. to prepare an assessment that addresses the impacts on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage of the application site and the surrounding area of a proposal for the continued use and operation of an existing permitted quarry at Knockbaun, Spink, Co. Laois.

The development will consist of the continued use and operation of the existing quarry including deepening of the quarry. Extraction will be confined to the existing permitted quarry area (P.A. Ref. 10/383) comprising an extraction area of c. 14.5 ha within an overall application area of c. 19.6 ha. The development will include provision of new site infrastructure, including portacabin site office, canteen, toilets, concrete batching plant and truck washdown facility, hydrocarbon interceptors, mobile crushing and screening plant, upgrading of the water management system, provision of holding tank for wastewater, and other ancillaries. The proposed development will utilise/upgrade the existing insitu quarry infrastructure, including site access, internal roads, storeroom, wheel wash, weighbridge, aggregate storage bays, refuelling hard stand, water settlement pond system, and other ancillaries (Refer to Figure 1.3).

The site location and study area are indicated in Figure 12.1.

12.2 SCOPE OF WORK / METHODOLOGY

This study which complies with the requirements of Directive EIA 2014/52/EU is an assessment of the known or potential cultural heritage resource within a specified area and includes the information that may reasonably be required for reaching a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the project on the environment, taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment. It consists of a collation of existing written and graphic information in order to identify the likely context, character, significance and sensitivity of the known or potential cultural heritage, archaeological and structural resource using an appropriate methodology (EPA 2002 and 2003).

The study involved detailed investigation of the archaeological and historical background of the development site, the landholding and the surrounding area extending 1 km from the development boundary (see Figure 12.1). This area was examined using information from the Record of Monuments and Places of County Laois, the Laois County Development Plan, lists of excavations and cartographic and documentary sources. A field inspection was carried out to identify and assess any known archaeological sites and previously unrecorded features and portable finds within the area of landholding.

An impact assessment and mitigation strategy have been prepared. An impact assessment is undertaken to outline potential adverse impacts that the proposed

development may have on the cultural resource, while a mitigation strategy is designed to avoid, reduce or offset such adverse impacts.

The application site is in the townland of Knockbaun Co. Laois, on Laois OS Six Inch sheet No. 30, adjoining the south of the R430 regional road and c. 9 km to the south-east of the town of Abbeyleix. Extraction will be confined to the existing permitted quarry area (P.A. Ref. 10/383) comprising an extraction area of c. 14.5 ha within an overall application area of c. 19.6 ha.

Extracts from the Record of Monuments and Places for County Laois are presented on a map of the local area around the site in Figure 12.1. RMP sites included on the Records of Monuments and Places statutory mapping are identified by black circles and polygons. The application area is outlined in red.

12.3 AUTHOR

The assessment was prepared by Dr. Charles Mount who is a member of the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland and a member of the Discovery Programme and has more than thirty years of cultural heritage assessment experience. He holds M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in archaeology as well as a professional diploma in EIA and SEA Management (Refer to EIAR Section 1.9 for further details on qualifications and experience).

12.4 LIMITATIONS / DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

No difficulties were encountered during the desktop study, field inspection or in the preparation of this report.

12.5 REGULATORY BACKGROUND

The following paragraphs set out the regulatory background regarding cultural impact assessments in Ireland in general and the site-specific planning background relevant to this cultural impact assessment.

12.5.1 LEGISLATION

No specific Irish legislation exists governing cultural heritage assessments.

12.5.2 PLANNING POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

The Laois County Development Plan 2017-2023 (CDP) is the statutory plan detailing the development objectives/policies of the local authority. The plan includes objectives and policies, relevant to this assessment, i.e., regarding cultural heritage (Refer to Appendix 1).

12.5.2.1 Cultural Heritage

Chapter 7 of the County Development Plan sets out the policies on cultural heritage within the county. The Council is committed to the conservation and preservation of the environment and will seek to continue to protect natural resources of the county through the enforcement of policies and relevant legislation. Any proposed development affecting areas of natural and/or manmade environment must be carried out in an acceptable manner and be in compliance with the policies of the Plan.

In relation to Built Heritage it is an objective to the Council to:

OBJ1 Encourage the understanding of, access to and promotion of County Laois' historic architectural heritage and archaeological heritage;

OBJ 2 Recognise the importance of archaeology and National Monuments as part of our heritage and provide public access, subject to reasonable conservational restrictions, reasonable considerations of public safety and avoidance of adverse effects on extant land uses, to Archaeological Sites and National Monuments in state, Council or private ownership. Traditional access routes will be designated as public rights of way. In other cases, routes will be acquired either by agreement with landowners or way of compulsory powers. Appropriate signage will be put in place;

OBJ3 Protect the intrinsic value, character, integrity and settings of monuments and places in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMPs) and any forthcoming statutory register and protect Zones of Archaeological Potential against inappropriate development;

OBJ4 Protect all structures listed in the Record of Protected Structures, that are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical character or interest in County Laois;

