

## 2. BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

This chapter of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) presents information on the proposed development site, the strategic planning context for the proposal, the relevant planning history of the site and surrounding area, and the cumulative impact assessment process undertaken as part of this Report.

### 2.1 Development Proposal

The proposed development will comprise an area of 6.2 hectares (ha) to facilitate the extraction of sand and will include a processing plant to wash the excavated sand along with other ancillary infrastructure such as weighbridge, wheel wash and site offices. The site topography ranges from 84m ordnance datum (mAOD) to 96mAOD.

It is intended that the quarry will provide high quality sand material to the construction industry and other activities. It is not intended to excavate rock as part of this proposal. All processing (washing) of the excavated sand will be carried out on site.

It is proposed that during the operational phase of the quarry the excavation will go to an average depth of 3 metres. The proposed development will facilitate all processing of the excavated sand within the site area. The processing equipment is proposed along the southeastern edge of the subject site. The quarry is intended to be constructed in 3 no. phases, the first of which will provide a 1 ha designated for use as a processing area.

#### 2.1.1 Site Location

The subject site is located within the townland of Lomaunaghbaun, Co. Galway. The town of Tuam is located approximately 8.6km to the south-west and the village of Clonberne is located approximately 4.7km to the east. The grid reference coordinates for the centre of the site are X 552253, Y 756481 (Fig. 2-1).

As stated above, the proposed site area will cover an area of approximately 6.2 ha. The existing land is comprised of a greenfield site, in the predominantly rural location of Lomaunaghbaun.

Approximately 0.7km to the east of the site is the Levally Stream, a tributary of the Grange River, which flows in a southerly direction. The nearest surface water features to the site include Levally Lough, approximately 2.7 km south of the site. There is no surface water connection between Levally Lough and the Proposed Development site.

The site is currently accessed via an existing gateway which is adjacent to the local L2232 road which runs in a north-south direction parallel to the site's eastern boundary.





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Map Legend

— EIA Study Area

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Drawing no.  
EIA Study Area

Project Title  
Lomaunaghbaun Quarry

Drawn By  
EK

Checked by  
TM

Project No.  
211034

Drawing No.  
Figure 2-1

Scale  
1:4,500

Date  
2023-12-19



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2.1.2

## Physical Characteristics of the Site and Surrounding Lands

The application site is located in an area identified as forming part of the ‘North Galway Complex Landscape’, in the Galway County Development Plan Landscape Character Assessment (Figure 2-2). This area is described as follows:

*‘An extensive grassland plain stretching from the Suck River in the east to the watershed of the River Clare in the west. It includes elevated areas such as Slieve Dart in the north, as well as lakes, turloughs, raised bogs, wetlands and winding rivers.*

*Agriculture, scattered forestry and associated field patterns are very mixed and can exhibit large and abrupt changes of character over very short distances, especially in areas around bogs. It has a dense network of smaller settlements and roads, though at a lower density than the southern plains of the county.*

*‘Open areas around bogs produce extensive sky views and the area that are free from light pollution.’*

As noted in the landscape description of the area, the site is located in an intensively cultivated area which is home to farming and agricultural uses as well as a number of small settlements and one-off residential dwellings.

