Lobinstown Quarry

Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Appendix 4

Responses from Statutory Consultees

2024

Prepared by:

J Sheils Planning & Environmental Ltd

31 Athlumney Castle, Navan, Co. Meath

Note of Meeting

Date: **4/10/23**

Attendees: Applicant Rep., John Sheils, J. Sheils Planning & Environmental

Meath Co. Co. Donal Farrelly, Executive Planner. Michael Costello, Roads, Paul Aspell, Roads, Emmet Conboy, Environment

David Keyes, Environment

Details: Notes prepared by Donal Farrelly. Additional comments (Blue) by J. Sheils

- Introduction provided by applicant on the proposal and existing use of the site.
- Discharge license currently in place. No impact on groundwater and surface water.
- Pamela Bartley and Colin O' Reilly have been involved with respect to the discharge license.
- 5 boreholes in place for monitoring water (3 within Extension Area & 2 within existing quarry).
- Geology and powerline create constraints regarding expansion of quarry.
- Confirmed by applicant (Ecologist & Hydrogeologist) that ~~water wells~~springs (Petrified Tuffa) on boundary are more recent features, but no impact on them.
- AA/EIA required to include mitigation measures regarding dust and noise also.
  - Mentioned screening for AA determined that "the proposed project is not considered likely to result in any effects on any Natura 2000 sites and as a result there is no risk of undermining the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites". Site well removed from Dundalk Bay SAC/SPA c.43KM downstream.
- Additional monitoring stations (extension area) may be required, and a restoration plan and phasing (Paul Aspell). Visual Impact Assessment will be completed by applicant.
- Applicant mentioned that there are Falcons on site. Also mentioned that they had bred successfully for 3 years and this is largely due to Breedon Management Practice on site wrt protection of habitat.
- Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) previously completed needs to be expanded to include quarry extension. Riparian strips standard from OPW, and Section 50 OPW consent adhered to.
- Applicant confirmed that drainage channel through site is functioning and extraction is ~~north~~ south of this.
- Applicant confirmed that sediment pond for 2000m2 constructed and includes oil interceptors and gauges etc. This shall be confirmed as part of any planning submission. Also, to confirm existing discharge details, proposed discharge details, and if can be accommodated in existing pond. Applicant confirmed discharge to a single point to the ~~south~~north.
- Pamela Bartley can contact Emmet/David directly regarding this.
- Applicant shall submit monitoring details to Environment as per the extant permission as not being submitted up to date.
- Analysis required of water wells and data logging including impact on domestic wells within area.
- Confirm overall tonnage in submission. Assessed against existing access and road network. 300,000 per annum confirmed by applicant. Compliance submission currently being considered by Michael Costelloe wrt truck movements.
- TIA to be submitted
- 20 year life being requested. This will be assessed when a submission is received.
- Sightlines, forward visibility and turning clearly illustrated on application.

An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

Your Ref: JSPE 301_L02
Our Ref: G Pre00213/2023

24 October 2023

John Sheils
J. Sheils Planning and Environmental Ltd
31 Athlumney Castle
Navan
Co. Meath

Email: johnsheils@jspe.ie

Re: Proposed planning application for a quarry extension (c. 4.9 ha) at Lobinstown Quarry, Heronstown, Lobinstown, Co. Meath, which includes the development of an additional 15 m bench within the existing permitted quarry to a final depth of 35 m AOD.

A Chara,

I refer to correspondence received in connection with the above. Outlined below are heritage-related observations/recommendations of the Department co-ordinated by the Development Applications Unit under the stated heading(s).

Archaeology

The National Monuments Service has examined the Pre-Consultation Document (August 2023) that you kindly forwarded. With regard to the archaeological component of the pre-consultation document (pages 5-6) it would be our recommendation that the services of a suitably qualified archaeologist should be engaged to conduct the proposed archaeological monitoring ***under licence*** of all topsoil stripping in the area of the proposed quarry extension.