OBJ 5 Designate Architectural Conservation Areas in Ballyroan, Mountmellick, Mountrath, Stradbally and Portarlinton [the latter in conjunction within Offaly County Council] over the Plan period;

OBJ6 Enable and ensure the preservation and enhancement of the special character of existing and forthcoming Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) of County Laois and their settings;

OBJ7 Protect the setting and promote the importance of the Rock of Dunamaise as a cultural and tourism asset;

OBJ8 Secure the protection of the Dunrally Viking Fort;

OBJ9 Maximise the potential of the Fort of Maryborough, also known as the Fort Protector in Portlaoise, as a heritage/cultural and community and tourism site;

OBJ 10 To work with stakeholders including the OPW, the Heritage Council, the Arts Council, local communities and businesses to support the development of heritage and cultural tourism in County Laois; and

OBJ 11 Implement, promote and support, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders (including the County Heritage Forum, the Heritage Council, community groups and the wider public) the aims and objectives contained in the Laois County Heritage Plan 2014-2019 and any revision thereof and take cognisance, in assessing planning applications and preparing development plans, the provisions of the Plan.

In relation to Protected Structures it is the policy of the Council to:

BH1 Protect structures or parts of structures of special interest or character by maintaining a Record of Protected Structures (RPS) (see CDP Appendix 1), structures which form part of this record are afforded special statutory protection;

BH 2 Consult with the DAHG in considering planning applications that may affect Protected Structures or architectural conservation areas. The Council will have regard to comments made by the Department and relevant guidelines such as the Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DAHG 2011);

BH 3 Encourage owner's awareness of the legal implications of owning a Protected Structure and support owners of Protected Structures by providing advice and guidance in relation to development proposals;

BH 4 Encourage owners or prospective owners to seek Section 57 Declarations in order to provide certainty about the extent of works that can be undertaken without planning permission;

BH 5 Safeguard Protected Structures from works that would adversely affect or erode their special character and where proposals are made to extend a protected structure or to site new buildings within the curtilage of a Protected Structure, ensure Protected Structure status is used as a stimulus to the imaginative and considered design of new elements;

BH 6 Encourage the full use of Protected Structures, subject to the compatibility of the use with the character of the Protected Structure;

BH 7 Ensure a proper balance between the retention of the special character of a Protected Structure and proposals to alter or extend it to ensure its utility as a structure, thereby conserving its special interest. It is well recognised that any structure that has no viable use is unlikely to have a viable future and the function and usage of all structures evolve over time. "Modern" living standards in terms of utility, water, sanitary and telecommunications services will be accommodated, in addition to transport, requirements and evolving spatial standards. However, it is important to ensure that the special interest of a Protected Structure is not gradually eroded by minor alterations; and

BH 8 Favourably consider proposals for tourism and recreation development, which involve the reinstatement, conservation and / or replacement of existing disused buildings, and to adopt a positive interpretation of plan policies to encourage such development.

In relation to Vernacular Buildings it is the policy of the Council to:

BH 9 Recognise the importance of the contribution of vernacular architecture which may not be protected to the character of a place and promote where feasible the protection, retention and appropriate revitalisation and use of the vernacular built heritage, including structures that contribute to landscape and streetscape character and discourage the demolition of these structures; and

BH 10 Promote the re-use of old buildings for rural development opportunities. A range of small-scale uses for old buildings may be possible without substantial alteration such as including but not limited to arts and craft workshops or tourism and self-catering accommodation, small-scale manufacturing industry, such as including but not limited to cheese making, small-scale engineering and furniture making.

In relation to Architectural Conservation Areas it is the policy of the Council to:

BH 11 Consider favourably development proposals within an ACA that t would either preserve or enhance the special character or appearance of the ACA. In considering applications for changes of use, the Council will be concerned with maintaining the character of that t area;

BH 12 Manage change within Architectural Conservation Areas by preserving what makes the ACA special, allowing for alterations and extensions where appropriate, enhancing the quality of the ACA by identifying opportunity sites;

BH 13 Support owners of properties within ACA's through providing advice and guidance in relation to development proposals;

BH 14 Ensure that applications for new development within or affecting an ACA (infill development, conversions, alterations, extensions, shopfronts, advertisements) pay attention to detailed matters such as finishing materials, rainwater goods, fenestration details, any external illumination, scale, layout, built form, proportions, building lines and relationship of proposals to the site and surrounding area;

BH 15 Ensure new buildings are designed with due consideration to their architectural context regardless of whether a historical or contemporary approach to design is taken; and

BH 16 Demolition of buildings or substantial parts of structures in cases where those structures make a positive contribution to the special character of the ACA will not be acceptable in principle. Only in exceptional circumstances, where the redevelopment would produce substantial benefits for the community which would decisively outweigh the loss resulting from demolition, would demolition of this nature be considered. Replacement structures of a lesser quality, appropriateness or interest than the existing one will not be accepted.

