### 13 MATERIAL ASSETS

### 13.1 INTRODUCTION

This remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report (rEIAR) has been prepared to accompany a substitute consent application for an existing quarry at Hempstown Commons, Co. Kildare (the 'Site' or the 'Development'). The Development is located within the administrative boundary of Kildare County Council, (KCC).

This chapter of the rEIAR has been prepared by WSP Ireland Consulting Ltd (WSP) and addresses the direct and indirect significant effects, if any, on material assets located in the vicinity of the Site, which have occurred, or which are occurring or which can reasonably be expected to occur because the Development, the subject of the application for substitute consent, was carried out.

Material assets are comprised of the physical resources in the environment, which may be of human or natural origin. The objective of the assessment contained in the following sections is to ensure that these assets have been used in a sustainable manner with respect to operations at the Site.

Material Assets in the vicinity of the Site comprise of built services and infrastructure, such as surface water drainage, roads, traffic, telecommunications, electricity, gas and water supply infrastructure, waste infrastructure, and geological resources.

#### 13.1.1 TECHNICAL SCOPE

This assessment has been made with guidance from the 'Guidelines on the information to be contained in environmental impact assessment reports', published by the EPA in May 2022. The guidelines were drafted by the EPA with a view to facilitating compliance with EIA Directive (2014/52/EU).

The 2022 guidelines suggest that the material assets assessment covers the topics: built services, roads and traffic and waste management. The following subheadings are suggested under which to arrange issues concerning 'Built Services'; "Electricity, Telecommunications, Gas, Water Supply Infrastructure, Sewerage".

Having regard to the above guidance, particularly the 2022 EPA guidelines, and the characteristics and context of the lands that are the subject of this application, this rEIAR chapter aims to identify the likely significant effects that the Development may have on built services and waste management. These are discussed under the following headings:

- Electricity network utilities;
- Gas infrastructure;
- Telecommunications;
- Local water supplies and foul water network;
- Surface water drainage infrastructure;
- Waste management infrastructure; and
- Geological resource.

Roads and traffic have been assessed in Chapter 12 of this rEIAR.

### 13.1.2 GEOGRAPHICAL AND TEMPORAL SCOPE

The assessment directly covers the physical extent of the EIA boundary for the Site as shown in Figure 13-1 and the assessment area has been extended as appropriate to identify the relevant material assets surrounding the Development. In the context of the rEIAR, the EIA boundary contains lands which form the existing quarry site and some areas which extend beyond the working areas. The EIA boundary encompasses the substitute consent (the Planning Application) boundary. The substitute consent boundary is shown on the drawing set which accompanies the planning application.

The temporal scope of this assessment covers the baseline of this rEIAR, which has been set to 29 December 2019, and the rEIAR process has assessed environmental impacts from that date to the present, November 2024. This assessment period equates to approximately five years and is identified as 'short-term' duration (those lasting one to seven years).



Figure 13-1 - Location of the Site (EIA boundary)

### 13.2 LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

### 13.2.1 LEGISLATION

Annex IV of the amended EIA Directive (2014/52/EU) requires that the developer provides a description of the factors (specified in Article 3(1)) which are likely to be significantly affected by the project, including a study of the potential impacts to material assets.

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The 2014/52/EU Directive was transposed into Irish law through European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (SI No. 296 of 2018) which amended the Planning and Development Act, 2000, and the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001. This rEIAR has been produced in accordance with these relevant legislative requirements and Statutory Instruments.

### 13.2.2 RELEVANT POLICIES AND PLANS

- The National Planning Framework (Project Ireland 2040) includes National Policy Objective 60 to "Conserve and enhance the rich qualities of natural and cultural heritage of Ireland in a manner appropriate to their significance".
- The Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 is the strategy document for County Kildare which covers most of the temporal scope of this assessment period. The key policies and objectives of this plan are listed in Section 2.7.5 of the Project Description (Chapter 2).
- The Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 was adopted on 9th December 2022 and covers the temporal scope from this date to present day. The key policies and objectives of this current plan are listed in Section 2.7.6 of the Project Description (Chapter 2).

