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INTRODUCTION

Background

- 1.1 This Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) provides supporting information to accompany an Application for Strategic Infrastructure Development to An Bord Pleanála and a Waste Licence Application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by Kilsaran Concrete Unlimited Company (hereinafter 'Kilsaran') for a Materials Recovery / Recycling Facility and Inert Landfill at its former quarry in Ballinclare, near Kilbride, Co. Wicklow.
- 1.2 Ballinclare Quarry was previously operated by Kilsaran up to June 2016, at which time small quantities of naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) were found to be present in the diorite bedrock which was being quarried.
- 1.3 Although the quarry was flooded following the cessation of dewatering activities in 2016, it is currently being dewatered in accordance with a water discharge licence issued by Wicklow County Council in November 2019 (Ref. No. WPL 116). Water from the quarry is passed through existing on-site treatment infrastructure to comply with licence criteria for discharge to the nearby Potters River. The quarry was substantially dewatered by the end of summer 2024 and at the present time, pumping and treatment is being undertaken on an intermittent basis, as water levels rise within the final bench / large sump at the lowest point on the quarry floor.
- 1.4 Following suspension of quarrying and related production activities in 2016, Kilsaran examined the feasibility of a range of backfilling and restoration options at the quarry, having regard to the availability of materials, available intake capacity at other facilities, market entry and establishment costs (and water treatment costs in particular).
- 1.5 Arising out of this review, Kilsaran decided to backfill and restore the quarry void with imported inert soil and stone / C&D waste materials and to develop an engineered landfill facility with a natural, low permeability clay liner at its base and sides to protect groundwater resources. It also decided as part of the overall development to establish and operate a construction and demolition (C&D) waste recovery facility at an existing paved area to the west of the site access road (to produce recycled aggregate from mass / reinforced concrete, blocks, paving stones, hardened asphalt returns) and to install a soil washing plant at the former asphalt / concrete production yard in the south-eastern corner of the site (to produce recycled aggregates from excess natural / waste soils).
- 1.6 In view of the projected scale of waste intake to the facility (up to 800,000 tonnes / annum), the proposed development was referred to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) in June 2019 as required under Section 37B of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2023 (as amended) to establish whether or not it met the legislative criteria for Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) (Referral Ref. ABP-304735-19).
- 1.7 After the Board determined that the proposed inert waste management facility at Ballinclare Quarry did constitute SID in February 2020, a planning application for the development was submitted directly to ABP in April 2021.
- 1.8 That application (Ref. No.ABP-309991-21) was ultimately refused permission in October 2023, principally on account of perceived deficiencies in baseline ecological surveys around the application site. All other aspects of the proposed development, including need, compliance with policy objectives and traffic impact were deemed satisfactory by the ABP Inspector in his report to the Board.
- 1.9 On foot of the refusal for the SID application for the waste management facility at the quarry, Kilsaran undertook a further review of development options for the site, with

particular regard being had to recent developments in national waste policy, the emergence of the circular economy and various planning issues and concerns identified by the local community in respect of the previous planning application.

- 1.10 Having reviewed and assessed the various policy and planning issues, Kilsaran remains committed to the establishment of a materials management facility at Ballinclare Quarry and has elected to submit an updated / modified planning application for Strategic Infrastructure Development to An Bord Pleanála which takes account of recent policy developments and concerns raised by the local community in respect of the original development proposal.

Proposed Development

- 1.11 The proposed Materials Recovery / Recycling Facility and Inert Landfill at Ballinclare Quarry development will provide for the following:
- Installation and operation of a high-tech soil washing plant at the former concrete / asphalt production area in the south-eastern corner of the quarry, capable of recovering construction-grade sand and gravel aggregate from imported soil and stone;
 - Establishment of a construction and demolition (C&D) waste recovery facility at an existing paved area to the west of the internal access road. This facility will comprise a large portal frame structure (with roof mounted solar panels) to house mechanical plant for crushing and screening of solid C&D wastes and external paved areas for storage of unprocessed waste intake materials and processed (i.e. recycled) aggregates;
 - Construction and operation of an engineered (i.e. lined) landfill facility to provide for backfilling of the existing quarry void through in-situ deposition of
 - imported inert waste materials (principally soil and stone from construction and development projects);
 - filter cake produced by the pre-treatment / washing of soil and stone wastes at the proposed soil washing plant; and
 - clay-rich soil and stone (managed as non-waste by-product) which is unsuitable for soil washing;
 - Continued operation of the established water treatment system and installation of a Constructed Integrated Wetland (ICW) to treat any potentially contaminated waters arising across the engineered landfill facility and/or the C&D waste recovery facility;
 - Long-term restoration of the backfilled quarry void and inert landfill area to native woodland habitat.
- 1.12 The principal intake material at the proposed facility will be excess soil and stone generated by off-site construction and development activities in Counties Wicklow, Dublin and Wexford. The imported soil and stone will comprise a mix of
- (non-waste) by-product, typically originating at previously undeveloped ('greenfield') sites, and
 - waste, typically originating from previously developed ('brownfield') sites.
- Soil to be used for construction of the basal and sidewall liner at the landfill facility will be imported as a non-waste by-product and will conform to an engineering specification. Natural aggregates requiring further processing (washing) may also be imported on occasion (without breaching overall permitted intake limit).
- 1.13 Although the proposed backfilling activities / landfill facility will substantially reinstate the former (pre-quarry) landform at the application site, they will only extend upwards to a

maximum elevation of 80mOD to provide for the retention of existing rock exposures at higher levels and facilitate continued nesting by peregrine falcon at the site.

Soil Wash Plant

- 1.14 Soil and stone intake with a high proportion of sand and gravel particulates (such as glacial till / boulder clay) will generally be directed to the soil wash plant to be managed separately as either waste or (non-waste) by-product. Mixed, clay bound C&D wastes may also be directed to the soil wash plant. Any recycled aggregates which originate as waste will be subject to the End of Waste criteria published by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)¹.
- 1.15 Filter cake materials generated by soil washing activities will be deposited on land at the proposed engineered landfill facility, irrespective of whether the parent material was originally classified as by-product or waste. Where acceptable and feasible to do so, filter cake / dewatered fines material from the soil washing plant which would be expected to have very low permeability could also be used for landfill lining purposes.
- 1.16 Soil washing activities will continue at the up to the final phase of the proposed landfilling scheme which will see its footprint extended across the former concrete / asphalt production area in the south-eastern corner of the site

C&D Waste Recovery Facility

- 1.17 The principal non-soil and stone materials to be imported to and recycled at the C&D waste recovery facility comprise solid construction and demolition (C&D) wastes such as concrete (ready-mixed, reinforced, blocks and/or pavement slabs), bricks, ceramics and bituminous waste mixtures (i.e. hardened asphalt returns and road planings) which have generally been source separated at originating sites. These materials will generally be processed (crushed and screened) on site and supplied as recycled (secondary) aggregates to the construction market, subject to End of Waste criteria set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- 1.18 For the purposes of the Strategic Infrastructure application, it is envisaged that C&D waste recovery activities will continue for the duration of the proposed backfilling / landfilling operations and follow-on restoration works across the former quarry footprint. Planning permission for C&D waste recovery activity will expire thereafter, unless otherwise renewed by the company / Planning Authority.