In relation to Historic Gardens it is the policy of the Council to:

BH 17 Ensure that new development will not adversely affect the site, setting or views to and from historic gardens and designed landscapes; and

BH 18 Require that any proposals for new development in an historic garden or demesne include an appraisal of the landscape, designed views and vistas, and an assessment of significant trees or groups of trees, as appropriate.

In relation to Archaeological Heritage it is the objective of the Council to:

OBJ1 Secure the preservation (in-situ or by record) of all sites and features of historical and archaeological interest;

OBJ2 Secure the preservation (in situ) of existing archaeological monuments including the integrity of town defences, town walls, embankments, town gates, bastions or ancillary fortifications or portions thereof. Preservation by record may also be appropriate in some circumstances [as determined by the Planning Authority] in accordance with Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage;

OBJ3 Ensure that development in the vicinity of a site of archaeological interest shall not be detrimental to the character of the archaeological site or its setting by reason of its location, scale, bulk or detailing;

OBJ4 Achieve a satisfactory buffer area between the development and town defences in order to ensure the preservation and enhancement of the amenity associated with the presence of town defences within the historic urban pattern;

OBJ5 Have regard to the preservation and enhancement of the line of town defences when considering development proposed in their vicinity. Disturbance, removal and alteration of the line of town defences shall not be considered appropriate within the historic cores of Ballinakill, Castletown, Dunamaise, Killabban, Portarlinton and Portlaoise;

OBJ6 Retain the existing street layout, historic building lines and traditional plot widths where these derive from medieval or earlier origins;

OBJ7 Require the preparation and submission of an archaeological assessment detailing the potential impact of any development on both upstanding monuments, and buried structures and deposits. The report will also include a visual impact assessment to ensure adequate consideration of any potential visual impact the proposed development may have on any upstanding remains;

OBJ 8 When considering proposals for extractive Industry, the applicant shall have regard to:

- the Archaeological Code of Practice agreed between Irish Concrete Federation and National Monuments Division;
- the Code of Practice for Bord Na Mona;
- and other Archaeological Codes of Practice <https://www.archaeology.ie/codes-of-practice>; and
- Currently the Code of Practice with TII is at an advanced stage (pers. comm.).

OBJ9 Prepare a visual impact statement of the area around the Rock of Dunamaise and detail the potential impacts of development in the area.

In relation to Rock of Dunamaise it is the policy of the of the Council to:

ARCH1 Work closely with the relevant State bodies on the conservation of the Rock of Dunamaise to ensure its protection for future generations;

ARCH2 Continue to develop the Council's educational role with regard to the built heritage and to promote awareness and understanding of the built heritage; and

ARCH3 Seek visual impact statements for developments within the area around the Rock in order to assess the potential impacts of development in the area;

ARCH4 Promote and develop the importance of the Rock of Dunamaise as a cultural and tourism resource.

In relation to Zones of Archaeological Potential it is the policy of the of the Council to:

It is the policy of the Council to:

ARCH5 Ensure protection of Zones of Archaeological Potential, as identified in the Record of Monuments and Places;

ARCH6 Have regard to archaeological heritage when considering proposed infrastructure developments (including transport, telecommunications, sewerage and water) located in close proximity to Recorded Monuments or Zones of Archaeological Potential;

ARCH7 Ensure that all archaeological excavations are undertaken to the highest standard and the resultant information made publicly available. Developers will be required to have regard to Archaeology and Development: Guidelines for Good Practice for Developers (ICOMOS, 2000) in planning and executing development in sensitive areas; and

ARCH8 Continue to develop the Council's educational role with regard to the built heritage and to promote awareness and understanding of the built heritage.

In relation to Industrial Archaeological it is the policy of the of the Council to:

ARCH9 Support the conservation, interpretation and appreciation of significant archaeological assets and industrial archaeological in the county;

ARCH10 Protect the integrity, character, value and settings of Recorded Monuments and Places and the settings of National Monuments from inappropriate development;

ARCH11 Ensure the appropriate management of Zones of Archaeological Potential;

ARCH12 Facilitate and enhance public access to and understanding of the archaeological resource of the county;

ARCH13 Support the preservation or conservation of historically significant street patterns, building lines and plot widths in its towns and villages as well as the preservation of features such as town walls, historic revetments, and public realm features such as granite kerbing, historic drinking fountains, cobbles, vent pipes whether or not they benefit from protection in their own right;

ARCH14 Protect and enhance archaeological monuments and their settings including town walls, town embankments and ditches, town gates, bastions or ancillary fortifications;

ARCH15 Promote public awareness of the rich archaeological heritage in the area;

ARCH16 In areas of archaeological potential, where groundworks are proposed, the Council favours the preservation in-situ of archaeological remains, where areas of archaeological potential are located in town centres or villages, preservation of archaeological remains by record will be considered. Where it is proposed to undertake groundworks to lands within an area of archaeological potential or in the vicinity of a recorded monument, the Council will require:

