CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

Background

11.1 This chapter of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report relates to the potential effects of the proposed development located in the townlands of Rathcore and Connellstown, on the material assets of the surrounding area.

11.2 A summary of the proposed development being applied for is:

- Permission for continued use of the previously permitted developments under P. Reg. Ref. No's. 01/1018 (PL17.127391); 95/1416 (PL17.099325) and 91/970 (PL17.089787) to include the existing quarry, drilling, blasting, crushing and screening of rock and related ancillary buildings and facilities;
- Permission for continued use of the previously permitted developments under P. Reg. Ref. No. TA/120923 consisting of a discharge water treatment facility comprising two lagoons (30m x 13m), an oil interceptor, a reed bed (27m x 10m) and a concrete canal with "V" notch weir;
- Permission for a small lateral extension of c.0.9 hectares from the existing quarry area of c.9.7 hectares as permitted under P. Ref. 01/1018 (PL17.127391) to give an overall extraction footprint of c.10.6 hectares;
- Permission for the deepening of the overall extraction area (c.10.6 hectares) by 2 no. 15m benches to a final depth of c.45m AOD from the current quarry floor level of c.75m AOD as permitted under P. Ref. P. Ref. 01/1018 (PL17.127391);
- Permission for a proposed new rock milling plant to be enclosed within a steel-clad building (c.575m² with roof height of 22.5m and exhaust stack height of 28.2m);
- Replacement of existing septic tank with a new wastewater treatment system and constructed percolation area;
- Restoration of the site to a beneficial ecological after-use;
- All associated site works within an overall application area of 31.1 hectares. The proposed operational period is for 20 years plus 2 years to complete restoration (total duration sought 22 years).

11.3 For further detail of the proposed development and the application site context, refer to chapter 2 of this EIAR.

Scope of Work / EIA Scoping

11.4 Article 3(1) of the amended EIAR Directive provides the revised headings by which an EIAR is to be written. The EPA subsequently released '*Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports*' in 2017, and it is here that the information to be contained in the Material Assets chapter of the EIAR is provided.

11.5 Material Assets include the built services such as electricity, telecommunications, gas, water supply infrastructure and sewerage. Material assets also cover and roads and traffic. These items are

categorised according to construction and operational phases of the proposed development and must be accounted for in unplanned events[1].

11.6 The EPA Guidelines in relation to the preparation of EIARs note the following in respect of material assets:

"Material assets can now be taken to mean built services and infrastructure. Traffic is included because in effect traffic consumes roads infrastructure."

11.7 Chapter 14 of the EIAR addresses traffic and Chapter 12 addresses architectural heritage, archaeological heritage and cultural heritage. This chapter addresses built services and waste management.

Consultations / Consultees

11.8 A formal pre-planning consultation (ref. P.P. 8123) was held via Teams between planning, environment and transport staff of Meath County Council and representatives of Kilsaran, SLR Consulting and Hydro Environmental on 15 September 2023.

11.9 Following a review of published development plans and the site survey, it was considered that there was no requirement for a separate formal consultation to be carried out regarding the potential material asset impacts of the proposed development.

Contributors / Author(s)

11.10 This chapter of the EIAR was prepared by Shane McDermott of SLR Consulting Ireland. Shane is a chartered surveyor and has worked previously on EIA for several extractive and waste industries planning applications and prepared EIA reports thereon.

Limitations / Difficulties Encountered

11.11 No limitation or difficulties were encountered in the preparation of this chapter of the EIAR.

REGULATORY BACKGROUND

Guidelines and Technical Standards

11.12 This chapter of the EIAR has been prepared on the basis of the EPA Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (2022).

11.13 There are no technical standards relevant to this section of the EIAR.

Legislation

11.14 There is no specific legislation relevant to this chapter of the EIAR. However, the information provided within this chapter is informed by:

- Section 37D and 171A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended);
- Section 94 and Schedule 6 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended); and

[1] Environmental Protection Agency (2017). Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports. EPA.

- European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018.

Planning Policy and Development Control

11.15 This chapter of the EIAR is informed by the National Planning Framework 2040 (NPF2040) and the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027 (MCDP).

Rural Development

11.16 **Chapter 9** Rural Development of the MCDP states the following goal for the County:

"*To encourage the continued sustainable development of rural communities without compromising the physical, environmental, natural and heritage resources of the County.*"

Extractive Industry

11.17 The MCDP recognises the importance of the extractive industry in relation to employment and economic development, as well as the need to exploit such resources in an environmentally sound and sustainable manner.

11.18 Section 9.11 of the MCDP refers to the contribution of mineral resources to the county's rural economy and states it is the goal of the Development Plan:

"*To facilitate adequate supplies of aggregate resources to meet the future growth needs of the County and the wider region while addressing key environmental, traffic and social impacts and details of rehabilitation.*"

11.19 The council policies in relation to the extractive industry as set out in section 9.11 of the CDP include:

- Policy **RD POL 21**

"To ensure that projects associated with the extractive industry carry out screening for Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the E.C. Habitats Directive, where required."

- Policy **RD POL 22**

"To facilitate the exploitation of the county's natural resources and to exercise appropriate control over the types of development taking place in areas containing proven deposits, whilst also ensuring that such developments are carried out in a manner which would not unduly impinge on the visual amenity or environmental quality in the area."

- Policy **RD POL 23**

"To support the extractive industry where it would not unduly compromise the environmental quality of the county and where detailed rehabilitation proposals are provided."

- Policy **RD POL 24**

"To seek to ensure that the extraction of minerals and aggregates minimise the detraction from the visual quality of the landscape and do not adversely affect the environment or adjoining existing land uses."

