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Non - Technical Summary ('NTS')

Volume 1

PATRICK McCAFFREY & SONS LTD

Remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Patrick McCaffrey & Sons Ltd

Ballymagroarty Quarries, Ballintra, Co Donegal, Ireland.

MALONE O'REGAN ENVIRONMENTAL

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Non - Technical Summary ('NTS') Volume 1

Remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Patrick McCaffrey & Sons Ltd

Ballymagroarty Quarries, Ballintra, Co Donegal, Ireland.

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1 INTRODUCTION

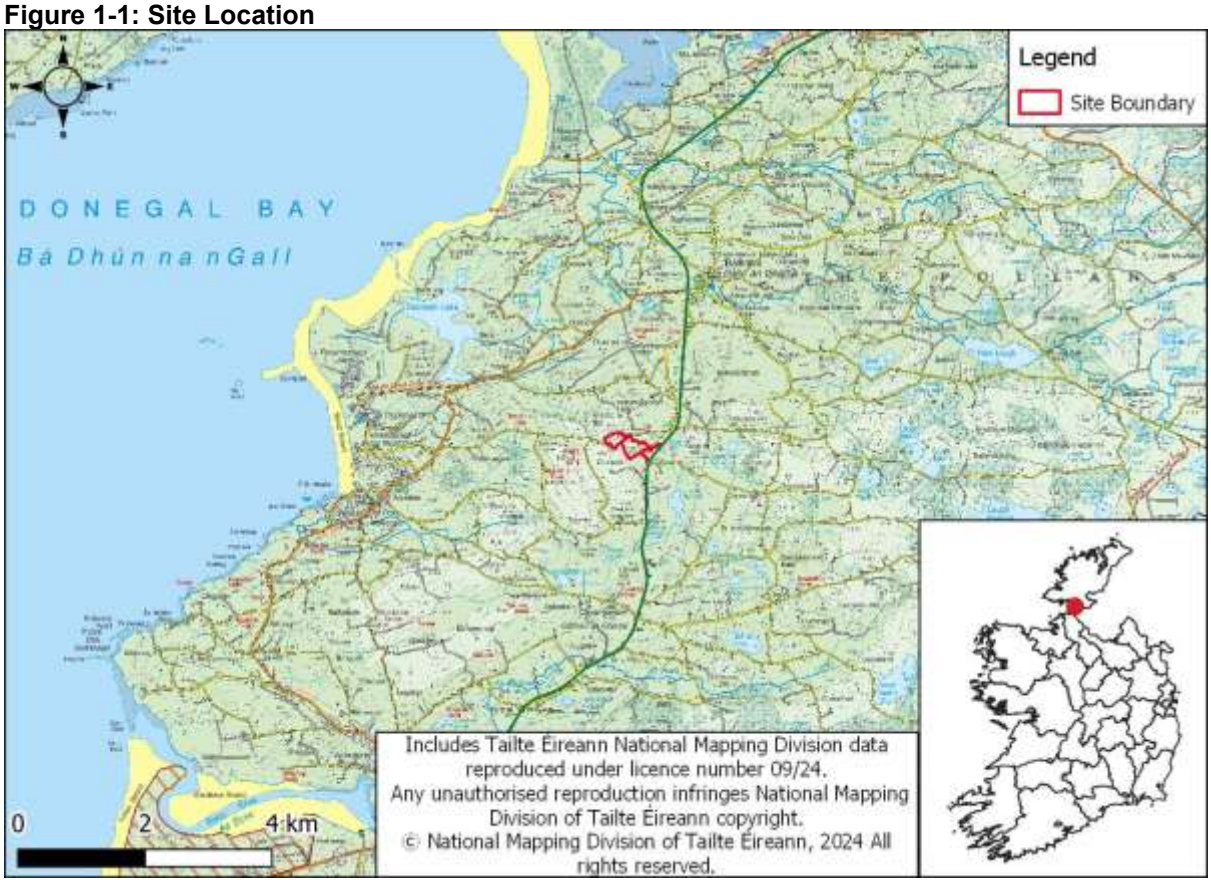
Malone O'Regan Environmental ('MOR Environmental') have been commissioned by Patrick McCaffrey & Sons Ltd ('the Applicant') to prepare a remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report ('rEIAR'). Following an unsuccessful application to An Bord Pleanála ('ABP') in December 2014, the Applicant seeks to resubmit an application for Substitute Consent under Section 177E of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended [1], for the Ballymagroarty quarry site in Ballintra, County Donegal.

This Non-Technical Summary ('NTS') document constitutes Volume 1 of the submitted rEIAR. The NTS provides a summary in non-technical language of the information contained within the rEIAR (Volume 2 of the planning application). Supporting technical documents can be found in the Appendices (Volume 3 of the rEIAR). It should be noted that the phrase 'not significant' is a term which means that the activity or impact referred to will have effects, but that these will not cause any unacceptable environmental effects or be a nuisance to persons or companies in the area.

1.1 General

The quarry lies in the townlands of Ballymagrorty Irish, Ballymagrorty Scotch and Glasbolie, in the Barony of Tirhugh, Ballintra, County Donegal ('the Site') (ITM centre co-ordinates 590736 867405). The Site is situated circa ('ca.') 2.6km southwest of Ballintra village and ca. 6.4km north of Ballyshannon in County Donegal. See Figure 1-1 below.

Figure 1-1: Site Location



The Site covers an area of ca. 13.26 hectares ('ha') which is comprised of two quarry areas within the Applicant's landholding. The north quarry was excavated to an estimated depth of -13mOD and has a plan area of ca. 4.62ha. It is no longer under extraction and has been allowed to flood to a water height of ca. 50mOD. The south quarry is excavated to a depth of

ca. 54.6mOD and has a plan area of 8.64ha. This land is used to operate the on-site screening, aggregate stockpiling and storage, aggregate crushing, asphalt plant, concrete batching plant, administration, welfare and maintenance garage. Ancillary works include carparking, fuel storage, wastewater treatment, water management systems, fencing and security.

