

Lobinstown Quarry

Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Section 1

Introduction

2024



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL BACKGROUND

Projects likely to have significant effects on the environment *by virtue of their nature, size and location* are subject to the requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), prior to gaining development consent. The EIA is a systematic process undertaken to identify and evaluate the potential environmental impact of proposed projects. The EIA also seeks to consider alternatives and propose mitigation measures to ensure the development is carried out within recognised and accepted standards. Thus, the EIA is a dynamic process in which environmental protection and sustainability. The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), which replaces the previous Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), is the new formal statement or document produced as a result of that process.

This Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) pertains to a proposed development at an existing quarry at Heronstown, Lobinstown, Navan, Co. Meath, known as Lobinstown Quarry. The development will consist of the continuance of operation of the existing permitted quarry and associated infrastructure (ABP Ref. 17.QD.0017; P.A. Ref. LB200106 & ABP Ref. 309109-21), deepening of the quarry extraction area by 1 no. 15 metre bench from 50m OD to 35m OD, a lateral extension to the quarry over an area of c. 4.8 ha to a depth of 35m OD, provision for aggregates and overburden storage, and restoration of the site to natural habitat after uses following completion of extraction, within an overall application area of c. 18.5 hectares. An extraction capacity of up to 300,000 tonnes per annum is sought to provide the applicant with the ability to respond to demand for aggregates in the region. Permission is sought for a period of 20 years in order to extract a known resource with a further 2 years to fully restore the site.

Blasting will continue to be used as the method of extraction, to fragment the rock prior to crushing, screening and aggregate washing using mobile plant on the quarry floor. The existing site infrastructure includes site entrance with c.350 m long paved internal roadway, internal access roads, weighbridge, wheelwash, portacabin office, car park, mobile crushing, screening and washing plant, settlement lagoon system, and other ancillaries, which will be maintained onsite for the duration of the works. An effluent treatment system also exists on-site (Refer to EIAR Figure 3.1).

Discharge of water from the settlement lagoon at the northern boundary of the existing quarry into the adjacent Killary Stream, Keeran River and ultimately the Dee River is undertaken in compliance with existing trade effluent discharge licence consent (Ref. 20/01).

This EIAR accompanies a planning application submitted to Meath County Council by Lagan Materials Ltd., t/a Breedon Ireland. Refer to Appendix 1.1 for statement on **Need for Development.**

The EIAR and accompanying planning application are being submitted for consideration to Meath County Council, which is the competent authority for the proposed development. The application has been prepared and compiled under the supervision of John Sheils, (B.Eng.



(Mining), MSCS, MRICS) on behalf of the applicant, Breedon. John Sheils is the principal of "J Sheils Planning & Environmental Ltd" (JSPE), a company that provides planning, environmental and valuation services and specialises in the areas of mineral extraction and inert waste management.

In addition to the studies within the EIAR carried out by J Sheils Planning & Environmental Ltd (JSPE), some additional technical studies have been carried out by independent consultants. These studies are incorporated within the EIAR or are attached to the EIAR as appendices.



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1.2 SITE LOCATION & DESCRIPTION

The site is located in the Townland of Heronstown, Lobinstown, Navan, Co. Meath, at Irish Transverse Mercator (ITM) Coordinates 690900E, 781500N. This location is c. 2 km southeast of Lobinstown, c. 9 km northwest of Slane, c. 9 km west of Collon, c. 10 km southwest of Ardee, c. 14.5 km north-northeast of Navan, c. 16. West of Dunleer, c. 17 km east of Kells, c. 19 km west-northwest of Drogheda, c. 19 km northwest of Duleek, c. 19 km southeast of Kingscourt, c. 21 km south of Mullagh, c. 23 km south of Carrickmacross, c. 25 km northwest of Bettystown-Laytown-Mornington, c. 25 km west of Clogherhead, and c. 25 km southwest of the most southerly outskirts of Dundalk. Access to the N51 Delvin to Drogheda National Secondary Road is gained c. 1.5 km west of Slane.

The quarry is located on the north side of, and with direct access onto, the L1603 Local Road, which extends from the N52 south before crossing the L1604 Local Road (i.e., Collon Road) c. 1.2 km east of Lobinstown and continuing on to the N51 at Harlinstown Cross Roads c. 1.5 km west of Slane (Refer to Figure 1.1 & 1.2). The L1603 is known as the Slane Road south of the intersection with the L1604 at McEntegart's Crossroads and in the vicinity of the site.

The existing quarry is generally rectangular in shape with an axial orientation of NE-SW across the existing quarry void area which covers an area of c. 4.5 ha and has permission to extract bedrock to a depth of 50 m OD (permitted under P.A. Ref. LB200106 & ABP 309109-21). The proposed extension will extend east from the northern section of the existing extraction area and result in a roughly inverted L-shaped extraction area. The extension area comprises four contiguous fields which are characterised by discontinuous internal hedgerows.

To date, extraction has taken place to a depth of c. 65 m OD in a series of 10-15m high benches in the southern and central sections of the active, permitted quarry. The quarry comprises disturbed ground with a level processing area located in the central section of the site and an oval-shaped extraction area developed into the central and southern sections of the site. The northern section of the site accommodates the settlement pond and screening embankment along the northern site boundary with the Killary Stream (KILLARY WATER_010, IE_NB_06K010100). The site holds a valid, current Section 4 Discharge Licence (Ref. 20/01), which was issued by Meath County Council in 2020, for a discharge from the treatment systems (settlement lagoons) to the Killary Stream.

In June 2022, Breedon were granted planning permission to develop a readymix concrete plant in the northern section of the quarry (P.A. Ref. 22/328). However, this concrete plant has not been developed to date.

In December 2023, Breedon were granted planning permission for construction of a new single storey office building and associated ancillary works (P.A. Ref. 23/917) adjacent to the quarry entrance onto the L1603 local road. The internal access road extends from the site entrance from the L1603 local road on the southern boundary around the western perimeter, connecting to the northern part of the active quarry. The portacabin office, wheelwash and weighbridge are adjacent to the internal access road on the western side of the active quarry. The application area under consideration will require no new access roads and can be accessed from the internal routes already established within the quarry.



The quarry has direct access onto the L1603 at the southeast corner of the existing quarry with a well spayed, paved and secure entrance with a lockable gate. Visibility along the L1603 from the quarry access is adequate for the prevailing vehicle speeds, with sightlines of c. 160 m in each direction as required under P.A. Ref. LB200106. The internal access road is paved and extends c. 350 m from the entrance along the southern and western boundaries to the office.