- Policy **RD POL 25**

"To ensure that the extractive industry and associated development minimises adverse impacts on the road network in the area 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."

- Policy **RD POL 26**

"To ensure that all existing workings shall be rehabilitated to suitable land uses and that all future extraction activities will allow for the rehabilitation of pits and proper land use management. The biodiversity value of the site should be considered in the first instance when preparing restoration plans. Where landfilling is proposed, inert material is the preferred method. Each planning application shall be considered on a case by case basis and where relevant will be dealt with under the relevant regional Waste Management Plan."

- Policy **RD POL 27**

"To ensure that development for aggregates / mineral extraction, processing and associated processes does not significantly impact in the following areas:

i. Existing & Proposed Special Areas of Conservation (SACs);

ii. Special Protection Areas (SPAs);

iii. Natural Heritage Areas and Proposed Natural Heritage Areas;

iv. Other areas of importance for the conservation of flora and fauna;

v. Areas of significant archaeological potential;

vi. In the vicinity of a recorded monument, and; Sensitive landscapes.

vii. World Heritage Sites."

Development Management Standards

11.20 **Chapter 11** Development Management Standards of the MCDP outlines development management policies for business, commercial and employment developments.

11.21 Section 11.4 sets out the general standards applicable to all development types while Section 11.6.9 sets out specific requirements in relation to planning applications for quarries and ancillary developments.

Guidelines

11.22 As previously referenced, this chapter of the EIAR has been prepared on the basis of the Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports by the EPA (2022).

Technical Standards

11.23 There are no technical standards relevant to this chapter of the EIAR. Technical standards, if any, which are relevant to each pathway (noise, air, soil, water, etc.), are addressed elsewhere in each specialist chapter of this EIAR.

RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

Study Area

11.24 The study area for this chapter of the EIAR encompasses the vicinity of the application site and extends to those dwelling and buildings on the roads surrounding the application site, within c. 1km of the application site.

Baseline Study Methodology

11.25 The baseline study for this chapter of the EIAR is comprised of:

- a desk-top based review of both online and published resources;
- information provided by the applicant;
- information from the other chapters of this EIAR;
- Ordnance Survey (OSi) maps and aerial photography (Google Maps) were also consulted.

Sources of Information

11.26 All baseline information not contained within other chapters of this EIAR was obtained from the following resources:

- myplan.ie (www.myplan.ie);
- Historic Environment Viewer (www.webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment);
- Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027;
- OSi Maps;
- aerial photography;
- EPA maps.ie;
- Open Streetmaps (www.openstreetmaps.org).

Site Context

11.27 The quarry site is surrounded by agricultural lands. The external site boundary and remaining internal field boundaries consist of a combination of mature hedgerows with sporadic mature trees and fence lines.

11.28 Residences within the general area are confined to the public roads. The public road which fronts onto the western landholding boundary runs in a northeast – southwest direction. There are two residences located along this road directly north of the quarry. There is one residence directly opposite the site entrance while there is a cluster of houses located to the southwest of the site at the intersection of the local county roads.

11.29 The quarry development is adjoined by agricultural fields on all sides, both under pasture and arable. St. Gorman's Well, an artesian thermal spring, lies c. 1.6km to the west of the site.

11.30 The wider landscape is dominated by a mixture of pasture and arable fields, bound by mostly dense tree lined hedgerows. Field sizes range from small to large, with the smaller fields typically being under pasture and the larger ones used for growing crops. Apart from a number of small blocks of woodland, there are no wooded areas within the general area. Other elements in the landscape include a network of local and regional roads, with associated dispersed residential development, as well as scattered farmsteads.

11.31 The topography surrounding the application site is gently rolling with elevations generally ranging from 70 to 100m OD. The highest elevation in the vicinity of, but outside the application area is a local highpoint of 117m OD immediately to the north-east of the application area.

11.32 The main transport routes in the area are the R148, just under 2km to the south and the R159, just over 2km to the southeast of the application site. The M4 motorway is located 3km to the south.

There is further a comprehensive network of local roads interconnecting the regional and national roads.

11.33 There is extensive dispersed residential development along all roads surrounding the application site. Enfield, approximately 3km to the southeast is the largest settlement within the study area.

11.34 The agricultural landscape surrounding the site is in a good condition, with well-tended fields and hedgerows. It is attractive, in particular due to the presence of mature hedgerows, which give the impression of a much more wooded landscape than it actually is. Manmade structure, such as residential properties, farm buildings, roads and electricity poles locally distract from the scenic rural character somewhat. Movement within the local landscape is mostly restricted to cars along the local roads.

11.35 Due to the gently rolling topography, as well as the mature hedgerows throughout the area, the landscape has a general feeling of being enclosed. There are some slightly elevated locations or stretches of low roadside hedgerows, where more distant views open up and the scale of the landscape increases. However, there are no views towards conspicuous mountain ranges or other distinct local features.

11.36 The rolling topography and mature hedgerows provide good screening potential for low rise development. The key characteristics of the landscape surrounding the application area can be summarised as:

- gently rolling pasture fields with irregular boundaries, marked by a mix of low-cut and tree-lined hedgerows;
- pockets of arable land, and small blocks of woodland; and
- signs of human presence in the form of roads, residential and farm buildings, telegraph poles, cut hedgerows, fences and the existing quarry.

Built Services

Roads

11.37 The quarry site lies southwest of the village of Rathcore, and c. 3 kilometres northwest of the town of Enfield. The village of Rathcore comprises of a handful of houses and a public house, grouped around the intersection of roads leading north to Rathmolyon and Trim, east to Summerhill, southeast to Enfield and south past the quarry site and on to the R148 (former N4 National Primary Road).