The Site was registered as a pre-63 development under Section 261 in 2005 and was provided with the reference number of QY01 by the competent authority ('Donegal County Council').

1.2 Applicant

The Applicant, Patrick McCaffrey & Sons Ltd., is an Irish-owned family-run business established in 1949 that produces crushed stone aggregates and concrete products used in construction and roadmaking. Patrick McCaffrey & Sons Ltd is one of the largest manufacturers of bituminous materials in Co Donegal. Patrick McCaffrey & Sons Ltd are local employers, with ca. 40 full-time staff across their off-site working crew and on-site staff.

The company provides the following products:

- Concrete blocks;
- Drainage stone;
- Bituminous Macadam; and,
- Ready mix concrete.

They also provide surfacing services ranging from domestic driveways to the resurfacing of major roads. All products are made to the relevant international standards and nationally defined parameters and are certified as required under the Construction Products Regulations 2011.

1.3 Overview of the Site and Context

The Site is situated ca. 2.6km southwest of Ballintra village and ca. 6.4km north of Ballyshannon in County Donegal. The N15 runs in a north to south direction ca. 150m to the east of the Site office. The Site is connected to the N15 via a private road. The N15 national road runs from Lifford, County Donegal to County Sligo, and provides the primary transport route for Heavy Good's Vehicles ('HGVs') to the Site.

The Site is comprised of two quarry areas. The north quarry lies to the north of the L7265 road with an area of ca. 4.62ha, worked to a depth of approximately -13mOD. The quarry consisted only of blasting and extraction with the aggregate transported to the south quarry for processing by dump trucks. Quarry operations ceased in 2013, and the quarry void was allowed to flood. The south quarry has an area of ca. 8.64ha with the quarry worked to a depth of ca. 54.6mOD. The south quarry is divided by a private road with the quarry activities, concrete batching plant, asphalt plant screening plant and fixed processing plant located west of the road. Materials and aggregate are stored in sheds and stockpiles located in the south quarry.

Donegal Town is ca. 10.6km to the north of the Site, approached via the N15. The surrounding area is generally rural agricultural land, primarily pastures. The landforms in the vicinity of the Site incorporate a pronounced undulation where Glasbolie Hill to the immediate north of the Site rising to a height of ca. 130m. Ballymagroarty Hill is located to the east beyond the N15 which rises to a similar height while Lurgan Hill to the southwest of the Site rises ca. 140m. There is a high density of one-off housing within the wider area surrounding the Site with a number of dwellings adjacent to the northeast boundary of the Site and numerous dwellings along the local roads which run along the northern and southern boundaries of the Site respectively. The closest dwelling is ca. 50m from the boundary of the Site. The Site has historically been used to extract and process stone, with origins prior to 1963.

The current Site boundary is shown in Figure 1-2 below.

Figure 1-2: Site Context

1.4 Remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report

This rEIAR has been prepared in accordance with all relevant legislative and best practice guidelines in support of the planning application.

Specifically, this rEIAR seeks to assess the effects having arose from the historic development of the two quarry voids shown in Figure 1-2 above, the historic and continued transport of aggregates into the southern quarry and the processing of aggregates within the southern quarry, along with all ancillary works including landscaping, haulage routes, processing plant, storage buildings, garage and settlement ponds. A full description of the development is presented in chapter three below.

2 PLANNING CONTEXT & NEED FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Planning History at the Site

The Site has a substantial history of quarry activities, with accepted pre-1963 origins. The quarry commenced in the 1940s under previous ownership, with the Applicant taking over operational control in 1969. The Applicant continued operations at the south quarry and purchased the remaining quarry land between 1980 – 1986.

2.1.1 Substitute Consent Application

In September 2004, the Applicant's application for Section 261 registration was submitted. The application stated the total site area as 33.9ha, an extraction area of 10.6ha and the current depth of the excavation as 54.6m. The Site was registered under Section 261 in 2005, and the quarry registration was modified to QY01.

In May 2014, DCC issued a direction to the Applicant to apply for Substitute Consent. DCC instructed that the application was required to include a remedial Natura Impact Statement ('rNIS') and remedial Environmental Impact Screening ('rEIS') in the application. In December 2014, the Applicant lodged an application to ABP for Substitute Consent for the north quarry (Planning Ref. SU0128).

In January 2015, ABP sought further clarification on why only the northern quarry was submitted in the application, excluding the south quarry. In June 2015, ABP requested a revised rEIS and revised rNIS to incorporate the entire Site rather than just the north quarry.

In May 2017, the application was dismissed. ABP considered that the identified deficiencies had not been resolved and that, consequently, the application in respect of this quarry did not comply with the requirements of Section 261A(14) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

2.1.2 Section 37L Application

Section 37L of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) [1], allows for applications to further develop existing quarries, which are currently the subject of a Substitute Consent application under Section 261A of the Act. In January 2016, the Applicant made an application to ABP under Section 37L of the Planning and Development Act seeking an extension for the quarry (Planning Ref. QD0018). The application consisted of the 6.2ha to be extracted to a level of 85mOD and subject to extraction primarily by drilling and blasting means, and all associated ancillary facilities / works, screening berms and landscaping over a 35-year period.

In May 2017, ABP refused the planning permission on the basis that the Environmental Impact Statement ('EIS') was deficient on the grounds that it failed to adequately quantify the volume of material to be extracted and the impact it would have on the main quarry area.