The above observations/recommendations are based on the papers submitted to this Department on a pre-planning basis and are made without prejudice to any observations that the Minister may make in the context of any consultation arising on foot of any development application referred to the Minister, by the planning authority/ies, in her/his role as statutory consultee under the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

You are requested to send any further communications to this Department's Development Applications Unit (DAU) at manager.dau@npws.gov.ie, or to the following address:

The Manager
Development Applications Unit (DAU)
Government Offices
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

Is mise, le meas

David O'Connor
Development Applications Unit
Administration

An Roinn Comhshaoil,
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide
Department of the Environment,
Climate and Communications

Geological Survey
Suirbhéireacht Gheolaíochta
Ireland | Éireann

John Sheils
J Sheils Planning & Environmental Ltd
31 Athlumney Castle
Navan
Co Meath

26 September 2023

Re: Proposed planning application for a quarry extension (c. 4.9 ha) at Lobinstown Quarry, Heronstown, Lobinstown, Co. Meath.

Your Ref: JSPE 301_L03
Our Ref: 23/251

Dear John,

Geological Survey Ireland is the national earth science agency and is a division of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. We provide independent geological information and gather various data for that purpose. Please see our website for data availability. We recommend using these various data sets, when conducting the EIAR, SEA, planning and scoping processes. Use of our data or maps should be attributed correctly to 'Geological Survey Ireland'.

The publicly available data referenced/presented here, should in no way be construed as Geological Survey Ireland support for or objection to the proposed development or plan. The data is made freely available to all and can be used as independent scientific data in assessments, plans or policies. It should be noted that in many cases this data is a baseline or starting point for further site specific assessments.

With reference to your email received on the 06 September 2023, concerning the proposed planning application for a quarry extension at Lobinstown Quarry, Heronstown, Lobinstown, Co. Meath, Geological Survey Ireland would encourage use of and reference to our datasets. Please find attached a list of our publicly available datasets that may be useful to the environmental assessment and planning process. We recommend that you review this list and refer to any datasets you consider relevant to your assessment. The remainder of this letter and following sections provide more detail on some of these datasets.

Geoheritage

A national inventory of geoheritage sites known as County Geological Sites (CGSs) is managed by the Geoheritage Programme of Geological Survey Ireland. CGSs, as adopted under the National Heritage Plan, include sites that are of national importance which have been selected as the very best examples for NHA (Natural Heritage Areas) designation. NHA designation will be completed in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). CGSs are now routinely included in County Development Plans and in the GIS of planning departments, to ensure the recognition and appropriate protection of geological heritage within the planning system. CGSs can be viewed online under the Geological Heritage tab on the online Map Viewer.

The audit for Co. Meath was carried out in 2007. The full report details can be found here. **Our records show that there are no CGSs in the vicinity of the proposed quarry extension.**

Geological Survey Ireland would request that the operator might assist our geological heritage goals with the following (and ideally this would be written into the restoration / closure plan) and be included as a condition of planning as deemed appropriate by the planning authority:

1. Allowing access to quarry faces by appropriate scientists (upon request and with due regards to Health and Safety requirements) during quarrying to check for interesting new stratigraphies / relationships as they might become exposed and to establish if the quarry site is worthy of recognition post extraction and through aftercare/restoration planning.

2. If deemed appropriate in (1) above, leaving a representative section of the quarry face at the end of the quarry life or inclusion of information panels to promote the geology to the public or develop tourism or educational resources if appropriate depending on the future use of the site. Natural exposures are few, or deeply weathered, this measure would permit on-going improvement of geological knowledge of the subsurface.

The Geoheritage Programme tries to promote a partnership between geological heritage and active quarrying, with such measures as those outlined in the 'Geological Heritage Guidelines for the Extractive Industry', which can be downloaded here. This document, written in association with Irish Concrete Federation, acts as a comprehensive guide in the sustainable extraction of natural resources while preserving the geological heritage of Ireland.

Groundwater

Geological Survey Ireland's Groundwater and Geothermal Unit, provides advice, data and maps relating to groundwater distribution, quality and use, which is especially relevant for safe and secure drinking water supplies and healthy ecosystems. Proposed developments need to consider any potential impact on specific groundwater abstractions and on groundwater resources in general. We recommend using the groundwater maps on our Map viewer which should include: wells; drinking water source protection areas; the national map suite - aquifer, groundwater vulnerability, groundwater recharge and subsoil permeability maps. Background information is also provided in the Groundwater Body Descriptions. Please read all disclaimers carefully when using Geological Survey Ireland data.