11.38 The site is accessed directly from Local Road L6226 by a simple priority junction.

11.39 By road the site access is located approximately 1.5km southwest of Rathcore Village and approximately 5km northeast of the centre of Enfield town.

11.40 Travelling south from the site access via Local Road L6226 the R148 (former N4 national primary route) is reached in approximately 2.7km. This route to the south is the principle haul route to and from the site. Given the relative location of the R148 and M4 Motorway in general, the site can be considered well served by the greater strategic road network.

11.41 The main transport routes through the general area are the R148, just under 2km to the south and the R159, just over 2km to the southeast of the application site. The M4 motorway is located 3km to the south.

Railways

11.42 There are no railway lines in the immediate vicinity of the site or the general Rathcore area. The closest rail line is the Dublin – Sligo line which runs c. 3km to the south of the site at Enfield.

Utilities

11.43 The existing site has an electricity supply via an existing mains supply directly into the site. This connection will continue to provide the principal energy source for the overall site.

11.44 There are no high voltage electricity powerlines in the vicinity of the application site. The closest high voltage line (400kV) runs generally in a southwest to northeast direction and is c. 1km southeast of the application site at its closest point, refer to **Figure 11-1**. The powerline terminates in Woodland 400kV substation, near Batterstown c. 19km east of the application site.

11.45 The existing site-based staff are contactable via fixed land-line and mobile phones. Internet connections to the site office is currently provided by a mobile network, facilitating access to email.

11.46 There is an existing telecommunications support structure (tower) with associated ground equipment cabinets enclosed in security fencing on top of the hill and located directly beyond the southeast corner of the application area (refer to **Figure 11-1**). The tower is operated by Ontower Ireland Ltd (a Cellnex Company) and was recently granted permission under P. Ref. 21/594).

11.47 Effluent from toilet facilities is currently treated using an on-site septic tank which is proposed to be replaced with a new waste water treatment tank and percolation area as part of this planning application.

11.48 An existing potable water supply from groundwater is provided at the site. This provides the water required to provide adequate water services to facilitate the ancillary facilities, dust suppression and wheel wash operations on the application site.

11.49 Review of the 'dial before you dig' website from Gas Networks Ireland was carried out as part of the baseline review. The results of the inspection in the vicinity of the application site are provided in **Appendix 11-A**. No gas lines are located within the general site area. The closest transmission pipe (high pressure line) is located c. 4.2km northwest of the site. The closest distribution pipe (medium pressure line) is located c. 2km south of the site and runs along the R148 regional road, refer to **Figure 11-1**.

Waste Management

General Waste Management

11.50 Kilsaran is a member of the Irish Concrete Federation and commits itself to the principles of the Federations Environmental Code. This code states:

"ICF members will minimise production of waste and where appropriate, consider its beneficial use including recycling. They will deal with all waste in accordance with the relevant legislation and other controls in place, including using waste contractors with valid Waste Collection Permits."

11.51 Potential waste which can be produced at the overall quarry site, and the measures used to control it are described as follows:

- **Scrap metal** produced from the maintenance of the processing plants can cause a nuisance if allowed to build up in an uncontrolled manner. A designated scrap metal area will hold any scrap metal produced, subject to the regular removal of all scrap by a licensed scrap metal dealer.

- **Used oils and oil filters** may arise from the regular maintenance of fixed and mobile plant. Any waste oil or oil filters which arise from the servicing of any plant / machinery on site will continue to be removed by a licensed waste contractor.
- **Used batteries** will continue to be removed from site for collection and recycling by a licensed waste contractor. This is in accordance with Waste Management Regulations.
- **Domestic Waste** generated at the employee facilities or the office will continue to be collected by a licensed waste collection contractor.

Extractive Waste Management

11.52 Almost all products and by-products arising from the aggregate processing have commercial value. Any waste materials from the site are stored, collected, recycled and/or disposed of in accordance with any requirements of Meath County Council.

11.53 In Ireland, the management of extractive waste is regulated by the Waste Management (Management of Waste from the Extractive Industries) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 566 of 2009). Under these Regulations, quarry operators are required to prepare an Extractive Waste Management Plan (EWMP) which outline the plans and procedures for minimisation, treatment, recovery and disposal of extractive wastes, having regard to the principle of sustainable development. The applicant has an Extractive Waste Management Plan for the Rathcore site which is provided in **Appendix 2-A** of the EIAR.

11.54 There is no intention on behalf of Kilsaran to discard, where possible, any material extracted at Rathcore. The principle aim of this extractive waste management plan is to prevent waste production which is in accordance with Section 5(2)(a) of the 2009 Regulations.

11.55 Extracted Material will fall into the following categories:

Soil and Sub-soil (Overburden) Stripping

11.56 This material is excavated to expose the underlying bedrock in overall quarry extraction area.

11.57 ***Topsoil & Sub-soil (Overburden)*** – all material stripped will either be used to construct perimeter visual/noise screening mounds or be place directly back into previously extracted areas as part of the progressive restoration scheme.

Rock Material

11.58 Rock is extracted from the quarry face using commercial explosives, the blasted rock pile is processed through size reduction (crushing) and size classification (screening) to produce a suit of saleable aggregate and agricultural lime products or for use in concrete / asphalt plants at other Kilsaran locations. Aggregates awaiting haulage off-site are stored temporarily in individual stockpiles, which are maintained in order to ensure stability, minimal visual intrusion and minimal environmental impact.

Sensitive Receptors

11.59 The site is located in a rural area. The area is sparsely populated with residential development mainly to the north and south of the quarry. There are no large scale commercial properties in the vicinity of the quarry. There are a number of 'cottage industry' style businesses run from residential properties in the area.