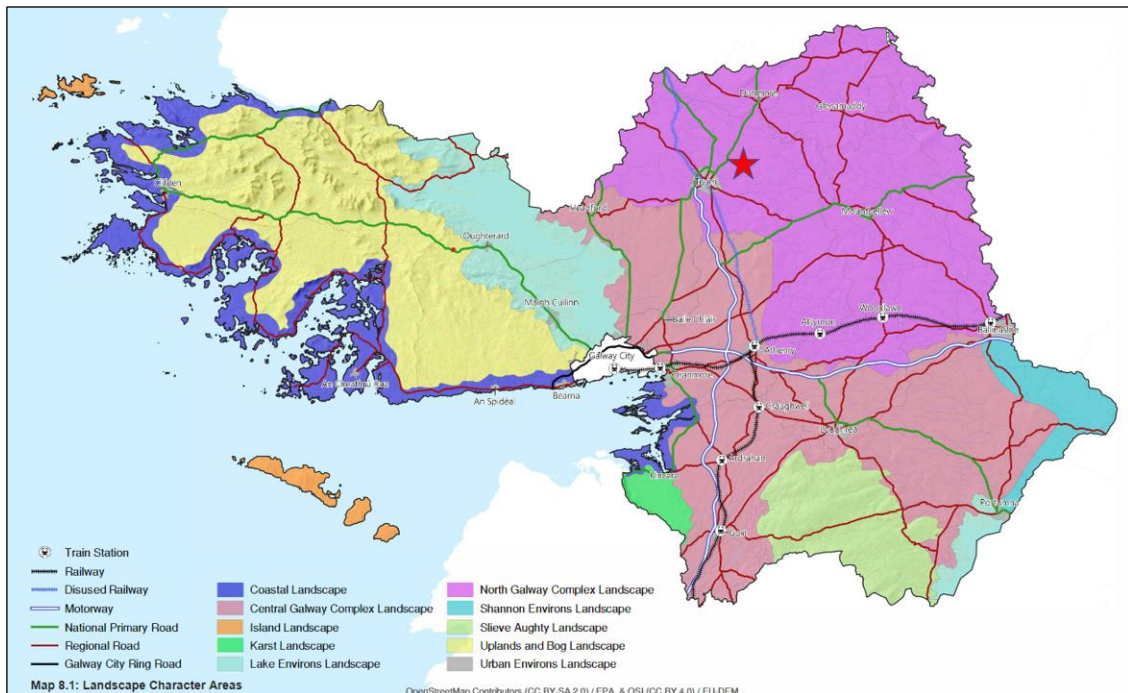


Figure 2-2: Site Located (red star) in North Galway Complex Landscape

2.1.3

## Existing Quarry Development in the Area

The area of the subject site is comprised largely of greenfield and agricultural lands. However, there are a number of existing quarries in operation and a number of quarries which have been decommissioned. The decommissioned quarries and quarries which are over a 2km distance from the subject site have not been considered in the Cumulative Assessment.

## 2.2 Planning History

This section sets out the relevant planning history of the site and its immediate surrounds

### 2.2.1 Planning Applications within the Application Boundary

Following a search of the subject site of the Galway County Council Planning Application Register it was concluded that there are no planning applications within the application boundary.

### 2.2.2 Planning Applications within the Vicinity of the Application Boundary

The following table provides the valid planning applications which lie within the vicinity (c. 2km) of the application site, on record over 5-year period to October 2023.

Table 2-1: Planning Applications within Vicinity

Pl. Ref	Description	Decision & Date
201030	To construct a slatted cattle shed with calf creep. Gross floor space of proposed development: 302.4 msq.	Granted (18/09/2020)
212178	To demolish the existing derelict dwelling house, and construct a new dwelling house, domestic garage/fuel store, septic tank, treatment system and percolation area and all ancillary site works. Gross floor space of proposed works: House: 194 sqm, Garage: 54 sqm.	Granted (24/01/2022)
212304	To construct new dwelling house, domestic garage, wastewater treatment system and percolation area along with associated site works. Gross floor space of proposed works: 213 sqm.	Granted (07/02/2022)
22124	To construct a two storey two-bedroom extension (189sqm) to an existing one-bedroom dwelling house (110sqm) and proprietary waste water treatment system /septic tank, percolation area and all ancillary site development works. Gross floor space of proposed works: 189 sqm.	Granted (31/03/2022)
2260026	To renovate and extend the existing dwelling house, construct a domestic shed and all associated site works. Gross floor space of proposed works: 116.10 sqm. Gross floor space of work to be retained: 220.80 sqm. Gross floor space of existing works: 260.51 sqm. Gross floor space of any demolition: 39.80 sqm.	Granted (16/03/2022)
2360178	To construct new dwelling house, domestic garage, wastewater treatment system and percolation area along with associated site works. Gross floor space of proposed works 195.00sqm.	Granted (21/04/2023)

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## 2.3 Planning Policy Context

This section of the report sets out the relevant national, regional and local planning policies of relevance to the planning application. Relevant material considerations are also set out, as appropriate.

### 2.3.1 National Policy

#### 2.3.1.1 National Planning Framework (2018)

The National Planning Framework (NPF), published in February of 2018, aims to shape and guide the future growth and development of Ireland up to 2040. The NPF supersedes the National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020 (NSS) and includes a focus on economic development and investment in housing, water services, transport, communications, energy, health and education infrastructure. The new framework sets out five strategic actions:

- Developing a new region-focused strategy for managing growth;
- Linking this to a new 10-year investment plan, the Project Ireland 2040 National Development Plan 2018-2027;
- Using state lands for certain strategic purposes;
- Supporting this with strengthened, more environmentally focused planning at local level; and,
- Backing the framework up in law with an Independent Office of the Planning Regulator.

The NPF forms the top tier of the national planning policy structure, accordingly, establishing the policy context for the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies and local level development plans. In an effort to move away from developer led development to one informed by the needs and requirements of society, a number of objectives and policies have been put in place in order for the country to grow and develop in a sustainable manner. The Framework notes that while the overall quality of the country's environment is good, it is not without challenges. It notes that the manner in which we plan for the potential issues is important to challenging them creating a sustainable environment for the future.