The Groundwater Data Viewer indicates an aquifer classed as a 'Poor Aquifer - Bedrock which is Generally Unproductive' underlies the proposed quarry extension. An adjacent aquifer classed as a 'Poor Aquifer - Bedrock which is Generally Unproductive except for Local Zones' lies within the quarry landholding.

The Groundwater Vulnerability map indicates the range of groundwater vulnerabilities within the area covered is variable. We would therefore recommend use of the Groundwater Viewer to identify areas of High to Extreme Vulnerability and 'Rock at or near surface' in your assessments, as any groundwater-surface water interactions that might occur would be greatest in these areas.

GWClimate is a groundwater monitoring and modelling project that aims to investigate the impact of climate change on groundwater in Ireland. This is a follow on from a previous project (GWFlood) and the data may be useful in relation to Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and management plans. Maps and data are available on the Map viewer.

Geological Survey Ireland has completed Groundwater Protection Schemes (GWPSs) in partnership with Local Authorities, and there is now national coverage of GWPS mapping. A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater. **The Groundwater Protection Response overview and link to the main reports is here: https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/groundwater/projects/protecting-drinking-water/what-is-drinking-water-protection/county-groundwater-protection-schemes/Pages/default.aspx**

Geological Mapping

Geological Survey Ireland maintains online datasets of bedrock and subsoils geological mapping that are reliable and accessible. We would encourage you to use these data which can be found here, in your future assessments.

Please note we have recently launched QGIS compatible bedrock (100K) and Quaternary geology map data, with instructional manuals and videos. This makes our data more accessible to general public and external stakeholders. QGIS compatible data can be found in our downloadable bedrock 100k .zip file on the Data & Maps section of our website.

Geohazards

Geohazards can cause widespread damage to landscapes, wildlife, human property and human life. In Ireland, landslides, flooding and coastal erosion are the most prevalent of these hazards. We recommend that geohazards be taken into consideration, especially when developing areas where these risks are prevalent, and we encourage the use of our data when doing so.

Geological Survey Ireland has information available on landslides in Ireland via the National Landslide Database and Landslide Susceptibility Map both of which are available for viewing on our dedicated Map Viewer. Associated guidance documentation relating to the National Landslide Susceptibility Map is also available.

Geological Survey Ireland also engaged in a national project on Groundwater Flooding. The data from this project may be useful in relation to Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and management plans, and is described in more detail under 'Groundwater' above.

Geochemistry of soils, surface waters and sediments

Geological Survey Ireland provides baseline geochemistry data for Ireland as part of the Tellus programme. Baseline geochemistry data can be used to assess the chemical status of soil and water at a regional scale and to support the assessment of existing or potential impacts of human activity on environmental chemical quality. Tellus is a national-scale mapping programme which provides multi-element data for shallow soil, stream sediment and stream water in Ireland. At present, mapping consists of the border, western and midland regions. Data is available at https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/data-and-maps/Pages/Geochemistry.aspx.

Geophysical data

Geological Survey Ireland produces high-resolution geophysical data (Magnetic field, electrical conductivity, natural gamma-ray radiation) of soils & rocks as part of the Tellus programme. These data currently cover approximately 75% of the country and provide supporting geological information on a regional scale useful for assessing environmental impact and risk. The Tellus programme provides expertise to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the determination of radon risk. The data is used in mineral exploration or is useful in aiding site investigation works for large scale projects.

Guidelines

The following guidelines may also be of assistance:

- Institute of Geologists of Ireland, 2013. Guidelines for the Preparation of the Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology Chapters of Geology in Environmental Impact Statements.
- EPA, 2022. Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR)
- Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2004. Quarries and Ancillary Activities, Guidelines for Planning Authorities.
- Environmental Protection Agency, 2006. Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry: Non-Scheduled Minerals.
- Geological Survey of Ireland - Irish Concrete Federation, 2008. Geological Heritage Guidelines for the Extractive Industry.