11.60 The land use surrounding the quarry predominantly consists of agricultural lands used for tillage and grazing. Rathcore Golf Course is located approximately 800m northeast of the planning application area.

11.61 The closest residential dwellings to the application area are located along the public road network surrounding the site, the majority of which are located to the west and southwest of the site. There are approximately 23 one-off dwellings located within 500 metres of the application area. Between 500m and 1km there are approximately a further 77 one-off houses. In addition, there is a residence currently under construction to the south.

11.62 **Figure 11-1** identifies residential properties, community facilities and farm buildings within the locality and shows 250m, 500m, 750m and 1km offsets from the application boundary. The closest third party residences within 250m are located to the west and south of the site along the public road network.

11.63 There are no schools within the immediate vicinity of the application site. The closest educational or childcare facilities are located c. 3km east of the application boundary at St. Patrick's National School and Community Playgroup located at Baconstown, and c. 3km south in Enfield village.

11.64 The site is not located within, or in the immediate vicinity of, any identified GSI source protection areas for groundwater supply wells.

11.65 Residences in the vicinity of the site area are on groundwater well supplies. A groundwater well survey was undertaken previously by SLR Consulting in February 2017 and identified a total of 21 private wells within the vicinity of the quarry, shown in **Figure 7-2** (of Chapter 7 Water). The groundwater levels in the private wells have been monitored (where permission was given) by Kilsaran on a monthly basis since November 2006. The private supply wells are pumped wells and therefore the groundwater level will vary with abstraction rates for the households and this is reflected in the monitoring results.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Evaluation Methodology

11.66 The evaluation of effects on built services and waste comprises a qualitative assessment based on the quantitative and qualitative analysis of potential effects on the environment undertaken in other chapters of this EIAR. The assessment also takes into account a review of relevant literature and professional judgement in relation to potential impacts on built services and waste.

11.67 There is no proposed change to the permitted extraction rate of up to 350,000 tonnes per annum as part of this planning application. It is proposed that the duration of the proposed development would run for a period of 20 years, with a further two years required to carry out and complete restoration activities at the site.

Built Services

Construction and Operational Stage Impacts

11.68 As the quarry is an existing operational site, there is no requirement for the provision of any temporary plant or structures (such as canteen, wheelwash, weighbridge, office or processing equipment) as part of this proposed development, as these facilities are already provided for within the existing permitted site.

11.69 The only exceptions to this is, it is proposed to decommission the existing septic tank and replace it with a new proprietary waste water treatment system and constructed percolation area. The existing septic tank will be decommissioned and the contents of the tank will be taken off site for appropriate

treatment by a licenced contractor. In addition, it is proposed to install a new rock milling plant on the existing quarry floor.

11.70 The initial phase of operations will be confined to:

- the removal of a c. 50m section of trees along the ridge located between the existing quarry void and the site entrance area;
- the removal of any remaining overlying topsoil and overburden materials (glacial till and weathered rock) from the proposed extraction area. Within the proposed extraction area there is an area of c.1 ha where overburden is required to be stripped, over and above that which has already been stripped;
- placement of the overburden and topsoil within the proposed overburden storage area, located to the northwest of the existing quarry void area; and
- construction of the aforementioned rock milling plant and replacement of the WWTU.

11.71 The extraction and production operations will be ongoing in tandem with the above-mentioned construction stage development works.

11.72 The operational stage will consist of:

- extraction of the limestone rock using the same format as previously practiced, by way of blasting, crushing and screen of the rock;
- transportation of the extracted materials from the working faces to the existing processing area within the existing site; and
- processing of the extracted rock through crushing and screening for use in the onsite lime milling plant or transport as aggregate off-site.

11.73 The proposed development, for use of the land for rock extraction and processing is generally unlikely to give rise to any construction/operational impacts on material assets.

11.74 The proposed development is far enough removed from any high and medium pressure gas lines.

11.75 The high voltage line (400kV) that runs generally in a southwest to northeast direction and is c. 1km southeast of the application site at its closest point is well removed from the site and will not be impacted by the proposed development.

11.76 There are no pylon towers located within the site. The majority of the application site does not extend beneath any overhead powerline with the exception of a powerline crossing the southwest corner of the application site in the vicinity of the settlement pond and site entrance. The proposed activity at the site will have no impact on the existing electricity transmission network.

11.77 A telegraph wire line mounted on single wooden poles runs along the public road (L6226) to the west of the site but will not be impacted upon by the proposed development.

11.78 The existing site-based staff are contactable via fixed landline and mobile phones. Internet connections to the site office is currently provided by a mobile network, facilitating access to email. The existing telecoms support structure (tower) is located outside of the applicants boundary on third party lands. It is set-back c. 60m from the edge of the existing quarry extraction area and it is not proposed to advance the quarry face any closer to the tower.

11.79 The existing effluent treatment system is located within the existing site to service the current workforce.

11.80 An existing water supply from groundwater is provided at the site. This provides the water required to facilitate the ancillary operations, dust suppression and wheel wash operations on the application site.

11.81 The proposed new extension area (lateral and deepening) will effectively be worked as a continuation of the existing quarry development. As there is no proposed increase in output or production from the proposed quarry development over and above what is already permitted, the existing permitted traffic volumes associated with the quarry are to remain the same.

11.82 The existing road network has demonstrated its ability to support comparable levels of HGV traffic to and from the existing site as is currently the case.

11.83 An assessment of likely development impacts on the local road network, presented in Chapter 14 of this EIAR, concluded that the proposed development will not have a likely significant effect on either traffic safety or the existing capacity of local roads and junctions.