- i. the preparation of an archaeological field evaluation by a licensed archaeologist. This assessment comprises an account of the archaeological and historical background of the site, an evaluation of the nature, importance, extent and locations of archaeological remains and of the likely impacts of the development proposals on archaeological remains. Trial trenches are excavated as part of the evaluation process;
- ii. the submission of a method statement indicating how the development will be carried out in order to minimise the impact on sub-surface archaeological remains. This could comprise (i) a statement advising how the location of archaeological remains informed the decision on where to locate structures within the site (ii) a no-dig specification in relation to hardstanding areas and boundary walls (iii) non-invasive foundations, such as hand-excavated foundation pads for lightly-loaded structures rather than trench foundations;
- iii. the retaining of a licensed archaeologist to carry out a full archaeological excavation, of all areas that are subject to groundworks and the preservation of archaeological remains by record prior to commencement of development and the furnishing of a copy of the excavation report to the Council and the local library;
- iv. the retaining of a licensed archaeologist to supervise the carrying out of groundworks during the development process and when deemed necessary by the archaeologist, the cessation of groundworks pending the excavation of any potentially significant archaeological remains by the archaeologist, and the furnishing of an excavation report on same to the Council and the local library; and

ARCH17 Contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection and preservation of underwater archaeological sites.

12.5.3 GUIDELINES

The report format and some of the descriptions of effects are based on the Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (Draft), published by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in May 2017.

Laois County Council Planning Authority, Viewing Purposes Only

12.6 RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

12.6.1 STUDY AREA

The overall study area extends 1 km from the application area in all directions and is shown in Figure 12.1.

12.6.2 BASELINE STUDY METHODOLOGY

Research has been undertaken in two phases. The first phase comprised a paper survey of all available archaeological, historical, and cartographic sources. The second phase involved a field inspection and assessment of the proposed development area.

12.6.3 PAPER STUDY

This is a document search. The following sources were examined and a list of sites and areas of archaeological potential compiled:

- Record of Monuments and Places County Laois;
- Record of Monuments and Places County Kilkenny;
- The Sites and Monuments Record;
- Available aerial photography;
- Cartographic and written sources relating to the study area;
- Laois County Development Plan 2017-2023;
- Kilkenny County Development Plan 2014-2020; and
- The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage.

12.6.3.1 The Record of Monuments and Places

This was established under section 12 (1) of the 1994 National Monuments (Amendment) Act and provides that the Minister shall establish and maintain a record of monuments and places where the Minister believes there are monuments, such record to be comprised of a list of monuments and relevant places and a map or maps showing each monument and relevant place in respect of each county in the State. The associated files contain information of documentary sources and field inspections where these have taken place. Five Recorded monuments were noted within the study area. All available information on these sites is provided in Appendix 12.

12.6.3.2 Cartographic Sources

This included seventeenth century mapping as well the 1st and 2nd editions of the Ordnance Survey six-inch maps and Documentary sources provide more general historical and archaeological background.

12.6.3.3 The County Development Plan

The Plan notes structures listed for preservation.

12.6.4 FIELD INSPECTION

A field inspection was carried out on the 5th of May 2021 to determine the location, extent and ascertain the significance of any archaeological sites and to identify any previously unrecorded or suspected sites and portable finds.

Laois County Council Planning Authority, Viewing Purposes Only

12.7 RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT, HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE

12.7.1 THE LANDSCAPE

The application site is located in south-east County Laois, in the townland of Knockbaun, on Laois OS Six Inch sheet No. 30, immediately to the south of the R430 regional road and c. 9 km to the south-east of the town of Abbeyleix. The application area is sloping agricultural land in use as rough pasture and quarry lands. The soil of the application area is an Ballylanders series fine loam over shale and slate bedrock (<http://gis.teagasc.ie/soils/map.php>).

12.7.2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The following is a brief summation of the main types of sites and monuments that are known from the study area along with the historical development of the study area. It is intended as a guide to the types of sites and monuments that might be encountered in the study area. The application site is situated in the townland of Knockbaun, in the civil parish of Dysartgallen and barony of Cullenagh.

12.7.2.1 The Prehistoric Period

There are several monuments known from the study area that date to the prehistoric period including three standing stones in Cleanagh (RMP LA024-048----), and Knockbaun (RMP LA024-050---- and LA024-053----) townlands. There are also two megalithic structures known from Knockbaun townland (RMP LA024-052---- and LA024-055----). The presence of these monuments indicates settlement in the study area during the prehistoric period.

12.7.2.2 The Early Medieval Period

In the Early Medieval period (500 AD-1170 AD) the study area formed part of the kingdom of Loigis which was ruled by the Loígis Réta kings, named from Mag Réta. Cinneidigh, son of Graeithin, is recorded in the Annals of the Four Masters as lord of Laeighis as early as 875. About 1017 Cearnach Ua Mordha (O'More) was recorded in the Annals as the lord of Laeighis. The O'More's remained the lords of Laeighis until the arrival of the Anglo-Normans in the twelfth century (MacCotter 2008, 33-35, 174).