The surrounding lands are agricultural, specifically pasture, with minor levels of scrub and forestry plantation in the wider area. The topography of the region is characterised by relatively flat to undulating landform to the northwest, which is largely devoid of lakes and peatlands, and is relatively typical of the lowlands in County Meath. However, a series of NE-SW trending hills, known as the Ferrard Hills are located c. 1 km southeast of the site, the highest of which, Mount Oriel, rises to 251 m OD. The lands in the vicinity of the site are typically at elevations of 90-120 m OD and overlie Palaeozoic rocks of the Longford-Down Massif, close to the northeastern margin of the Irish Midlands.

The development will consist of the continuance of operation of the existing permitted quarry and associated infrastructure (ABP Ref. 17.QD.0017; P.A. Ref. LB200106 & ABP Ref. 309109-21), deepening of the quarry extraction area by 1 no. 15 metre bench from 50 m OD to 35 m OD, a lateral extension to the quarry over an area of c. 4.8 ha to a depth of 35 m OD, provision for aggregates and overburden storage, and restoration of the site to natural habitat after uses following completion of extraction, within an overall application area of c. 18.5 hectares. An extraction capacity of up to 300,000 tonnes per annum is sought to provide the applicant with the ability to respond to demand for aggregates in the region. Permission is sought for a period of 20 years in order to extract a known resource with a further 2 years to fully restore the site.

The applicant has full control of the lands via a freehold interest in the 24.8 ha landholding that holds the existing quarry and proposed extension area (Refer to EIAR Figures 1.2 & 1.3).

The elevations in the area gradually increase to the southeast from c. 84 m OD at the northwestern boundary of the quarry to c. 112 m OD the near main entrance at the southern corner of the landholding and 225 m OD at Slieve Bengh, c. 2.25 m to the southeast.

The site will continue to be worked from the existing quarry area in an easterly direction in a series of typically 15 m high benches with consideration given to direction of working, phasing of development and progressive restoration of quarry faces (particularly upper southern quarry face) to reduce the visual impact from views to the north (Refer to EIAR Figures 1.3 & 3.1 to 3.3).

The existing quarry is bounded by thick, mature hedgerows on all boundaries. Perimeter earthen berms will be constructed and seeded on the boundaries of the quarry extension area and site of the readymix concrete plant.

The Water Management Plan is presented in EIAR Section 7.0 and includes design specifications for settlement tanks, ponds and mechanisms of discharge, and appropriately sized hydrocarbon interceptors.

Conventional drilling and blasting methods are used in the breaking of quarry rock faces. Extracted rock is loaded by excavator or front-end loader to a mobile crushing and screening plant at the quarry face. The crushing and screening operation comprises primary, secondary



and tertiary stages to produce the range of sizes required. The aggregates produced are then stockpiled and subsequently loaded out by a front-end loader to road trucks for transport off site. There will be no changes to the method of extraction and processing as a result of this planning application.

The existing road network around the quarry comprises of rural local roads. The site is situated south of Lobinstown Village with link access to the N2, N51 and N52 National Roads provided via the L1603 which runs adjacent to the quarry site. The L1603 extends in a north to south direction from its junction to the north with the N52 to its junction to the south with the R163 (leading onto the N51). There are two main priority junctions in close proximity to the quarry site, these are McEntaggart's Crossroads to the north and Sally Gardens Crossroads to the south.

Access to the wider public road network is provided by three main national routes. These are:-

- N52 located approximately 4.5km to the north of the site which connects Kells to Ardee;
- N51 Slane to Navan Road which is located approximately 8.5km south of the site; and
- N2 Dublin to Monaghan Road which is located approximately 8.5km south of the site.

These are the main haulage routes of the existing quarry and allow the HGV traffic from the site to access the national and regional road network at the earliest opportunity and supply aggregates to Drogheda, Navan and other fast growing urban centres in the Northeast. As such, site traffic will be directed onto the regional and national road networks and thus avoid adversely impacting the local road network. The traffic volume splits are expected to be 70:30 with the 70% travelling south on the L1603.

Recent traffic surveys and junction capacity analysis for the Slane Road and access junction has indicated that the roads can accommodate production volumes well in excess of what is proposed at the quarry (Refer to EIAR Section 14).

The L1603 in the vicinity of the Lobinstown Quarry is c. 6.5 m wide single lane carriageway with 0.5-1 m grass verges and no road markings, including centre line. The level of traffic of the existing and proposed development is moderate (i.e., currently c. 30 truck trips per day (SLR 2020a).

HGV's operate only during the stated working hours of 7.00-18.00 hrs Monday to Friday, 7.00-14.00 hrs Saturday, with no work on Sundays or Bank Holidays (Refer to P.A. Ref. LB200106), and there are no proposals to change these hours.

Traffic Warning Signs have been installed on the approaches to the existing quarry site entrance. The L1603 road in the vicinity of the entrance is mechanically swept on a regular basis.

An extraction capacity of up to 300,000 tonnes per annum is sought to provide the applicant with the ability to respond to demand for aggregates in the region. A quarry of this size would be considered to be at the lower end of medium scale for quarry development. Permission is sought for a period of 20 years.

As a rural area, the settlement pattern in the vicinity of the quarry can be described as lowintensity rural settlement, with dispersed farmsteads and one-off residences, as well as diffuse or discontinuous ribbon development along roadsides on the approaches to the village of Lobinstown.



Residential property in the area typically comprises one-off single residences and farmsteads along public roads and to a minor extent, along and at the end of lanes off the public roads.

The closest large residential settlement to the site is Lobinstown, which is located c. 2 km to the northwest. Ribbon developments are evident around junctions at Rathkenny and Lobinstown, 3.2 km southwest and 2.0 km northwest of the site, respectively.

There are no occupied residences within the application site or landholding. The nearest residence is 120 m to the southwest of the permitted extraction area. There are 7 residences within 250 m, 15 within 500 m, 31 within 750 m and 45 within 1 km of the proposed extraction area. Heronstown National School is c. 627 metres north of the extraction area (Refer to Figure 4.1).