*“While the overall quality of our environment is good, this masks some of the threats we now face. Key national environmental challenges include the need to accelerate action on climate change, health risks to drinking water, treating urban wastewater, protecting important and vulnerable habitats as well as diminishing wild countryside and dealing with air quality problems in urban areas. It is also important to make space for nature into the future, as our population increases.”*

The NPF seeks to achieve ten strategic priorities surrounding:

1. *Compact Growth*
2. *Enhanced Regional Accessibility*
3. *Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities*
4. *Sustainable Mobility*
5. *A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills*
6. *High-Quality International Connectivity*
7. *Enhanced Amenity and Heritage*
8. *Transition to a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Society*
9. *Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources*
10. *Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services*

Relevant to the proposed development, the **National Strategic Outcome 3** (Strengthen Rural Economies and Communities), notes that rural areas, such as the vicinity of the application site, have a key role in driving the nation's economy and our high-quality environment. As part of the strategic development of Ireland to 2040, the NPF states that rural economic development opportunities, including natural resources, must be supported to ensure that these rural areas remain as living and working communities. Rural areas support a mix of businesses of varying sizes and operate in a wide range of sectors from the traditional, such as extractive, agriculture and tourism, to more modern industries.

Specific to extractive industries, the NPF acknowledges that these industries are important for the supply of aggregates and construction materials and minerals to a variety of sectors, for both domestic requirements and for export. As such, it is further set out that aggregates and minerals extraction will continue to be enabled by the planning process, where this is compatible with the protection of the environment and the quality of life of residents in the vicinity.

The associated **National Policy Objective 23** requires Local Authorities to:

*“...facilitate the development of the rural economy through supporting a sustainable and economically efficient agricultural and food sector, together with forestry, fishing and aquaculture, energy and **extractive industries**, the bio-economy and diversification into alternative on-farm and off-farm activities, while at the same time noting the importance of maintaining and protecting the natural landscape and built heritage which are vital to rural tourism.”*

A key aspect of the NPF surrounds the long-term sustainability of the environment, it aims to ensure that decisions that are made today to meet our future needs in a sustainable manner.

*“The manner in which we plan is important for the sustainability of our environment. Our planning system has influence across a wide range of sectors, both directly and indirectly and interacts with many common issues related to effective environmental management, including water services, landscape, flood risk planning, protection of designated sites and species, coastal and marine management, climate mitigation and adaptation, and land use change.”*

The Government will address environmental and climate challenges through the following overarching aims as listed under ‘Resource Efficiency and Transition to a Low Carbon Economy’:

- Sustainable Land Management and Resource Efficiency
- Low Carbon Economy
- Renewable Energy
- Managing Waste

As described in the NPF, Ireland is advancing its development as a circular economy and bioeconomy where the value of all products, materials and resources is maintained for as long as possible and waste is significantly reduced, or even eliminated. Further development of the circular economy will require greater efficiency with raw materials, energy, water, space and food by constantly reusing natural resources. Specifically, it is noted that additional investment in waste management infrastructure, and in particular different types of waste treatment, will be required, as exemplified by the proposed extension of the subject quarry. This is emphasised in **National Policy Objective 52** and **National Policy Objective 56** which state:

- **NPO 52:** *“The planning system will be responsive to our national environmental challenges and ensure that development occurs within environmental limits, having regard to the requirements of all relevant environmental legislation and the sustainable management of our natural capital.”*
- **NPO 56:** *“Sustainably manage waste generation, invest in different types of waste treatment and support circular economy principles, prioritising prevention, reuse, recycling and recovery, to support a healthy environment, economy and society.”*

## 2.3.2 Regional

### 2.3.2.1 Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy: Northern and Western Regional Assembly 2020-2032

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032: Northern and Western Regional Assembly (RSES) was adopted in 2020 and provides a high-level development framework for the Northern and Western Region that supports the implementation of the NPF. The focus of the RSES is on the counties of Mayo, Galway, Roscommon, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan, and Donegal. The RSES document is structured around 5 No. growth ambitions, all of which are supportive of sustainable growth and expansion of existing industries. The growth ambitions of the RSES are as follows:

1. Growth Ambition 1 – Economy and Employment – Vibrant Region
2. Growth Ambition 2 – Environment – Natural Region
3. Growth Ambition 3 – Connectivity – Connected Region
4. Growth Ambition 4 – Quality of Life – Inclusive Region
5. Growth Ambition 5 – Infrastructure – Enabling our Region

#### **Objective 9.3 – Planning for a Vibrant Economy**

*‘Nurturing the rural economy through protecting and promoting the sense of place and culture and the quality, character and distinctiveness of the rural landscape, whilst facilitating the appropriately scaled development of rural enterprise initiatives’.*

Quarries play a role in rural economies, not only in the winning of materials for the construction industry, but also for employment. It is therefore considered that this objective is supportive of the development proposed.

