

28<sup>th</sup> March 2025

**An Bord Pleanála,**  
64 Marlborough Street,  
Rotunda,  
Dublin 1,  
D01V902

**MOR Ref: E2343**

**By Hand**

**Re: JJ Flood and Sons (Manufacturing) Ltd., Murrrens, Oldcastle, Co. Meath, A82 R6A0  
– Application for Substitute Consent**

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Malone O'Regan Environmental ('MOR Environmental') were commissioned by JJ Floods and Sons (Manufacturing) Ltd. to prepare an Application for Substitute Consent for 39ha of land in the townland of Murrrens, Oldcastle, Co Meath, A82 R6A0 (ITM 652523 774771) which has been subjected to Development.

It should be noted that we are submitting an Appropriate Assessment Stage 1 Screening Report for the Site as part of this application.

In 2012, in accordance with its obligation under Section 261A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, Meath County Council conducted a review of registered quarry QY35 and directed the quarry to apply for Substitute Consent following a decision in respect of this development made under section 261A(3)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. This determination was appealed to An Bord Pleanála ('ABP'), who, in 2013, upheld the Council's decision (ABP Ref. QV17.0015).

In respect of the need for EIA, ABP considered that development was carried out after the 1st day of February, 1990, which would have required an environmental impact assessment, having regard to the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive, but that such an assessment was not carried out. ABP, therefore, confirms Meath County Council's determination in respect of this development made under section 261A(2)(i) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

A remedial EIAR is now submitted with this application.

In respect of the need for AA, ABP specifically noted in their Determination:

*(c) the potential cumulative impact on these European sites of quarrying operations at this site and an adjoining location (planning authority register reference number QY24),*

*(d) the uncertainty regarding the hydrological linkages between this quarry and the European sites*

Within the Bord Inspector's report it was also noted that effects from noise, dust and disturbance were improbable given the distance of the two Natura 2000 sites from the Site.

It is our position, following a hydrological assessment, including geohydrological, carried out by a competent specialist and set out in the remedial Environmental Impact Assessment, that the Development either alone or in combination with other plans, projects or land uses, has not had and will not have any direct or indirect significant effects on any European sites in light of the site's conservation objectives and best scientific knowledge, and no reasonable scientific doubt exists in relation to this conclusion.

Furthermore, we are also working on an application for an extension of the quarry under Section 37L of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, to be submitted within 6 weeks of the Substitute Consent application. Currently, this application will also be submitted with AA Screening; however, should An Bord Pleanála deem that a remedial Natura Impact Statement is necessary, following a review of the submitted assessment and a review of available information, An Bord Pleanála may request the assessment under further information as per Part 22, Article 276 of the regulation.

### **Substitute Consent Application Contents**

Please find enclosed the following;

- 6 No. EIA Portal Confirmation;
- 6 No. Application for Substitute Consent;
- 6 No. Photographs of Site Notice;
- 6 No. Relevant Page of Newspaper Notice;
- 6 No. Copies of Plans and Particulars;
- 10 No. Copies of Remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report ('rEIAR'):
  - Volume 1 – Non-Technical Summary;
  - Volume 2 – rEIAR; and,
  - Volume 3 – Appendices.
- 10 No. Copies of Appropriate Assessment Stage 1 Screening Report;
- 6 No. Copies of Statement of Exceptional Circumstances;
- 6 No. Copies of Accompanying Letter;
- A cheque to the value of €21,207.67 payable to An Bord Pleanála; and,
- 1 No. of the Electronic searchable copy of the entire planning application submission documentation in digital format.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at 086 155 4301.

Yours sincerely,

**for Malone O'Regan Environmental**



**Kenneth Goodwin**