Intake Limits

- 1.19 It is envisaged that the combined (cumulative) intake of (i) inert soil / C&D waste for on-site disposal and recovery and (ii) non-waste by-product material required for on-site landfill engineering works or supplied to the soil wash plant, will not exceed 600,000 tonnes per annum.
- 1.20 Within this overall intake, the annual intake of soil and stone (as waste and by-product) is likely to be of the order of 550,000 tonnes per annum. Where suitable, inert soil and stone waste will be imported and processed at the soil washing plant to recover construction grade aggregates. If not, it will be placed directly at the engineered (lined) landfill facility.
- 1.21 While any by-product intake will principally comprise soil and stone sourced from greenfield (i.e. previously undeveloped) construction sites, it could possibly evolve to include other prospective by-product materials as other regulatory decisions in respect of by-products are made and/or enacted by the EPA over time.

¹ EPA National End-of-Waste Decision EoW-N001/2023 of 12th September 2023 establishing criteria determining when recycled aggregate ceases to be waste under Regulation 28 of the European Union (Waste Directive) Regulations 2011 –

- 1.22 The maximum annual intake of inert C&D waste will be of the order of 50,000 tonnes per annum and will principally comprise concrete (ready-mixed, reinforced, blocks and/or pavement slabs), bricks and bituminous mixtures / hardened asphalt.

Regulatory Aspects

- 1.23 As noted previously, the bulk of the materials to be imported to the proposed facility will be classified as waste. The size and scale of the proposed waste activities are such that the proposed waste activities will also require a waste licence from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The proposed landfilling activity is technically classed by national and European waste management legislation as '*deposit onto land*' and the associated development as a 'waste disposal facility'.
- 1.24 The size and scale of the proposed soil waste treatment and C&D waste recovery activities are also such as to require an EPA waste licence. C&D waste recovery activities are technically classified as '*recycling and reclamation of other inorganic materials which includesrecycling of inorganic construction materials*'.
- 1.25 The Strategic Infrastructure application is made in accordance with the requirements of Section 37 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2024 (as amended) and its attendant regulations. The associated waste licence application is made in accordance with the requirements of the Waste Management Acts 1996-2024 (as amended) and its attendant regulations.

The Applicant

- 1.26 The Strategic Infrastructure application and accompanying supporting documentation has been prepared by SLR Consulting Ireland (SLR) on behalf of Kilsaran Concrete Unlimited Company, hereinafter referred to as 'Kilsaran'.
- 1.27 Kilsaran was founded in 1964 and is a wholly Irish-owned company, whose principal business is the production of materials for the construction industry. The company manufactures paving and walling, pre-mixed dry products, ready-mix concrete, concrete blocks, trowel-ready mortar, aggregates, asphalt and macadam, hard core and fill materials for the Irish and UK markets. It also undertakes surfacing contracts for road construction, building and civil engineering works.
- 1.28 The company employs over 900 people directly. It operates 12 hard rock quarries and a similar number of sand and gravel pits. Kilsaran manufactures concrete construction products at 20 locations, principally in the east, midlands and south of the country. The company also has 3 asphalt plants, strategically located at quarry sites throughout its operational area.
- 1.29 In recent years Kilsaran has focused on a substantial expansion programme to its Paving and Walling division and Pre-mixed Dry Products facilities. The company has also expanded into the UK market with a Supply and Distribution depot added in Manchester to serve the North West of England and the wider UK market.
- 1.30 Although Kilsaran's principal business interest is in mineral extraction and manufacture of building materials and products, in recent years, it has made beneficial use of excess soil and stone waste generated by construction and development activity to backfill and restore a number of its larger worked-out pits and quarries under the EPA waste licencing regime. The company has also established a number of construction and demolition (C&D) waste recycling facilities, principally to manage concrete wastes, under the Local Authority waste facility permitting regime.
- 1.31 At the present time, it operates EPA licensed soil waste recovery facilities at Kilmessan in Co. Meath (Waste Licence Ref. No W0296-01) and at Halverstown, Co. Kildare (Waste Licence Ref. No. W0300-01).

- 1.32 Kilsaran operates all its quarries in accordance with the environmental guidelines of the Irish Concrete Federation (ICF) and current best practice for the quarrying industry, as set out in the publication Guidelines on Environmental Management in the Extractive Industries published by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA, 2006).

THE SITE

Site Location

- 1.33 The application site comprises a former rock quarry and tied manufacturing facilities at Ballinclare Quarry in Co. Wicklow, approximately 2.5km to the north-west of the small settlement of Kilbride and 2.5km south of the village of Glenealy. The site location is indicated on an extract from the 1:50,00 Discovery Series Map of the area reproduced in Figure 1-1 and on a 1:10,000 scale Ordnance Survey map of the area in Figure 1-2.
- 1.34 The overall Kilsaran land ownership area at Ballinclare Quarry extends to c.36 ha (89 acres), while the prospective planning application site covers approximately 32.6ha (80.5 acres). The Applicant's landholding is shown edged blue in Figure 1-2, while the extent of the application area is shown edged red on the same figure.
- 1.35 For the avoidance of doubt, any reference within this EIAR to 'site' or 'application site' should be taken to refer to the application area shown in Figure 1-2, while the wider landholding (within the blue line boundary) is identified as 'the overall site' or 'Ballinclare Quarry'.
- 1.36 The application site straddles two townlands, Ballinclare and Carrigmore, and extends across all of the former quarry footprint and includes the former concrete / asphalt production area, a paved concrete area to the west of the existing site access road, pre-existing site buildings and infrastructure and a network of settling ponds in the north-western corner. It *excludes* a compound / yard area leased to Wicklow County Council in the north-western corner of the landholding, identified as its Carrigmore Depot. An aerial photograph showing the layout of the existing site area is provided in Figure 1-3.