SLR (2020) note that the quarry has been in operation since the commencement of the operation in 1958. In more recent times, the quarry was operated by Irish Asphalt Ltd. (c. 2002), followed by Mountain House Quarries (c. 2012) and the current operators, Breedon Ireland, in 2017. Thus, the area has a long history of quarrying, such that these activities have co-existed with other, predominantly agricultural, land uses in the area. The proposed land use on-site will continue the tradition of quarrying activities and associated operations.

Consideration has been given to screening of the development, phasing and direction of working with respect to receptors, in order to reduce environmental impacts.



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1.3 **LEGISLATION**

1.3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL AND PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT LEGISCATION

As a member State of the EU, Ireland is required to transpose EU directives into Irish Law within specified periods of their enactment. The EIA process is covered by the EIA Directive (85/337/EEC), which has been amended three times, and more recently consolidated in the Directive 2011/92/EU. In particular, Annex I of the directive specifies projects requiring an EIA, whilst Annex II specifies those projects where the Member state decides on the thresholds in terms of project scale, as to whether an EIA is required.

Prior to 2000, the rules in respect of EIA contained in the various EC directives were brought into force by the European Communities (EIA) Regulations 1989 and the EC (EIA) (Amendment) Regulations, 1999 and the Local Government (Planning & Development) Regulations 1999. These were largely consolidated within the terms of Part X of the Planning & Development 2000 Act, and Part 10 and Schedules 5, 6 and 7 of the 2001 Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended. Therefore, under Irish Law, proposed developments are required to comply with the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended and related secondary legislation in the form of Statutory Instruments or Regulations. These pieces of legislation require an EIA to be conducted, typically by specialist consultants on behalf of the developer, before consent is given for projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by reason of their size, nature or location.

The responsibility for the planning and environmental regulation of developments rests with the local authorities, the designated Competent Authority in this instance. These and An Bord Pleanála enforce compliance by attaching conditions relating to the environmental management of granted planning permissions. Licenses and permits may be required from local authorities where discharges, emissions or waste activities occur.

In respect of the Planning & Development Regulations S.I. No. 600 of 2001, Schedule 5, Part 1 specifies projects requiring an EIA (reflecting Annex I of the EIA Directive), and Schedule 5, Part 2 specifies those projects where the Member State decides on the thresholds in terms of project scale, as to whether an EIA is required (reflecting Annex II of the EIA Directive). Schedule 6 specifies information to be contained in an EIA, whilst Schedule 7 specifies the criteria used for determining Sub-Threshold projects, which for reasons of location and characteristics of the development and related impacts, require an EIA.

A new EIA Directive 2014/52/EU came into effect in 2014, which each Member State was required to have transposed into law by May 16th, 2017. The objective of the Directive (Directive 2011/92/EU), as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU, is to ensure a high level of protection of the environment and human health, through the establishment of minimum requirements for environmental impact assessment (EIA), prior to development consent being given, of public and private developments that are likely to have significant effects on the environment. Directive 2014/52/EU was finally transposed into Irish Law and adopted on September 1st, 2018. The new European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 296 of 2018) seek to transpose EIA Directive 2014/52/EU, and to give further effect to the 2011 Directive by means of extensive amendments to the existing planning legislation.



The amended Directive uses the term Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for what was formerly referred to in Irish legislation as an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). In 2017, the EU Commission published guidance titled Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects: Guidance on the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EU 2017).

In May 2017, the EPA published Draft Guidelines on the information to be contained in environmental impact assessment reports (EPA 2017). The Guidelines had been drafted with the primary objective of improving the quality of EIARs with a view to facilitating compliance (with the Directive). On May 17th 2022, the EPA published a final version of its 2017 Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EPA 2022). This more current guidance contained minor revisions with respect to the 2017 Draft Guidance and was used during the development of this EIAR. We have reproduced some of the key content from the new 2022 EPA Guidance in Appendix 3 General Guidance on Baseline Environment & Impacts of the EIAR.

Consideration has also been given to the Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (DoHPLG 2018). The purpose of the new guidelines is to give practical guidance on procedural issues and the EIA process arising from the requirements of Directive 2014/52/EU and to assist with the achievement of a consistency of approach in the implementation of the Directive.



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1.4 SCREENING

1.4.1 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An EIA is a systematic process to identify and evaluate the environmental impact of proposed projects, developments and programmes, and is a key environmental policy instrument of the European Union (EU). The process requires proposed developments likely to have a significant impact on the environment to gain consent from the competent authority prior to proceeding with the project.

As stated above, in Irish Law, the principal Acts under which EIA's are regulated are the Planning & Development Act, 2000, as amended. The Act consolidates previous Planning Acts and much of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, where the latter is covered in Part 10 of the Act. In addition, secondary legislation consisting of Statutory Instruments or Regulations, made under the Planning & Development Act are also applicable.

Screening is the initial phase of the EIA process, whereby the proposed project is evaluated to determine if an EIA is required. Projects requiring EIA are listed in Part 1 and 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations (PDR) 2001 (S.I. No. 600 of 2001) as amended. Part 1 lists projects for which an EIA is obligatory under European law (specified in Annex 1 of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU). In contrast, Part 2 lists projects for which an EIA is required, based on criteria and/or thresholds determined by the Member State, Ireland in this case (reflecting Annex II of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU).

The development will consist of the continuance of operation of the existing permitted quarry and associated infrastructure (ABP Ref. 17.QD.0017; P.A. Ref. LB200106 & ABP Ref. 309109-21), deepening of the quarry extraction area by 1 no. 15 metre bench from 50 m OD to 35 m OD, a lateral extension to the quarry over an area of c. 4.8 ha to a depth of 35 m OD, provision for aggregates and overburden storage, and restoration of the site to natural habitat after uses following completion of extraction, within an overall application area of c. 18.5 hectares. An extraction capacity of up to 300,000 tonnes per annum is sought to provide the applicant with the ability to respond to demand for aggregates in the region. Permission is sought for a period of 20 years in order to extract a known resource with a further 2 years to fully restore the site.

Quarries are covered under Section 2 of Part 2, of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations (PDR) 2001. Section 2 of Part 2 refers to "Extractive Industry"; specifically Clause (b) refers to "Extraction of stone, gravel, sand or clay, where the area of extraction would be greater than 5 hectares." Therefore, it is considered that in accordance with the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended the subject development, is of a nature and scale such that it would require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Thus, as the operation exceeds the applicable threshold of 5 hectares, an EIA is required on the basis of Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the PDR 2001.