Other Comments

Should development go ahead, all other factors considered, Geological Survey Ireland would much appreciate a copy of reports detailing any site investigations carried out. Should any significant bedrock cuttings be created, we would ask that they will be designed to remain visible as rock exposure rather than covered with soil and vegetated, in accordance with safety guidelines and engineering constraints. In areas where natural exposures are few, or deeply weathered, this measure would permit on-going improvement of geological knowledge of the subsurface and could be included as additional sites of the geoheritage dataset, if appropriate. Alternatively, we ask that a digital photographic record of significant new excavations could be provided. Potential visits from Geological Survey Ireland to personally document exposures could also be arranged.

The data would be added to Geological Survey Ireland's national database of site investigation boreholes, implemented to provide a better service to the civil engineering sector. Data can be sent to the Geological Mapping Unit, at mailto:GeologicalMappingInfo@gsi.ie, 01-678 2795.

I hope that these comments are of assistance, and if we can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to the Geological Survey Ireland Planning Team at GSIPlanning@gsi.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Geoheritage and Planning Programme

Enc: Table - Geological Survey Ireland's Publicly Available Datasets Relevant to Planning, EIA and SEA processes.

Geological Survey Ireland's Publicly Available Datasets Relevant to Planning, EIA and SEA processes

following European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018

(S.I. No. 296 of 2018)

