

**Castlepollard Quarry, Deerpark, Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath**

## **Castlepollard Quarry**

# **Environmental Impact Assessment Report**

### **Section 15**

## **Interactions of the Foregoing**

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Part of the Breedon Group

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## 15 INTERACTIONS OF THE FOREGOING

### 15.1 INTRODUCTION

Schedule 6 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (S.I. 600/2001) sets out the requirement to consider the interrelationships of certain aspects of the environment as part of the EIA process. All environmental factors are inter-related to some extent, and this section draws attention to significant interactions and interdependencies in the existing environment.

Interactions are usually highly complex, and a change in any one factor, such as land-use or water quality, could affect all of the other interrelated factors. Assessors need to be vigilant for pathways – direct and indirect – that can magnify effects through the interaction or accumulation of effects – for instance the potential for cumulative significant effects to arise from multiple non-significant effects. Although almost all environmental aspects are inter-related to some degree only the significant interactions are usually considered in an assessment.

The scoping stage should consider the likely relevant interactions that need to be assessed in the EIAR. The EPA (2017) notes that the interactions between impacts on different environmental factors should be addressed as appropriate throughout the EIAR. The interactions of the impacts and mitigation measures between one topic and another, where applicable, are discussed under the respective environmental factor in sections 4 to 14, rather than in Section 15 Interactions. This section draws attention to significant interactions and interdependencies in the existing environment, but the actual interactions and their significance are dealt with in the relevant chapter.

An EIAR is typically prepared by a number of specialist consultants, and as a result, it is important that the interactions between the various disciplines are also considered. Close co-ordination and management within the EIA team is needed to ensure that interactions are adequately addressed throughout an EIAR.

The general practice is to include a matrix to show where interactions between effects on different environmental factors have been addressed. This is usually done using the actual headings used in the EIAR for each factor. The following matrix has been generated to show where possible interactions (top of matrix) may result between the various environmental factors including brief details (bottom of matrix). For details of any interactions refer to the relevant sections of the EIAR.

Table 15 Interactions Matrix

Con	Construction Phase	Op	Operational Phase	x	No Interaction	<span style="color: green;">●</span> Weak Interaction <span style="color: orange;">●</span> Some Interaction <span style="color: red;">●</span> Strong Interaction																
Factors (Interaction)	4 Population & Human Health		5 Biodiversity		6 Land, Soils & Geology		7 Water		8 Climate		9 Air Quality		10 Noise & Vibration		11 Landscape		12 Cultural Heritage		13 Material Assets		14 Traffic	
	Con.	Op.	Con.	Op.	Con.	Op.	Con.	Op.	Con.	Op.	Con.	Op.	Con.	Op.	Con.	Op.	Con.	Op.	Con.	Op.	Con.	Op.
4 Population & Human Health			●	●	●	●	X	●	X	X	●	●	●	●	●	●	X	X	X	●	X	●
5 Biodiversity	The single Peregrine Falcon recorded nesting on the cliff face of the NW area of the site will not be affected by the proposed development. Vegetation clearance will be undertaken outside the bird nesting season from 1st March to August 31st				●	●	X	●	X	X	●	●	●	●	●	●	X	X	X	X	X	X
6 Land, Soils & Geology	Moderate, long-term, negative impact due to removal of resources. Significant, long-term, positive impacts if site restoration includes provision for preservation, promotion and access to designated geoheritage features.		There will be no significant change to the quarry habitats. The predicted direct effect on footprint habitats is neutral, imperceptible and long-term.				X	●	X	X	X	X	X	X	●	●	X	X	X	●	X	X
7 Water	No potential for significant drawdown nor potential for impact on local wells is predicted. No PWS nor GWS abstractions within the radius of influence of the quarry have been identified. No other quarry nor other developments are within a significant distance to affect a cumulative impact.		Surface water catchment is ~1%, of >1000 km <sup>2</sup> surface water catchment of the closest downstream SAC, i.e., Lough Ree. No impact is possible at this ratio, distance and the magnitude of the land mass in between the site and any sensitive receptor.						X	●	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	●	X	X
8 Climate	X		X		X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
9 Air Quality	The impacts of dust from the operations will be direct, slight, occasional, negative and confined to the site area. Mitigation measures will be implemented to minimise any impacts as much as practical to ensure the operation of the quarry will not result in any significant impact on residences or local amenities.				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	●	X	X	X	X	X	X	●
10 Noise & Vibration	Residences along R395 are typically experiencing noise levels of >55 dBLAeq during daytime hours due to passing traffic. It is considered that any direct impact with respect to noise emissions will be long-term, slight, negative due to continued operation of the quarry.		The single Peregrine Falcon recorded nesting on the cliff face of the NW area of the site will not be affected by the proposed development. Vegetation clearance will be undertaken outside the bird nesting season from 1st March to August 31st		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	●	X	●
11 Landscape	It is expected that in the absence of mitigation measures that there will be slight to moderate negative effects with respect to local amenity and residential receptors as a result of development of Castlepollard Quarry. Consideration has been given to screening using preservation of existing vegetation, provision of screening berms as necessary, progressive restoration of upper quarry face and the final restoration of the quarry site once operations at the site cease		Moderate, long-term, negative impact due to removal of resources. Significant, long-term, positive impacts if site restoration includes provision for preservation, promotion and access to designated geoheritage features.				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	●	●	X	X
12 Cultural Heritage	X		X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
13 Material Assets	Moderate, permanent, negative impact due to removal of mineral resources. Significant, long-term, positive impacts if site restoration includes provision for preservation, promotion and access to designated geoheritage features.		X		Moderate, permanent, negative impact due to removal of mineral resources. Significant, long-term, positive impacts if site restoration includes provision for preservation, promotion and access to designated geoheritage features.		Groundwater as a source of water supply is not a receptor because there are no domestic wells and no public water supply wells in proximity.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	●
14 Traffic	The traffic impact of the quarry site on the R395 will result in an increase in traffic on the network, but this increase is considered not significant. The existing capacity of the adjacent road network has been shown to comfortably accommodate these minor increases.		X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

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