It is considered that due to the nature of the development and its location in proximity to a few Natura 2000 sites within 15 km, the proposed development would require an Appropriate Assessment (AA), in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats' Directive and the DoEHLG Guidelines February 2010.



The Proposed Development is located within the hydrological catchment of the Killary Water, a tributary of the River Dee, within an agricultural area of north Co. Meath.

The nearest European sites to the proposed development are associated with the River Boyne and include the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC (Site Code 002299), which is located almost 8 km to the southeast, and the River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA (Site Code 004232), which is located approximately 8.3 km to the southeast. However, the Proposed Development lies in a separate hydrological catchment to the River Boyne and the associated sites referenced above, and there is no connectivity to these sites and the River Boyne.

The Killary Water flows into the River Dee almost 10 river kilometres downstream, which discharges into Dundalk Bay a further 30 river kilometres downstream.



1.4.2 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Appropriate assessment was introduced by the EU Habitats Directive as a way of determining during the planning process whether a project is likely to have a significant effect on one of the Natura 2000 sites so far designated (i.e., the candidate SAC's and SPA's), or their conservation objectives.

Article 6(3) states:

"Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives...."

In the Irish context this has been interpreted as a four-stage process. Firstly, a screening exercise (Stage 1) determines if a project could have significant effects on a Natura site. If it does or the situation is unclear a Natura Impact Statement (Stage 2) is provided to the planning or regulatory authority which then conducts an Assessment of the information supplied. Examples of significant effects are a loss of habitat area, fragmentation of the habitat, disturbance to species using the site and changes in water resources or quality. If such negative effects come to light in the assessment, alternative solutions are investigated by the proponent (Stage 3) and modifications made unless the project is deemed to be driven by 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' in its current form. In this case Stage 4 then deals with compensatory action.

Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) was carried out with respect to the proposed development, and a copy of this report is included (Refer to Appendix 11).

The site is not located within any designated areas, such as candidate Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Areas (SPA) (i.e., Natura 2000 sites), nor any proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA).

The nearest European sites to the proposed development are associated with the River Boyne and include the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC (Site Code 002299), which is located almost 8 km to the southeast, and the River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA (Site Code 004232), which is located approximately 8.3 km to the southeast. However, the Proposed Development lies in a separate hydrological catchment to the River Boyne and the associated sites referenced above, and there is no connectivity to these sites and the River Boyne.

The Proposed Development is located within the hydrological catchment of the Killary Water, a tributary of the River Dee, within an agricultural area of north Co. Meath.

The Killary Stream (KILLARY WATER_010, IE_NB_06K010100) flows along the northern site boundary which drain into the Killary Water River c. 2.5 km to the west. The Killary Water flows into the River Dee almost 10 river kilometres downstream, which discharges into the Dundalk Bay SAC (Site Code: 000455) and SPA (Site Code: 004026) a further 30 river kilometres downstream.



There are no predicted effects on any European sites given:

- A minor stream tributary of the Killary Stream has been excluded from the proposed extension area and there is no direct connectivity to the River Dee downstream.
- Given the very large distance of removal from Dundalk Bay at over 40 km downstream, the possibility of a significant effect can be excluded.
- There are no predicted emissions to air, water or the environment during the construction or operational phases that would result in significant effects.

It has been objectively concluded that:

- 1. The Proposed Development is not directly connected with, or necessary to the conservation management of the European sites considered in this assessment.
- 2. The Proposed Development is not likely to either directly or indirectly significantly affect the Qualifying interests or Conservation Objectives of the European sites considered in this assessment.
- 3. The Proposed Development, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, is not likely to have significant effects on a European site.
- 4. It is possible to conclude that significant effects can be excluded at the screening stage.

It can be *excluded*, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site. An appropriate assessment is not, therefore, required. A final determination will be made by the competent authority in this regard.



1.5 SCOPING & CONSULTATION

1.5.1 SCOPING

Scoping should ensure that the constituent environmental studies of the EIA provide all of the relevant information, particularly with respect to: (1) significant impacts of the project; and (2) alternatives to the project. As such, the scoping process identifies the issues that are likely to be important during the EIA and eliminates those that are not. The information can be compiled through a formal process, whereby the competent authority is asked to consult with relevant agencies to draw up an opinion about the scope of the coverage required. More informal scoping can also be carried out to ensure that all relevant issues are identified and addressed to an appropriate level of detail.

Consultation for the purpose of an EIA provides an opportunity to solicit expertise and advice from a wide range of organisations and interested parties. Consultation has also taken place with sub-consultants appointed to prepare studies on specialised subjects. These include hydrogeologists, geologists, ecologists, traffic, and archaeological consultants.

Implementation of Directive 2014/52/EU

The new EIA Directive 2014/52/EU came into effect in 2014, and was transposed into Irish Law and adopted on September 1st 2018. The new European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 296 of 2018) seek to transpose EIA Directive 2014/52/EU, and to give further effect to the 2011 Directive by means of extensive amendments to the existing planning legislation.

In May 2017, the EPA published Draft Guidelines on the information to be contained in environmental impact assessment reports (EPA 2017). The Guidelines were drafted with the primary objective of improving the quality of EIARs with a view to facilitating compliance (with the Directive). As stated above, these draft guidelines were recently updated in May 2022 (EPA 2022). This more current guidance was used during the development of the EIAR. In August 2018, the Dept. of Housing, Planning & Local Government published Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (DoHPLG 2018). The purpose of the new guidelines is to give practical guidance on procedural issues and the EIA process arising from the requirements of Directive 2014/52/EU and to assist with the achievement of a consistency of approach in the implementation of the Directive.

The only new definition given in the amended Directive pertains to EIA (Article 1(2)(g) of the Directive), which is defined as a process consisting of:

- 1. The preparation of an environmental impact assessment report (EIAR) by the developer (Article 5(1) and (2) of the Directive);
- 2. The carrying out of consultations with the public, prescribed bodies and other Member States where transboundary effects have the potential to occur (Article 6 and, where relevant, Article 7 of the Directive);
- 3. The examination by the competent authority of the EIAR, any supplementary information provided, where necessary, by the developer (Article 5(3) of the Directive) and relevant



information received through consultations with the public, prescribed bodies and any affected Member States (Articles 6 and 7 of the Directive);

- 4. The reasoned conclusion by the competent authority on the significant effects of the project on the environment, taking into account the results of the examination referred to in point (3) above and, where appropriate, its own supplementary examination; and
- 5. The integration of the competent authority's reasoned conclusion on the significance of the effects into its decision to refuse or grant consent with conditions.