Development History

- 1.37 While it is unclear when extraction activities first commenced at Ballinclare Quarry, it is known that it pre-dated the commencement of the first Planning and Development Act and its attendant regulations in 1964.
- 1.38 The quarry was registered with Wicklow County Council (WCC) on 4 March 2005 by the quarry owner and operator at the time, S.M. Morris Ltd, as it was required to do under Section 261 of the Planning and Development Act of 2000 (WCC Quarry Ref. QY/4). Arising out of the quarry registration process, the operator was directed by Wicklow County Council to submit a planning application for retention of the quarry and related site development.
- 1.39 In January 2007, a planning application was subsequently submitted for retention of quarrying and related activities (over 13.4 hectares) including extraction areas, processing areas, stockpiling areas, stone crushing and screening plant, concrete and asphalt production plants, structures and associated site infrastructure. Retention planning permission was granted by Wicklow County Council in February 2008, subject to 39 conditions (Planning Ref. 07/45).
- 1.40 The quarry was temporarily closed in 2009 following the downturn in activity in the Irish construction industry which followed the Global Financial Crisis of 2008. The quarry reopened again in 2014 following its acquisition by Kilsaran.
- 1.41 In December 2014, Kilsaran sought planning permission for the continuation of previously permitted development at the quarry for a period of 25 years which included a readymix

concrete plant and an asphalt manufacturing plant. Permission was sought *inter alia* for a revised extraction scheme which provided for deepening of the quarry to a floor level of +1mOD over an extended extraction area of 16.5 hectares, an aggregate washing plant, replacement of the pre-existing asphalt plant, a concrete block manufacturing plant and concrete block manufacturing yard and an increase in output from the quarry to c. 800,000 tonnes per annum. Planning permission for the quarry extension and associated development was granted by Wicklow County Council subject to 23 conditions in January 2016 (Planning Ref. 14/2118).

- 1.42 Extraction and production activities at the quarry ceased in June 2016 following the discovery of small quantities of naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) in the diorite bedrock being quarried at the time.

Site Description

- 1.43 The existing quarry development at Ballinclare extends across approximately 24 hectares (c. 59.3 acres), of which the existing quarry extraction area extends to c.9.3 hectares (c. 22.9 acres). Ground levels in the vicinity of the quarry vary between 55mOD to 60mOD along the southern site boundary, close to the L1157 Local Road and rise to 90mOD at the highest point along the northern boundary where the main quarry face cuts into a rock slope which rises northwards. Typical levels along the northern quarry boundary range from 50mOD to 70mOD.
- 1.44 Extraction across the quarry generally extended to a floor level of approximately 37mOD. At the time quarry activities were suspended in 2016, the two existing quarry benches were being extended westwards. As a result, the quarry floor is locally higher at the western end, where the first bench has only been developed to a level of approximately 52mOD. The quarry floor is also locally deeper in the central eastern area of the quarry area and extends to approximately 22mOD where a third bench had been commenced. As a low point, this area effectively acts as the quarry sump at the current time.
- 1.45 The quarry is accessed via a 120m long surfaced entrance road leading off an existing junction with the L1157 Local Road. The former readymix concrete batching plant and asphalt plant were located to the south-east of the quarry holding, east of the access road, in an area where rock was previously excavated to a relatively shallow depth (of between 5m and 10m).
- 1.46 Established ancillary facilities at the quarry include the main site office, a weighbridge and adjoining weighbridge office, staff canteen and toilets, a wheelwash, a bunded fuel storage area, a garage / workshop and a laboratory.
- 1.47 There is a concrete paved area to the west of the existing site access road, together with a number of former farm buildings and a former agricultural / storage yard. The farm buildings comprise a stone barn and two concrete walled barns, all with corrugated tin roofs. A more modern brick-built two-storey residential building (currently vacant) is also present in this area.

Site Access

- 1.48 Traffic travelling to the application site principally travels to Junction 18 of the M11 Motorway between Dublin and Wexford (beside the Beehive Inn) and travels south-west from there for approximately 3.8km along the L1113 Local Road to Ballinclare Quarry. Thereafter, traffic turns left (and east) at a T-junction and travels for a further 0.6km along the L1157 Local Road, also known locally as the Breagura Road, to the entrance to Ballinclare Quarry.
- 1.49 Alternatively traffic travelling along the R772 Regional Road (the former N11 National Primary Road) can turn off at the Tap Café / Restaurant at Kilbride and travel north-

westwards for approximately 2km along the L1157 Local road to the entrance to Ballinclare Quarry.

- 1.50 All future traffic to and from the proposed Material Recycling / Recovery Facility and Inert Landfill at Ballinclare Quarry will be routed along the L1157 Local Road, amending the one-way system which was in place at the quarry previously which directed inbound traffic along the L1113 Local Road and outbound traffic along the L1157 Local Road.
- 1.51 Following discussions with the Roads Authority (Wicklow County Council), provision is made for road improvements along the length of the L1157 leading up to the quarry access, including road widening to 6.0m over the entire route length (and within the existing road curtilage), with road strengthening and repair overlay and road markings. The proposed road upgrade / improvement works are not anticipated to require the removal of any mature trees along its length.

Site Drainage

- 1.52 When it was operating, the quarry at Ballinclare was effectively worked dry, with very little inflow of groundwater recorded into the quarry void. A sump was located at the lowest point on the quarry floor and collected any surface water falling over the excavation area as well as any minor inflows of groundwater which may have arisen. The water collecting in the sump was periodically pumped to water storage tanks for subsequent re-use in concrete production on-site or for dust suppression and it is understood that when the quarry was operational, little (if any) surface water run-off was discharged off-site.
- 1.53 At the present time, rainfall across the existing quarry site (including the former concrete / asphalt production yard) generates run-off which generally falls to the quarry void, while run-off across the western side of the quarry site falls to the drainage channel leading off-site to the Ballinclare Stream. Given that the diorite bedrock is a poor aquifer, there is relatively little infiltration to ground or recharge to the underlying groundwater table.
- 1.54 After extraction and production activities were suspended in 2016, quarry dewatering ceased in the absence of any on-site outlet or end use for the water collecting in the quarry sump. In subsequent years, the quarry void was flooded by surface water run-off from surrounding ground and (relatively minor) groundwater inflows and water levels within the quarry rose gradually over time.
- 1.55 In November 2019, Wicklow County Council issued a discharge licence (Ref. No. WPL116) which provided for off-site discharge of water collecting in the quarry void to the Ballinclare Stream immediately beyond the north-western site boundary. Approximately 400m north and downstream of the discharge point, the Ballinclare Stream flows into the much larger Potters River.
- 1.56 The current discharge licence provides for pumping of water from the quarry void (using a rising main pipe) to an existing on-site treatment unit located at the former storage area upstream of a series of existing settlement ponds. The approved water treatment system was installed and commissioned in October 2022 and quarry dewatering commenced. Shortly thereafter. The system comprises a bespoke Siltbuster treatment plant which reduces naturally-elevated concentrations of arsenic identified in the water which collected in the quarry void, as well as also effectively removing any suspended solids.
- 1.57 Following treatment at the Siltbuster plant, surface water run-off flows under gravity towards the settlement ponds for further polishing and sediment removal. All off-site discharges are sampled and tested in accordance with licence requirements. Test results to date have been consistently compliant with the emission limit values set by the discharge licence.

