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Lobinstown Quarry

Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Appendix 15

Cumulative Impacts Assessment

2024

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APPENDIX 15. CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

15.1 INTRODUCTION

Amongst the many likely significant impacts of the development described in this Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), cumulative impacts that may occur and must be assessed. The potential for cumulative impacts arising from the development in combination with other projects has been considered throughout this EIAR. Each of the environmental factors discussed in Chapters 4 through 14 have been considered in relation to cumulative impacts. In order to avoid repetition in each of these chapters, this section provides an overview of the identification and assessment of other projects located within the wider area that are potentially significant with respect to cumulative impacts and which are considered in the cumulative impact assessment. A section is included under the respective chapter for each environmental factor in which the cumulative impact assessment specific to that factor is given.

According to the EPA 2022 Guidance, Cumulative Effects or Impacts are “The addition of many minor or significant effects, including effects of other projects, to create larger, more significant effects.”

There is potential for cumulative impacts on the environment to arise associated with other projects, including but not limited to industrial and extractive developments in the surrounding area, that are in proximity to the proposed development. For the purpose of this assessment, a 5 km offset from the proposed development has been applied for the identification of other potentially significant projects, which is the generally recognised standard measure of proximity for developments of this nature.

The potential cumulative impact of the proposed quarry development in combination with other relevant developments was carried out with the purpose of identification of the influence the proposed development could have on the surrounding environment when considered cumulatively and in combination with relevant permitted, proposed and operational projects in the vicinity.

15.2 METHODOLOGY

The Cumulative Impact Assessments of potentially significant developments and projects has the following main objectives:

1. To determine the standoff, size, scale and nature of existing and planned projects within the 5 km radius cumulative impact study area of the proposed development.
2. Consideration of the catchment of the River Dee with respect to cumulative effects.
3. To provide a synopsis of the projects identified as having the potential to generate cumulative impacts.
4. To compile the anticipated cumulative impact findings based on the expert opinion for environmental factors. Detailed cumulative impact assessments are included in the respective subsections of the EIAR.
5. To identify the projects that have the potential for cumulative interaction with respect to the proposed development and omit those that will neither directly nor indirectly contribute to cumulative impacts.

A review of nearby, potentially significant developments and projects was conducted by a virtual tour using Google Earth and a search of planning and licensing databases for developments in the wider area around Heronstown, Lobinstown.

A virtual tour of the wider Heronstown area using Google Earth identified several major extractive and/or waste management developments in the wider area, including the O'Reilly Concrete Lobinstown Quarry c. 2.5 km to the west (currently in final stages of restoration), Roadstone's Slane Quarry, c. 7 km to the south, an unidentified quarry at Knockmooney on the N2 c. 8.5 km to the southeast, and a disused quarry, now operating as an SRF, at Mullaghduillon c. 6 km to the southeast. The only significant industrial activity within 5 km of the site is the industrial/warehouse estate in Grangegeeth, c. 4.5 km to the southeast, which houses Hibernia Steel Products, WK Composites, Eiregramco, R&M Buckets and Dawn Paper & Tissue Manufacturing.

The nearest substantial commercial activity is Meade Farm Group's Packing, Storage and Distribution facility c. 1.2 km northeast of the site at Braystown. The substantial facility employs c. 340 employees. Noel Meade Racing have a substantial stud farm and equestrian complex at Tu Va Stables, Painestown, Castletown Kilpatrick. Whites Auto Electrical have a small commercial unit in Matthews Transport Yard, Heronstown, c. 800 m north of the site on the L1603 (c. 185 m north of McEntegart's Cross Roads). PS Supplies, which is a company supplying doors and floors based in Navan, maintains a small commercial unit in Lobinstown Village, while Myles Staircases Ltd. also maintains a workshop and showroom c. 785 m south of the site on the L1603.

A search of the National Planning Application Database, Meath County Council ePlan Online Planning Inquiry website (See Online References below). The EPA website and the EPA Geoportal Site including the Unified GIS Application was used to carry out a search for any EPA Industrial Licenced, Waste and Waste Water Facilities in the study area. The projects

identified include extractive, industrial activities, residential, commercial, agricultural, equestrian and other developments.