The DoHPLG 2018 Guidelines state that the environmental impact assessment must identify, describe and assess the direct and indirect significant effects of the project on specified environmental factors (Article 3(1) of the Directive). These factors include changes from the 2011 Directive, the most notable being the replacement of 'Human Beings' by 'Population and Human Health', the addition of 'Land' and the replacement of 'Flora and Fauna' by 'Biodiversity with particular attention to species and habitats protected under Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC' (the Habitats and Birds Directives). The significant effects on these environmental factors must include the expected significant effects arising from the vulnerability of the project to the risks of major accidents and/or disasters that are relevant to the project (Article 3(2) of the Directive).

The DoHPLG 2018 Guidelines give the key amendments introduced by the 2014 Directive as follows:

- The refinement of environmental factors to be considered in the assessment process resource efficiency, climate change, population and human health, biodiversity and disaster risk prevention and management;
- Strengthening of the procedures for screening, particularly through the introduction of new information requirements to be provided by the developer (Annex IIA) and revised selection criteria to be used by the competent authority in making a determination (Annex III) (Schedule 7A and 7, respectively, as inserted by article 97 of S.I. No. 296 of 2018);
- Expansion of the information to be included in the EIAR (formerly known in Ireland as EIS)(Annex III of Directive) (Schedule 6, as substituted by article 97 of S.I. No. 296 of 2018);
- Requirement that the EIAR must be prepared by competent experts and for the competent authority to have, or have access to, sufficient expertise to examine the EIAR;
- Expansion of the information to be included in a development consent decision including a requirement for a 'reasoned conclusion' to be incorporated into the decision in respect of the significant effects of the project on the environment;
- Requirements to inform the public and to make relevant environmental information publicly accessible through electronic means and in a timely fashion during the assessment process and at the time of the decision; and
- Requirement for monitoring of significant adverse effects resulting from the construction and operation of a project.

The Directive requires that information provided by the developer in an EIAR shall include a description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the developer. These are reasonable



alternatives that are relevant to the project and its specific characteristics. The developer must also indicate the main reasons for the option chosen taking into account the effects of the project on the environment (Article 5(1)(d) of Directive). Reasonable alternatives may relate to matters such as project design, technology, location, size and scale (Annex IV (2) of Directive).

The information to be provided by the developer must, at least, address the matters detailed in Article 5(1)(a) to (f) of the Directive as follows:

- 1. A description of the project comprising information on the site, design, size and any other relevant features of the project;
- 2. A description of the likely significant effects of the project on the environment;
- 3. A description of the features of the project and/or measures envisaged in order to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects on the environment;
- 4. A description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the developer, which are relevant to the project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the effects of the project on the environment;
- 5. A non-technical summary of the information referred to in points (a) to (d);
- 6. Any additional information specified in Annex IV of the Directive/Schedule 6 to the 2001 Regulations, as amended, relevant to the specific characteristics of a particular project or type of project and to the environmental features likely to be affected.

An informal scoping exercise has been carried out in order to identify the range of impacts that may be associated with the proposed development, the likely concerns of local residents and landowners, and to assess the information and detail that is required to be included within the EIAR.



1.5.2 CONSULTATION

Consultation for the purpose of an EIA provides an opportunity to solicit expertise and advice from a wide range of organisations and interested parties. The EIAR has been prepared by specialist Mineral Planning and Environmental consultants with over 30 years' experience in preparing EIAR for quarry developments. Consultation has also taken place with sub-consultants appointed to prepare studies on specialised subjects. These include hydrogeologists, geologists, ecologists, traffic and archaeological consultants (Refer to Section 1.9 below).

The proposed development relates to an extension and deepening of an existing quarry (permitted under P.A. Ref. LB200106 & ABP 309109-21), and as such, the impacts of the proposed development and concerns of local residents and landowners are well understood and have been considered in the EIAR.

A pre-consultation document was issued to the relevant statutory consultees and stakeholders (Refer to Table 1.1 and Appendix 4 for responses).

Local consultation was undertaken on 14th November 2023 as part of the hydrogeological assessment. During this date all households within an approximate range of 500m radius of the proposed development were visited by Breedon Ireland personnel. A second visit was undertaken the following day on 15th November 2023 to those households at which no one was present and to ensure as many households as possible were consulted and had the opportunity to engage with Breedon Ireland personnel. During the two visits, hydrogeological data was collected and is presented in Water Chapter 7. The locations of the dwellings which were visited for consultation is presented as EIAR Figure 7.9.

Given the level of discussion with stakeholders, including identifying the issues and emphasis that are likely to be important during the EIA, it was not considered necessary to formally request a written opinion ("scoping") on the information to be contained in the EIAR in accordance with Section 173 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. Consultation by a developer with the wider public during preparation of an EIAR tends to be used where the affected population may be very large and/or difficult to identify (EPA 2022), which however, was not the case here.

Following this scoping exercise, it is recognised that some issues have the potential for greater impact than others. Within the EIAR, these impacts and their mitigation will be given priority.



Consultee	Address	Email	Response
Meath County Council	Meath County Council Planning Department Buvinda House, Dublin Road Navan, County Meath C15 Y291	planning@meathcoco.ie	Yes Preconsultation
Minister for Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht	c/o The Manager, Development Applications Unit (DAU) Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht Newtown Road, Wexford Y35 AP90	manager.dau@housing.gov.ie	Yes
Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI)	Geoheritage & Planning Programme, Beggar's Bush, Haddington Road Dublin 4 D04 K7X4	GSIPlanning@gsi.ie	Yes
Inland Fisheries Ireland	Inland Fisheries Ireland 3044 Lake Drive Citywest Business Campus Dublin D24 Y265	info@fisheriesireland.ie	Yes
An Taisce	Ms Phoebe Duvall, Planning and Environmental Policy Officer The Tailor's Hall, Back Lane Dublin 8 D08 X2A3	planning@antaisce.org	Acknowledged
Uisce Éireann Irish Water	Spatial Planning, Irish Water HQ Offices Colville House 24-26 Talbot Street Dublin 1	By Post	No
Environmental Health Services	Environment/Climate Change Network Support Unit National Office for Environmental Health Services 2nd Floor, Oak House, Lime Tree Avenue Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare Eircode: W91KDC2	environmental.health@hse.ie	Yes

Table 1.1 List of Statutory Consultees Contacted and Response

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1.6 FORMAT OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

The EIAR consists of a systematic analysis and assessment of the potential effects of a proposed project on the receiving environment. 79,

The format and scope of this document has been produced having regard to:

- Schedule 6 and 7 of Planning & Development Regulation 2001 (S.I. No. 600 of 200 10 •
- EU Commission published guidance titled Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects: • Guidance on the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EU 2017);
- Meath County Development Plan (2021-2027); •
- Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements, (EPA 2022); and
- Advice Notes on Current Practice for preparing Environmental Impact Statements, Draft (EPA 2015).