## 2.3.3 Local Policy

### 2.3.3.1 Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028

The Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 (GDP) was adopted on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November 2022, and it came into effect on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January 2023. The GDP provides guidance as well as policy and objectives for the overall development of County Galway and includes key policy relating to the Proposed Development.

There has traditionally been a strong extractive industry sector in County Galway. Quarrying in the County is largely divided between sand and gravel supplies, as well as crushed rock. Quarrying is considered to be an important sector both in terms of employment and as a local source of raw materials. The Council supports the continued development of the extractive industries sector and aims to ensure that development is carried out in a manner which has full regard to the principles of sustainability. The Authority will note that this application represents a proposal which has full regard to the principles of sustainability.

2.3.3.1.1 **General Policies & Objectives**

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Table 22: General Policies and Objectives

Policy item	Heading	Wording	Response
Policy RD 1	Rural Enterprise Potential	<i>“To facilitate the development of the rural economy through supporting a sustainable and economically efficient agriculture and food industry, together with forestry, fishing and aquaculture, energy and extractive industries, the bio-economy and diversification into alternative on-farm and off-farm activities, while at the same time noting the importance of maintaining and protecting the natural landscape and built heritage which are vital to rural tourism. Development of Cafes, Art Galleries, Hot Desk Facilities etc. which are important to the rural economy.”</i>	As detailed below in section 2.3.4.1, this application accords fully with all ministerial guidelines, and specifically Quarry and Ancillary Activities Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities DoEHLG (April 2004)
Policy MEQ 1	Aggregate Resources	<i>“Ensure adequate supplies of aggregate resources to meet future growth needs within County Galway and the wider region and to facilitate the exploitation of such resources where there is a proven need and market opportunity for such minerals or aggregates and ensure that this exploitation of resources does not adversely affect the environment or adjoining existing land uses.”</i>	As detailed below in section 2.3.4.1., this application accords fully with all ministerial guidelines, and specifically Quarry and Ancillary Activities Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities DoEHLG (April 2004)
Policy MEQ 2	Protection of the Environment	<i>“The Planning Authority shall require the following in relation to the management of authorised aggregate extraction – (a) All quarries shall comply with the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive, the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 and by the guidance as contained within the DoEHLG Quarries and Ancillary Facilities Guidelines 2004, the EPA Guidelines ‘Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry: Non-Scheduled Minerals 2006 (including any updated/superseding documents) and to DM Standard 19 of this Development Plan; (b) Require development proposals on or in the proximity of quarry sites, to carry out appropriate investigations into the nature and extent of old quarries (where applicable). Such proposals shall also investigate the nature and extent of soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development works together with appropriate mitigation; (c) Require Development Proposals to assess the potential impact of extraction in</i>	A Landscape Plan and Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment are submitted with this application. The development has also been reviewed in the Natura Impact Statement Report (submitted in this application). These items are enclosed as part of the planning application and comply with the necessary and relevant guidance as set out in Policy MEQ 2.



		<p>areas where geo-morphological interest, groundwater and important aquifers, important archaeological features and Natural Heritage Areas are located;</p> <p>(d) Have regard to the Landscape Character Assessment of the County and its recommendations;</p> <p>(e) Ensure that any quarry activity has minimal adverse impact on the road network and that the full cost of road improvements, including during operations and at time of closure, which are necessary to facilitate those industries are borne by the industry itself.</p> <p>(f) Ensure that the extraction of minerals or aggregates does not adversely impact on residential or environmental amenity;</p> <p>(g) Protect all known un-worked deposits from development that might limit their scope for extraction.”</p>	<p>RECEIVED: 09/01/2024</p>
<p>Policy MEQ 3</p>	<p>Sustainable Management of Exhausted Quarries</p>	<p>“Encourage the use of quarries and pits for sustainable management of post recovery stage construction and demolition waste, as an alternative to using agricultural land, subject to normal planning and environmental considerations.”</p>	<p>As detailed below in section 2.3.4.1., this application accords fully with all ministerial guidelines, and specifically Quarry and Ancillary Activities Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities DoEHLG (April 2004)</p>
<p>Policy MEQ 4</p>	<p>Landscaping Plans</p>	<p>“Ensure that all extractions shall be subjected to landscaping requirements and that worked out quarries should be rehabilitated to a use agreed with the Planning Authority which could include recreational, biodiversity, amenity or other end-of-life uses. The use of these rehabilitated sites shall be limited to inert waste and sites shall be authorised under the appropriate waste regulations.”</p>	<p>See below map indicating the Landscape Sensitivity Appraisal Areas for Co. Galway. The site is located in what is described as ‘Class 1’, which is considered a LOW Landscape Sensitivity Area. The conclusion of the exercise is clear, in that ‘Quarrying and Extraction’ would be seen to have LOW impact on this landscape area. As stated in the Development Plan, this does not preclude development, rather it necessitates mitigation through careful siting and design in order to minimise impacts to an acceptable level.</p>