The National Planning Application Database provides the planning points and site boundaries of existing and proposed developments on the myplan.ie map viewer. A map of the points and sites was extracted and georeferenced in ArcGIS 10.3.1. The Integrated Pollution Control (IPC), Industrial Emissions (IE) and Waste Management facilities licenced by the EPA were also overlain (Refer to Figure 1), allowing all the major extractive, waste management, industrial and large commercial developments in the wider area that pose the potential for cumulative impacts to be identified (Refer to Table 1).

The majority of other developments, such as one-off housing, community and agricultural developments, as well as small commercial and retail developments, due to their size, scale and nature and stand-off to the proposed development do not generate significant environmental effects during the construction or operational stages that would result in cumulative effects. These developments are also generally subject to compliance with planning conditions and would have been subject to screening for Appropriate Assessment, as necessary, by the relevant Local Authority and/or An Bord Pleanála on appeal.

Refused developments were also recorded, as these demonstrate intent on behalf of the developer to possibly pursue such development, either by appeal to the Bord or by reconstituting a revised/alternate planning application, and thus merit consideration.

Figure 1 presents the map of all the planning points and site boundaries recorded in the wider area during the last ten years on www.myplan.ie. The planning points and sites are colour coded according to the planning outcome: Granted (Green ●); Refused (Red ●); Withdrawn, Incomplete or Under Consideration (Orange ●). Relevant EPA licenced facilities, such as IE facilities (Magenta ■); IPC facilities (Green ■); waste facilities (Red ■); and urban waste water treatment (UWWT) plants (Blue ■), within the map area have also been overlain. Those developments identified as potentially significant and lying within the 5 km offset are labelled with their planning file reference number (See Table 1). The 1, 3 and 5 km buffers around the application site are shown on the map to indicate the offset of the other developments.

The material for this cumulative impact assessment was compiled on existing and planned developments within the vicinity of the proposed development. The material includes EIS/EIARs, Annual Environmental Reports (AERs), miscellaneous Planning & Environmental Reports, Appropriate Assessment (AA) / Natura Impact Statements (NIS), planning application details and planning drawings, Planners (Council and ABP) reports, EPA Inspector reports, Information received on RFI, IPC and IED license documents, and miscellaneous others. Review of this material allowed identification of the size, scale and nature of the developments, their activities, emissions and environmental impacts, as well as likely cumulative impacts associated with the proposed development.

Ten developments are identified, none of which was refused planning permission, and all were considered here. The EPA (2022) states it is prudent to have regard to likely future environmental loadings, and the applications indicate possible intent to reapply for planning permission.