The EIAR takes into account these and other Government and commonly accepted standards and guidelines that affect various aspects of the proposed development. The provisions of the revised EIA Directive 2014/52/EU, as transposed into Irish Law by the European Union (Planning and Development)(Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 296 of 2018), and the above revised draft guidance issued by the EPA, were taken into account during preparation of the EIAR.

National Guidelines on Quarries and Ancillary Activities (2004) have been issued by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG). These guidelines set out typical planning conditions and suggest environmental limits which may be imposed subsequent to any planning consent. Due consideration has been given within Sections 3 and 4 of the EIAR to comply with best practice mitigation measures set out in Chapter 3 of these In this regard detailed best practice mitigation measures which will be quidelines. implemented on site are described within the relevant sections of the EIAR.

Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry (Non-Scheduled Minerals) Environmental Management Guidelines (2006) have also been produced by the EPA (EPA 2006). These guidelines are intended to provide general advice and guidance in relation to environmental issues to practitioners involved with the planning, design, development, operation and restoration of quarry developments and ancillary facilities.

In order to ensure transparency and public awareness of the environmental implications of development decisions, an EIAR is required to contain a non-technical summary according to Article 94 of the PDR 2001 (S.I. No. 600 of 2001). Clause 94(C) specifies "a summary in nontechnical language of the information" required to be contained in the EIAR by the preceding clauses 94(a) and 94(b). Thus, the non-technical summary includes descriptions of the project, existing environment, impacts and mitigation measures, as well as graphic elements such as location map, site layout plan, etc. Furthermore, the non-technical summary is written in a format and language that can be understood by persons without the appropriate technical background.



1.7 OBJECTIVES OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSES

Formal environmental assessment enables the environmental effects which may be caused by a development to be systematically identified and evaluated. The EIAR presents the results in a manner that enables the importance of the predicted effects, and the scope for modifying or mitigating these effects, to be properly evaluated by the relevant decision-making body prior to deciding with respect to development consent.

This EIAR seeks to provide an objective analysis of the possible environmental effects resulting from the continued operation and extension of the quarry at Heronstown, Lobinstown, Navan, Co. Meath. These effects are assessed against a comprehensive checklist of relevant environmental criteria. The EIAR then systematically evaluates the positive and negative impacts of the project on both natural and human environments.

The overall aims of the Report are:

- To provide relevant and complete environmental information to all project stakeholders, including the general public, in a self-contained and comprehensive document;
- To identify and provide objective analysis of the potential effects of the proposed development on the existing environment, so as to inform the competent authority and other interested parties in the decision-making process;
- To describe available measures to mitigate, either by avoidance, reduction or remediation, any environmental effects that may be identified;
- To assess the likely effectiveness of the mitigation measures, and the acceptability of residual effects; and
- To provide a framework for the ongoing monitoring of residual environmental effects.

The EIAR is intended to be a self-contained document which addresses all of the potential environmental issues that may arise as a result of the proposed development.



1.8 LAYOUT OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

The EIAR has been prepared in accordance with 'Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements' published by the Environment Protection Agency, which were published relatively recently in 2022 (EPA 2022). The EIAR also takes into account 'Draft Advice Notes on Current Practice in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements published in 2015. While the 2015 draft version of the guidance document was intended for consultation purposes only, the guidance documents do incorporate the expected provisions of the new law, and are thus being used as an interim measure until the new guidance is published. Practitioners are expected to adhere to the guidance while preparing EIARs, for applications made on or after May 16th 2017. In addition, the policies contained within the Meath County Development Plan (CDP) (2021-2027) have been considered and taken into account.

The EIAR has been prepared using the "Grouped Format Structure", where each topic is examined as a separate section referring to the existing environment, the proposed development, impacts and mitigation measures.

The Report is sub-divided into the following sections:

Section 1 sets out general introductory comments concerning the project and a brief explanation of the aims and format of the EIAR. It also identifies the various consultees and professional consultants who have contributed to this EIAR and any difficulties encountered in preparation of the EIAR.

Section 2 describes reasonable alternative project locations, layouts, designs and processes that were considered with regards to their environmental effects.

Section 3 describes the details and nature of the proposed development and introduces some of the potential environmental effects that may result. It also details any proposed or anticipated growth of the development and possible associated projects.

Sections 4-15 provide detailed information on all aspects of the existing environment, identifies potential impacts on the environment by the proposed development, and recommends mitigation measures to avoid, reduce or remedy these impacts. They include the following sub-sections:

- 4. Population & Human Health;
- 5. Biodiversity;
- 6. Land, Soils and Geology;
- 7. Water;
- 8. Climate;
- 9. Air;
- 10. Noise & Vibration;
- 11. Landscape;
- 12. Cultural Heritage;



- 13. Material Assets;
- 14. Roads & Traffic; and
- 15. Interaction of the Foregoing (This section is an examination of any interaction between impacts identified in the previous sub-sections).

The associated references, plates and figures are provided at the end of each section, while appendices are provided at the end of the EIAR.



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1.9 THE PROJECT TEAM

The EIAR has been prepared by J Sheils Planning and Environmental Ltd. (JSPE). JSPE were commissioned on behalf of the client, Lagan Materials Ltd (t/a Breedon reland), to prepare the EIAR in respect of the quarry at Heronstown, Lobinstown, Navan, Co. Meath.

A list of the experts who contributed to the individual sections of the EIAR is given in Table 1,2, which shows which factors and topics they covered. Their qualifications, experience and any other relevant credentials are provided below.