Surrounding Land Use

- 1.58 The area surrounding the application site at Ballinclare Quarry is typically rural in character and dominated by forestry and undulating agricultural land. Ground level in the vicinity of the application site generally lies between 60mOD and 70mOD. Ground levels rise in a south-westerly direction to c.270mOD at Westaston Hill (approximately 2km SW) and in a northerly direction to 217mOD at Ballincooley Hill (approximately 1.75km N).
- 1.59 Potters River flows approximately 450m beyond the northern boundary of the application site and then turns south-eastwards and flows approximately 250m to the east of the landholding. Thereafter it continues south-eastward and eventually discharges to the sea at Brittas Bay.
- 1.60 Residential property in the vicinity of the application site generally comprises farmsteads and isolated / one off houses along the local road network. The nearest dwellings to the landholding boundary are those located to the south, west and north of the site, along the local county road network.
- 1.61 There is another quarry located in Kilmacurra West, on the opposite side of the L1157 Local Road. It is understood that this quarry is not currently active.
- 1.62 The principal tourism / amenity facility in the vicinity of the quarry is the Kilmacurragh Botanic Gardens, an outpost of the National Botanic Garden in Glasnevin, Dublin, which is located approximately just under 1km to the south-west of the site.
- 1.63 There are no designated nature conservation sites (Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA), Natural Heritage Area (NHA) or proposed Natural Heritage area (pNHA) within or adjacent to the application site. The closest such sites are the Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC (Site Code 000717) and the Glenealy Woods pNHA (Site Code 001756), which, at their closest point are located approximately 1.6 km and 1.1km to the north-west of the application site respectively. The next closest site is the Buckroney-Brittas Dunes and Fen SAC (Site Code 000729) some 7km southeast of the application site.
- 1.64 There are no recorded monuments located within or immediately adjacent to the application site. The nearest recorded monument is located approximately 300m to the west, in a nearby agricultural field and is identified as a church, holy well and graveyard (Ref. WI030-014). While there is now no physical trace of it, the local 25-inch historical map identifies it as the site of Kilmanoge Church.
- 1.65 Thereafter, the nearest recorded monument is a ringfort (Ref. WI031-004) located approximately 500m to the east north-east (ENE) at its closest point. Elsewhere, a number of archaeological sites, described as burnt mounds, were identified in recent years during pre-construction investigations along the M11 Motorway corridor to the east of the site.
- 1.66 There are no structures identified on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage within or in the immediate vicinity of the application site. There nearest protected structures in the local area are
 - (i) Westaston Demesne Country House (Structure No. 30-18) is a late-17th Century house which now in ruins, located approximately 0.9km to the south-west of the application area
 - (ii) Coolacork Country House (Structure No. 31-06), a late 18th Century house located approximately 0.95km to the north-east.
- 1.67 There is a further cluster of protected structures located around the townland of Ballymurrin Lower, approximately 1.5km to the east of the application site (and to the east of the M11 Motorway).

- 1.68 According to the current Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022, the application site is located within a landscape sensitivity area identified as a “Corridor Area”. This area is described as “*comprising lands either side of the main transport routes within the County, the N11 and N81*”. The landscape around the site is further categorised as being of ‘medium vulnerability’. At the present time, almost all external views into the application site are screened by existing dense roadside vegetation around the site boundary and by further intervening vegetation within the site itself.
- 1.69 The online Irish Geological Heritage map indicates that Kilmacurra Quarry on the western side of the L1157 Local Road is designated a County Geological Site (CGS). The quarry, which is currently partially flooded is located approximately 700m to the south west of the application site. There are no other designated geological sites in the immediate vicinity.
- 1.70 Details of natural features, established land-use and development surrounding the application site at Ballinclare Quarry are shown on Figure 1-4.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT (EIAR)

- 1.71 An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) is “*a statement of the effects, if any, which proposed development, if carried out, would have on the environment*”. It is a systematic evaluation of the positive and negative impacts of a planned project or development on both the natural and human environment. The principal objectives of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report are:
- to identify and/or predict the likely significant impacts of the project / development;
 - to identify what mitigation measures should be incorporated into the project / development to eliminate or minimise the likely impacts;
 - to interpret and communicate the assessment of the impact of the project / development, in both technical and non-technical terms;
 - to assist planning authorities in their decision-making processes in respect of applications for planning consent.

In this instance, this EIAR is provided to assist An Bord Pleanála in determining an application for Strategic Infrastructure Development in respect of the proposed materials recycling / recovery facility and inert landfill at Ballinclare Quarry.

EIA Screening

- 1.72 Part 1 and Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) identify the nature and scale of development that requires mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and submission of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) in support of a planning application
- 1.73 Paragraph 11 of Part 2 of Schedule 5 states that the following form of development requires an EIA
- (b) Installations for the disposal of waste with an annual intake greater than 25,000 tonnes not included in Part 1 of this Schedule.*
- 1.74 As the planned combined annual intake of soil / stone / construction and demolition (C&D) waste intake to the planned waste facility at Ballinclare Quarry is a maximum of 600,000 tonnes per annum, it far exceeds the threshold limit of 25,000 tonnes per annum for EIA and there is therefore a requirement for EIA and an EIAR under Part 2 of Schedule 5.

EIA Scoping / Consultations

- 1.75 The need to know the likely areas of potential impact and the appropriate methods by which to evaluate them prior to the commencement of baseline data collection or assessment is critical in determining the nature and detail of information to be presented

in an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). The Applicant is a long-established operator and both it and its consultants have a detailed knowledge and experience both of the application site specifically and of the environmental issues associated with mineral extraction, quarry restoration and waste management activities more generally.

- 1.76 In early February 2024, a pre-application request was submitted to An Bord Pleanála under reference ABP-318997-24 for a determination as to whether or not the proposed development at Ballinclare Quarry constitutes Strategic Infrastructure Development pursuant to Section 37A of the Planning and Development Acts (and the Seventh Schedule thereto). A follow-up virtual (online) meeting to discuss the nature and scale of the proposed development was held via MS Teams with ABP officials on 11 April 2024.
- 1.77 Arising from the consultations, An Bord Pleanála formally advised on 21st May 2024 that it considered that the proposed development at Ballinclare Quarry constituted strategic infrastructure under the Act and directed that formal consultations be undertaken with a number of relevant prescribed bodies including the following
- Minister of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
 - Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources
 - Wicklow County Council
 - Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly
 - Inland Fisheries Ireland
 - Environmental Protection Agency
 - An Chomhairle Ealaíon
 - The Heritage Council
 - Fáilte Ireland
 - An Taisce
 - Health Service Executive
 - Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- 1.78 The Board further advised that it would consider it prudent to undertake further formal consultations with the following non-prescribed bodies:
- Health and Safety Authority
 - Eastern-Midlands Waste Regional Authority
 - Geological Survey of Ireland
- 1.79 In addition to the above, Kilsaran and the project team considered it would be beneficial to also consult with Uisce Éireann to establish if it had any concerns in respect of water services in the local area.