### 13.2.3 RELEVANT GUIDANCE

This assessment has been made with guidance from the 'Guidelines on the information to be contained in environmental impact assessment reports', published by the EPA in May 2022.

### 13.3 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY AND SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

### 13.3.1 ASSESSMENT AIMS

As identified above, the key objectives of this assessment are to assess the likely direct and indirect significant effects of the Development on the material assets in the surrounding environment during the assessment period.

### 13.3.2 EIA SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

As identified in Chapter 1 (Introduction) of this rEIAR, a common framework of assessment criteria and terminology has been used based on the EPA's draft Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in EIARs (EPA, 2022). This common framework follows a 'matrix approach' to environmental assessment which is based on the characteristics of the impact (magnitude and nature) and the value (sensitivity) of the receptor.

The assessment reported below is based on the common framework described in Chapter 1 of this rEIAR. It has been assumed that the value (sensitivity) of the material assets is no greater than Medium, which equates to 'Medium or high importance and rarity, regional scale, limited potential for substitution' (see Table 1.4 of Chapter 1). This sensitivity has been assumed given the importance of the assets to users surrounding the Development, and their sensitivity to potential disruption from the impaired use.

A description of the significance categories used is provided in Table 13-1. Effects that are either **Large or Profound are considered to be Significant**, and effects that are **Moderate**, **Slight or Imperceptible are considered to be Not Significant**. How the level of effect is determined, based on the environmental value and magnitude of impact, is explained in Section 1.8.2 of Chapter 1.

### Table 13-1 – Significance categories and typical descriptions.

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Significance Category	Typical Description
Profound	An effect which obliterates sensitive characteristics.
	Only adverse effects are usually assigned this level of significance. These factors are key issues in the decision-making and consent process. These effects are generally, but not exclusively, associated with sites or features of international, national or regional importance which are likely to suffer a most damaging impact and loss of resource integrity. However, a major change in a site or feature of local importance may also be included in this significance category.
Large	An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a significant proportion of a sensitive aspect of the environment.
	These can be beneficial or adverse effects and are considered to be very important issues which are likely to be substantial in the decision-making process.
Moderate	An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner that is consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.
	These are beneficial or adverse effects which may be important but are not likely to be central to decision-making or consent. The cumulative effects of these factors may influence consent or decision-making if they should lead to an increase in the overall adverse effect on a particular resource or receptor.
Slight	An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.
	These beneficial or adverse effects may be raised as local factors. They are unlikely to be critical in the decision-making process but are important in enhancing the subsequent design of the project.
Imperceptible	An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences.
	No effects or those that are beneath levels of perception, within normal bounds of variation or within the margin of forecasting error

### 13.4 BASELINE AND SUBSEQUENT CONDITIONS (2019 TO PRESENT)

The application Site is located in the townland of Hempstown Commons in Co. Kildare. The Site is located within an area of historical extraction, with the subject lands being used for quarrying since the mid-1940s.

#### 13.4.1 ESB NETWORK UTILITIES

Two service maps were received from ESB on 07 October 2024 detailing both the layout of underground and overhead ESB lines on-site and in the locality covering an area of 500 m from the EIA boundary. The received service maps have been provided in Appendix 13A of this chapter.

The service maps provided by ESB indicates that the Site is connected to the grid by an underground medium/low voltage cable. Premises around the Site are serviced by medium and low voltage overhead lines which traverse the area to the southeast, west and south.

#### 13.4.2 GAS SUPPLY

A service map was received from Gas Networks Ireland (GNI) on 07 October 2024 detailing the gas networks within the EIA boundary. GNI infrastructure (e.g. pipelines) are not mapped as present within the study area (GNI, 2024). This GNI service map has been included in Appendix 13B.