Classically settlement at this period is indicated by the presence of enclosed farmsteads known as ringforts, when enclosed with earthen banks; and cashels when enclosed by stone walls. There are no ringforts known from the study area. There is a single large enclosure in Knockbaun townland (RMP LA024-054----) that may be the remains of a ringfort.

12.7.2.3 The Later Medieval Period

Following the loss of the Kingdom of Leinster in 1166, Diarmait Mac Murchada, King of Ui Chennselaig, regained the Kingdom in 1169-70 with the aid of Anglo-Norman

mercenaries. He paid them with land grants and promised the succession of Leinster and his daughter to their leader Richard fitz Gilbert de Clare. By the time of de Clare's death in 1176, when the Lordship of Leinster passed to King Henry II, the process of sub-infeudation (the granting of lands by lords to their dependents, to be held by feudal tenure) was well under way. In 1181 Meiler fitz Henry was granted the manor of Laois. He established the capital of Laois at Dunamase but later gave up Laois to Robert Marshall when he entered a monastery.

The parish of Dysartgallen (in which the study area is located) was part of the manor of Gallen and was a military fief held by a Knight of the Manor of Dunamase. In 1434-5 the tenant of Dysartgallen was Philip Fitzhenry (Otway-Ruthven 1961, 176). It was some time after this that the study area once again came under the control of the O'More Sept.

The process of sub-infeudation is normally associated with the construction of timber castles, known as Motte and Baileys. These earthwork fortifications were used to house and defend the Norman lords and their retinues while they set about the process of pacifying and organizing their new fiefs. However, there are no Mottes in the study area and the closest example is to the west in Moat townland (LA030-021002-).

Manorialism describes the organisation of the feudal rural economy and society characterised by the vesting of legal and economic power in a Lord supported economically from his own direct landholding and from the obligatory contributions of a legally subject part of the peasant population under his jurisdiction. In Ireland the Lord's Manor House was also sometimes enclosed by a rectangular moat and these sites are referred to as moated sites. They are a useful indicator of Anglo-Norman settlement. However, there are no Moated sites in the study area and the closest example is to the west in Boleybeg townland (LA024-046----).

12.7.2.4 The Post-Medieval Period

The fifteenth century was characterised by the decline of Anglo-Norman power in Ireland which had been ebbing since the early fourteenth century. During this period masonry tower houses were constructed throughout the island (Sweetman 1999, 137). However, there are no Tower Houses in the study area and the closest example is to the west in the town of Ballinakill (RMP LA030-018001-).

In the early sixteenth century Patrick O'More was the lord of Gallen but in 1551 he was attainted and Gallen was initially leased to Robert Sentleger (Nichols 1994, No. 684) and in 1552 to Richard Mannering (Ibid. No. 1145). In 1556 the area of modern Laois was shired as Queen's County and the O'Mores lost much of their lands during the subsequent plantation of the county by new settlers. In 1570 Alexander Cosby and his wife Dorcas Sydney were granted the manor of Gallen by Queen Elizabeth (Ibid. No. 1623) and the manor was confirmed to them in 1593 (Ibid. No. 5825). The Cosbys sold and leased some of these lands in the seventeenth century. Griffiths Primary Valuation of Ireland 1847-64 records that in the mid-nineteenth century the application area was held by William Brennan and Mrs Gertrude Keating (<http://griffiths.askaboutireland.ie/>).

12.7.3 BUILDINGS

12.7.3.1 Protected Structures

The Laois County Development Plan 2017-2023 Record of Protected Structures and the Kilkenny County Development Plan 2014-2020 was examined as part of the baseline study for this chapter of the EIAR. The review established that there are no Protected Structures situated within the application area or the study area.

12.7.3.2 Non-designated Structures

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) which is maintained by the Dept. of Housing, Local Government and Heritage was examined as part of the baseline study on the 24th of April 2020. The review established that there are no additional structures included in the NIAH situated within the application area or the study area.

12.7.3.3 Field Inspection

Fieldwork was carried out 5th of May 2021 to identify any additional upstanding non-designated structures in the vicinity of the proposed extraction area. This involved assessing all upstanding structures that are marked on the 1912 edition of the six-inch Ordnance Survey mapping within 300 m of the application area (see Figure 12.1). There are three structures situated in this area.

12.7.3.3.1 Structure 1

Detached three-bay two-storey farmhouse with slate roof and two chimneys. No special architectural or heritage interest (Plate 12.1).

12.7.3.3.2 Structure 2

Detached four-bay single-storey cottage with slate roof, two chimneys and porch entrance. Substantial inline two-storey extension at west. No special architectural or heritage interest (Plate 12.2).