Consultation with Prescribed Bodies

- 1.80 On foot of the direction provided by An Bord Pleanála, the relevant prescribed bodies were formally contacted and provided with details of the proposed materials recovery / recycling facility and inert landfill at Ballinclare Quarry in July 2024. Consultees were invited to provide feedback and identify any concerns they may have had in respect of the planned development. Details of these consultations and the feedback obtained therefrom is provided in a separate consultation report submitted in support of the Strategic Infrastructure Development application to An Bord Pleanála.

- 1.81 Any relevant formal feedback arising from the consultation exercise with these statutory bodies was subsequently communicated to the specialist contributors to this EIAR and is addressed in their respective EIAR Chapters.
- 1.82 Consultation was initiated with Wicklow County Council, specifically in respect of traffic and road access proposals and built on from previous consultations undertaken in 2019 and 2020, in advance of the earlier SID application in 2021. At a meeting held on 4th September 2024 at the Arklow Municipal District offices, officials from the Roads Department reiterated that was their preference that all HGV traffic travelling to and from the application site should be routed along the L1157 Local Road in both directions, rather than continue with the one-way system that had previously routed inbound traffic to the quarry along the L1113 Local Road and outbound traffic along the L1157.
- 1.83 At the meeting, it was recognised that road strengthening and widening works would be required along the L1157 to accommodate the revised routing and facilitate the safe passage of site generated traffic. Council officials also advised that it would be prudent to implement measures to assist with monitoring / control of traffic speed and haulage routes wherever practicable to do so.
- 1.84 Separately, consultations were undertaken with Council officials via email and drawing exchange to agree in principle the scope of any road upgrade / improvement works which would be implemented to facilitate the proposed development at Ballinclare Quarry on foot of any planning permission granted by ABP.
- 1.85 A pre-application meeting was also held with the Environment Section of Wicklow County Council. The feedback received was generally positive in view of the lack of existing facilities in County Wicklow for the disposal of inert soil and stone and the extent of materials that currently originate from Dublin and pass through the county for ultimate disposal in County Wexford. In addition, the potential for the proposed development to reduce the need for virgin aggregate was identified as a particularly welcome benefit / advantage. The modification of the original (2021) development proposal to place greater emphasis on soil processing and the recovery of construction grade aggregate from waste was also commended.

Public Consultation

- 1.86 In addition to consultation with prescribed bodies consultations were also initiated with non-statutory consultees, principally local residents and the general public with a likely interest in the planned development at Ballinclare Quarry.
- 1.87 These consultations were largely undertaken between the 21st of August 2024 and 9th of September 2024. The objective of the consultation exercise was,
 - (i) to provide the public with information on the proposed development and as well as an opportunity to raise issues / queries and discuss the development with Kilsaran representatives and the Project Team; and
 - (ii) to engage with, and seek the assistance of, the public in identifying the environmental issues to be assessed in the EIAR and NIS to be prepared and submitted with the project application for development consent.
- 1.88 Members of the public were invited to attend a locally held public information and consultation event at the Green Angel Skincare premises / Junction 18 Café (the former Tap restaurant) in Kilbride on 21 August 2024 (at junction of L1157 Local Road and R772 Regional Road) between 16.00 hours and 20.00 hours.
- 1.89 The notice advertising the event was distributed by means of an advance leaflet drop to local residents within 1km of the application site and along the L1157 Local Road leading to the site from the R772 Regional Road. The leaflet provided outline details of the development, a link to a dedicated project website (www.ballinclarematerialsrecovery.ie)

and an email address for submission of observations and feedback. Prior notice of the public consultation event was also provided by way of an advert in the local Wicklow People newspaper on 14 August 2024.

- 1.90 The event was an informal and open forum, with a series of display boards available for inspection, presenting details of the proposed development, visualisations / photomontages and information on environmental topics. Company representatives were available for question / discussion in relation to any potential concerns, and input and feedback was sought in respect of potential refinement of development proposals to reduce or minimise concerns about potential development impacts.
- 1.91 c. 40 individuals attended the public consultation event and a total of 31 written submissions were received at consultation stage via the dedicated project website.. The vast majority of comments / concerns raised in submissions received from the local community were in relation to the increase in traffic volumes on the local road network and perceived safety risks to the local community which might arise therefrom.
- 1.92 Concerns were also raised in respect of a range of other issues including implications for climate from traffic emissions, operational management, the control of waste intake, potential for illegal / hazardous waste intake to site and potential for noise and air quality impacts. Submissions also raised concerns around potential flood impacts, groundwater contamination, impacts on peregrine falcon, control of invasive species and road upgrade / improvement proposals.
- 1.93 A small number of follow-up meetings subsequently took place between the Applicant and members of the local community during September and October 2024 at which there were some further discussions around some of the issues and concerns raised in the course of the consultation exercise.
- 1.94 Further details in respect of pre-planning consultations undertaken with the local community are presented in the Consultation Report accompanying this planning application. The concerns raised in the course of the public consultation are also addressed in respective Chapters of this EIAR.
- 1.95 Aside from the formal consultation process required under Section 37, other informal consultations and discussions were also undertaken directly with local officials / officers of State bodies and agencies by individual EIA contributors when undertaking environmental impact assessment in their specialist discipline. Relevant details / outcomes of those consultations are detailed in the specialist environmental chapters of this EIAR, together with details of any relevant data or information provided.

Format of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)

- 1.96 To facilitate clarity, this EIAR has been prepared in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Guidelines (Draft – May 2017). The EIAR is sub divided into fifteen parts. As an overview, they comprise of:

Chapter 1: Introduction / Screening / Scoping

- 1.97 An introduction to the development and a brief explanation of the aims and format of the EIAR. It also identifies the various professional consultants who have contributed to this EIAR and the screening / scoping process carried out.

Chapter 2: Project Description

- 1.98 Chapter 2 provides:
 - details of the physical characteristics of the whole project, including, where relevant, demolition works, the land-use requirements during construction and operation as well as other works that are integral to the project;

- the main characteristics of the operational phase of the project e.g. nature and quantity of materials and natural resources;
- an estimate, by type and quantity, of the expected residues and emissions produced during the construction, operational and restoration phases of the proposed development.

Chapter 3: Reasonable Alternatives

- 1.99 Chapter 3 provides a description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the developer, which are relevant to the proposed project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for selecting the chosen option, including a comparison of the environmental effects.