Geological Survey Ireland Programme	Dataset	Relevant EIA Topic	Coverage	Description / Notes / Limitations	Link to Geological Survey Ireland map viewer
Geohazards	Landslide: National landslide database and landslide susceptibility map	Land & Soil/Climate/Landscape	National	Associated guidance documentation relating to the National Landslide Susceptibility Map is also available.	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b68cf1e4a9044a5981f950e9b9c5625c
Geohazards	Groundwater Flooding (Historic)	Water	Regional	Provide information of historic flooding, both surface water and groundwater. [A lack of flooding presented in any specific location of the map only indicates that a flood has not been detected. It does not indicate that a flood cannot occur in that location at present or in the future]	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=84a8f3c85e99436b808652f9c735b1cc
Geohazards	Groundwater Flooding (Predictive)	Water	Regional	Provides information on the probability of future karst groundwater flooding (where available). [The maps do not, and are not intended to, constitute advice. Professional or specialist advice should be sought before taking, or refraining from, any action on the basis of the flood maps]	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=848f83c85799436b808652f9c735b1cc
Geohazards	Radon Map	Land & Soils/Air	National		http://www.epa.ie/radiation/radonmap/
Geoheritage	County Geological Sites as adopted by National Heritage Plan and listed in County Development Pla	Land & Soils/Landscape	Regional	All geological heritage sites identified by Geological Survey Ireland are categorised as CGS pending any further NHA designation by NPWS.	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=a30af518e87a4c0ab2fbde2aaac3c228
Geological Mapping	Bedrock geology:	Land & Soils	National	1:100,000 scale and associated memoirs.	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&scale=0
Geological Mapping	Bedrock geology:	Land & Soils	Regional	1:50,000 scale	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&scale=0
Geological Mapping	Quaternary geology: Sediments	Land & Soils	National	1:50,000 scale	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&scale=0
Geological Mapping	Quaternary geology: Geomorphology	Land & Soils	National	1:50,000 scale	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&scale=0
Geological Mapping	Physiographic units:	Land & Soils	National	Broad-scale physical landscape units mapped at 1:100,000 scale in order to be represented as a cartographic digital map at 1:250,000 scale	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=afa76a420fc54877843aca1bc075c62b
Geological Mapping	GeoUrban: Spatial geological data for the greater Dublin and Cork areas	Land & Soils	Regional	includes 3D models	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9768f4818b79416093b6b2212a850ce6&scale=0
Geological Mapping	Geotechnical database	Land & Soils	National	Digitised geotechnical and Site Investigation Reports and boreholes which can be accessed through online downloads	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a2718be1873d47a585a3f0415b4a724c
Goldmine	Historical data sets including geological memoirs and 6" to 1 mile geological mapping records	land & Soils/Water	National	available online	https://secure.dccae.gov.ie/goldmine/index.html
Groundwater & Geothermal	Groundwater resources (aquifers)	Water	National	Data limited to 1:100,000 scale; sites should be investigated at local scale	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef
Groundwater & Geothermal	Groundwater recharge.	Water	National	Data limited to 1:40,000 scale; sites should be investigated at local scale; long term annual average recharge	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef
Groundwater & Geothermal	Groundwater vulnerability.	Water	National	Data limited to 1:40,000 scale; sites should be investigated at local scale	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef
Groundwater & Geothermal	Group scheme and public supply source protection areas.	Water	National	Not all PWS / GWS have SPZ / ZOC. Check with IW / coco / NFGWS for private supplies.	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef
Groundwater & Geothermal	Groundwater Protection Schemes	Water	National	Data is limited to scale of 1:40,000. Data does not include all of the source protections areas	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef
Groundwater & Geothermal	Catchment and WFD management units.	Water	National		https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef
Groundwater & Geothermal	karst specific data layers	water	National	For areas underlain by limestone, includes karst features, tracer test database; turlough water levels (gwlevel.ie).	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef
Groundwater & Geothermal	Wells and Springs	Water	National	Not comprehensive, there may be unrecorded wells and springs	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef
Groundwater & Geothermal	Groundwater body Descriptions	Water	National	Not exhaustive; only those in designated SACs; could be other GWDTEs; for more information contact NPWS / EPA / site investigations	https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/groundwater-and-geothermal-unit/activities/understanding-ireland-groundwater/Pages/Groundwater-bodies.aspx
Groundwater & Geothermal	Geothermal Suitability maps	land & Soils/Water	National	Also, Roadmap for a Policy and Regulatory Framework for Geothermal Energy, November 2020	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9ee46bee08de41278b90a991d60c0b9e
Marine & Coastal Unit	INFOMAR - Ireland's national marine mapping programme; providing key baseline data for Ireland's	Water	National		https://secure.dccae.gov.ie/GSI/INFOMAR_VIEWER/
Marine & Coastal Unit	CHERISH - Coastal change project (Climate, Heritage and Environments of Reefs, Islands, and Headla	Water	Regional		http://www.cherishproject.eu/en/
Marine & Coastal Unit	Coastal Vulnerability Index (CVI).	water /Land & Soils	Regional	Currently the project is being carried out on the east coast and will be rolled out nationally	https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/marine-and-coastal-unit/projects/Pages/Coastal-Vulnerability-Index.aspx
Minerals	Aggregate potential	Land & Soils/Material Assets	National	Consideration of mineral resources and potential resources as a material asset which should be explicitly recognised within the environmental assessment process	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ee8c4c285a49413aa6f1344416dc9956
Minerals	Active quarries	Land & Soils	National		https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ee8c4c285a49413aa6f1344416dc9956
Minerals	Historic mines	Land & Soils/Cultural Heritage	National	Inventory and Risk Classification 2009. Environmental Protection Agency, Economic Minerals Division and Geological Survey Ireland (DECC).	https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/default?easting=?&northing=?&lid=EPA:LEMA_Facilties_Extractive_Facilities https://www.epa.ie/enforcement/mines/
Tellus	Geochemical data: multi-element data for shallow soil, stream sediment and stream water	Land & Soils	Regional	A national mapping programme	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6304e122b733498b99642707ff72f754
Tellus	Airborne geophysical data including radiometrics, electromagnetics and magnetics	Land & Soils	Regional	A national mapping programme	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6304e122b733498b99642707ff72f754
Tellus	urban geochemistry mapping (Dublin SURGE project),	Land & Soils	Regional		https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6304e122b733498b99642707ff72f754

Notes:

1. The maps and data listed above are available on the Geological Survey Ireland map viewer https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/data-and-maps/Pages/default.aspx

2. Please read all disclaimers carefully when using Geological Survey Ireland data

3. Geological Survey Ireland and Irish Concrete Federation published guidelines for the treatment of geological heritage in the extractive industry in 2008.

Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

John Sheils,
J. Sheils Planning and Environmental Ltd.,
31 Athlumney Castle,
Navan,
Co. Meath.