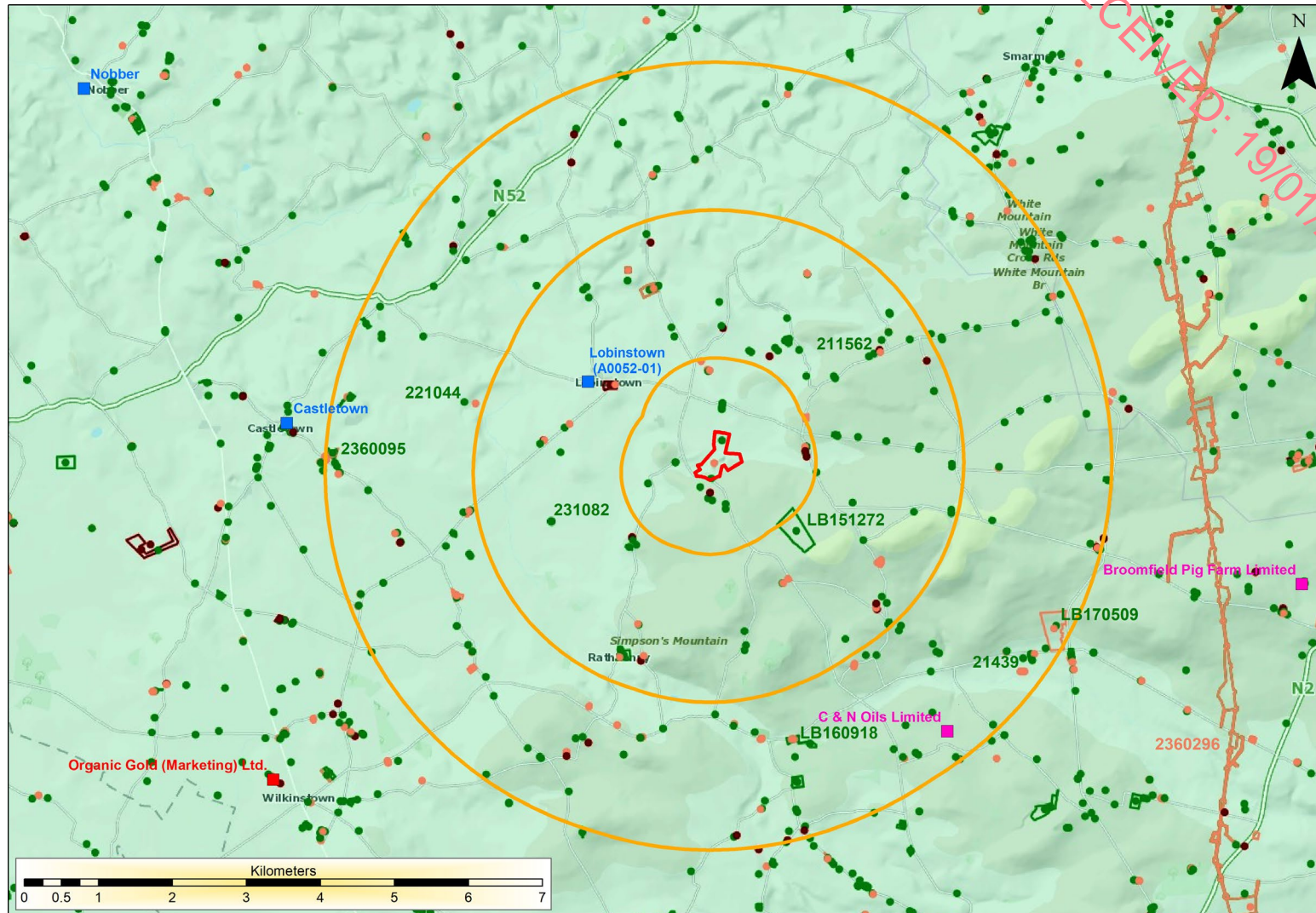


Figure 1 Map showing Developments with which Lobinstown Quarry Potentially has Cumulative Impacts

Standoff distances of 1, 3 and 5 km from Lobinstown Quarry are shown with orange lines. Note PA. Ref. 2360296 (at lower right) refers to major upgrade of 220 kV transmission line outside of 5 km study area. Rendered in ArcGIS 10.3.1 using extract from www.myplan.ie and data from EPA.

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Table 1 Developments with Potential for Significant Cumulative Impacts

Name	Type / PA. Ref.	Principal licenced Activity	Location	Distance
Uisce Éireann	A0052-01	Wastewater Discharge Licence for WWTP discharge to tributary of Killary Water.	688986E 782575N	1.8 km
C & N Oils Ltd.	IPC P0043-01 (88/32)	Mr. Geoffrey Fitzpatrick (Jnr) processing offal in bone meal plant at Ardcaif, Slane, Co. Meath.	693822E 777860N	4.5 km
Name	PA. Ref.	Principal Activity	Location	Distance
Meade Potato Company	21/1562 (PL 311834-21)	Retention of demolition of 3 no. potato storage shed, erection of replacement shed abutting to northeast (roadside) of existing building and all associated works at Braystown, Lobinstown, Co. Meath.	691607E 783123N	1.25 km
Three Ireland (Hutchison) Ltd.	LB151272	Retention of 30 metre antenna support structure (previously granted permission under SA/901206 for 5 years) and associated infrastructure at Creewood, Slane, Co. Meath.	691787E 780563N	1.45 km
Brian & Patricia Conroy	LB160918	Alterations to previously approved development (SA120863): Increase proposed extensions to 736 sq.m in total. Convert entire completed building (1027 sq.m in total) to a 30 bedroomed annex, ancillary to the neighbouring Tankardstown House. Associated minor external landscaping works at Tankardstown Lodge, Rathkenny, Co. Meath.	691718E 777606N	3.75 km
Hibernia Steel Products Limited	21/439	Installation of 287 solar panels (106.19 kWp) on a 725 sq. m roof section of an existing building and all associated works at Grangegeeth, Slane Co. Meath.	694931E 778820N	4.6 km
JBM Solar Developments Ltd.	LB170509 (PL 17.248939)	Development of solar farm consisting of photovoltaic (PV) solar panel array on 11 ha site at Grangegeeth, Slane, Co. Meath.	695266E 779238N	4.8 km
GF Farrelly Haulage Limited	23/60095	Retention of existing lorry compound to north of lorry compound as granted under NA/20103 and of hard standing area to east of lorry compound at Knock, Castletown, Co. Meath.	685455E 781600N	5.0 km
Mill Farm Solar Project Ltd	22/1044	Development of a solar PV energy development on c.97 ha at Stokesquarter, Painestown, Killary, Ricetown, Castletown, Co. Meath.	687262E 782303	2.7 km
Highfield Solar Limited	23/1082	Development of a solar PV energy development on 131.93 ha at Killary & Rathkenny, Co. Meath.	688676E 780807N	1.1 km