Chapters 4 - 16

- 1.100 These Chapters provide detailed information on all aspects of the existing (baseline) environment, identifies, describes and presents and assessment of the likely significant impacts of the proposed project on the environment, recommends mitigation and monitoring measures to reduce or alleviate these impacts and describes the residual impacts and conclusions. They are grouped under the following Chapters:
- Chapter 4: Population and Human Health
 - Chapter 5: Biodiversity
 - Chapter 6: Land, Soils and Geology
 - Chapter 7: Water
 - Chapter 8: Air Quality
 - Chapter 9: Climate
 - Chapter 10: Noise and Vibration
 - Chapter 11: Material Assets
 - Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage
 - Chapter 13: Landscape
 - Chapter 14: Traffic and Transportation
 - Chapter 15: Interactions
 - Chapter 16: Mitigation and Monitoring
- 1.101 The associated references, plates, figures and appendices are provided at the end of each Chapter 1 through 16
- 1.102 A “*Non-Technical Summary of the Environmental Impact Statement*”, presenting the principal details and findings of each EIAR chapter is provided as a separate, stand-alone document.

Difficulties Encountered with EIAR Compilation

- 1.103 This Environmental Impact Assessment Report was compiled on the basis of published regional and local data and site-specific field surveys. No difficulties were encountered in compiling the required information.

EIA CONTRIBUTORS

- 1.104 Kilsaran Concrete appointed SLR Consulting Ireland to prepare this Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) in support of its application for Strategic Infrastructure Development comprising the proposed Materials Recovery / Recycling Facility and Inert Landfill at Ballinclare Quarry at Kilbride Co. Wicklow.

- 1.105 SLR Consulting is a leading global environmental and advisory services consultancy. SLR provides a full range of planning, EIA and environmental advisory services across 30 in-house specialist technical disciplines and operates a network of offices in Ireland, UK, Asia-Pacific, Africa and North America. SLR Consulting Ireland (formerly John Barnett and Associates) has been carrying out Environmental Impact Assessments relating to extractive and waste development in Ireland since the EIA Directive was first transposed into national legislation in 1990.
- 1.106 The EIA specialists who have contributed to this EIAR are identified in Table 1-1 below:

Table 1-1
List of Contributors

Topic	Contributor	Company
Introduction	Derek Luby BE MSc DIC MIEI	SLR Consulting Ireland
Description of Development	Derek Luby BE MSc DIC MIEI	SLR Consulting Ireland
Alternatives	Derek Luby BE MSc DIC MIEI	SLR Consulting Ireland
Population and Human Health	Lynn Hassett BSc(Hons), MSc, PIEMA	SLR Consulting Ireland
Biodiversity	Gavin Fennessy BSc., PhD, MCIEEM Marie Kearns BSc., MSc. Fiona-May Aylward BSc. Cian O'Ceallaigh BSc (Hons) MSc. Ross Macklin BSc HDip. GIS Dip. IPM PhD (in prep) MCIEEM MIFM	Ecology Ireland
Land, Soils and Geology	Peter Glanville BA, MSc, PhD, IQUA, IRLOGI, IGI	SLR Consulting Ireland
Water	Michael Gill PGeo, BA, BAI, Dip Geol., MSc, MIEI Adam Keegan PGeo, BSc, MSc, AdvDip Nitesh Dalal B.Tech, PG Dip., MSc	Hydro Environmental Services
Air Quality	Aldona Binchy MSc (Eng), PIEMA, MIAH Hannah McGurran BSc. MSc., MIEMA	SLR Consulting Ireland
Climate	Aldona Binchy MSc (Eng), PIEMA, MIAH Hannah McGurran BSc. MSc., MIEMA	SLR Consulting Ireland

Topic	Contributor	Company
Noise and Vibration	Ronan Murphy BSc. MIOA Michelle Dawson BSc MIOA	SLR Consulting Ireland
Material Assets	Lynn Hassett BSc(Hons), MSc, PIEMA	SLR Consulting Ireland
Cultural Heritage	Dr. Charles Mount MA PhD. Dip. EIA & SEA Mgmt., MIAI	Consultant Archaeologist
Landscape	Anne Merkle Dipl. Ing (FH) MILI	SLR Consulting Ireland
Roads and Traffic	Julian Keenan BE (Civil) MIEI MCHIT	Trafficwise
Interactions	Lynn Hassett BSc(Hons), MSc, PIEMA	SLR Consulting Ireland
Schedule of Commitments	Lynn Hassett BSc(Hons), MSc, PIEMA	SLR Consulting Ireland
Co-ordination of EIA	Derek Luby BE MSc DIC MIEI	SLR Consulting Ireland

- 1.107 Each contributor has been fully briefed about the proposed development and the background to it. They have also visited the site and have familiarised themselves with the surrounding local environment. They are considered to have the necessary competent experience, expertise and knowledge for the preparation of each specialist chapter of this EIAR.

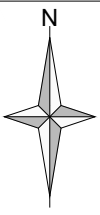
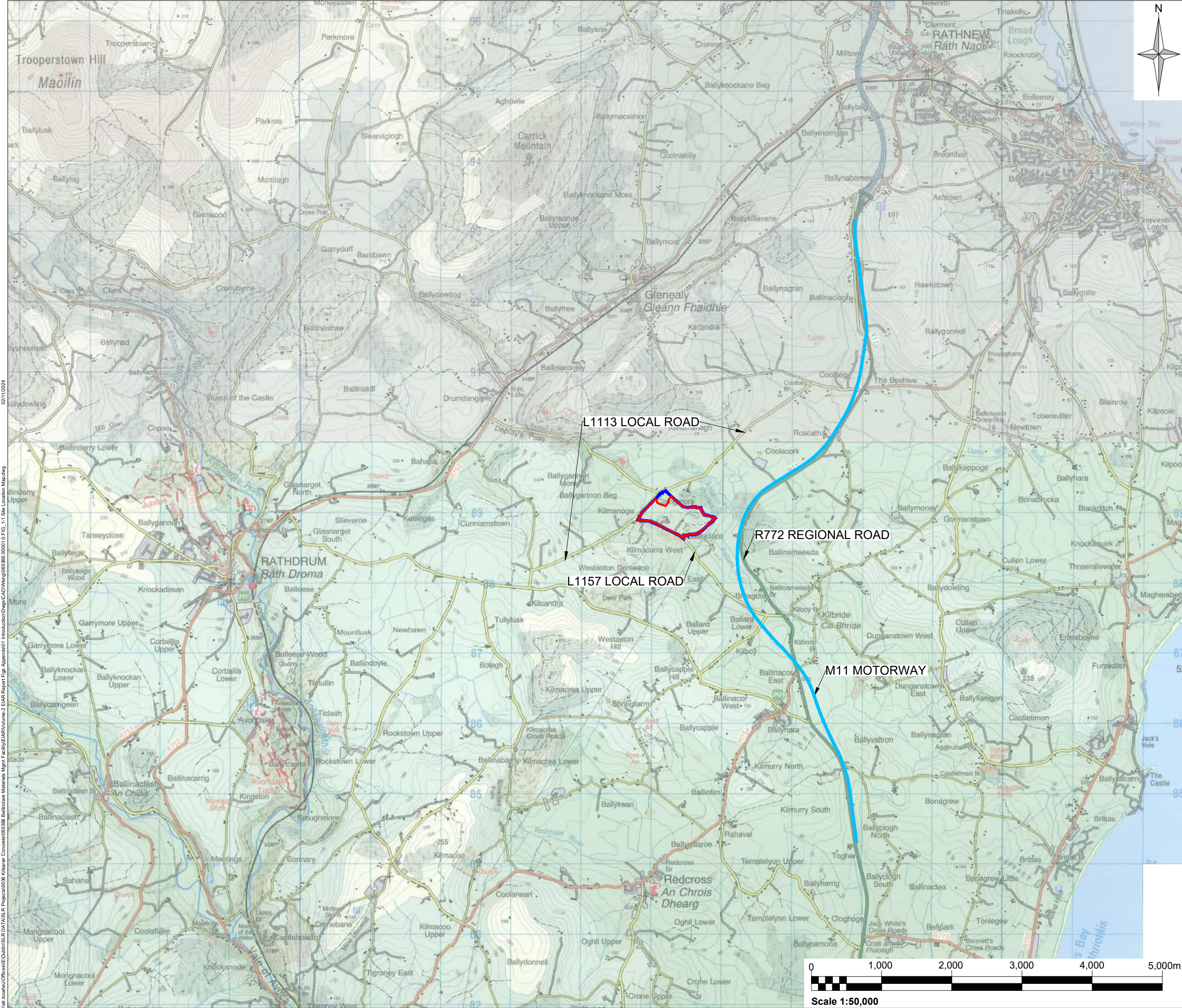
FIGURES