11.84 Based on the above, it is anticipated that the proposed development will not result in any significant adverse construction/operational stage impact on existing infrastructure or utilities.

Post-Operational Stage Impacts

11.85 During the post operational period, all works on the site will have ceased and the site will have been restored to a natural state. Any activity following the cessation of operations on the site would be limited to post-restoration uses and any aftercare required for a short period of time following the restoration of the application site.

11.86 It is not considered that the proposed development would have any significant impacts on any infrastructure or utilities at the post-operational stage.

Waste Management

Construction and Operational Stage Impacts

11.87 The existing arrangements for waste management in relation to general waste, ancillary operational waste and extractive waste will remain in place for the duration of the proposed development. The waste produced by the construction/operational stages will be limited to the domestic style waste generated by employees operating the facility, ancillary operational waste generated from the operation of the site (including waste oil, tyres, batteries, etc).

11.88 Potential waste which can be produced at the site, and the measures proposed to control it are described as follows.:

- **Scrap metal** – these materials are chiefly produced from the maintenance of the possessing plants and can cause a nuisance if allowed to build up in an uncontrolled manner. A designated scrap metal area will be demarcated on site and the build-up of scrap will be controlled by the regular removal by licensed scrap metal dealers.
- **Used oils and oil filters** – any waste oil/oil filters that may arise from servicing of plant will be removed from the site by a licensed waste contractor.
- **Used batteries** – similarly, all used batteries will be removed from site for collection and recycling by a licensed waste contractor in accordance with the Waste Management Regulations.
- **Domestic Waste** – domestic waste generated at the offices and employee's facility will be collected by a licensed waste collection contractor.

11.89 The proposals for the site have been developed with maximising efficiencies of available resources and infrastructure and reducing waste, which is also in the economic interest of the applicant.

11.90 Overburden stripped from above the proposed rock quarry extraction area and any silt removed from the settlement pond are not considered waste. Although the amount of soil and sub-soil stripping to be undertaken is minimal given the slight increased footprint proposed in the quarry, they are an essential component of the long term restoration programme. These materials are required for the reshaping and landscaping of the worked-out area.

11.91 It is not considered that the proposed development would have any significant impacts from waste generation at the construction/operational stages.

Post-Operational Stage Impacts

11.92 During the post-operational stage, extraction will have been completed and restoration works will have ceased. Intermittent aftercare will be limited to a period of approximately two years. Any waste generated on the site will be limited to the general waste produced by any employees engaged in the intermittent aftercare on the site, and any ancillary operational waste related to aftercare. Any such waste will be disposed of in accordance with the established practise on the site and will be removed from the site by a licenced contractor.

11.93 It is not considered that the proposed development would have any significant impacts from waste generation at the post-operational stage.

Unplanned Events

11.94 Unplanned events can be any number of events that occur in or around the application site which were not foreseen. According to the EPA Guidelines, unplanned events such as accidents, can include such events as "*spill from traffic accidents, floods or landslides affecting the site, fire, collapse, or equipment failure*" on the site. The 2014 EIA directive refers to "*major accidents, and/or natural disasters (such as flooding, sea level rise or earthquakes.)*"

11.95 In this instance, the vulnerability of the proposed development to accidents, unplanned events or natural disasters is relatively limited owing to the simple nature of the development works, the established techniques of the proposed development, the strict adherence to industry specific regulations and procedures, the material handled on the site and the rural location of the proposed works.

11.96 In this case, potential unplanned events in relation to the proposed development include:

- instability following the extraction of rock;
- spill from traffic accidents;
- flooding impacts.

11.97 Adhering to the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) Safe Quarry Guidelines to the Safety Health and Welfare at Work (Quarries) Regulations 2008 should limit the potential for unplanned events in the form of instability in the quarry faces during the course of the proposed extraction and restoration activities. It is considered that the proposed extraction and restoration activities are unlikely to have significant impacts on material assets, particularly beyond the site. The final restoration will provide for the restoration of the quarry to a beneficial ecological after-use.

11.98 Chapter 7 (Water) of the EIAR notes that the spillage of fuels and/or chemicals can happen during site activities. Appropriate mitigation measures and monitoring have been proposed to ensure that

there are no potential impacts on the water environment as a result of unplanned spillages and events at the site.

11.99 The traffic and transport assessment contained within chapter 14 of the EIAR indicates that the existing road network can accommodate the proposed development.

11.100 It is considered that the risk of an accident resulting in a spillage would be no greater in relation to this development than it is for any other form of development that relies on HGVs for the transportation of goods and materials.

11.101 It is considered that the material assets as outlined in this chapter are not particularly vulnerable to such unplanned events and would be unlikely to cause significant, sudden environmental effects in respect of built services, waste or sensitive receptors.

Cumulative Effects

11.102 A GIS search was undertaken of available online planning search facilities provided by the prevailing local planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála and the EIA Portal. The purpose of the search was to identify other projects in the planning pipeline in the surrounding area that have the potential to have any significant adverse cumulative impacts with the proposed development. The GIS search covered a radius of c. 5km from the application site, within which planning applications from the previous 5 years were identified. Maps and details of the results of the search are presented in **Appendix 4-A** of Chapter 4.

11.103 Since the time of the last planning application at Rathcore Quarry, (planning ref. TA/161227 & ABP-PL.249132), Progressive Genetics has secured planning permission (planning ref. TA/180007) for partial change of use of the nearby Rathcore golf club-house (c. 1km northeast of application site) for use as offices and a call centre and will have up to 20 staff. Progressive Genetics traffic will use the L6225-18 road whilst the quarry's main traffic route is the L6226, and this coupled with the relative small workforce associated with the call centre is not expected to have any likely significant adverse impact on junction capacity and traffic safety across the local road network.