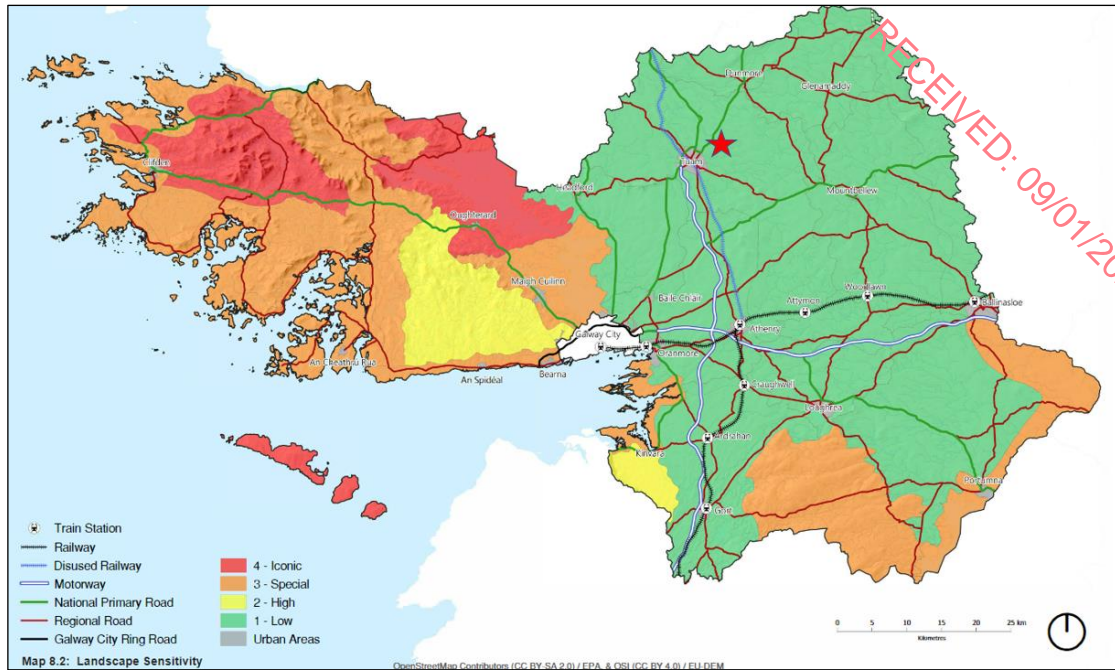


Figure 2-3 Landscape Sensitivity Areas in Galway County (site at Red Star)

The GDP provides the above Figure 2-2 as map8.2: Landscape Sensitivity. As indicated above in Figure 2-2, the proposed quarry site is located in a Low Landscape Sensitivity Area (Class 1), therefore the landscape is *'unlikely to be adversely affected by change'*. The subject site location and designation as a low landscape sensitivity area, as per the GDP, makes the subject site a suitable location for the proposed development.

## 2.3.4 Ministerial Guidance & Other Relevant Guidance

### 2.3.4.1 Quarries and Ancillary Activities – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2004)

The Guidelines, issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, are intended to in part offer

*'guidance to planning authorities on planning for the quarrying industry through the development plan and determining applications for planning permission for quarrying and ancillary activities'*.

It is recognised that the landscape, both built and natural is highly valuable. As such, any impact will be minimised and mitigated as part of the development process. A reinstatement proposal is also submitted with this application to demonstrate how it is intended to bring the lands back to their natural state once extraction is complete.

The guidelines highlight the economic importance of quarries, stating that the materials won from the extractive industry are provided directly to the construction industry. The cyclical nature of quarries and their direct relationship with construction and housing must not be underestimated when considering applications such as this.

The guidelines highlight the provisions within the Planning & Development, 2000 (as amended) which contains both mandatory and discretionary development plan objectives. Mandatory objectives most relevant to quarries include:

1. The conservation and protection of the environment including, in particular, the archaeological and natural heritage and the conservation and protection of European sites and any other sites (such as Natural Heritage Areas - NHAs) which may be prescribed;



2. The preservation of the character of the landscape where and to the extent that, in the opinion of the planning authority, the proper planning and sustainable development of the area requires it, including the preservation of views and prospects and the amenities of places and features of natural beauty or interest.