- Notes:**
1. EPA License Type: IPC denotes Integrated Pollution Control; and Waste denotes Waste Management.
 2. The planning points and sites are colour coded according to the planning outcome: Granted (Green ●); Refused (Red ●); Withdrawn, Incomplete or Under Consideration (Orange ●). Relevant EPA licenced facilities, such as IE facilities (Magenta ■); IPC facilities (Green ■); waste facilities (Red ■); and urban waste water treatment (UWWT) plants (Blue ■), within the map area have also been overlain (Refer to Figure 1).
 3. Locations given in Irish Transverse Mercator (ITM) Coordinates.
 4. Distance given as distance between planning point or site boundary and nearest point on boundary of proposed development at Heronstown.

15.3 DESCRIPTIONS OF POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

15.3.1 WASTE WATER DISCHARGE CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORISATION A0052-01

Applicant – Meath County Council.

Townland of Lobinstown.

Lobinstown Sewage Scheme at ITM Coordinates 688,986E, 782,575N, c. 1.8 km northwest of the site.

On 22nd December 2009, Meath County Council submitted an application to the EPA for a waste water discharge certificate of authorization in respect of the Lobinstown Sewage scheme. The WWTP is a Puraflo system that provides secondary treatment and consists of a septic tank, filtration and a percolation area located adjacent and to the rear of a housing estate at the southwest corner of the village. The system has a design capacity of 60 p.e. and services 16 houses in the village with a population of c. 44. The WWTP discharges to a tributary of the Killary Waters at 688986E, 782575N. The EPA Granted licence A0052-01 on 27th May 2011.

The operation of the WWTP has now been transferred to Uisce Éireann, which assumed responsibility for the water infrastructure in the State in January 2014.

Given that there are no sources of organic wastes at the application site, it can reasonably be inferred that there is no potential for cumulative impact resulting from the quarry in respect to Lobinstown WWTP's discharge.

15.3.2 IPC LICENCE P0043-01

Applicant – Mr. Geoffrey Fitzpatrick of C & N Oils Ltd.

Townland of Ardcaif.

Bone Meal Plant at ITM Coordinates 693,822E, 777,860N, c. 4.5 km southeast of the site.

On 25th January 1988, an application for planning permission was submitted to Meath County Council for a development consisting of a "Meal Store extension to existing Bone Meal Plant....." The plant was used to render animal by-products. Ultimately, the application was withdrawn on 27 July 1994.

On 30th June 1995, an IPC licence was sought for: (1) emissions to air from the boiler house stack; (2) land spreading; and (3) surface water discharge. The EPA appear to have Granted licence P0043-01 on 18th December 1997, but documentation is very limited.

A virtual tour of the facility at Ardcaif was done using Google Earth Pro, and showed that the facility is derelict and partly overgrown, indicating that the facility ceased operations a number of years ago.

15.3.3 PA. REF. 21/1562 (PL. 311834-21)

Applicant – Meade Potato Company

Townland of Braystown.

