

APPLICATION TO AN BOARD PLEANÁLA FOR SUBSTITUTE CONSENT FOR A QUARRY UNDER SECTION 261A OF THE ACT

We, Hudson Brothers Limited, intend to apply for substitute consent under section 261A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, for development at this site at New Paddocks, Blessington, Co Wicklow W91 CH68 within the townlands of Athgarrett, Philipstown and Redbog, Co Kildare.

The development consists of a quarry over an area of 71.9 ha. with a final floor of approximately 188 mAOD. The reserve consists of sand and gravel which is extracted by mechanical means, and sandstone (greywacke) which is extracted by mechanical means. The excavated sand and gravel is transported to a plant area for washing, grading and processing. The excavated rock material is crushed and graded at the working face by mobile plant. The quarry has an existing processing plant and maintenance area of approximately 5 ha. that currently holds 1 no. maintenance shed (including underbody truck wash on a concrete apron surrounding the shed, staff welfare facilities [shower and toilet], proprietary wastewater treatment system and percolation area, interceptor and soakaway), 1 no. generator/power house (within a shipping container), 1 no. control room, 1 no. office and canteen, a water recycling plant, an aggregate processing plant (washing, crushing, and screening), 1 no. bunded fuel tank and generator room, 1 no. storage shed, 1 no. shipping container storage structure, and 1 no. shipping container. Within this plant/maintenance shed area is a fuel storage and refuelling area. The quarry is located predominantly in Co. Kildare but accessed via a shared laneway connecting to a single location on the N81 which is located within Co. Wicklow. Other items not specified in this application will be the subject of a separate planning application and the requisite statutory process of consultation and determination.

The existing operational quarry has been in use since the early 1950's and has been registered under S.261 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 with Kildare County Council under Quarry Ref. No. QR/42 and with Wicklow County Council under Quarry Ref. No. QY/43. Subsequent planning permission for continuance of quarrying operations was granted by the Wicklow County Council under Reg. Ref. 06/6932 in October 2009 for a period of 25 years and by Kildare County Council under Reg. Ref. 07/267 in April 2010, and subsequently by An Bord Pleanála under their Reg. Ref. PL09.235502 for a period of 10 years, which expired on 18th September 2020 after which quarrying stopped for a period.

Upon invalidation of a planning application under Kildare County Council Reg. Ref. 20/532 for continuance of the production of construction aggregate beyond 18th September 2020 and to extend the extraction area by just over 13 ha., the applicant sought leave to apply for substitute consent on 8th October 2021, which was granted by the Board on 1st August 2023 under An Board Pleanála Reg. Ref. 311622. This substitute consent application is made concurrent with an application to further develop the quarry at this location under section 37L of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended.

This substitute consent application is accompanied by a remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report (rEIAR) and remedial Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment Screening Report. The rEIAR is for an EIA project unit over 95.8 ha. that encompasses the area of the substitute consent application (71.9 ha.), the concurrent further development of the quarry application under S.37L, and the quarry as permitted under Planning Reg. Ref. 07/267 and PL09.235502.

Submissions or observations may be made on the application, to An Bord Pleanála, Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, free of charge. Submissions or observations must be in writing and made within the period of 8 weeks beginning on the date of receipt of the application by An Bord Pleanála and such submissions and observations will be considered by An Bord Pleanála in making a decision on the application. An Bord Pleanála may grant the consent subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant it.

The application for permission may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, or Kildare County Council, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare, W91 X77F during their public opening hours.

Any enquiries relating to the application process should be directed to An Bord Pleanála (Tel. 01-8588100).