As there is no GNI infrastructure within the Site area and no premises in the surrounding area are serviced by GNI infrastructure, impacts to gas supply infrastructure have been scoped out of this assessment.

#### 13.4.3 TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

Service maps have been sourced from the open eir Civil Engineering Infrastructure Service online mapping request portal and show the telecommunications network on-site and in the locality covering an area of 500 m from the EIA boundary. These maps indicate that transmission poles carry over ground services along the local road L6030, which runs to the south of the Site. These lines service the residential developments situated adjacent to them. There is a landline connection to the site office.

#### 13.4.4 LOCAL WATER SUPPLIES AND SEWERAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

Service infrastructure details were received from Irish Water on 14 October 2024 covering the EIA boundary area. This information indicated that the site does not require water take from public water infrastructure. An abstraction well was installed adjacent to the wheelwash in 2019 to provide supply to the wheelwash and welfare facilities. Minimal quantities are abstracted from this well. Wheelwashing occurs prior to vehicles leaving the Site and utilises abstracted groundwater which is recycled within the wash as far as practicable and topped up from the abstraction well when required.

Residential properties local to the Site have private water supplies and use septic tanks. Public groundwater supply schemes and associated source protection areas are considered to be too far from the Site to be at risk from site activities given the low permeability of the rock.

Site foul water is collected in temporary contractor service welfare units and does not connect to public systems, therefore there will be no demand on public foul water infrastructure.

#### 13.4.5 SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

Lands within the Site are dominated by rock extraction areas, recolonising bare ground and improved grassland fields. Currently the surface water infiltrates through the underlying soils and sub-soils.

There have been two soakaways installed onsite during the assessment period which collect water that has been pumped out of the quarry void. Water from the soakaways is then lost to evaporation or infiltrated into bedrock aquifers.

It is also noted that traffic onsite is not driving on bare earth. Trackable routes, standing areas and site facilities areas are either on bedrock at the base of the quarry void or on a base of crushed and compacted aggregate. This is porous by its nature and water can drain through it.

There are no existing public surface water networks within the Site.

### 13.4.6 WASTE MANAGEMENT AND LOCAL WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE

Small amounts of general refuse wastes are generated by the site office and staff facilities and are collected by a licenced waste removal contractor. Occasional metal scrap wastes produced are disposed of by SQL at suitably licences waste facilities.

Waste is generated onsite from servicing equipment and plant. Waste oil and other waste and parts associated with this maintenance are disposed by the service contractor.

#### 13.4.7 GEOLOGICAL RESOURCE AND LOCAL ECONOMY

The geology of the Site is described in detail in Chapter 5 (Land, Soils and Geology). As outlined previously, the existing activities undertaken at the Site include the extraction of aggregate for use in the construction industry.

#### 13.4.8 LAND RESOURCE AND LOCAL AGRICULTURE

The Site is described in detail in Chapter 2 (Scope and Project Description), Chapter 4 (Ecology and Biodiversity) and Chapter 5 (Lands, Soil and Geology). The EIA boundary comprises approximately 18.45 ha.

To the northwest and immediately south of the Site lands are predominantly used by the extractive industry. To the east, southeast and northeast lands are predominantly in agricultural usage with residential dwellings scattered along roads.

### 13.5 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DEVELOPMENT

The rEIAR has been prepared to accompany a substitute consent application for an existing quarry located in the townland of Hempstown Commons, Co. Kildare. A detailed Project Description has been provided within Chapter 2 of this rEIAR. The lands, which are the subject of this rEIAR (EIA boundary) extend to 18.45 ha. The quarry area that makes up the application for substitute consent planning unit currently extends to approximately 10.05 ha. The extracted quarry area is approximately 5ha.

Activities at the Site involved the extraction of rock (greywacke and shale) using various excavation techniques, such as drilling & blasting and rock-breaking. Blasting of rock was periodically undertaken during the review period.