Retention of demolition of 3 no. previous potato storage sheds, erection of replacement shed abutting to northeast (roadside) of existing building and all associated works at ITM Coordinates 691,607E 783,123N c. 1.25 km north of the site.

On 12th August 2021, Meade Potato Company submitted an application for planning permission to Meath County Council in respect of a development consisting of “Retention of demolition of 3 no. previous potato storage sheds, erection of replacement potato storage shed abutting to northeast (roadside) of remaining existing building all as constructed and all associated works.” On 21st September 2023, the Council issued a Conditional Grant with 12 no. attached conditions (PA. Ref. 21/1562).

The decision was subject to a third party appeal to An Bord Pleanála, who on 8th September 2023 upheld the decision of the Council and Granted planning permission for the development (PL 311834-21).

Condition No. 5 of ABP PL 311834-21 states that “The operation of this development shall not give rise to any emissions of malodours, fumes, gas, dust or other deleterious materials, industrial effluent and noise, vibration or electrical interference generated on site such as would give rise to reasonable cause for annoyance to any person in residence or public place in the vicinity.” Thus, it is considered that the likelihood of cumulative impacts between these two developments with respect to emissions of any form is not significant.

The Meade Potato Company, now renamed the Meade Farm Group, comprises separate divisions for Potatoes, Fruit & Veg, Prepared Foods and Starch. The Group is based at the farm and food production facility (46,500 m²) at Braystown, Lobinstown, with each division housing numerous state of the art production lines.

The Group maintains a workforce of c. 340 employees, which are based at the Braystown facility. The traffic associated with Meade’s would use the L1603 and L1604, including McEntegart’s Cross Roads, and thus share the same haulage routes as Lobinstown Quarry. Thus, traffic associated with Meade’s Braystown Farm Facility is the only aspect that might give rise to cumulative impacts in combination with Lobinstown Quarry.

15.3.4 PA. REF. LB151272

Applicant – Three Ireland (Hutchison) Ltd.

Townland of Creewood.

A 30 metre antenna support structure (previously granted permission under SA/901206 for 5 years) and associated infrastructure at ITM Coordinates 691,787E, 780,563N, c. 1.45 km southeast of the site.

On 25th November 2015, Three Ireland submitted an application for planning permission to Meath County Council in respect of a development consisting of “Retention of 30 metre antenna support structure (previously granted permission under SA/901206 for 5 years) and associated infrastructure at Creewood, Slane, Co. Meath.” On 26th January 2016, the Council Granted Retention with six attached conditions (PA. Ref. LB151272).

Condition no. 6 states that “In the event of the proposed structure becoming obsolete and being decommissioned, the developers shall at their own expense, remove the mast and antennae and return the site to its original condition.” No limit on the duration of the development was stipulated as a condition of the permission, and as such Condition No. 6 suggests that the duration is indefinite while the mast and antennae are in use.

The mast is located close to the summit of the hill immediately west of Slieve Bengh at an elevation of c. 200 m OD. The mast is c. 1km to the east and there is no significant cumulative visual impact with respect to both developments.

15.3.5 PA. REF. LB160918

Applicant – Brian & Patricia Conroy.

Townland of Rathkenny.

Alterations to previously approved development (SA120863): Increase proposed extensions to 736 sq.m in total. Convert entire completed building (1,027 sq.m in total) to a 30 bedroomed annex, ancillary to the neighbouring Tankardstown House. Associated minor external landscaping works at ITM Coordinates 691718E 777,606N c. 3.75 km south of the site.

On 22nd August 2016, Brian & Patricia Conroy of Tankardstown House submitted an application for planning permission to Meath County Council in respect of a development consisting of “alterations to previously approved development (Ref SA120863) as follows: increase new east and west extensions 736 sq.m in total. Convert entire completed building (1027 sq.m in total) to a 30 bedroomed annex, ancillary to the neighbouring Tankardstown House. Associated minor external landscaping works to driveway, car parking and lawn areas.” On 22nd December 2016, the Council issued a Final Grant with 11 no. attached conditions (PA. Ref. LB160918).