Table 2-1: Relevant Planning Application History

Planning Ref	Applicant	Details	Decision	Decision Date
01106	Patrick McCaffrey & Sons Ltd	Extension to and retention and completion of existing quarry operations and associated Buildings.	Refused on Appeal	23/10/2003
0721124	Patrick McCaffrey & Sons Ltd	Construction of a quarry. The nature of the development is for the extraction of rock, which consists of drilling, blasting and haulage of rock.	No Decision Made	N/A

Planning Ref	Applicant	Details	Decision	Decision Date
0721125	Patrick McCaffrey & Sons Ltd	Retention of a quarry. The nature of the development is for the extraction of rock, which consists of drilling, blasting, loading of rock and haulage of rock.	No Decision Made	N/A
EUQY01/QD0018	Patrick McCaffrey & Sons Ltd	Quarry	Refused	23/05/2017
SU0128	Patrick McCaffrey & Sons Ltd	For Substitute Consent for an existing quarry outside the village of Ballintra	Dismissed	23/05/2017
304087	Patrick O'Gorman c/o Sean McCarthy	Whether quarrying activity at a quarry in Ballymagroarty, Ballintra, Co. Donegal is or is not development or is or is not exempted development	N/A	N/A
308276	Patrick O'Gorman	Whether the ongoing quarrying and ancillary activities at site is or is not development or is or is not exempted development.	No Board Jurisdiction	05/10/2022
313030	Pearse O'Gorman	Whether the ongoing quarrying and ancillary activities at site is or is not development or is or is not exempted development.	Is development and is not exempted development	18/09/2024

The Applicant has applied for and obtained licences in relation to discharge and emissions from the Site, this includes licences for water discharge from both the north and south quarries and an air emissions licence. Further details on these are presented below.

Currently, the following licenses are active:

- Water Discharge License LWAT41 (2016);
- Water Discharge License LWAT48 (2016); and,
- Air Emission License APL 05/01 (2005).

2.2 Planning Context

The planning context of the Site has been considered in terms of all national, regional, and local planning contexts including the following key documents:

- The National Planning Framework - First Revision ('NPF') [2];
- The National Development Plan 2021-2030 ('NDP') [3];
- Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy ('RSES') 2020-2032 [4]; and,
- County Donegal Development Plan 2024-2030 ('CDP') [5].

The NPF lays out plans to manage more balanced growth between the major Irish cities (Dublin, Cork, Galway, Limerick and Waterford) and Ireland's rural communities. The NDP also outlines the intent to invest in public infrastructure and housing. Both the NPF and the NDP will require significant quantities of aggregate to deliver new infrastructure. The Irish Concrete Federation released a report stating that in order to meet the growth targets within the National Planning Framework and the National Development Plan, '1.5 billion tonnes of

aggregates' are required. The RSES provides a high level framework for the region that supports the implementation of the NPF and the relevant economic policies and objectives of the government. The CDP includes objectives which relate to the extractive industry alongside meticulous guidelines to ensure responsible quarry operations was *also* reviewed.

2.3 Need for the Proposed Development

The NPF 2040 sets out a target of sustainable growth of Ireland's rural communities. The projected growth requires new infrastructure, including housing, schools, public services and transport networks. Regional policy seeks to make efficient use of the region's natural resources and to carry out major developments within the framework of national policy. From a local sense, the ambitious goals set by DCC in respect to housing and public infrastructure, in particular road infrastructure, will not be attainable without a sufficient source of suitably situated quality aggregates. The regularisation of the Site will allow for the continued production of quality aggregates and supply to the regional extractive industry market. The potential scarcity in the midland and eastern region (as highlighted in the ICF report [6]) increases the importance of supplies from other regions such as the Development in question.

The Site and associated development have facilitated the local area's economy through the direct employment of over 60 staff. If the Site cannot be regularised, the long-term future of the Site and associated jobs is at risk.

3 DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION

The Site has a total area of 13.26ha with a long history of quarrying associated with the Site. The Site has evidence of pre-1963 origins, with quarrying beginning in the 1940s. The Applicant took over quarry operations in 1968 and subsequently expanded the Site to the overall current footprint in the period to 1986, including the north quarry.

The entrance gate to the north quarry is located on the L7265 local road on the southeast boundary, an access point into the southern quarry is positioned on the west side of the private road, facilitating the historic movement of material from the northern quarry to the southern quarry.

The workshop, aggregate storage sheds, aggregate stockpiles and truck parking are located east of the private road in the south quarry. Employee car parking is located south of the office and welfare buildings.

The concrete batching plant, asphalt plant screening plant and fixed processing plant are located in the south quarry. The office, laboratory, weighbridge, wheel wash, car parking and staff welfare facilities are located in the south portion of the Site. The south quarry generally comprises of a quarry floor with haul routes extending to the aforementioned plant and equipment. Settlement ponds are located at the southern tip of the south quarry and at the east of the Site.

The Site is comprised of the following components:

- Concrete batching plant;
- Asphalt plant;
- Fixed processing and washing plant;
- Screening plant;
- Aggregate stockpiles;
- Aggregate storage buildings;
- Site office;
- Mobile plant and vehicle parking;
- Laboratory;
- Workshop;
- Staff welfare facilities;
- Weighbridge;
- Wheel wash;
- Haulage routes;
- Security fencing;
- Settlement ponds;
- Block production area; and,
- Associated landscaping.

3.1 Historic Activities

Quarry operations began in the south quarry in the 1940s. In ca. 1986, the south quarry had been excavated to a level of ca. 54mOD. Excavations in the south quarry ceased, with excavation operations were moved to the north quarry. North quarry activities ceased in 2013.

The north quarry consisted of an extraction area from which aggregate was extracted and exported to the south quarry to be processed. The rock was extracted using conventional blasting methods, which fragmented the rock into manageable sizes. When the quarry was operational, two dump trucks were used to transport material from the north quarry to the south quarry, with each dumper undertaking an average of 25 trips per day at its peak.

Processing was carried out in the south quarry, which consisted of the breaking of the blast rock and the repeated crushing and screening of the aggregate to produce the required aggregate sizes.

In previous years, the excavated and processed volumes of aggregates from the Site reached up to 250,000 tonnes per annum, with additional volumes of imported rock processed (other limestone and high PSV rock).

3.2 Current Activities

Currently, the north quarry is no longer operating, with excavations ceasing in 2013, and the quarry was allowed to flood. A 36,000L water storage tank is located beside the access gate, and the discharge pump is the only equipment at the north quarry.