John Sheils B.Eng. (Mining), Dip. Environ. Prot., M.Sc.SI, MSCSI, MRICS, MIEI, MIQ

The principal, John Sheils, is a chartered minerals surveyor and mining engineer with a postgraduate diploma in environmental protection. He has also attained professional membership status of the Institute of Quarrying (MIQ). Mr. Sheils project managed the EIAR and contributed to the numerous individual sections of the EIAR.

Mr. Sheils is former chairman of the Minerals Surveying Professional Group of the Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland (SCSI). He is also former chairman of the Committee of the Extractives Industries Division within the Institution of Engineers of Ireland (IEI). He represented the IEI on the steering committee for New Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Quarries) Regulations 2006 and associated guidelines. He was technical advisor to the Planning and Environmental Committee of the Irish Concrete Federation (ICF) between 1996 and 2004. He was also a senior project team member responsible for the development of the "Environmental Management Guidelines - Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry (Non-Scheduled Minerals)" Environmental Protection Agency (2006).

Mr. Sheils has written several papers and given numerous presentations on subjects relating to mineral planning, environmental management and health and safety to the mining and quarrying industries. He has presented a number of lectures on Environmental Management Systems, EIS, Occupational Health, Noise & Vibration monitoring to ACP Countries in the Caribbean and is co-author of "Code of Environmental Practice Mining Projects", a guide produced for Centre for the Development of Enterprise (CDE), an institution of the ACP Group of States.

Mr. Sheils has over 30 years' experience in the extractives industries in Ireland, U.K and Africa across a broad range of disciplines and areas including mineral exploration, mining, opencast coal mining, quarrying and inert waste. He also has 30 years' experience in the compilation of planning applications and the preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIARs) for quarry developments.

Raymond E. Healy B.Sc., M.Sc. Geol., Dip. GIS, Dip. Sust. Dev.

Mr. Healy is a Research Geologist who contributed to several sections of the EIAR. Mr. Healy formerly operated the consulting firm Minoretek in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, where he held the professional designation of P.Geo. He has over twenty years' experience in applied mineralogy, mining and exploration geology and ten years' experience with the environmental and geoscientific aspects of quarrying and waste management. He holds an M.Sc. in Geology (1991), a Diploma in GIS from DIT (2012) and a Specialist Diploma in Environmental Sustainability from NUIG (2013).



Mr. Healy is the author of multiple scientific papers and scientific communications in refereed scientific journals, monographs, and conference proceedings, as well as technical reports, and has substantial experience in the preparation of multiple sections of EIS/EIARs since 2013. He also has five years' experience as a geoscience and English language editor for a major global scientific communications company, editing scientific abstracts, communiques, journal papers and books.

Ger O'Donohoe B.Sc., M.Sc. Env.Sc.

The Moore Group is a multi-disciplinary environmental, planning and heritage resource management consultancy. They were retained to undertake the ecological assessment of the site and preparation of the Biodiversity section of the EIAR (Refer to Section 5). They also carried out a screening (Stage 1) for Appropriate Assessment (Refer to Appendix 11).

This work was carried out by Ger O'Donohoe, Environmental Manager (Moore Group), Consultant Ecologist. He has over 25 years' experience as an environmental consultant with particular experience in the management and planning of Environmental Impact Assessments. He graduated from GMIT in 1993 with a B.Sc. in Applied Aquatic Sciences, and subsequently worked in environmental consultancy while completing an M.Sc. in Environmental Sciences, graduating from Trinity College, Dublin in 1999. He joined the Moore Group in 2002.

His primary role in Moore Group is as Principal Ecologist in the management and compilation of Environmental Impact Assessment Reports and undertaking Ecological Impact Assessments (EcIA/Biodiversity Assessment/Habitat Surveys) of the terrestrial and aquatic environments of any particular development. Ger has excellent knowledge of Environmental Legislation, Planning and Policy. He has extensive experience in freshwater and marine ecology and in terrestrial habitat surveying and mapping. In addition to freshwater and marine ecology, Ger has carried out bat and mammal surveys.

Dr. Charles Mount B.A., M.A., Ph.D. Arch., M.B.A.

Dr. Charles Mount is a Ph.D. level qualified archaeologist and EIAR consultant with more than 25 years' experience of Irish archaeology and cultural heritage. He is a graduate of University College Dublin with an M.A. and Ph.D. in Archaeology, and a professional diploma in EIA and SEA management. He also holds an M.B.A. in Management from the Open University. He has worked in a variety of heritage and management roles and has prepared more than 80 cultural heritage assessments for Environmental Impact Assessments. He has worked in both the State and industrial sectors and has extensive experience of the commissioning and management of all types of archaeological services from desk-based reports to test and full excavations and geophysical surveys. He is capable of assessing impacts on archaeology and cultural heritage at all stages of land use planning and development from site selection, through EIAR to planning condition compliance. Dr. Mount provides Project Archaeology Services to the Irish Concrete Federation (ICF), Bord na Mona, and a range of private sector organisations, and is responsible for implementing the ICF Code of Practice.



Alan O'Reilly B.A., B.Al., M.Sc. C.Eng., MIEI, RSA.Cert.

Section 14, Traffic & Roads, was prepared by Alan O'Reilly. Alan is a Chartered Engineer with PMCE and has almost 10 years' experience in the area of Traffic and Transport Engineering including Road Safety Audits, Traffic and Transport Assessments, Collision Investigation and Road Design. Alan also has extensive experience working on road safety schemes in the UK and the Middle East.

Section 7, Water, of the EIAR was prepared by Hydro-G & Envirologic Ltd. Dr. Colin O'Reilly (Envirologic) & Dr. Pamela Bartley (Hydro-G) worked jointly on this project.

Dr. Pamela Bartley Dip. SWATE, B. C.Eng., M.Sc. Env.Eng., Ph.D. Hydrogeol.

Dr. Pamela Bartley is a water focused civil engineer with 24 year's field-based practice in groundwater, surface water and wastewater. Upon completion of a Diploma in Water and Wastewater Technology at Sligo RTC, Pamela completed her primary degree in Civil Engineering at Queen's University, Belfast, followed by postgraduate education at the School of Civil Engineering at Trinity College, Dublin. While a postgraduate at TCD, she completed a MSc. in Environmental Engineering at the School of Civil Engineering, with geotechnical, hydrogeological, legislation and water specialities, and later a hydrogeologically focused Ph.D. As a result of her work in evaluating planning appeals, Pamela has become a specialist in quarry and discharge evaluations in the context of enacted Irish Regulation and EU Directives concerning the environment, such as the Groundwater Regulations (2010, 2011, 2012, 2016), Surface Water Regulations (2009, 2012, 2015), EU (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations (2011), and Water Framework and Habitats' Directives.