The development relates to the Tankardstown House, an 18th Century Manor House and Orangery, which offers an upmarket choice for accommodation, dining, weddings and meetings, set in the 80 acre surrounds of gardens and parkland. Traffic associated with large events staged at the venue is the only aspect that might give rise to cumulative impacts in combination with Lobinstown Quarry.

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15.3.6 PA. REF. 21/439

Applicant – Hibernia Steel Products Limited

Townland of Grangegeeth.

Installation of 287 solar panels (106.19 kWp) on a 725 sq. m roof section of an existing building and all associated works at ITM Coordinates 694,931E 778,820N c. 4.6 km southeast of the site.

On 8th March 2021, Hibernia Steel Products Ltd. submitted an application for planning permission to Meath County Council in respect of a development consisting of “the installation of 287 solar panels (106.19 kWp) on a 725 sq. m roof section of an existing building and all associated works at Grangegeeth, Slane Co. Meath.” On 10th June 2017, the Council issued a Final Grant with 10 no. attached conditions (PA. Ref. 23/439).

Hibernia Steel Products’ facility occupies almost half (c. 3.86 ha) of the Grangegeeth Industrial Estate (c. 7.95 ha), which is located c. 4.5 km southeast of Lobinstown Quarry, and c. 3.3 km west of Balrenny Cross on the N2 national primary road. Hibernia is Ireland's largest independent steel stockholder with over 15,000 tonnes of steel in stock on-site. Hibernia serves the structural engineering, agricultural and residential sectors, and specialises in the supply of IPE, universal beams, universal columns, plate, channels, hollow sections, angles and flats, as well as many ancillary products. They offer state-of-the-art, automated steel cutting and drilling, shot blasting and priming and next day delivery with a modern fleet of trucks. A traffic assessment report by jRy Consulting in 2018 indicates that the traffic generated currently at the Hibernia facility is of the order of 90 staff car movements, 30 small to medium customer truck movements, and 20 heavy (40 ft) articulated delivery truck movements per day.

Grangegeeth Industrial Estate is also home to WK Composites, Eiregramco, R&M Buckets and Dawn Paper & Tissue Manufacturing.

R&M Buckets manufacture excavating buckets and attachments for all the major excavating machines such as JCB, Cat, Volvo and many more. They provide a standard excavating buckets or will custom design and build a bucket or attachment. They provide digging buckets, grading buckets and specialised grabs for construction, Agri-loader attachments such as silage forks, shear grabs, couplers, front loaders and hi-tip buckets, and a number of land drainage products such as mole ploughs, gravel tunnel ploughs, stone carts and tile drain buckets.

WK Composites specialise in the design and production of custom fiberglass products. Services include the design and production of plugs, moulds and the production of composite elements as shower tray, glass reinforced plastic (GRP) wall panels, fiberglass sandwich panels, GRiP anti-slip products, racing cars, GRP car body kit, and much more.

Dawn Paper & Tissue Manufacturing manufactures a range of quality industrial cleaning paper and domestic tissue paper products for the Irish market.

Eiregramco Ltd provides a high-quality, architectural design stone cladding service for the construction industry. They are leading specialist sub-contractors for the supply and installation of natural stone wall cladding systems.

Traffic associated with the Grangegeeth Industrial Estate is considered to be the only aspect that might potentially give rise to cumulative impacts in combination with Lobinstown Quarry. However, it is unlikely that any of the companies based at the estate use the L1603 or L1604 as a significant haulage route. As such, it is considered that the likelihood of cumulative impacts between the estate and the proposed development at Lobinstown Quarry is not significant.

15.3.7 PA. REF. LB170509 (PL 17.248939)

Applicant – JBM Solar Developments Ltd.

Townland of Grangegeeth.

Development of solar farm consisting of a photovoltaic (PV) solar panel array on 11 ha site at ITM Coordinates 695,266E, 779,238N c. 4.8 km southeast of the site.