Relevant discretionary objectives in the First Schedule of the Act include:

1. Regulating, promoting or controlling the exploitation of natural resources;
2. Protecting and preserving the quality of the environment, including the prevention, limitation, elimination, abatement or reduction of environmental pollution and the protection of waters, groundwater, the seashore and the atmosphere;
3. Securing the reduction or prevention of noise emissions or vibrations;
4. Preventing, remedying or removing injury to amenities arising from the ruinous or neglected condition of any structure or from the objectionable or neglected condition of any land.

All of the above objectives have been incorporated into the proposal and ministerial guidelines have been followed. In summary, the proposed development accords with the relevant policies and objectives set out in this document.

## 2.4 Scoping and Consultations

An EIAR scoping exercise was undertaken as part of the EIAR process. Scoping is the process of determining the content, depth and extent of topics to be covered in the environmental information to be submitted to a competent authority for projects that are subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). This process is conducted by contacting the relevant authorities and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) with interest in the specific aspects of the environment likely to be affected by the proposal. These organisations are invited to submit comments on the scope of the EIAR and the specific standards of information they require. Comprehensive and timely scoping helps ensure that the EIAR refers to all relevant aspects of the proposed development and its potential effects on the environment. In this way, scoping not only informs the content and scope of the EIAR, it also provides a feedback mechanism for the proposed design itself.

A scoping document providing details of the application site and the proposed development, was prepared by MKO and circulated on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023 to the agencies, NGOs and other relevant parties listed in Table 2-32 below.

MKO requested the comments of the relevant personnel/bodies in their respective capacities as consultees with regards to the EIAR process.

### 2.4.1 Scoping Document

Table 2-3: Scoping Consultees and Responses

No.	Consultee	Summary Response
1	An Taisce	Acknowledgement of receipt
2	Bat Conservation Ireland	No response
3	BirdWatch Ireland	Acknowledgement of receipt
4	Environmental Protection Agency	No response
5	Galway County Council – Roads and Transportation Unit	No response
6	Galway County Council – Environment Department	Automatic response received 14/02/2023
7	Galway County Council – Heritage Officer	Automatic response received 15/02/2023
8	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	No response

No.	Consultee	Summary Response
9	Department of Environment, Climate and Communications	No response
10	Department of Transport	Automated response received 14/02/2023, Further response received 07/03/2023:
11	Department of Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media	No response
12	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage	Automated response received 16/02/2023, Further response received 15/03/2023:
13	Fáilte Ireland	No response
14	Geological Survey of Ireland	Response received 21/03/2023
15	Health Service Executive	Response received 07/03/2023
16	Inland Fisheries Ireland	Automated response received 14/02/2023
17	Irish Water	No response
18	Irish Wildlife Trust	Response received 15/02/2023
19	Office of Public Works	Automated response received 14/02/2023
20	Transport Infrastructure Ireland	Response received 24/02/2023
21	The Heritage Council	No response

## 2.4.2 Consultation with the Planning Authority

There have been various consultations with the Planning Authority in regard to the Proposed Development. These meetings are outlined below and consisted of:

- Pre-planning meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2023;
- Consultation with the Roads Section of Galway County Council on 24<sup>th</sup> of February 2023;
- Consultation with the Roads Section of Galway County Council on 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2023.

MKO, on behalf of the applicant Newtown Farming Ltd, issued a pre-planning request to Galway County Council on the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 2022, in respect of the proposed quarry development site. Following this request a pre-planning meeting took place on Microsoft Teams on 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2023 under reference number PPI 22-93. Representatives from Galway County Council, the prospective applicant and MKO were present for this meeting. A PowerPoint presentation from MKO and the prospective applicant was prepared. It outlined the nature and scale of the development, relation of the scheme in terms of local, regional, and national planning policy. Key issues from the scoping exercise were highlighted and the contents of the EIAR were outlined and explained.

The main points of discussion at this pre-planning meeting with Galway County Council are summarised below:

1. Ownership of the subject site and surrounding lands - The Applicant is not the same applicant as those operating surrounding quarries;
2. Cumulative Impact Assessment to consider quarry activity in the area & potential impact on traffic;
3. Surface water management to be examined due to a potential pluvial water network on-site to the east;
4. The subject site proximity to Levally Lough SAC is to be considered.

Following the pre-planning meeting there were no meeting minutes provided by Galway County Council to the Applicant or MKO.

