

File With _____

SECTION 131 FORM

Appeal NO: ABP - 315708-23

Defer Re O/H

Having considered the contents of the submission ~~dated~~ received 28/05/24
from

Heather Robinson I recommend that section 131 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000
~~be~~ not be invoked at this stage for the following reason(s): Pending Review by Inspector and Board.

E.O.: Laura Grady Lawlor

Date: 10/06/24

For further consideration by SEO/SAO

Section 131 not to be invoked at this stage.

Section 131 to be invoked – allow 2/4 weeks for reply.

S.E.O.: _____

Date: _____

S.A.O.: _____

Date: _____

M _____

Please prepare BP _____ - Section 131 notice enclosing a copy of the attached submission

to: _____ Task No: _____

Allow 2/3/4weeks – BP _____

EO: _____

Date: _____

AA: _____

Date: _____

File With _____

CORRESPONDENCE FORM

Appeal No: ABP-315708-23

M _____

Please treat correspondence received on 28/05/24 as follows:

1. Update database with new agent for Applicant/Appellant _____	
2. Acknowledge with BP 23 _____	1. RETURN TO SENDER with BP _____
3. Keep copy of Board's Letter <input type="checkbox"/>	2. Keep Envelope <input type="checkbox"/>
	3. Keep Copy of Board's letter <input type="checkbox"/>

Amendments/Comments

Response to S.131 Notice received from Heather Robinson

4. Attach to file (a) R/S <input type="checkbox"/> (d) Screening <input type="checkbox"/> (b) GIS Processing <input type="checkbox"/> (e) Inspectorate <input type="checkbox"/> (c) Processing <input type="checkbox"/>	RETURN TO EO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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	Plans Date Stamped <input type="checkbox"/>
	Date Stamped Filled in <input type="checkbox"/>
EO: Laura Grady Lawlor	AA: Sinead White
Date: 06/06/24	Date: 10-06-24

Oakfield Park

Oakfield Demesne, Raphoe, Co. Donegal
Tel: 00353 (0)74 91 45555
www.oakfieldpark.com

Case Number ABP-315708-23
Planning Authority Reference Number 2250933

For the Attention of Laura Grady Lawlor
Executive Officer
An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
DO1 V902

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
LDG- _____	
ABP- _____	
28 MAY 2024	
Fee: € _____	Type: _____
Time: 9:44	By: POST

24th May 2024

Re:- Demolition of existing concrete structure and the quarrying of 5.37 hectares which will be subject to extraction and processing rock through drilling, blasting, crushing and screening and all associated ancillary facilities/works of a 25 year period. An Environmental impact Assessment Report and Natura Impact Statement accompanies this application. Magherasolis and Craigs, Raphoe, Lifford PO, Co Donegal.

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to make my objection and observations in relation to the above application.

Point 1: The alleged dumping of waste

Considering that this site was used for public dumping whilst it was in the ownership of Donegal County Council, I have no confidence that the Council will sufficiently enforce future environmental checks should the works permission be granted. This will become a significant problem once the quarrying is completed and abandoned.

Point 2: Groundwater Flow volumes

The Greentrack consultant's report states that *"The outflow rate was observed to be higher than anticipated taking into account average Effective Rainfall for the quarry void catchment"*. With the increasing effects of global warming over the next 25 years on our climate, causing milder and much wetter weather, I do not think that any reliable prediction can be made as to how the flow regime will be changed with the proposed quarry operation.

Over 20 years ago when we developed the lower gardens at Oakfield Park we paid huge attention to managing the flood attenuation area. This involved installation of a lock and bypass system, a large lake, reed beds for filtration and large areas of wetland habitat. This flood risk management was essential. We find however, that it is already under extreme stress and often only just coping. Huge volumes of sediment are deposited from the streams, which has only worsened in recent years. This involves extensive and expensive digging out and clearing, now on an annual basis in order to keep the water courses running effectively.

A Victorian Ram Pump, originally installed near the house in the 1840's, to pump fresh stream water to the walled gardens, is now constantly breaking down due to extra debris carried in the water. The excess dust and waste run off into the local groundwater flow systems will be severely increased by any local quarrying activities.

Point 3: Water Discharge Volumes

Greentrack have made estimates in their water management proposals which include a 30% increase for climate change. I doubt that these provisions will be enough and that there will inevitably be future unforeseen extreme weather events ahead that will cause stormwater damage to the surrounding area of Raphoe. This could easily be avoided by not granting permission to quarrying work.

Any excessive storm water damage and increase in discharge volumes will have a very detrimental effect on all the wildlife and natural habitats that we have created here at Oakfield Park. Since our work developing the water management system we have seen a huge increase in the variety of native species of birds and mammals. Along the rivers many pairs of Grey Wagtails thrive with a huge variety of bird life supported by the stability of the lake and wetland areas. The rare Red-throated diver is resident on the lake as well as many other unusual species such as the Dabchick or Little Grebe. It is a great joy for tourists to Donegal and local garden visitors, to witness such abundant birdlife, as well as the opportunity of discovering newts, toads, frogs and even otters. I believe that the increased water discharge volumes of a local quarry operation will put this delicate balance at risk.

Point 4: Site restoration plan & water Management proposals

I am concerned that when the quarry has been exhausted and the restoration plan implemented that the large body of water (settlement pond) will be left as a scar on the landscape. There is no commitment to create any kind of environmental planting or sympathetic landscape work. Of most concern is the safety of this area to local children, once the site has been abandoned. With so many schools located nearby in the vicinity it has potential, unmanaged, to become a very dangerous area.

Point 5: Road access improvements proposals

In order to make this quarry operational, much unnecessary work will need to be undertaken to ensure that Raphoe's small local roads can accommodate the increased volumes of large artic or rigid lorries carrying oversized loads. This major increase in traffic within and through the Raphoe community is, I believe, unacceptable.

Point 6: Operational matters and sump

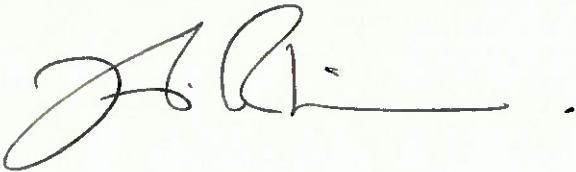
Regarding operational matters of the proposed quarry, I remain concerned about the levels of noise and dust on the local environment and community. I note the language used in the application; "*demolition, extraction, drilling, blasting, crushing and screening*". None of these intended operations are appropriate to be carried out, within a local residential community.

There are 30 towns listed in Donegal County. Only 5 of these have been designated as 'Heritage Towns'. It seems incredulous that Donegal County Council would consider granting such a project within the environs of Raphoe Heritage Town. It will severely impact the local community with noise, traffic and dust and put many future business and tourism opportunities at risk.

Oakfield Park has been developed as a tranquil and natural environment that can be accessed by the general public. After the rigours of the Covid 19 lockdown this was widely appreciated along with the understanding that enjoying nature can have huge beneficial effects on our mental health and well-being. With industrial quarry activities nearby, this will inevitably be threatened.

I object most strongly to this destructive quarry application. I believe it will be extremely detrimental to our local environment and will impact negatively on everything that we have striven to create over the last 25 years here at Oakfield Park.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Robinson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lady Heather Robinson