After the cessation of quarry operations in the north quarry, the Applicant has relied primarily on the importation of aggregate to the south quarry to be processed and small excavations were made in the south quarry that have now also ceased. The Applicant currently relies entirely on the importation of material for processing and the ongoing manufacturing of asphalt and concrete products

Crushed and screened aggregate is stockpiled prior to exporting from the Site or is used in the asphalt or concrete batching plants. There is a range of mixes produced from Asphalt Concrete, concrete blocks and Stone Mastic Asphalt for driveways to Hot Rolled Asphalts, more commonly used on high-speed / stress road surfaces. Production of specified mixes can be designed and produced with prior notice.

In seeking consent for the above development, continuation of established use of all on-site plant, infrastructure and buildings, the importation of aggregate for processing, sale and re-exporting of product is sought for 30 years and the implementation of the restoration / aftercare plan for the Site.

3.3 Operational Details

Currently, there are over 40 people employed for both on-site operations and an off-site team, primarily from the local area.

Operational hours associated with the Site are:

- Monday to Friday: 07:00 – 19:00;
- Saturday: 07:00 – 14:00; and,
- Sunday & Public Holidays: Closed.

3.4 Utilities

The south quarry has existing telecommunications with an electrical substation and an existing potable water supply connection, which serves office facilities and the manufacturing plant.

Foul water for the office is collected and treated at the wastewater treatment plant/septic tank before it goes to a soakaway and into the ground.

All waste metal, batteries, tyres, etc. arising from the servicing of plant and equipment on-site was collected by the fitter and brought to the south quarry where it was stored until collection by a suitably licensed collector.

3.5 Receiving Waters

In the north quarry, water was, and on occasion continues to be, abstracted from the quarry and discharged, in order to maintain a safe water level in the quarry void, into the Ballymagroarty Scotch stream located along the northern boundary of the Site. This was and is undertaken in line with the Water Discharge Licence LWAT41. This stream feeds into the Durnesh Lough Special Area of Conservation ('SAC') and Durnesh Lough Special Protection Area ('SPA'), ca. 2km northwest of the Site. The Durnesh Lough SAC and Durnesh Lough SPA connect to the Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC and Donegal Bay SPA.

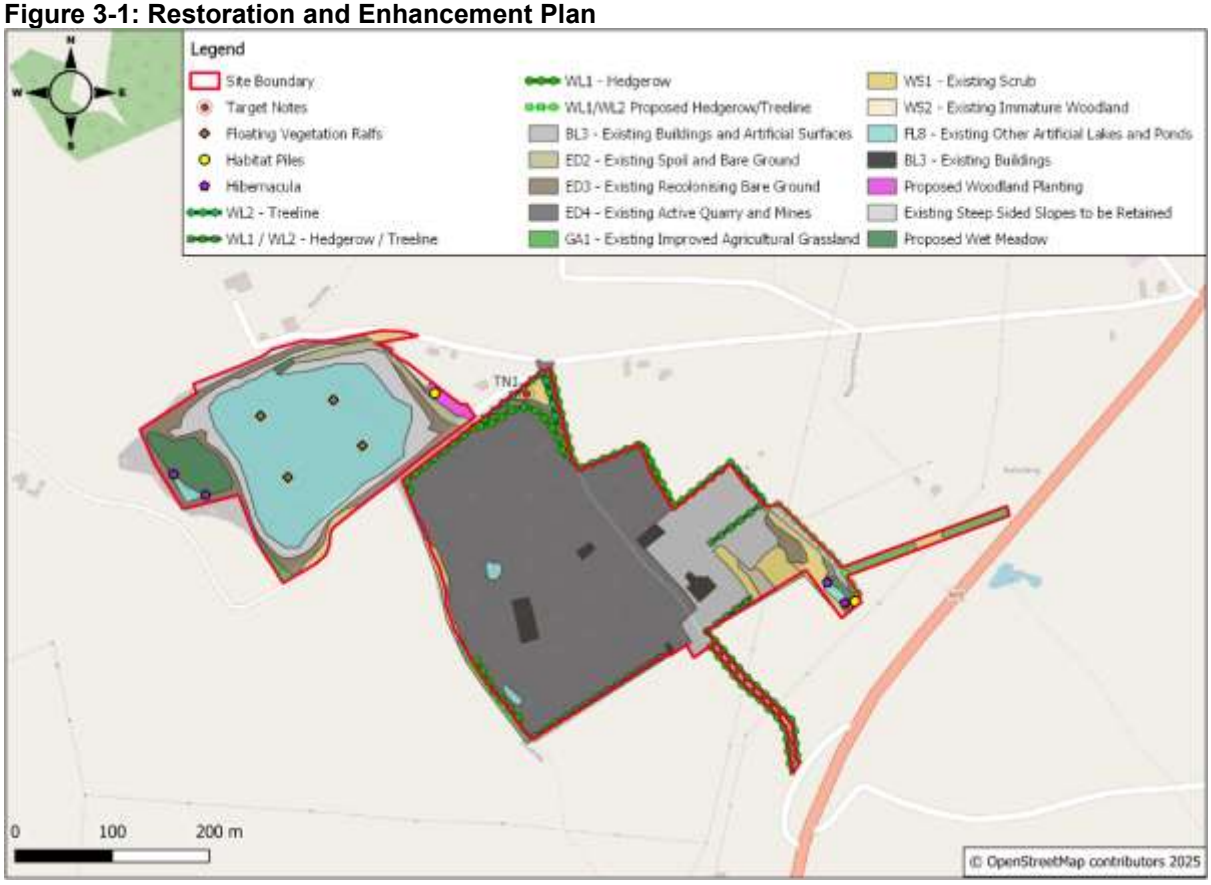
The south quarry discharges to a drain east of the quarry, compliant with the Water Discharge Licence LWAT48 applicable to the south quarry. The drain also flows into the Ballymagroarty Scotch stream.

3.6 Restoration and Aftercare

As part of this application, a restoration plan has been developed to maximise the ecological benefit provided by the Site's existing environmental features. The plan outlines the proposed restoration measures for the Site, primarily focusing on the north quarry as the south quarry is still active.