Email: johnsheils@jspe.ie

10th October, 2023

Re: Proposed planning application for a quarry extension (c. 4.9 ha) at Lobinstown Quarry, Heronstown, Lobinstown, Co. Meath

Dear Mr. Sheils,

We refer to your recent correspondence regarding a proposed planning application for a quarry extension at Heronstown, Lobinstown, Co. Meath.

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) is a statutory agency responsible for inland fisheries in Ireland. Under section 7(1) of the Inland Fisheries Act 2010 (No. 10 of 2010) *the principal function of IFI is the protection, management and conservation of the inland fisheries resource*.

The site is located in the Killary River catchment, which is a sub-catchment of the River Dee. The Killary River contains valuable fisheries habitat and support stocks of salmon, trout and lamprey among other species. The River Dee supports stocks of salmon, trout, lamprey, pike and coarse fish among other species and is a valuable angling resource.
Note: Salmon and Lamprey species are Annex II listed species in the Habitats Directive.
The current WFD Ecological status of the waterbody at this location, Killary Water_010, is Moderate and At Risk of not achieving Good status.

The potential impacts of developments of this nature on fisheries habitats include:

- discharges to watercourses of contaminated water and fuels/oils
- unregulated abstraction of ground/surface water

Contaminated waters:

- Uncured concrete can kill fish, plant life and macro-invertebrates by altering the pH of the water.
- Discharges of silt laden waters can clog fish spawning beds and juvenile fish species are particularly sensitive. Plant and macroinvertebrate communities can be blanketed over, which can lead to loss or degradation of aquatic habitat.
- Discharges of fuels and oils can be directly toxic to aquatic life. Oil films can interfere with the diffusion of oxygen from the atmosphere into waters and in extreme cases result in oxygen depletion.

Suitable mitigation measures must be put in place to prevent contaminated water from the site entering surface waters.

Abstractions:
It is important to ensure that any abstraction from ground/surface water is carefully manged in a sustainable manner to protect these resources.

Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

We refer you to our guidance documents entitled 'Guidelines on Protection of Fisheries During Construction Works in and Adjacent to Waters', which can be accessed at https://www.fisheriesireland.ie/extranet/fisheries-management-1/624-guidelines-on-protection-of-fisheries-during-construction-works-in-and-adjacent-to-waters.html.

Please keep us informed of progress with this application.

Yours faithfully,

Michaela Kirrane

Michaela Kirrane
Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer, IFI Dublin

Delivered: Pre-application Consultation - Breedon Ireland - Lobinstown Quarry, Heronstown, Lobinstown, Co. Meath

postmaster@eeu.antaisce.org <postmaster@eeu.antaisce.org>

Wed 06/09/2023 12:47

To:Phoebe Duvall <planning@antaisce.org>

1 attachments (66 KB)

Pre-application Consultation - Breedon Ireland - Lobinstown Quarry, Heronstown, Lobinstown, Co. Meath;

Your message has been delivered to the following recipients:

Phoebe Duvall (planning@antaisce.org)

Subject: Pre-application Consultation - Breedon Ireland - Lobinstown Quarry, Heronstown, Lobinstown, Co. Meath

Environmental Health Department
County Clinic
Navan
Co Meath
E: meath.peho@hse.ie
T: 0469098758

Mr John Sheils
J Sheils Planning and Environmental Ltd
31 Athlumney Castle
Navan
Co Meath

10th October 2023

Applicant: Lagan Materials Ltd (Trading as Breedon Ireland)
Proposal: Proposed Extension to Quarry at Heronstown, Lobinstown, Co Meath

Dear Sir/Madam,

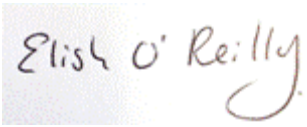
The HSE Environmental Health Consultation report regarding the above application is attached below. The following HSE departments were made aware of the consultation request for the proposed development on 8 September 2023.