### **13.6 POTENTIAL EFFECTS**

The main potential impacts and associated effects that have been considered in the assessment relate to the following:

- Activities or events that might have impacted electrical services and utilities for surrounding users;
- Activities or events that might have impacted gas services and utilities for surrounding users;
- Activities or events that might have impacted telecommunications networks for surrounding users;
- Activities or events that might have impacted surface water drainage networks surrounding the Site;

- Activities or events that might have impacted water supplies and services for surrounding users; including, impacts on quality and quantity of supply for groundwater users, and the impacts of blasting on water supply pipelines;
- Activities or events that might have impacted waste water networks for surrounding users;
- Activities or events that might have impacted waste management infrastructure; and
- Activities that might have impacted geological resources surrounding the Site.

These potential impacts during the assessment period of 29 December 2019 to present are considered and assessed in the following sections.

Given the nature of the rEIAR and the Substitute Consent process the potential impacts of a 'Do Nothing' scenario if the Development were not operating during this period have not been considered.

#### 13.6.1 ESB NETWORK UTILITIES

The Development has utilised electricity supplies to the Site via the onsite connection to the grid. Previous extraction activities did not result in any significant impacts to the quality or availability of electrical utilities to the surrounding users.

The effect from the Development on the local electricity supply during the assessment period is therefore considered to have been '*Imperceptible*' and **Not Significant**.

### **13.6.2 TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK**

The telecommunications network has been utilised at the site office. No additional telecommunications have been set up.

The Development has not required the movement or relocation of telecommunications lines or other infrastructure. The effect of the Development on the telecommunications network during the assessment period is considered to have been '*Imperceptible*' and therefore **Not Significant**.

### 13.6.3 LOCAL WATER SUPPLIES AND SEWERAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

No changes have been made to the existing water abstraction process onsite.

Residential properties local to the Site, utilise both private and public water supplies. These residential dwellings use domestic septic tanks systems for wastewater.

The effect of the Development on the local water supply and sewerage infrastructure is considered to have been '*Imperceptible*' and therefore **Not Significant**.

#### 13.6.4 SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

As noted in section 13.4.5, surface water infiltrates through the underlying soils and sub-soils. There are no existing public surface water networks within the Site. The addition of the two soakaways at the Site are considered to have had a '*Negligible*' impact on surface water drainage infrastructure as there is no off-site connectivity of surface water due to it being pumped from the quarry floor to the soakaway where it is lost to evaporation or infiltration into the bedrock aquifers.

Therefore the Site has had an '*Imperceptible*' effect on surface water drainage infrastructure and is therefore **Not Significant.** 

### 13.6.5 WASTE MANAGEMENT AND LOCAL WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE

Waste from the Site is managed by suitable qualified and permitted and licenced contractors. Due to the limited waste streams generated on site it is considered that there has been an '*Imperceptible*' effect on local waste infrastructure resulting from site activities, and therefore is **Not Significant**.

#### 13.6.6 GEOLOGICAL RESOURCE AND LOCAL ECONOMY

The geology of the Site is described in detail in Chapter 5 (Land, Soils and Geology). As outlined previously, the activities undertaken at the Site include the extraction of aggregate for use in the local and regional projects. The Development has resulted in a permanent loss of the geological resource within the confines of the Site. Currently the geological exposures are visible along the northwestern side of the Site. These exposures have offered a valuable insight into the geology of the area which may not have been previously exposed if there was no quarrying of the Site.

Additionally, the extraction of the rock during the period of 29 December 2019 to present is considered an acceptable use of the economic resource at the Site and material extracted from the Site has been used as raw materials in the construction industry regionally.

Therefore, potential impacts from the Site's extraction of the geological resources is considered to be '*low*' resulting in effects during the 29 December 2019 to present assessment period being 'S*light*' and **Not Significant**.