11.104 Planning permission TA191072 (ABP-305831-19) located to the northeast in the townland of Foxhill, Rathmolyon, was granted by Meath Co. Co. for *"Phased restoration of a worked out authorised quarry back to its original topographical profile & agricultural use; site boundary encloses c. 7.5862 Ha; backfill of the existing quarry void of c. 209,535 m3 with clean subsoil & topsoil followed by seeding."* A final grant of permission was issued in October 2019. The permission is valid for a period of 5 years from the date of commencement, with a maximum lifetime acceptance of 240,000 tonnes of soils and subsoils with a maximum of 50 loads per day permitted. At a distance of c. 4.3km from the application site, this development is considered too far removed to have any cumulative impacts on air quality, noise, surface and groundwater or landscape. The site at Foxhill is immediately east of the R159 regional road but planning documents submitted with this application demonstrate HGV access on the L6211 further east of the R159 and the R156 regional road to the north to be the main traffic routes. HGV traffic will utilise separate haulage routes to and from both the Rathcore quarry site and the Foxhill restoration site and there will therefore be no cumulative impact from traffic from the combined developments.

11.105 Planning permission TA200121 (ABP-309151-21) located to the southwest in the townland of Newcastle, Enfield, was granted by Meath Co. Co. for *"development will consist of use of existing stockpiles for site restoration and importation of inert excavation spoil at QY/54 for restoration. the restoration will require a waste permit to Meath County Council."* A final grant of permission was issued in November 2021. The permission limits a maximum lifetime acceptance of 200,000 tonnes of materials with a maximum of 10 loads per day permitted. At a distance of c. 2.6km from the

application site and located on the opposite side of the R148 regional road, this development is considered too far removed to have any cumulative impacts on air quality, noise, surface and groundwater or landscape. HGV traffic associated with the Newcastle restoration site, limited to 10 loads per day will not result in any significant cumulative impact from traffic from the combined developments.

11.106 Planning permission TA200121 (ABP-309151-21) located to the southwest in the townland of Kilmurry, Johnstown Bridge, was granted by Kildare Co. Co. for *"importation of clean topsoil and subsoil into the subject site of 4.29 hectares at Kilmurry, Johnstown Bridge, Co. Kildare, in order that the site can be rendered suitable for agriculture. It is proposed to improve approximately 3.79 ha of the site and it is estimated that this will require approximately 62,457 cubic metres of greenfield, inert soil and stone. The applicant also proposes to install a temporary site office and canteen, wheelwash, portaloo and carry out all ancillary site works. The application relates to an activity requiring a Waste Facility Permit from Kildare County Council." ."* A final grant of permission was issued in August 2020. The permission limits a maximum lifetime acceptance of 93,686 tonnes of materials over a 5 year period. At a distance of c. 4.8km from the application site and located on the opposite side of the M4 motorway, this development is considered too far removed to have any cumulative impacts on air quality, noise, surface and groundwater or landscape. HGV traffic associated with the development will not result in any cumulative impact from traffic from the combined developments.

11.107 Other identified EIA developments of significance are a number of large scale housing developments planned for the southern fringe of Enfield town and c. 3.7km southeast of the application site and a separate development of self-catering units on the grounds of Moyvalley Hotel and Golf Resort, c. 4.7km southwest of the application site. These developments are considered too far removed to have any cumulative impacts on air quality, noise, surface and groundwater, landscape or traffic.

11.108 It is considered in light of the available assessments that the proposed development will not have any significant adverse cumulative effect on material assets.

Transboundary Impacts

11.109 Given the location and site context of the application site, it is not anticipated that the impacts of the proposed development will have any significant transboundary effects on material assets.

Interaction with Other Impacts

11.110 It is not anticipated that the effects of the proposed development on material assets will interact significantly with other impacts.

'Do-nothing Scenario'

11.111 In a 'do-nothing scenario', the proposed extension activities at the site would not commence and the status quo would remain as is, i.e. permission within the existing quarry development site would expire once the overall existing quarry void reached the permitted depth of c. 75m AOD. and thereafter be restored in a similar fashion to what is proposed in this planning application, i.e., a beneficial habitat area.

11.112 There would be a loss of the valuable infrastructure and limestone reserves effectively sterilising these valuable aggregates and processing capacity. There would be a loss of the valuable crushed lime supply to the agricultural sector, and a loss of all employment currently associated with the site, with current staff numbers at c. 14

MITIGATION MEASURES

Construction and Operational Stage Impacts

11.113 The mitigation of the impacts of the proposed development in respect of noise, air quality, ecology, cultural heritage and traffic are detailed in the relevant chapters of this EIAR. It is not considered that any additional mitigation measures are required in respect of utilities or sensitive receptors other than those set out in the other chapters of this EIAR.

11.114 All waste generated at the site will continue to be appropriately stored and removed by licenced contractors.

Post – Operational Stage

11.115 It is not considered that there are any post-operational impacts associated with the proposed development that require mitigation in respect of material assets other than those identified elsewhere in other relevant chapters of this EIAR. Therefore, no specific mitigation measures are proposed.

RESIDUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Construction and Operational Stages

11.116 As no significant effects are anticipated in relation to built services or waste management and no mitigation measures are required during the construction stage, no residual impact is anticipated.