12.7.3.3.3 Structure 3

Detached four-bay two-storey farmhouse with slate roof, single chimney and porch entrance. Inline outbuildings at both gable ends, one partly demolished. No special architectural or heritage interest (Plate 12.3).

12.7.4 ARCHAEOLOGY

12.7.4.1 Archaeological Assessment

12.7.4.1.1 Recorded Monuments

Examination of the Record of Monuments and Places for County Laois indicated that there are no Recorded Monuments located within the application area (see Figure 12.1 and Appendix 12).

The closest Recorded Monument to the application externally is LA024-052---- a Megalithic structure in Knockbaun townland. It is described in the Record of Monuments as:

Marked only on the 1909 edition of the OS 6-inch map. Situated on a rock-strewn SW-facing slope, this feature consists of a stone, 1.40 m by 1.30 m by 690 cm thick, resting horizontally above a slight hollow in the ground. On its upper surface are portions of a circular groove which seems to have been about 1 m in diameter. The groove is 1 cm wide and 0.05 cm deep. The hill-top on which the stone stands is littered with natural blocks of stone.

This monument is located 0.45 km to the north-east of the application area and is considered too far distant to be directly or indirectly impacted by the proposal.

The remaining Recorded Monuments in the study area located at further distances from the application area and are considered to be too far distant to be directly or indirectly impacted by the proposal.

12.7.4.1.2 Undesignated Monuments

Examination of the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) which is maintained by the Dept. of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on the 23rd of April 2020 indicated that there are no SMR sites in the application area or the study area.

12.7.4.1.3 Cartographic Sources

The Ordnance Survey 1st and 3rd edition six-inch maps and the first edition 25-inch maps of the area were examined. The analysis did not indicate any previously unrecorded archaeological or cultural heritage sites in the application area or vicinity.

12.7.4.1.4 Place Name Evidence

The place names were extracted from the cartography in order to facilitate the search for structures and monuments and small finds, to help identify any unrecorded monuments or structures, to search for any published papers and documents related to the study area and to assist in the study of the historical development of the area. The English translations of the townland names of the study area presented below are

based on Logainm.ie. The placenames refer mainly to topographical features, and landcover.

Aughatubbrid or Chattsworth field of the spring

Cleanagh	sloping field
Garrintaggart	garden of the priest
Graiguenahown	village of the river
Knockbaun	white hill

12.7.4.1.5 Artifacts

Examination of a number of standard corpus studies was carried out including: Irish battle axes Simpson 1990; An analysis of Irish early Bronze Age hoards containing copper or bronze objects O’Flaherty 1995; Hoards of the Irish Later Bronze Age Eogan 1983; La Tène in Ireland Raftery 1984; The Funerary Bowls and Vases of the Irish Bronze Age Ó Ríordáin and Waddell 1993; The axes of the Early Bronze Age in Ireland Harbison 1969 and The Bronze Age burials of Ireland Waddell 1990 as well as the complete corpus of the Early-Middle Bronze Age artefacts of Co. Laois in Mount 1997. No finds from the study area were noted.

12.7.4.1.6 Archaeological investigations in the study area

The excavations bulletin at excavations.ie which is supported by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage was examined to identify any licensed archaeological investigations carried out in the application area or the study area. The analysis indicated that there have been no licensed archaeological investigations carried out in the application area or the study area.

12.7.4.1.7 Laois Development Plan 2017-2023

No sites of archaeological importance, National Monuments, or protected structures listed in the Laois Development Plan are located within the proposed development area.

12.7.4.1.8 Aerial Photographs

Examination of the Ordnance Survey 1995, 2000 and 2005 imagery as well as Google earth imagery from 2005, 2009, 2010, and 2018, and 2020, Bing imagery from 2011 and Apple Maps imagery from 2017 did not indicate any additional archaeological or cultural heritage sites in the application area.

12.7.4.1.9 Field Assessment

A field inspection was carried out on 5th May 2021 to identify any previously unknown archaeological or cultural heritage sites. See Plate 12.4 for the numbered fieldwork areas.

12.7.4.1.9.1 Area 1

This is the area of existing rock extraction (see Plate 12.5). There is no indication of any cultural heritage material.

12.7.4.1.9.2 Area 2

This is area to the south-east of the existing rock extraction. It has been stripped of overburden down to the surface of the rock, partially worked, and the soil has been stored to the north-east and south-east (see Plate 12.6). There is no indication of any cultural heritage material.

12.7.4.1.9.3 Area 3.

The southeasternmost section of the land holding (c. 4.7 ha), remains as undisturbed scrub and poor grazing land and will remain in place to form a natural screening barrier from views to the east and northeast. This is a pentagonal-shaped field of east and northeast sloping rough pasture enclosed by stone walls and hedges. The northern roughly half of the field slopes to the north-east and is rough, damp pasture with overgrown areas of hazel and whin to the north-east boundary and south (see Plate 12.7.) The southern part of the field slopes to the south-east and is extensively overgrown with impenetrable whin with only a narrow central area of boggy ground clear (see Plate 12.8). There is no indication of any cultural heritage material.