- HSE Estates – Helen Maher/Stephen Murphy
- Emergency Planning – Brendan Lawlor
- Director of National Health Protection – Eamonn O'Moore
- CHO – Carole Broadbank

All commitments to future actions including mitigation and further testing have been taken as read and all data results have been accepted as accurate. No additional investigations or measurements were undertaken. This report only refers to those sections of the documents which are relevant to the HSE.

If you have any queries regarding the report, please contact me.

Yours Sincerely,



Principal Environmental Health Officer

10 October 2023

EHIS Reference No. 3415

HSE EIA SCOPING

Environmental Health Service Consultation Report

Report to: J Sheils Planning and Environmental Ltd., 31 Athlumney Castle, Navan, Co Meath
Type of consultation: EIA Scoping
Applicant: Lagan Materials Ltd. (trading as Breedon Ireland)
Proposal: Proposed extension to quarry at Heronstown, Lobinstown, Co Meath

Introduction
This report only comments on Environmental Health impacts of the proposed development. The Environmental Health Service (EHS) has made observations and submissions on the following specific environmental health areas.

Description of proposed development
The applicant intends to apply for planning permission to further develop the existing quarry at Heronstown, Lobinstown, Co Meath. The proposed development includes the development of an additional 15m bench within the existing permitted quarry to a final depth of 35m AOD. It is understood that rock will be extracted using blasting, the extracted rock will be crushed, screened and washed using mobile plant on the quarry floor. The existing site includes internal access roads, weighbridge, wheelwash, office, canteen, toilets, car parking, mobile plant, settlement lagoon system and effluent treatment system.

The site is located 2km from Lobinstown Village and the quarry has been operating at this site since 1958. The land surrounding the site is mainly agricultural with some scrub and forestry, the applicant advises that the area around the site is devoid of lakes and peatlands. A minor drainage ditch and tributary of the Keeran River cross the site with the Killary Stream forms the northern boundary of the site. There are 51 residences within 1 km of the site including Heronstown National School.

The quarry already has planning permission to develop the quarry to 50m AOD and involves dewatering, treatment and discharge to surface waters. A water management system is operated on site with water discharged to an existing settlement lagoon into the adjacent Killary Stream and ultimately to the River Dee. This discharge is licenced by an existing trade effluent discharge licence from Meath County Council. Stored water is used on site for various on-site operations. The applicant proposes to employ this water management system for the proposed quarry extension.

General Scoping Introduction
The following documents should be taken into consideration when preparing the Environmental Impact Assessment Report:
• Guidelines on the information to be contained in EIS (2002), 187kb
• Advice Notes on Current Practice in the preparation of EIS (2003), 435kb
• Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment

https://www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/publications/files/guidelines_for_planning_authorities_and_an_bord_pleanála_on_carrying_out_eia_-_august_2018.pdf

EU publication: Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects - Guidance on the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, EU, 2017
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/pdf/EIA_guidance_EIA_report_final.pdf
Adoption of the Directive (2014/52/EU) in April 2014 initiated a review of the above guidelines. The draft new guidelines can be seen at:
http://www.epa.ie/pubs/consultation/reviewofdrafteisguidelinesadvicenotes

Generally the Environmental Impact Assessment should examine all likely significant impacts and provide the following information for each:

a) Description of the receiving environment
b) The nature and scale of the impact
c) An assessment of the significance of the impact
d) Proposed mitigation measures
e) Residual impacts

Directive 2014/52/EU has an enhanced requirement to assess likely significant impacts on Population and Human Health. The impacts on human health must be fully assessed in the EIAR, it is recommended that the wider determinants of health and wellbeing are considered. Guidance on wider determinants of health can be found at www.publichealth.ie
In addition to any likely significant negative impacts from the proposed development, any positive likely significant impacts should also be assessed.

The Environmental Health Service (EHS) recommends that the following matters are included and assessed in the EIAR:
• Public Consultation
• Population and Human Health
• Water (Hydrology and Hydrogeology)
• Land and Soils
• Air, Dust and Odour
• Climate Change and Opportunity for Health Gain
• Noise and Vibration
• Waste Management
• Ancillary Facilities
• Cumulative Impacts

Public Consultation
Public consultation, where the local community is fully informed of the proposed development must be undertaken. Members of the public should be given sufficient opportunities to express their views on the proposed development. The applicant should consider the appointment of a community liaison officer.