The restoration plan will provide a mosaic of habitats including berms, hibernacula and habitat piles, floating vegetation rafts, bare ground, steep sided cliffs and a potential ark site for crayfish, with natural succession and regeneration occurring over time at the Site.

Figure 3-1: Restoration and Enhancement Plan



4 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Although the rEIAR is retrospective in nature, the alternatives considered here are from the perspective of the Applicant when deciding to progress with the Development.

4.1 Introduction

Schedule 6 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (S.I. No. 600 of 2001), as amended, requires an EIAR to contain:

> "*A description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the person or persons who prepared the EIAR, which are relevant to the Proposed Development and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the effects of the Proposed Development on the environment.*"

This Chapter assesses the alternative options considered by the Applicant when deciding to progress with the Development and outlines the following alternative considerations:

- Location;
- Layout; and,
- Do Nothing Scenario.

4.2 Alternative Location

The Site was actively rock quarried prior to the 1960s and registered with DCC as such in 2005. As an established quarry and associated processing development area, the selection of alternative locations, particularly green field development, was rated lower, as it would bring a change to that area, and would have substantial investment requirements in the movement or purchase of new plant and equipment.

The existing Site, as a proven development with a recognised market, also benefits from this application, as through this process of authorisation, recognition of improvements to the Site to modern standards and guidance, and through the clearly defined commitments to restoration, an improved long-term strategy is put into place for the Site.

Due to the nature of the rEIAR, an alternative location for the Site was not considered.

4.3 Alternative Layout

Due to the nature of the rEIAR, an alternative layout for the Site was not considered as the current layout was developed through its design for efficient extraction, movement and production of material / aggregate within the Site. The established interconnection of various activities within the Site and the storage of raw and processed aggregate are the key elements of the on-site layout. Although there are options to reorganise this layout, the environmental effects do not show clear long-term improvement over the existing layout. Additionally, the environmental and financial costs of reorganising are higher than maintaining the status quo.

4.4 'Do Nothing' Option

For the 'Do Nothing' scenario, the Site remains as is.

Further development and the renewal of plant would be hindered, leading to a loss of processed aggregate supply locally. The Site has a proven record as a supplier of regionally important resources, with the Applicant currently providing a range of quarry products for the private, agricultural and commercial sectors as well as government and local authority contracts. The closure of the Site would remove the aggregates from circulation, potentially exacerbating local and potentially regional supply issues.

The Site and associated development have facilitated the local area's economy through the direct employment of over 40 staff. If the Site cannot be regularised, the long-term future of the Site and associated jobs are at risk.

Effects, if they arise, will be left in situ, while restoration plans will be left unrealised, as the historic activities are deemed unauthorised and future works must await either historic legalisation or a pathway to forgiveness via enforcement actions. Additionally, the loss of this established quarry could lead to a greenfield site elsewhere in the region being opened to extraction as an alternative source of aggregate, leading to new environmental effects elsewhere.

5 POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH

A desk-based study was carried out to characterise the environment in relation to the human population, including the receiving population, population changes over time, employment levels and human health indicators. Information from the Central Statistics Office ('CSO') was analysed according to guidance from the Institute of Public Health ('IPH'), in particular the Health Sensitivity Conceptual Model. The sensitivity of the local population to any potential impacts was deemed to be low.

The Development has been an important local employer since extractive work began. The Proposed Development is not a health-related project and will not create additional specific demands on the local health infrastructure.

It is considered that the Development is and was aligned with the objectives/polices of the;

- National Planning Framework ('NPF'),
- National Development Plan ('NDP'),
- Regional Special and Economic Strategy ('RSES'), and,
- County Development Plan ('CDP').

The effect of the Proposed Development on the population and local economy in terms of direct employment can be considered long-term and neutral.

In combination with other businesses / enterprises in the area, the Development has contributed to sustaining the local economy and community. In combination with other extractive sites, the quarry also has a strong history of supporting the national supply of aggregates. The impact on the population in terms of employment and the local economy, and the impact on the aggregate supply, can be considered as long-term, positive and moderate.

The residual effect with regard to human health has been long-term and imperceptible to not significant effect.

6 BIODIVERSITY

This chapter provides the Biodiversity Assessment for the likely significant effects of historic and ongoing operational works of the Site. Where likely significant effects were / are identified, appropriate remedial measures to reduce / avoid these effects have been outlined.

A separate rNIS has been produced, which evaluates the likely significant effects of historic and current operations on the Natura 2000 sites with potential connectivity to the Site and accompanies this application as a separate document. This chapter should be read in conjunction with the rNIS.

There are 12 European Sites within the 15km search radius of the Site, see Figure 6-1 and Table 6-1 below.