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12.8 ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The following Impact Assessment matrix provides an indication of the significance of potential effects arising during the life cycle of the development not accounting for any mitigation measures.

Table 12.1 Cultural Heritage - Impact Matrix			
'Do Nothing' Impacts	X		
Factors	Construction	Operation	Decommissioning
Direct Impacts	X	X	X
Indirect Impacts	X	X	X
Cumulative Impacts	X	X	X
Residual Impacts	X	X	X
'Worst Case' Impacts	X	X	X
None/imperceptible: X; Slight: ●; Moderate: ●; Significant/Very significant: ●. <i>Refer to Appendix 3 for definition of Significance</i>			

12.8.1 DO NOTHING IMPACTS

If the proposed development were not to proceed there would be no negative impact on the cultural heritage.

12.8.2 DIRECT IMPACTS

There will be no direct impacts on any known items of archaeology, cultural heritage or buildings of heritage or special architectural interest in the application area or the vicinity.

12.8.3 INDIRECT IMPACTS

There will be no indirect impacts on any known items of archaeology, cultural heritage or buildings of heritage or special architectural interest in the application area or the vicinity.

12.8.4 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

There will be no cumulative impacts on the archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage resource.

12.8.5 RESIDUAL IMPACTS

As a result of the proposed mitigation and enhancement measures incorporated in the design, no significant, adverse residual impacts on the archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage resource are predicted during the operational phase.

It is considered that following full restoration and closure of the site that there will be no significant, long-term, adverse impacts in terms of cultural heritage. The restored quarry will provide a more manageable environment than is currently the case, but with a change in land-use from the original agricultural use to mineral extraction to ultimately a future beneficial use as a wildlife amenity.

12.8.6 WORST CASE IMPACT

In the worst case scenario, the development might disturb previously unknown deposits or artefacts. However, this is unlikely given that the proposed development will be confined to previously worked areas and disturbed ground.

12.9 MITIGATION MEASURES

12.9.1 DIRECT IMPACTS

No direct impacts warranting specific mitigation were identified during the course of the cultural heritage assessment.

12.9.2 INDIRECT IMPACTS

No indirect impacts warranting specific mitigation were identified during the course of the cultural heritage assessment.