### 13.6.7 LAND RESOURCE AND LOCAL AGRICULTURE

Within the Site during the assessment period an area to the southeast of the Site has been replanted as a grassland. This area is not currently used for agricultural purposes, but it has the potential to utilised to this effect, in the future. Therefore, potential impacts from the Site's activities on the local land resource and agriculture is considered to be '*low (beneficial)*' resulting in effects during the 29 December 2019 to present assessment period that are 'S*light*' and **Not Significant**.

Receptor	Sensitivity	Source of Impact/Description of Change	Impact Magnitude	Level of Effect
Electrical Infrastructure / Utilities	Medium	Disruption to electrical supplies as a result of site activities.	Negligible (adverse)	Imperceptible
Telecommunication Infrastructure / Utilities	Medium	Disruption to telecommunications networks as a result of site activities.	Negligible (adverse)	Imperceptible
Water Supplies	Medium	Impacts to quality of surrounding water supplies (groundwater well users) from quarrying activities on Site.	Negligible to Low (adverse)	Imperceptible
Surface Water Drainage Infrastructure	Medium	Impacts to surface water drainage infrastructure from activities on Site.	Negligible (adverse)	Imperceptible

Wastewater Networks	Medium	Impacts or impairment of local wastewater networks as a result site activities or contributions.	Negligible (adverse)	Imperceptible
Waste Management Infrastructure	Medium	Impacts or impairment of local waste management infrastructure as a result site activities generating wastes.	Negligible (adverse)	Imperceptible
Geological Resource	Medium	Use of the underlying geology used as an economic resource for aggregate and supply to the construction industry.	Low (beneficial)	Slight
Local Agriculture	Medium	Replanting of grassland.	Low (beneficial)	Slight

### 13.7 REMEDIAL MEASURES REQUIRED

No remedial measures have been identified in this chapter of the rEIAR. Other measures which may be required are detailed separately in the below chapters of this rEIAR:

- Chapter 6 Water;
- Chapter 7 Air Quality;
- Chapter 9 Noise and Vibration;
- Chapter 11 Landscape and Visual Impact; and
- Chapter 12 Traffic.

### 13.8 RESIDUAL EFFECTS

The assessment concludes that the Development did not give rise to significant adverse effects on material assets surrounding the Site during the assessment period of 29 December 2019 to present. In all cases the residual effect is **Not Significant** and not greater than '*Slight*'.

### **13.9 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS**

The cumulative effects associated with other permitted / under construction third-party developments have been considered in Chapter 15 of this rEIAR. Cumulative effects are considered to be **Not Significant**.

### **13.10 MONITORING**

No monitoring is proposed for material assets as part of this retrospective assessment.

### **13.11 DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED**

It was difficult to obtain baseline maps for conditions at the start of the assessment period for some utilities therefore Shillelagh Quarries Ltd (the applicant) has provided verbal data where needed to fill in knowledge gaps.

### 13.12 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

To conclude, the activities at the Site have not caused any significant adverse effects to the material assets within or surrounding the Site during the assessment period of 29 December 2019 to present.

### **13.13 REFERENCES**

EPA. 2022. Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports.