On 11th May 2017, JBM Solar Developments Ltd. submitted an application for a ten year planning permission to Meath County Council in respect of a development consisting of “the installation of a photovoltaic (PV) solar panel array consisting of up 11 hectares of solar panels on ground mounted steel frames, electrical substation, client side substation, inverter cabins, underground cable ducts, a temporary site compound and ancillary facilities, boundary security fencing, CTV, associated site roads and site works.” On 4th July 2017, the Council issued a Conditional Grant with 21 no. attached conditions (PA. Ref. LB170509). The decision was subject to a third party appeal to An Bord Pleanála, who on 16th March 2018 upheld the decision of the Council and Granted planning permission for the development (PL 17.248939).

Condition No. 3 of ABP PL 17.248939 states that “the permission shall be for a period of 25 years from the date of the commissioning of the solar array. The solar array and related ancillary structures shall then be removed unless, prior to the end of the period, planning permission shall have been granted for their retention for a further period.”

Traffic associated with the construction and decommissioning phases of the development is the only aspect that might give rise to cumulative impacts in combination with Lobinstown Quarry. However, it is unlikely that the L1603 will be utilised as a haulage route given that the development is within 3 km of the N2 Primary Road via the L5604. As such, it is considered that the likelihood of cumulative impacts between the solar farm and the proposed development at Lobinstown Quarry is not significant.

15.3.8 PA. REF. 23/60095

Applicant – GF Farrelly Haulage Limited

Townland of Knock.

Retention of existing lorry compound to north of lorry compound as granted under NA/20103 and of hard standing area to east of lorry compound at ITM Coordinates 685,455E, 781,600N c. 5 km west of the site.

On 16th June 2023, GF Farrelly Haulage Ltd. submitted an application for planning permission to Meath County Council in respect of a development consisting of “the Retention of an existing lorry compound area to the North of the lorry compound as granted under Planning Reference No. NA/20103, Retention of existing hard standing area to the East of the existing lorry compound, Full Planning Permission to change the hard standing area from agricultural use to a lorry compound area, and all ancillary site development works.” On 21st September 2023, the Council issued a Final Grant with 6 no. attached conditions (PA. Ref. 23/60095).

Condition No. 3 states that “The applicant shall be limited to a maximum of 40 vehicles on inward and 40 vehicles on outbound trips. Of these 24 Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV) movements, a max of 12 HGV inward and 12 HGV outward shall be allowed to access the site daily as permitted under planning reference ref: 22/1587.”

Condition No. 6 states that “Surface water from the site shall be disposed of within the boundaries of the site and shall not discharge onto the public road or adjoining property. All proposed soakaways shall be designed to BRE Digest 365 standards and shall not be constructed within 5 metres of the foundations of the building or under a road. All work shall comply fully with the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (GDSDS).”

Condition No. 3. of the PA. Ref. 23/60095 restricts traffic to 24 truck movements per day, such that the HGV traffic associated with the development is considered low, too distant (i.e., <2 km from the N52 National Secondary Route via L3406 at Castletown), and unlikely to share the same haulage routes (i.e., L1603 or L1604 local roads), to give rise to cumulative impacts in combination with Lobinstown Quarry. Thus, it is considered that the likelihood of cumulative impacts between these two developments is not significant.

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15.3.9 PA. REF. 22/1044

Applicant – Mill Farm Solar Project Ltd

Townland of Stokesquarter, Painestown, Killary and Ricetown.

The development will consist of permission for a period of 10 years to construct and complete a Solar PV development with a total site area of circa 97.05 hectares, to include solar panels mounted on steel support on steel support structures, associated cabling and ducting, 12 No. Transformers, 1 No. Temporary Construction Compound, 1 No. Storage Container, maintenance tracks, perimeter fencing and gates, 61 No. CCTV, 4 No. Weather Stations, 3 No. Bunds associated landscaping and ancillary works, with an operational life of 40 years. The application is accompanied by a Natura Impact Statement (NIS).

The proposed development received a Conditional Grant of planning permission on 14th February 2023. While the development is within 2.7 km of Lobinstown Quarry, construction traffic will approach the site from the N52 via the L1604 in a southwest direction for c. 1 km before turning right through the former sand and gravel pit (O'Reilly Concrete) access point. As such, there will be no cumulative impact with respect to traffic arising during the construction works for the proposed solar farm.

15.3.10 PA. REF. 23/1082

Applicant – Highfield Solar Limited

Townland of Killary and Rathkenny.