Figure 6-1: European Designated Sites within 15km

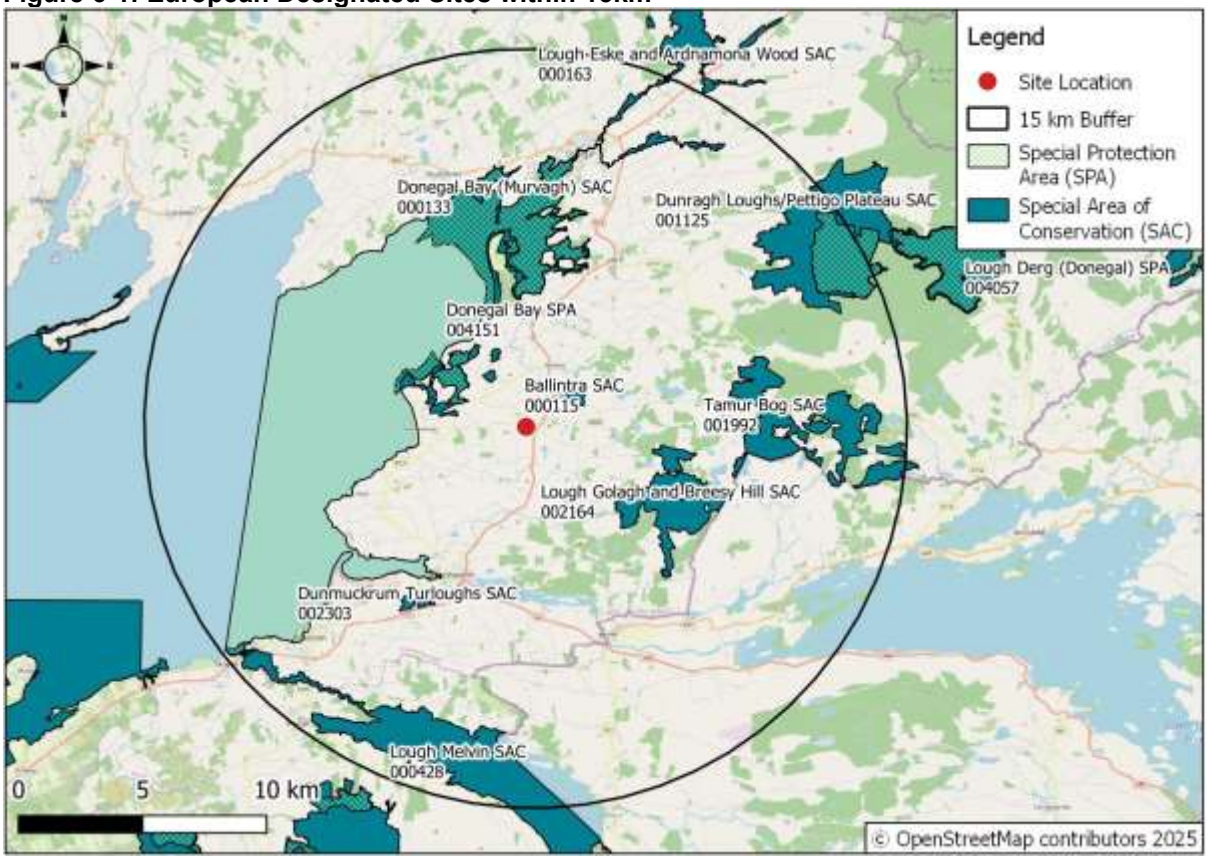


Table 6-1: European Designated Sites within 15km of the Site.

Site Name	Code	Distance (km)	Direction from the Site
Special Areas of Conservation ('SAC')			
Ballintra SAC	000115	2km	NE
Durnesh Lough SAC	000138	2km	W
Lough Golagh and Breesy Hill SAC	002164	4km	SE
Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC	000133	5km	NW
Tamur Bog SAC	001992	8km	E

Site Name	Code	Distance (km)	Direction from the Site
Dunmuckrum Turloughs SAC	002303	8km	SE
Dunragh Lough / Pettigo Plateau SAC	001125	10km	NE
Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC	000163	11km	N
Lough Melvin SAC	000428	12km	S
Special Protection Area ('SPA')			
Durnesh Lough SPA	004145	2km	W
Donegal Bay SPA	004151	4km	W
Pettigo Plateau Nature Reserve SPA	004099	13km	NE

There are four pNHA and no NHAs located within 5km of the Site. There are no direct connections or impact pathways between the Site and these pNHAs.

From the assessment, a hydrological connection was identified between Lough Durnesh Lough SAC, Durnesh Lough SPA and Donegal Bay SAC and the Site, via the Ballymagrorty Scotch Stream and Ballymagrorty River. Therefore, Durnesh Lough SAC, Durnesh Lough SPA and Donegal Bay SAC European sites were taken forward for further detailed consideration.

Design requirements and mitigation measures, which are detailed within the rEIAR Vol 2, which will continue to ensure that any impacts on the Durnesh Lough SAC, Durnesh Lough SPA and Donegal Bay SAC or any other European site, having regard to their conservation objectives, will be avoided during all phases of the Development, such that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of any European sites.

6.1 Habitats

Historic Habitat

As quarry operations began in the 1940s, pre-quarry operation habitats were difficult to determine. Historic habitats were identified as agricultural grassland fields. It is not known if this land was used for growing arable crops or as grazing pasture for livestock. Nonetheless, the monoculture of this agricultural land was of low ecological value. Improved agriculture grassland was located in the northwestern section of the north quarry, and the imagery indicates this was removed between 2001 to 2008 and is now an active quarry and mines habitat. The treelines and hedgerows around the boundary of the Site have been gradually reduced overtime. This habitat had potential for roosting/ foraging for mammal and bird species.

Historically, no invasive species were found on-site. However, an isolated stand of Japanese Knotweed was also identified onsite, located west of the junction of the L7265 road during the field survey.

Existing Habitat

The current dominant habitats as defined by 'A Guide to Habitats in Ireland' [7], within the south quarry is an Active Quarry and Mines (ED4) bounded by hedgerow, scrub and artificial ground in the south quarry. In the north quarry, the dominant habitat is other Artificial Lakes and Ponds bounded by recolonising bare ground.

A number of ecological enhancement measures by way of habitat creation will be implemented on the Site as part of the ongoing Development to offset the loss of habitat outlined above. The habitat creation proposed includes:

- Planting of ca. 0.065ha of woodland along the eastern boundary of the northern quarry;
- Planting of ca. 130m in the southeast of the southern quarry;
- Planting of ca. 0.079ha of wet meadow between the north and south quarries;
- Hibernacula and habitat piles around the margins of hedgerows / treelines, near wetland habitats and adjacent to drainage ditches;
- Floating vegetation rafts in the north quarry to provide nesting and resting habitats;
- Bare and disturbed ground will provide the basis for natural regeneration at the Site; and,
- Rock faces in quarries can serve as breeding sites for cliff-breeding bird species. the upper quarry faces within the north quarry will be retained in benches.

6.2 Fauna

Historic Environment

An assessment of desk studies of notable / protected species that may have been present or may have utilised the historic habitats on the Site was undertaken.

The NBDC [8] provides records of species within 2km of the Site, offering a historical context for the Site with these records spanning from 1977 to 2013, reflecting species that were present in the area.