Additional consultation with the Roads Section of Galway County Council included a meeting on site on 24<sup>th</sup> February. This on-site meeting included a review of the proposed access points and discussions around the preferred haul routes to site. Follow up discussions later in 2023 lead to the preparation of additional engineering details of the proposed public road reprofiling works.



A following up meeting was also held on 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2023, at Galway County Council offices which included further discussions with regard to the additional details provided above with regards preferred haul route and road improvements proposed as part of the application.

## 2.5 Cumulative Impact Assessment

The EIA Directive and associated guidance documents state that as well as considering any indirect, secondary, transboundary, short-, medium-, and long-term, permanent, and temporary, positive, and negative effects of the project (all of which are considered in the various chapters of this Report), the description of likely significant effects should include an assessment of cumulative impacts that may arise. The factors to be considered in relation to cumulative effects include population and human health, biodiversity, land, soil, water, air, climate, material assets, landscape, and cultural heritage as well as the interactions between these factors.

This section of the report provides an overview of other projects located within the wider area that have been considered within the cumulative impact assessments.

### 2.5.1 Methodology for the Cumulative Impact of Projects

To gather a comprehensive view of cumulative impacts on the above environmental considerations and to inform the application process being undertaken by the consenting authority, each relevant chapter within the Environmental Impact Assessment Report addresses the potential for cumulative effects to arise, where appropriate.

The potential cumulative impact of the proposed quarry has been carried out with the purpose of identifying what influence the proposed development will have on the surrounding environment when considered cumulatively, and in combination with relevant permitted, proposed and constructed projects in the vicinity of the proposed site.

The cumulative impact assessment of projects has four principle aims:

1. *To establish the range and nature of existing projects within the cumulative impact study area of the proposed development.*
2. *To summarise the relevant projects which have a potential to create cumulative impacts.*
3. *To establish anticipated cumulative impact findings from expert opinions within each relevant field. Detailed cumulative impact assessments are included in each relevant section of the Environmental Report.*
4. *To identify the projects that hold the potential for cumulative interaction within the context of the proposed development and discard projects that will neither directly or indirectly contribute to cumulative impacts.*

Assessment material for this cumulative impact assessment was compiled on the relevant developments within the vicinity of the proposed development. The material was gathered through a search of the relevant online Planning Register, reviews of relevant documents and planning application details, and served to identify past and future projects, their activities, and their environmental impacts.

The projects considered in relation to the potential for cumulative impacts and for which all relevant data was reviewed include those listed below.

## 2.5.2 Cumulative Study Area

The geographical boundaries of the various zones of sensitivity of and to the Proposed Development from which there may be potential for cumulative impacts to arise relative to each individual EIAR topic, i.e. each chapter, is presented below in Table 2-5. Following consultation with the EIAR team on each individual topic, the maximum geographical extent and justification for this extent was established and is presented below.

Table 2-4 Cumulative Assessment Study Areas

Topic	Maximum Extent	Justification
Ecology	1km	On a precautionary, conservative basis, a potential pathway for effect was identified via groundwater systems. No Annex I habitats, significant supporting habitat for Annex II or Annex I bird species, watercourses or drainage features were identified within the EIAR boundary. As such, 1 km buffer for cumulative impacts was deemed sufficient.
Hydrology & Hydrogeology	1km	The lack of SW or GW discharges means cumulative effects greater than 1km unlikely
LSG	1km	Only direct effects with the EIAR boundary are likely on LSG (therefore, 1km is very conservative)
Noise	1km	Sand and gravel quarries are typically audible out to approx. 500 m. Beyond 500 m, plant noise levels typically fall towards or below background noise levels, and thus dwellings beyond 500 m are usually beyond audible range. However, such dwellings may also be influenced by other operators within 500 m in another direction. The chief feature here is another quarry operator to the SW. Applying a cumulative buffer of 1 km allows for the cumulative assessment of emissions from other operators which may potentially affect dwellings between these operators and the proposed development.
L VIA	2km	Considering the scope and scale of the Proposed Development and its existing



		landscape setting, it is considered that landscape and visual effects will not be significant beyond the 2km LVIA Study Area, therefore assessment of landscape and visual effects from locations beyond 2km are scoped out of this assessment.
Archaeology	2km	
Traffic	Extent of study area is defined as 1km distance from the entirety of the Routes A & B	<p>The area selected for the cumulative assessment of the proposed sand quarry is local road network to the north via the L-2232, and to the south and east via the L-2232 and the L-2223, and the subsequent connections from the local road network with the regional R328. The was selected on the basis that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic counts undertaken for the proposed development has revealed that existing traffic volumes on the network are low;</li> <li>• The traffic volumes that will be generated by the proposed sand quarry are also low, and,</li> <li>• That capacity tests undertaken for the R328 / L-2232 and the R328 / L-2223 junctions show that less than 5% of junction capacity will be utilised with the proposed sand quarry in place, by the future year 2034, when up to 85% is permitted.</li> </ul>

### 2.5.3 Projects considered in the Cumulative Assessment

A comprehensive review of the relevant planning applications within the designated buffer zones immediate vicinity of the proposed quarry site. These applications have been taken account in describing the baseline environment and in the relevant assessments. The following are considered relevant in relation to the potential for cumulative impacts.