The development will consist of a 10-year permission for the construction of a solar PV energy development within a total site area of approximately 131.93 ha, to include solar PV panels ground mounted on steel support structures, electrical transformer/inverter station modules, storage containers, CCTV cameras, access tracks, fencing and associated electrical cabling, ducting and ancillary infrastructure. A Natura Impact Statement accompanies this application.

The above planning application is under consideration, having been recently lodged on 27th November 2023. While the proposed development is within 1.1 km of Lobinstown Quarry, construction traffic will approach the site from the N52 via the L1604 as far as Lobinstown before turning right onto Mill Road. This road will be travelled on for c. 1.6 km before turning left into the new site access point. As such, there will be no cumulative impact with respect to traffic arising during the construction works for the proposed solar farm.

15.4 CONCLUSIONS

There are several major extractive and waste management developments in the wider area, including the O'Reilly Concrete Lobinstown Quarry c. 2.5 km to the west (currently in final stages of restoration), Roadstone's Slane Quarry, c. 7 km to the south, an unidentified quarry at Knockmooney on the N2 c. 8.5 km to the southeast, and a disused quarry, now operating as an SRF, at Mullaghdillon c. 6 km to the southeast. The only significant industrial activity within 5 km of the site is the industrial/warehouse estate in Grangegeeth, c. 4.5 km to the southeast, which houses Hibernia Steel Products, R&M Buckets, WK Composites, Dawn Paper & Tissue Manufacturing and Eiregramco.

The nearest substantial commercial activity is Meade Farm Group's Packing, Storage and Distribution facility c. 1.25 km northeast of the site at Braystown. The substantial facility employs c. 340 employees. Whites Auto Electrical have a small commercial unit in Matthews Transport Yard, Heronstown, c. 800 m north of the site on the L1603 (c. 185 m north of McEntegart's Cross Roads). PS Supplies, which is a company supplying doors and floors based in Navan, maintains a small commercial unit in Lobinstown Village, while Myles Staircases Ltd. also maintains a workshop and showroom c. 785 m south of the site on the L1603.

There are also other developments nearby, including solar farms, both existing and proposed, that could give rise to potential cumulative impacts. However, these developments are subject to planning and/or the requirements for EIA and are subject to compliance with both planning and licensing conditions. There is no other significant industrial/commercial activity within a 5 km radius of Lobinstown Quarry.

These developments are expected to be subject to similar mitigation measures with respect to protection of groundwater. In our review of the projects, no connection that could potentially result in significant cumulative impacts was identified. No potential for different or previously unidentified significant, cumulative impacts arising from the various developments and projects in combination with the proposed development at Lobinstown Quarry were identified.

Environmental monitoring to date has shown that the Lobinstown Quarry is operating well within acceptable standards for this type of development. Thus, it is considered that any cumulative impact with respect to noise, dust and water quality arising from an interaction with adjacent sources would be imperceptible.

It should be noted that in the preparation of the traffic assessment (Refer to EIAR Section 14 Traffic & Roads), traffic counts would have captured existing traffic on the local and regional network, which therefore incorporates and accounts for traffic generated by other commercial and industrial operations, including Meade's facility, as well as other quarries and waste recovery facilities.

Given the nature of the proposed development, compliance with the mitigation measures specified in the EIAR and the best practice measures that will be implemented during the Construction, Operational and Decommissioning Stages of the proposed development, it is considered highly unlikely that any significant cumulative impacts will arise as a result of the proposed development. Thus, it is our assessment that there will be no significant cumulative

impacts resulting from the proposed development, in combination with other local existing developments, quarries, projects and plans.

There is an EMS in place at Lobinstown Quarry that addresses monitoring of water, noise and dust. The potential for cumulative impacts arising from direct and indirect impacts with respect to water, noise and dust will be assessed through the existing environmental monitoring programmes that have been established in compliance with the planning permission associated with Lobinstown Quarry. Mitigation measures are also in place at the quarry and included in the EMS. Continual monitoring and measurement will ensure the effective application of these mitigation measures and ensure that activity at Lobinstown Quarry will not result in any significant indirect impacts that could give rise to cumulative impacts.