It was considered that the habitats removed over the historic period may have been suitable for notable species including birds, bats, badger, hedgehog and otter.

Therefore, a number of ecological remedial and enhancement measures have been proposed to remediate historic habitat loss, as outlined in Section 6.1 above. It is considered that following the implementation of these measures, the potential impacts on the above receptors from historic habitat loss will be imperceptible, and as such, there will be no residual impacts as a result of the historical operations.

Existing Environment

Field surveys to identify habitats and the suitability of the various habitats and other features present to support fauna were carried out on 23rd October 2024 and 3rd April 2025.

No species of note were identified during the October 2024 field survey. The hedgerow / treelines located onsite had the potential to provide a suitable nesting habitat for a range of common bird species. However, no disused or active nests were identified during the field survey.

Given the disturbed nature of the onsite habitats and the active operations within the southern quarry, the area is not considered significant for any notable or protected bird species. However, the northern quarry offers potentially suitable habitat for peregrine falcon and an ark site for crayfish.

6.3 Residual Impacts

Based on the findings of a detailed desk-based study and field surveys undertaken by MOR Environmental ecologists along with a review of all ecological information available for the Site and the wider area, it is considered that the Site was and is currently of low ecological value.

It is reasonable to conclude that, with the implementation of the remediation measures and appropriate mitigation measures and adherence to standard best practice procedures outlined in the rEIAR, no significant negative ecological impacts are anticipated as a result of the Development, both historically or as part of future ongoing operations.

An Ecological Clerk of Works ('ECoW') will be appointed to the project to oversee compliance with the required ecological mitigation and remedial / biodiversity enhancement measurements.

Should the project not be granted permission, the proposed remedial / habitat enhancement works will not be realised. It is considered that the proposed remedial plan will provide for a better outcome at the local level than the do-nothing scenario

7 LAND AND SOILS

This chapter of the rEIAR provides a description and assessment of the likely and significant effects on the geological and soil environment from the historical operational works of the Site. Where likely significant effects were identified, appropriate remedial measures to reduce or avoid these effects have been outlined

A topographic survey conducted by SixWest in September 2024 shows that the Site has been extracted to a depth of approximately -13mOD in the northern quarry and that the water level in the northern quarry lies at ca. 50mOD. The ridge height around the northern quarry varies from ca. 99-130mOD. There are no stockpiles in the northern quarry, and extraction works here have ceased; hence, the topography in this area will remain as is.

The average ridge height around the southern quarry is 86.7mOD. The deepest section within the southern quarry is 59.32mOD. The southwestern settlement lagoon ranges from 84.06mOD-85.35Mod while the southeastern settlement lagoon ranges from 88.26mOD-88.75mOD. Stockpiles associated with the extraction processes of the southern quarry are a maximum of 7 meters in height within the area of the Hopper. Other stockpiles average 3-5 meters in height.

The Site is characterised by shallow, rocky, peaty/ non-peaty complexes which are mainly basic in nature (BminSPRT) soil throughout the majority of the Site, and areas of basic, shallow, well-drained minerals (BminSW) along the northern site boundary. Both soil types were derived from shallow bedrock, which is in line with what was observed during the site visit, i.e. a thin layer of soil and bedrock outcrop.

The Site lies within the Donegal and Inver Bays geological heritage site (Site Code: DL011). The Geological Site report [9] describes the Site as a field of discrete drumlins and drumlinised ribbed moraines which form a discrete body of subglacial features around Donegal and Inver Bays, in a wide coastal embayment. The area covered is between 5km and 10km wide, along a coastal strip of almost 40km on the northern and eastern side of the bay and includes hundreds of ribbed moraine and drumlin glacial features.

The Site, which previously formed pastoral agricultural land, underwent extraction and, consequently, a change in land use (agricultural to industrial). it is considered that the original land use would be considered as having ‘low’ sensitivity, and converting it to industrial or extraction use would have resulted in an impact of ‘negligible’ magnitude. Therefore, it is considered that the effect from the Development of land use was “imperceptible”, given the minor extent of land which underwent a change of use.

There are no mapped drumlins within the Site boundaries. Therefore, the importance of the geological heritage site in the area of the Development is “low”, and the magnitude of the impact of the extraction activities on it is “negligible”. Therefore, the effect of the extraction activities on the geological heritage site is considered to be “imperceptible”.

Given the widespread nature of pasture farmland across Ireland, and after the proposed restoration plan has been implemented, the Site will be restored to grassland; it is considered that the residual impact on land use will be “not significant”.

Given that no evidence of contamination was observed, no pollution incidents were reported, and soil materials stripped during the Site preparation phase have been stored onsite and will be re-used as part of the restoration plan, it is considered that the residual impact on soils was “not significant”.

Given that the previous extraction activities have resulted in the removal of bedrock geology, the extensive nature of Donegal and Inver Bays geological heritage site, the difference in materials in the geological heritage site and the Development Site, as well as the scale of the Development Site, the residual impact on bedrock geology was “not significant”.