**Figure 1-1
Site Location Map**

**Figure 1-2
Site Location Plan**

**Figure 1-3
Aerial Photograph**

**Figure 1-4
Surrounding Land Use**



Notes:

1. EXTRACT FROM 1:50,000 O.S DISCOVERY SERIES MAP NO. 50.

Legend:

LAND INTEREST BOUNDARY (c. 36.0 HA)

PLANNING APPLICATION AREA (c. 32.6 HA)

Rev	Amendments	Date	By	Chk	Auth
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Drawing Status & Suitability Code

FINAL

Client

KILSARAN CONCRETE
Ballinclare Quarry, Kilbride, Co. Wicklow

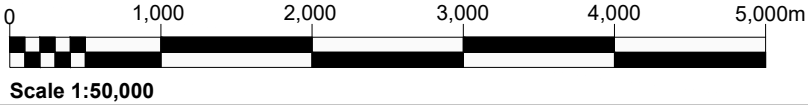
Project

Environmental Impact Assessment Report
Materials Recovery / Recycling Facility
and Inert Landfill

Drawing Title

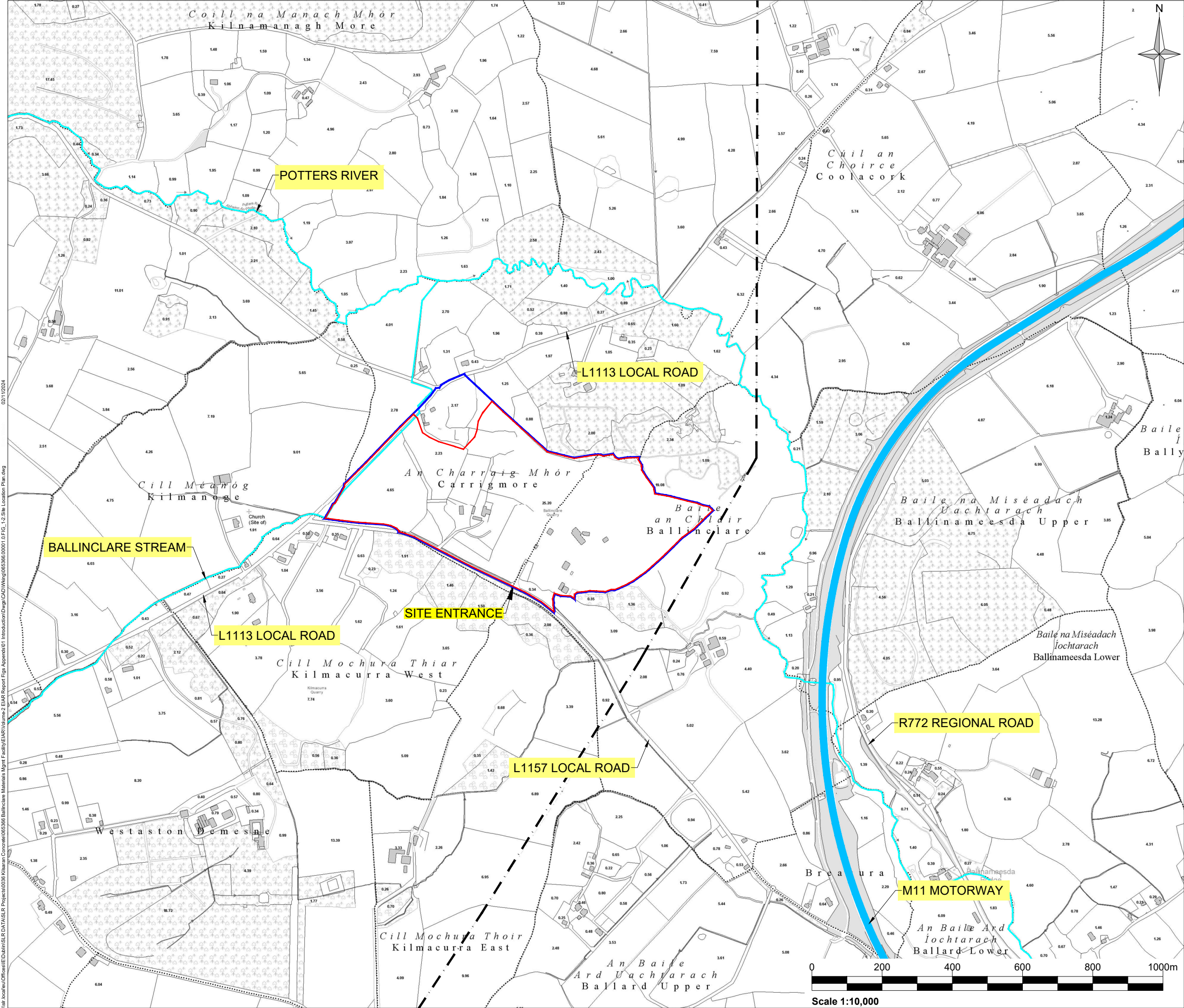
SITE LOCATION MAP

Scale	1:50,000 @ A3	SLR Project No.	065366.00001
Designed	EW	Checked	DL
Drawn	EW	Authorised	DL
Date	10/24	Date	10/24
Date	10/24	Date	10/24
Drawing Number	FIGURE 1-1		
Rev.	1		