12.10 REFERENCES

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12.11 FIGURES

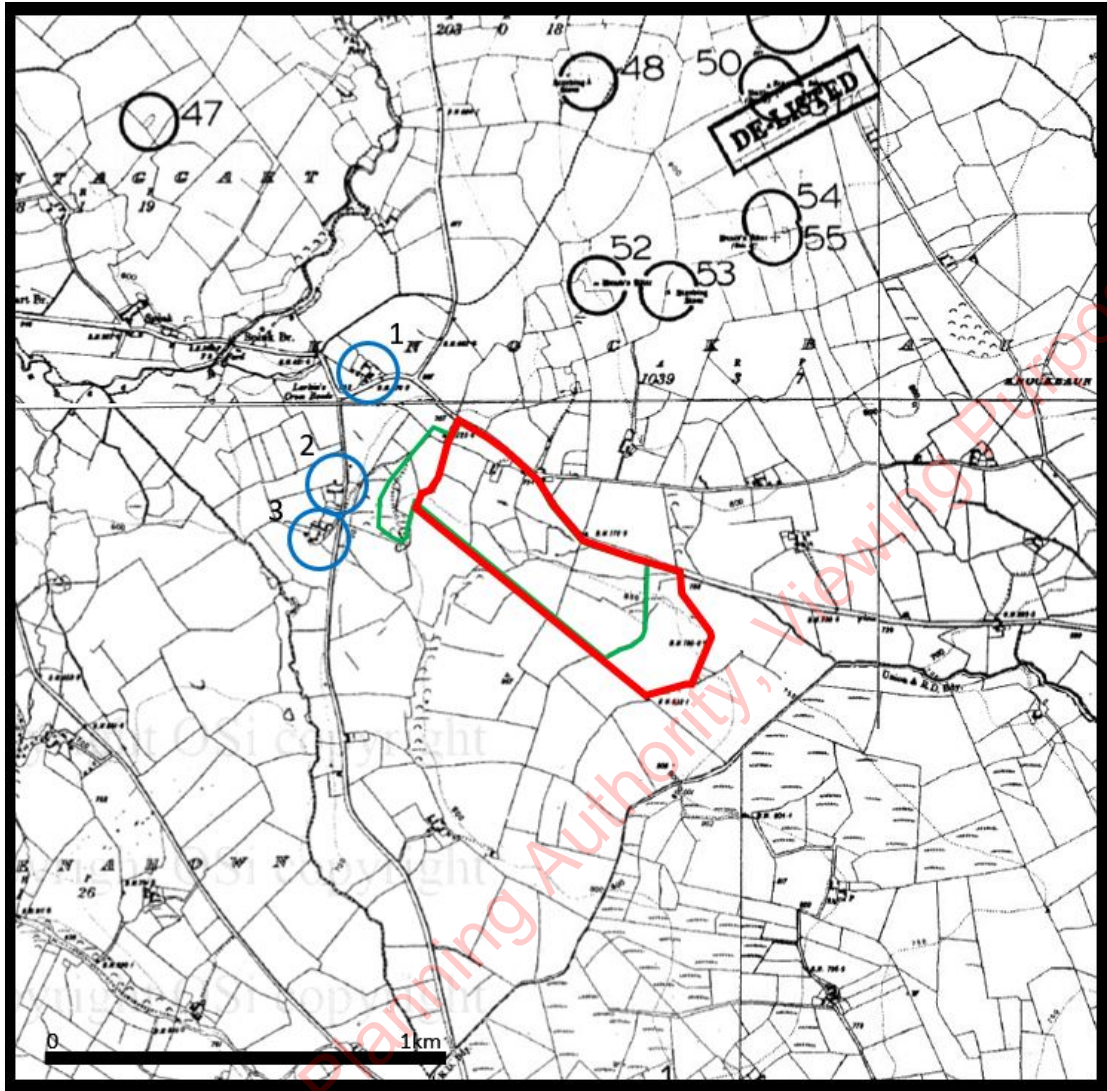


Figure 12.1 The study area indicated on the RMP map of Laois Sheet Nos. 24, 25, 30 and 31 and Kilkenny Sheet Nos. 1 and 2.

The application area is indicated with the red line, and the permitted extraction area (P.A. Ref. 10/383) with the green line. The RMP sites are indicated with black circles and structures within 300 m of the application area with blue circles.

12.12 PLATES



Plate 12.1 Structure 1 looking north

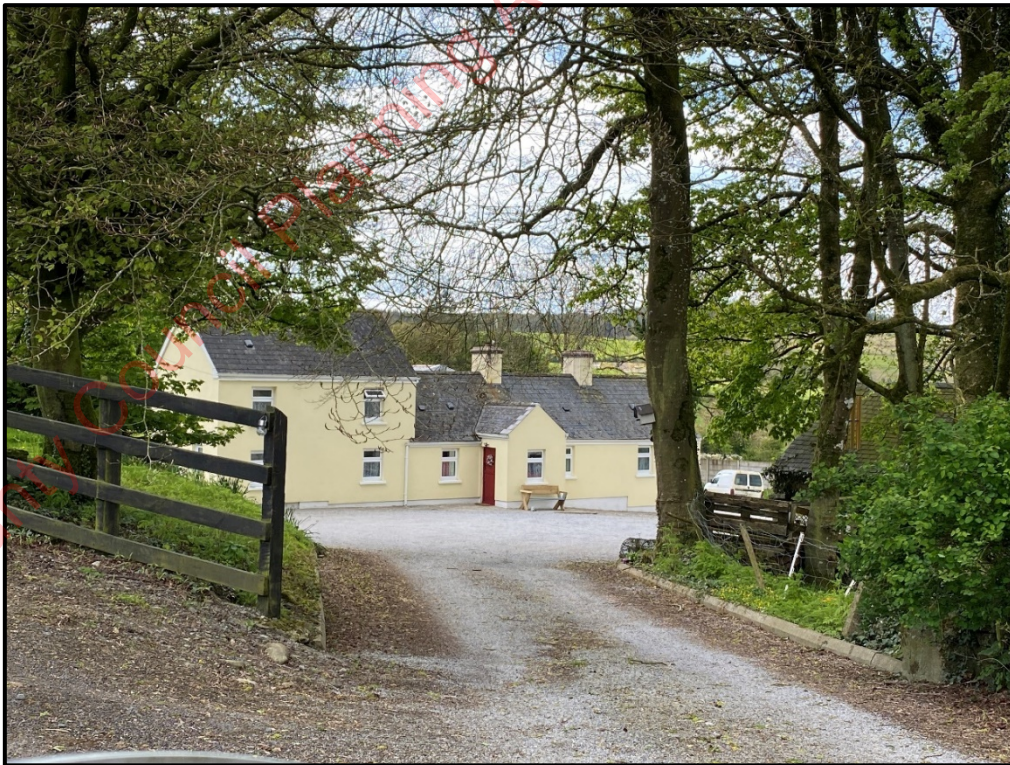


Plate 12.2 Structure 2 looking south-west.



Plate 12.3 Structure 3 looking south-west.



Plate 12.4 The numbered fieldwork areas indicated on a Google Earth 2010 aerial photograph.



Plate 12.5 View of area 1 looking north-west.



Plate 12.6 Panoramic view of area 2 looking south-east.



Plate 12.7 Panoramic view of area 3 looking south-east.



Plate 12.8 Panoramic view of area 3 looking north-west.

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