Post – Operational Stage

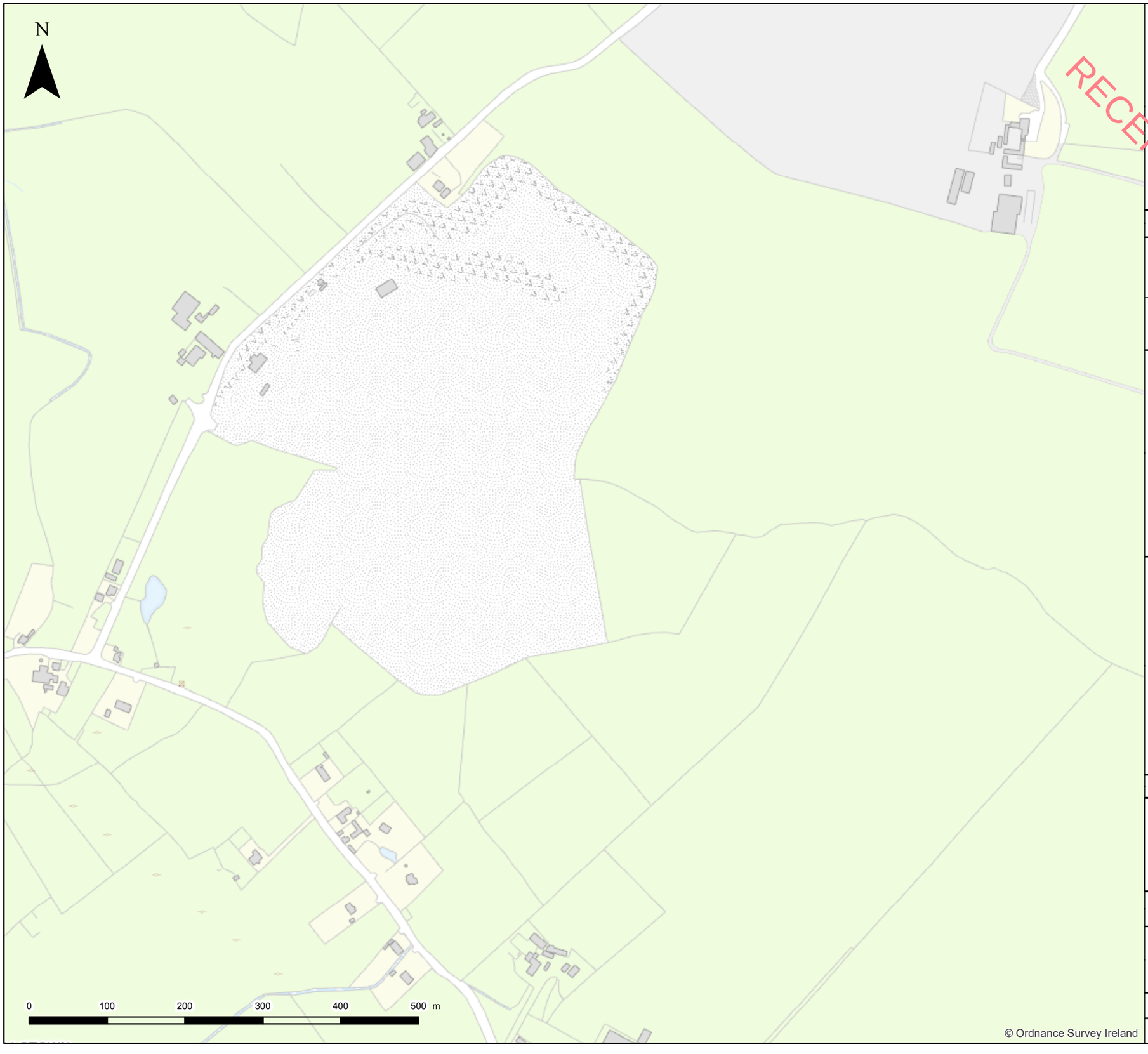
11.117 As no significant effects are anticipated in relation to built services or waste management and no mitigation measures are required during the post-operational stage, no residual impact is anticipated.

MONITORING

11.118 Monitoring is not proposed in relation to material assets.

APPENDICES

Appendix 11-A
Gas Networks Ireland 'dial before you dig' review



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 1850 427 747.

All work in the vicinity of the gas network must be completed in accordance with the current edition of the Health and Safety Authority publication, 'Code of Practice For Avoiding Danger From Underground Services' which is available from the Health and Safety Authority (1890 289 389) or can be downloaded at www.hsa.ie.

Legal Notice: Gas Networks Ireland (GNI) and its affiliates, accept no responsibility for the accuracy of any information contained in this document including data concerning location and technical designation of the gas distribution and transmission network (the"Information"). The Information should not be relied on for accurate distance or depth of cover measurements.

Any representations and warranties, express or implied, are excluded to the fullest extent permitted by law. No liability shall be accepted for any loss or damage including, without limitation,direct, indirect or consequential loss, arising out of or in connection with the use or re-use of the Information.

- Aurora Telecom Duct
- Aurora Telecom Sub Duct
- Aurora Telecom Inserted Gas Pipe

Aurora TELECOM

Aurora Telecom Queries - 01-8926106 (Office Hours)
Aurora_Network_Queries@gasnetworks.ie
Aurora Telecom Emergency Only 1850 427697 / 01 2030120

- Transmission Pipe (High Pressure)
- Transmission Pipe (Construction Issue)
- Distribution Pipe (Medium Pressure)
- Distribution Pipe (Low Pressure)
- Service Pipe (Medium Pressure)
- Service Pipe (Low Pressure)
- Strategic Pipe (Medium Pressure)
- Strategic Pipe (Low Pressure)
- Inserted
- Abandoned Pipe

C=?	Cover (depth in metres)		Pressure Monitor
CP	CP Test Point		Protection (Slabbing)
	End Cap		Protection (Sleeve)
	Hot Tap		Reducer
	Installation		Service Terminator
	Valve		Tee
	Mains Verification**		Transition