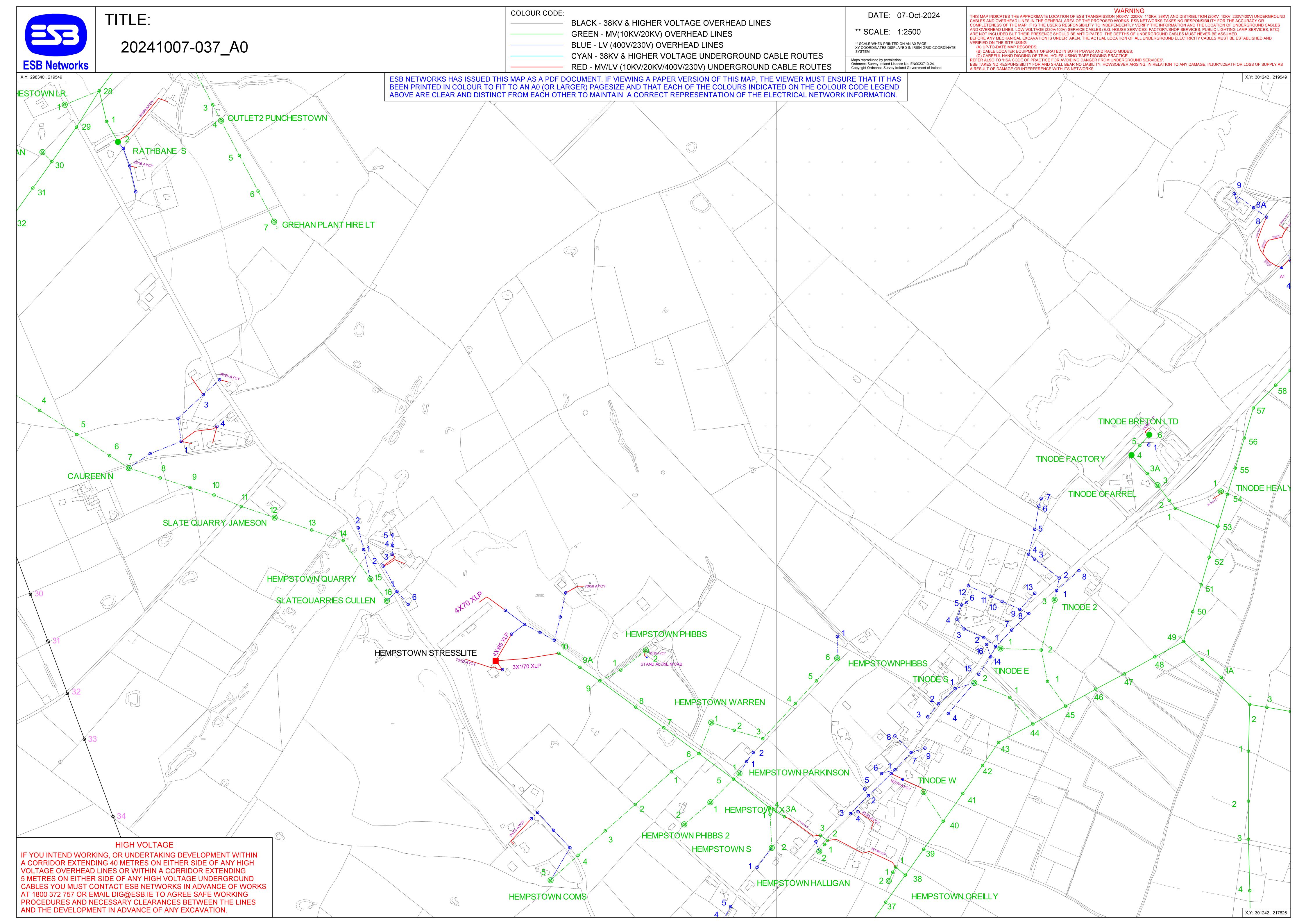
Gas Networks Ireland (2021) Code of Practice for Working in the Vicinity of the Transmission Network.

Kildare County Council (2023) Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029.