Pamela's key work areas include the development of large-scale public supply water boreholes, surface water and groundwater assessments with a discharge focus, soil systems, soil hydrology and hydrogeological evaluations for quarries with a specific regulatory focus on water and ecological constraints. Pamela is qualified and IOSH certified to act as Project Supervisor Design Phase (PSDP) and Project Supervisor Construction Stage (PSCS) as defined in the Construction Regulations. The company is a registered Irish Water Supplier (no. 1855), while Pamela Bartley is HSQE approved within Irish Water and is one of their Hydrogeologist service providers. She is a professional member of Engineers Ireland and International Hydrogeologists (Irish Group).

Dr. Colin O'Reilly Ph.D. Hydrol.

Dr. Colin O'Reilly has over 15 years of professional experience as a hydrogeologist, coupled with a doctorate degree in hydrology, awarded by the Centre for Water Resources Research, School of Architecture, Landscape and Civil Engineering, UCD, while a recipient of a Teagasc Walsh Fellowship. Colin's company is Envirologic, which has key competencies in hydrogeology and hydrology, with expertise in flood assessments in addition to assessment of quarries across a range of diverse hydrogeological conditions across Ireland. Colin is a current and active member of Engineers Ireland and International Association of Hydrogeologists (Irish Group).



Section	Section	Contributing Experts	
4	Introduction	John Shaila & Daymand Harly	
1	Introduction		
2	Alternatives	John Sheils & Raymond Healy	5
3	Description of Proposed Project	John Sheils & Raymond Healy	0
4	Population & Human Health	John Sheils & Raymond Healy	
5	Biodiversity	Ger O'Donohoe (Moore Group)	
6	Land, Soils & Geology	Raymond Healy & John Sheils	
7	10/-4	Dr. Pamela Bartley (Hydro-G)	
7	water	Dr. Colin O Reilly (Envirologic)	
8	Climate	Raymond Healy & John Sheils	
9	Air	John Sheils	
10	Noise & Vibration	John Sheils	
11	Landscape	John Sheils & Raymond Healy	
12	Cultural Heritage	Dr. Charles Mount	
13	Material Assets	John Sheils & Raymond Healy	
14	Roads & Traffic	Alan O'Reilly, PMCE	
15	Interactions of the Foregoing	John Sheils	

Table 1.2 List of Expert Contributors by Section of the EIAR



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1.10 APPLICANT

The applicant, Lagan Materials Limited (t/a Breedon Ireland), is part of Breedon Group plc. Breedon is a public company with ordinary shares traded on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM). Breedon is a leading construction materials group in Britain and Ireland. The company employs approximately c. 3,600 people, and operates 2 cement plants, 70 quarries, 40 asphalt plants, 200 ready-mixed concrete plants, 9 concrete and clay products plants, 4 contract surfacing businesses, 6 import/export terminals and 2 slate production facilities.

Breedon trades in the Republic of Ireland as Breedon Ireland, a fully-integrated aggregates and downstream products business headquartered in Dublin. It comprises all Breedon's construction materials and contracting services businesses (aggregates, asphalt, ready– mixed concrete, bitumen, contract surfacing highway maintenance, civil engineering and airfield construction) in the Republic of Ireland.

Breedon are fully committed to sustainability and social responsibility. This commitment is one of the six pillars of the company's growth strategy, which was announced in their most recent Annual Report. In September 2020, Breedon committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

The company has a "Sustainability Working Group", which aims to ensure that the company can sustain long-term success, ensuring positive social, environmental and/or economic impact through their actions and activities.

The company published policy statements covering the key pillars of sustainability including Environment, Biodiversity, Social Responsibility, Health, Safety & Wellbeing and Responsible Resource Use. The policy statements are enclosed in Appendix 5.



1.11 ANY DIFFICULTIES IN COMPILING SPECIFIED INFORMATION

No major difficulties arising from either deficiencies in technology, knowledge or expertise were encountered in the preparation of the EIAR. The contents of a prior EIAR from 2020 (produced by SLR Consulting Ireland, 7 Dundrum Business Park, Windy Arbour, Dublin), which accompanied a planning application in relation to the quarry at Heronstown, ensured a considerable volume of relatively recent, relevant data was available. Furthermore, a recent Resource Assessment Report by SLR (SLR 2021; Refer to Appendix 6.1) provided additional up to date data.

The EIAR has been prepared by consultants with considerable experience in the compilation of planning applications and the preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR's) for quarry developments (Refer to Section 1.9).



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1.12 **REFERENCES**

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http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/index_en.htm European Commission, Environmental Impact Assessment

https://www.google.ie/maps Google Maps

http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/home.html Irish Statute Book, Office of the Attorney General

https://www.meath.ie/council/council-services/planning-and-building Meath County Council Planning & Building.





1.13 FIGURES











Land Holding (c.24.8 ha)

Total Application Area (c.18.5 ha) Area A (c.13.7 ha) - Continuance of Quarrying Area B (c.4.8 ha) - Quarry Extension

Planning Permission P.Reg. No. 23/917 (0.29 ha) New Office Building

Irish Transverse Mercator (ITM) geographic coordinates

Residence

NOTES:

+

- 1. All Dimensions in metres (m)
- 2. Elevation Levels metres Above Ordnance Datum (mAOD)
- 3. For Planning Purposes Only. Do not scale for setting out.

Description:

Digital Landscape Model (DLM)

Publisher / Source: Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSi)

Projection= IRENET95_Irish_Transverse_Mercator

Centre Point Coordinates: X,Y= 690784.0,781532.5

Reference Index: Map Series | Map Sheets 1:5,000 | 2189 1:5,000 | 2188 1:2,500 | 2188-A

Data Extraction Date: Date= 19-Apr-2023

Scale 1:5,000

No CYAL 50313412 @ O



J SHEILS PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL LTD

CLIENT Breed	on Ireland
Applicatio	on Area Map
LOCATION Heronsto	wn, Lobinstown,
Nava	n, Co. Meath
Drawn by John Sheils	Scale 1: 5,000

igure No.

Date

06/01/24

Figure 1.2 Rev. 0