** Please contact GNI on 1850-427747 for specific information

DIAL BEFORE YOU DIG 1850 42 77 47
In Emergency call 1850 20 50 50 Gas Networks Ireland

Gas Networks Ireland

GAS NETWORK INFORMATION

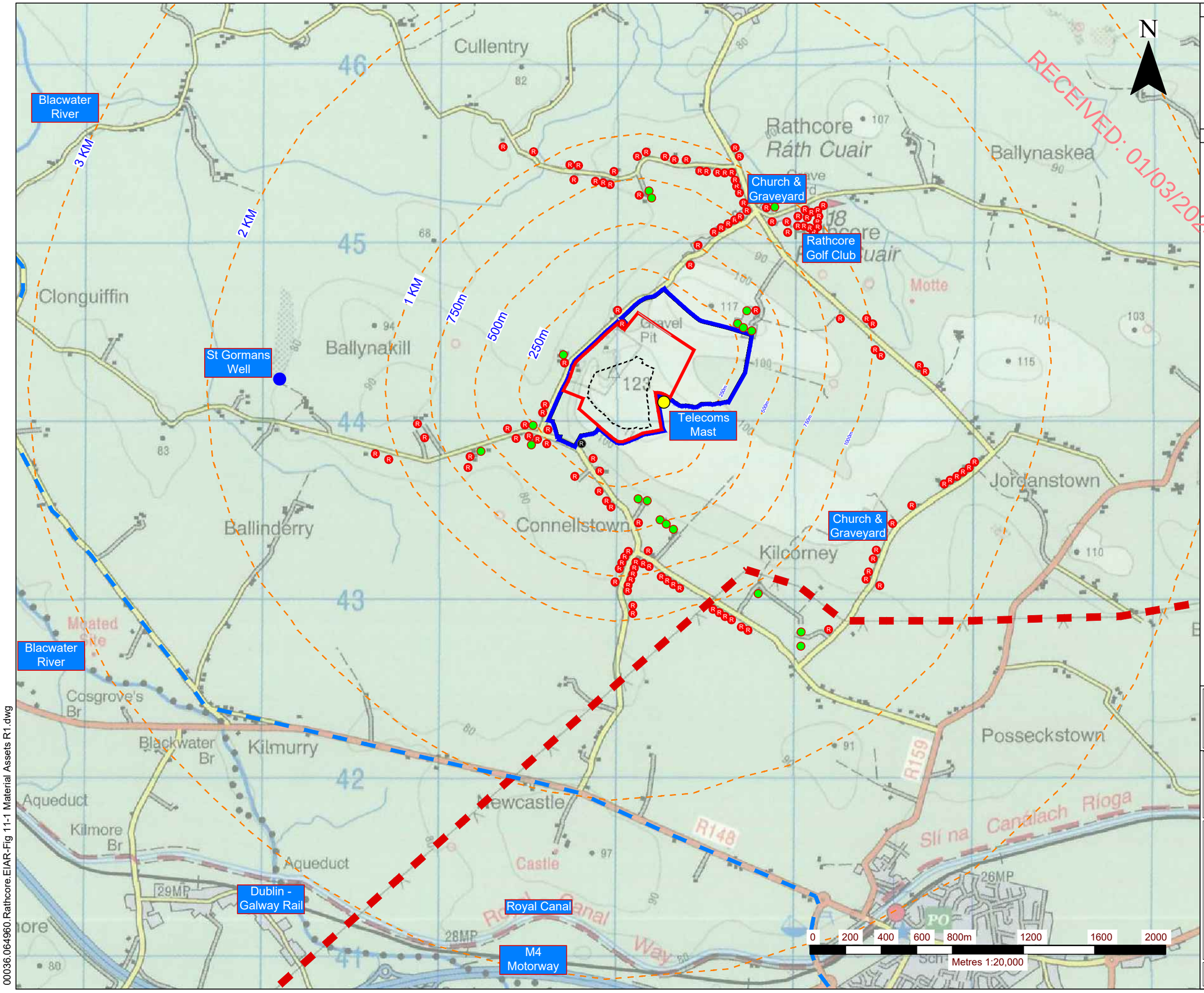
Description:

Location: 676117,744133

Plot Date: 10/07/2020 16:07	Scale: 5000 @ A3
Plotted By: 1088	Ref ID: *1088_10072020160754*

FIGURES

Figure 11-1
Material Assets



NOTES

Extract from Ordnance Survey 2500 Scale Digital Mapping
3053-B, 2984-C, 3054-A

CYAL 50381397
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LEGEND

- LANDHOLDING BOUNDARY (c.53.8 HA.)
- APPLICATION AREA (c.31.1 HA.)
- LIMIT OF EXCAVATION (c.10.6 HA.)
- DISTANCE OFF-SET FROM PLANNING APPLICATION BOUNDARY
- RESIDENCE LOCATIONS
- RESIDENCE CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION
- AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS
- EXISTING 400kV O/H POWERLINE
- EXISTING GAS DISTRIBUTION PIPE (MEDIUM PRESSURE)

Kilsaran
ideas taking shape

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7 DUNDRUM BUSINESS PARK
WINDY ARBOUR
DUBLIN 14
T: +353-1-2964667
F: +353-1-2964676
www.slrconsulting.com

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RATHCORE QUARRY
RATHCORE / CONNELLSTOWN TOWNLANDS
ENFIELD, CO. MEATH

MATERIAL ASSETS

FIGURE 11-1

Scale: 1:20,000 @ A3
Date: FEBRUARY 2024

00036.064960.Rathcore.EIAR-Fig 11-1 Material Assets R1.dwg