# **Appendix 13A**

### **ESB SERVICE MAPS**

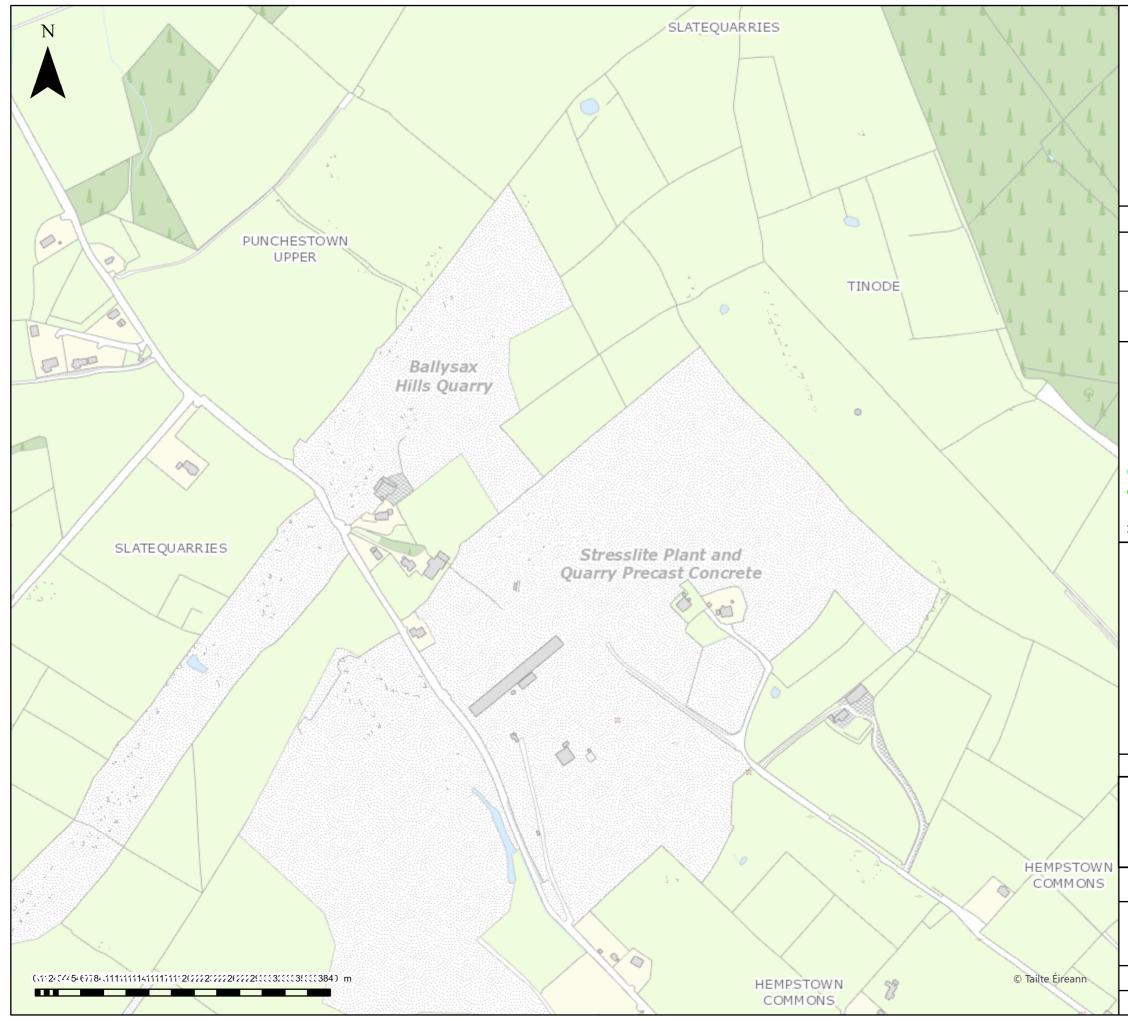
WSP December 2024



# **Appendix 13B**

### GAS NETWORKS IRELAND SERVICE MAPS

WSP December 2024



Important Safety Notice: Damage to gas pipelines can result in serious injury or death. Gas network information is provided as a general guide. The exact location and depth of medium or low pressure distribution gas pipes must be verified on site by carrying out necessary investigations, including, for example, hand digging trial holes along the route of the pipe. Service pipes are not generally shown but their presence should always be anticipated.					
High pressure transmission pipelines are shown in red. If a transmission pipeline is identified within 10m of any intended excavations then work must not proceed before GNI has been consulted. The true location and depth of a transmission pipeline must be verified on site by a representative of GNI. Contact can be made through 1800 427 747.					
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any information of the gas distrib	contained in this document inc	luding data concerning rk (the"Information"). T	o responsibility for the accuracy of glocation and technical designation he Information should not be relied		
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