Early and meaningful public consultation with the local community should be carried out to ensure all potentially significant impacts have been adequately addressed. All parties affected by the proposed development must be fully informed of what the proposal entails especially with regard to potential impacts on surrounding areas. Sensitive receptors and other stake-holders should be identified to ensure all necessary and appropriate mitigation measures are put in place to avoid any complaints about the proposed Quarry development in the future.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) should clearly demonstrate the link between public consultations and how those consultations have influenced the decision-making process in the EIAR.

To assist with the consultation and planning process it is recommended that the applicant develops a dedicated website for the proposed development. All correspondence, maps, project updates and documentation including the EIAR should be uploaded to the website. The EIAR should state the period of planning permission sought and if it is anticipated that the development will be decommissioned or will continue to operate (following any further planning consent) at the end of this period of planning permission (should permission be granted).

Decommissioning/site restoration
The EIAR should include an indication of the proposed operational lifetime of the quarry and should include a Decommissioning Plan.

On decommissioning, the Environmental Health Service recommends that consideration be given to the guidance issued by the Health and Safety Authority's on 'Quarrying – Trespass, Boundary Fencing and Prevention of Drowning'.

Assessment of Consideration of Alternatives
The EIAR should include a consideration of alternatives as part of the EIAR.

Noise and Vibration
The potential impacts for noise and vibration from the proposed development on all noise sensitive locations must be clearly identified in the EIAR. The EIAR must also consider the effectiveness of existing mitigation measures to minimise noise and vibration. Any complaints regarding noise from the existing quarry should be considered in the EIAR.

A baseline noise monitoring survey should be undertaken to establish the existing background noise levels. An assessment of the predicted noise impacts of the proposed Quarry development must be undertaken which details the change in the noise environment resulting from the proposed development.

Air Quality
Due to the nature of the proposed development, generation of airborne dust has the potential to have significant impacts on sensitive receptors. Any complaints regarding dust from the existing quarry should be considered in the EIAR.
A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) should be included in the EIAR which details dust control and mitigation measures. Measures should include:
• Sweeping of hard road surfaces
• Provision of a water bowser on site, regular spraying of haul roads
• Wheel washing facilities at site exit
• Restrict speed on site
• Provide covers to all delivery trucks to minimise dust generation
• Inspect and clean public roads in the vicinity if necessary
• Material stockpiling provided with adequate protection from the wind
• Dust monitoring at the site boundary
• Truck inspection and maintenance plan
• Details of a road maintenance agreement between the operator and the Local Roads Authority to clarify responsibility for the upkeep and repair of access roads during the construction phase of the project.

Surface and Ground Water Quality
The proposed development has the potential to have a significant impact on the quality of both surface and ground water.
All drinking water sources, both surface and ground water, must be identified.
Public and Group Water Scheme sources and supplies should be identified in addition to any private wells supplying potable water to houses in the vicinity of the proposed development.
Measures to ensure that all sources and supplies are protected should be described.

The Environmental Health Service recommends that a walk-over survey of the site is undertaken in addition to a desktop analysis of Geological Survey of Ireland data in order to identify the location of private wells used for drinking water purposes. Any potential significant impacts to drinking water sources should be assessed. Details of bedrock, overburden, vulnerability, groundwater flows, aquifers and catchment areas should be considered when assessing potential impacts and any proposed mitigation measures.

Settlement lagoons should be of sufficient size to cope with flooding and periods of heavy rain and should be adequately sealed with an impermeable material to prevent leaching to groundwater.

Ancillary Facilities
The EIAR should include details of the location of the site office, construction compound, fuel storage depot, wheel washing, sanitary accommodation and canteen, Proposals for the sanitary disposal of wastewater and the provision of a potable water supply to the site canteen should be included.

Cumulative Impacts
All existing or proposed Quarries/industry or developments/housing in the vicinity should be clearly identified in the EIAR. The impact on sensitive receptors of the proposed development combined with any other developments in the vicinity should be considered. The EIAR should include a detailed assessment of any likely significant cumulative impacts of the proposed Quarry application.

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