02/11/2024

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Notes:


1. EXTRACT FROM ORDNANCE SURVEY 6 INCH MAPPING WW030 & WW0311.

Legend:

LAND INTEREST BOUNDARY (c. 36.0 HA)

PLANNING APPLICATION AREA (c. 32.6 HA)

220kV ELECTRIC OVERHEAD LINE

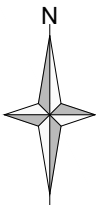
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Drawing Status & Suitability Code FINAL					
Client KILSARAN CONCRETE Ballinclare Quarry, Kilbride, Co. Wicklow					
Project Environmental Impact Assessment Report Materials Recovery / Recycling Facility and Inert Landfill					
Drawing Title SITE LOCATION PLAN					
Scale 1:10,000 @ A3		SLR Project No. 065366.00001			
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Date 10/24	Date 10/24	Date 10/24	Date 10/24		
Drawing Number FIGURE 1-2					Rev. 1

Scale 1:10,000

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02/11/2024

\\slr-local\au\Offices\IE\Dublin\SLR DATA\SLR Projects\0036 Kilsaran Concrete\065366 Ballinclare Materials Mgmt Facility\EIAR\Volume-2 EIAR Report Figs Appendix\01 Introduction\Drawings\065366.00001.0.FIG_1-3 Aerial Photograph.dwg




Notes:
1. EXTRACT FROM 1:50,000 O.S DISCOVERY SERIES MAP NO. 50.

Legend:

LAND INTEREST BOUNDARY (c. 36.0 HA)

PLANNING APPLICATION AREA (c. 32.6 HA)

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Project
Environmental Impact Assessment Report
Materials Recovery / Recycling Facility
and Inert Landfill

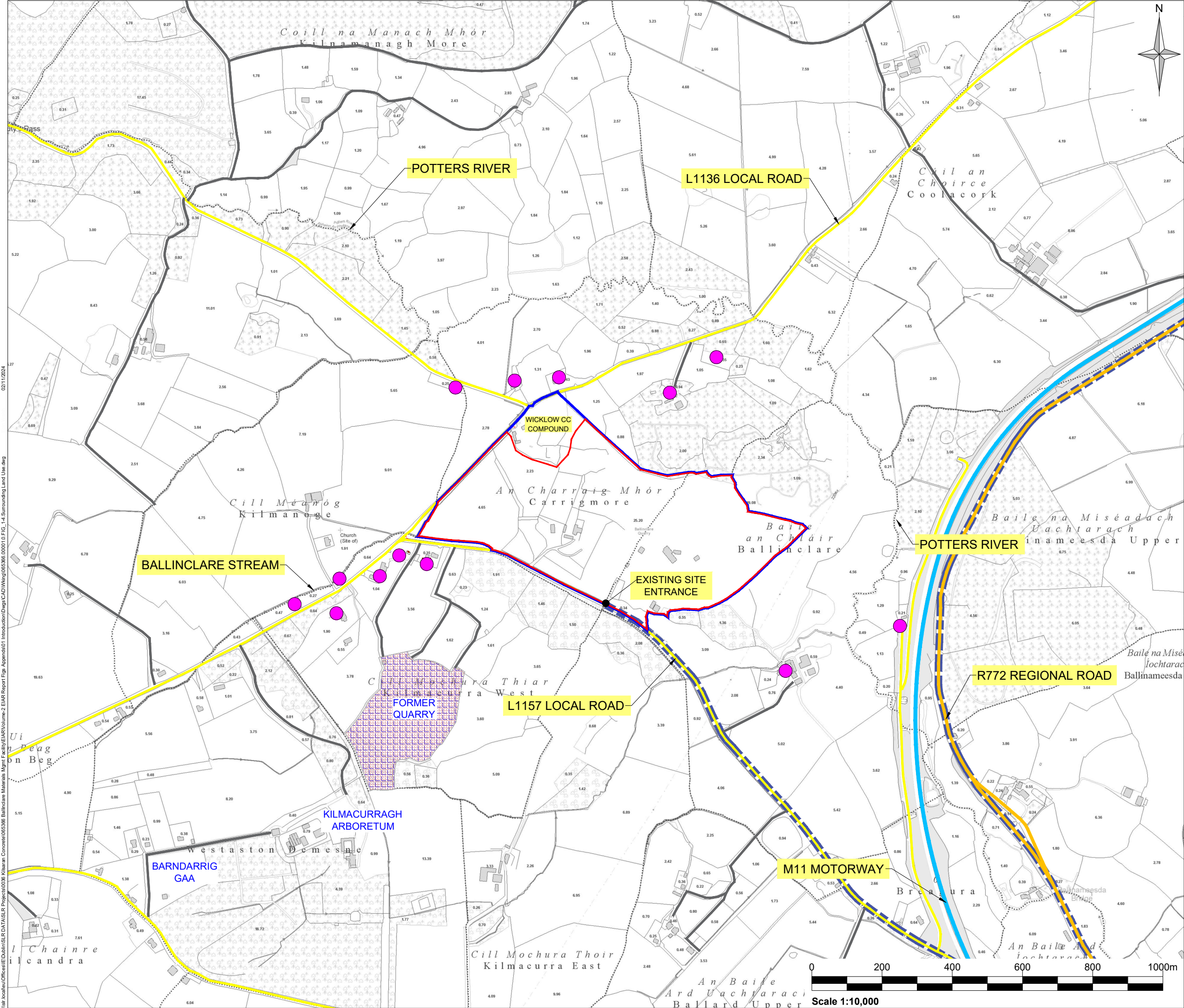
Drawing Title
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

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Date 10/24	Date 10/24	Date 10/24	Date 10/24

Drawing Number
FIGURE 1-3

Rev.
1





Notes:
1. EXTRACT FROM 1:50,000 O.S DISCOVERY SERIES MAP NO. 50.

Legend:

- LAND INTEREST BOUNDARY (c. 36.0 HA)
- PLANNING APPLICATION AREA (c. 32.6 HA)
- RESIDENTIAL RECEPTORS
- R772 REGIONAL ROAD
- LOCAL ROAD NETWORK
- ACCESS ROADS

Rev	Amendments	Date	By	Chk	Auth
<div>SLR</div> <div>www.slrconsulting.com</div>					
Drawing Status & Suitability Code FINAL					
Client KILSARAN CONCRETE Ballinclare Quarry, Kilbride, Co. Wicklow					
Project Environmental Impact Assessment Report Materials Recovery / Recycling Facility and Inert Landfill					
Drawing Title SURROUNDING LAND USE					
Scale 1:10,000 @ A3		SLR Project No. 065366.00001			
Designed EW	Drawn EW	Checked DL	Authorised DL		
Date 10/24	Date 10/24	Date 10/24	Date 10/24		
Drawing Number FIGURE 1-4					Rev. 1