Table 2.5: Projects Considered for Cumulative Impact

PI Ref.	Description of Development	Decision
1967	Consisting of the construction of a dwelling house and domestic garage, on-site sewage treatment system and all associated site works. Gross floor space of proposed works 203sqm.	Granted 14/03/2019

PI Ref.	Description of Development	Decision
19805	For 1. the refurbishment and extension of existing dwelling house. 2. Demolition of existing shed to the rear of the house, 3. Construction of a garage, 4. Install new sewerage treatment system and all associated site works. Gross floor space of proposed works: House - 197.2 sqm, Garage - 90 sqm. Gross floor space of any demolition: 50.0 sqm	Granted 19/07/2019
171628	To construct a dwelling house, garage/fuel store, effluent treatment system, percolation area and all associated works. Gross floor space of proposed works 180sqm.	Granted 15/01/2018
191675	For construction of a new dwelling house, effluent treatment system and all associated site works. Gross floor space of proposed works: 91 sqm	Granted 25/02/2020
201030	To construct slatted cattle shed with calf creep. Gross floor space of proposed development: 302.4 msq	Granted 18/09/2020
201255	For development consisting of the construction of a single storey dwelling house (c.206 sqm), domestic garage (c.60 sqm), wastewater treatment system and all associated site works. Gross floor space of proposed works: 266 sqm (206 sqm - House, 60 sqm Garage)	Granted 28/10/2020
201392	To demolish existing old milking parlour and construct a three bay milking parlour with slatted tank and roofed collecting area. Gross floor space of proposed works: 171 sqm	Granted 18/11/2020
21574	To construct a fully serviced private dwelling house with waste water treatment system and private garage/fuel shed to include all associated site works. Gross floor space of proposed works: House: 220.13 sqm, Garage/fuel shed: 53.94 sqm	Granted 31/05/2021
211389	To construct a dwelling house, sewage treatment system and agricultural shed together with all associated site works. Gross floor space of proposed works , house 224 sqm & agricultural shed 189sqm.	Granted 22/09/2021
212178	To demolish the existing derelict dwelling house, and construct a new dwelling house, domestic garage/fuel store, septic tank, treatment system and percolation area and all ancillary site works. Gross floor space of proposed works: House: 194 sqm, Garage: 54 sqm.	Granted 24/01/2022
212195	To construct a domestic garage, together with all associated site works. Gross floor space of proposed works: 60 sqm	Granted 26/01/2022
212304	To construct new dwelling house, domestic garage, wastewater treatment system and percolation area along with associated site works. Gross floor space of proposed works: 213 sqm.	Granted 07/02/2022
2260026	To renovate and extend the existing dwelling house, construct a domestic shed and all associated site works. Gross floor space of proposed works: 116.10 sqm. Gross floor space of work to be retained: 220.80 sqm. Gross floor space of existing works: 260.51 sqm. Gross floor space of any demolition: 39.80 sqm	Granted 16/03/2022



PI Ref.	Description of Development	Decision
22124	To construct a two storey two-bedroom extension (189sqm) to an existing one-bedroom dwelling house (110sqm) and proprietary wastewater treatment system /septic tank, percolation area and all ancillary site development works. Gross floor space of proposed works: 189 sqm	Granted 31/03/2022
2360178	To construct new dwelling house, domestic garage, wastewater treatment system and percolation area along with associated site works. Gross floor space of proposed works 195.00sqm.	Granted 21/04/2023
23337	of 1. domestic garage to side of existing house; 2. for retention of garage/fuel store to rear of existing house; 3. for retention & completion of extension to side of existing house all on revised site boundaries from that previously granted under historical planning ref no. 42150 incl. all ancillary site development works	New Application
2361058	To construct dwellinghouse, garage, effluent treatment system, percolation area & all associated works	New Application

The potential for cumulative impacts arising from the proposed quarry development in tandem with the above projects have been set out in full in the relevant chapters of this Report, where appropriate. Detailed consideration of all potential cumulative impacts can therefore be found in the relevant sections of this Environmental Impact Assessment Report. It is concluded however, that no cumulative impacts will arise from the proposed development when considered in combination with development in the vicinity.