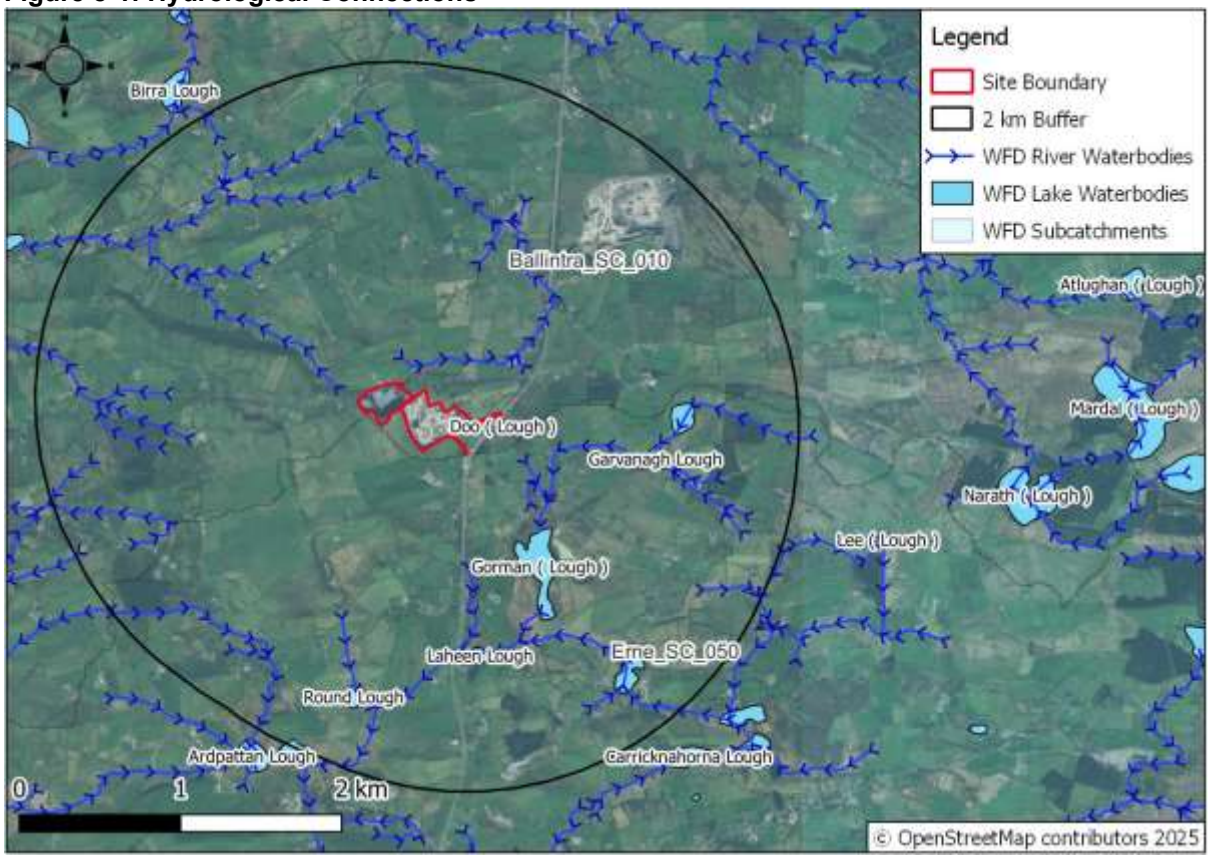
As a result of the mitigation measures and nature of the development, the residual impacts on land, soils and geology as a result of the Development were “not significant”.

8 WATER

The northern half of the study area and the entirety of the Site is within the WFD Donegal Bay North catchment (EU Code: 37) and the WFD subcatchment Ballintra_SC_010 (EU Code: 37_1) [10]. The southern half of the study area lies within the Erne catchment (EU Code: 36) and the WFD subcatchment Erne_SC_050 (EU Code: 36_27). The subcatchment divide is located ca. 45m south of the Site.

The two licenced discharge locations from the Site discharge into unnamed streams before merging into the Ballymagroarty Scotch river within the Ballymagroarty Scotch_010 river waterbody northeast of the Site. This ultimately discharges into Durnesh Lake, a transitional waterbody and SAC ca. 2.3km northwest of the Site, and then Donegal Bay (Erne) coastal waterbody. Refer to Chapter 6 of this rEIAR for further information on Durnish Lake SAC. The length of the Ballymagrorty Scotch river between the Site and the Durnish Lake SAC is ca. 5.7km.

Figure 8-1: Hydrological Connections



A review of the OPW flood risk mapping indicates that there is no potential risk of fluvial / pluvial flooding on / near to the Site. However, within the study area, there is a low to medium probability of fluvial flooding along the Ballymagrorty_Scotch River before entering Birra Lough, as well as in Laheen Lough, Round Lough and along the Ardgillew river. There is a recurring flooding event 1.2km west of the Site, in Lurgan, Donegal, which occurs in low-lying lands after heavy rainfall.

The entire study area is underlain by a regionally important bedrock aquifer – karstified ('Rk'). Karstified aquifers are characterised by largely underground drainage with flow through permeable, interconnected conduit zones, high groundwater velocity and low aquifer storage. Karstified aquifers have strong interconnections between surface water and groundwater. A

single karst feature identified as an “enclosed depression” is mapped within the study area and is located ca. 250m north of the Site.

The entirety of the Site is classified as having Rock at or near Surface or Karst (‘X’), whereas the areas around the Site as well as the southwestern most tip of the boundary, are classified as having Extreme vulnerability (‘E’) which corresponds with shallow bedrock. There are isolated patches of low vulnerability throughout the study area.

Based on the close interaction between surface water and groundwater in karstified aquifers, any contamination of surface water would be rapidly transported into the groundwater system.

In relation to surface waters, the Site has two discharge licenses, relating to points southeast and north of the Site from the south quarry and north quarry, respectively. The north quarry allows for a surplus water up to 1,000m^3/day, and the south quarry allows for 350 m^3/day, with both discharging into unnamed streams before merging into the Ballymagrorty Scotch_010 river waterbody east of the Site. Monitoring results from the discharge locations as well as upstream and downstream of the Site show that discharge from the Site has had an ‘imperceptible’ impact on the water quality and is at low risk for negatively affecting the quality of water bodies downstream from the Site.

The Ballymagrorty Scotch_010 river waterbody is considered to be of ‘medium’ importance, and the magnitude of the impact on the river waterbody is considered to be ‘negligible’. Therefore, it is considered that the effect from the Development on the river waterbody is ‘imperceptible’.

9 AIR QUALITY

This chapter of the rEIAR provides a description and assessment of the likely effects of the Development on air quality in the vicinity of the Site from 1990 to present.

The main potential effects from the historical activities associated with the Development are airborne particulate matter (PM_{10}), nuisance dust deposition and asphalt plant emissions. The potential impact caused by the release of NO_2 from diesel-powered plant operations was screened out of this assessment.

To determine the potential historical risks associated with emissions (both ambient PM_{10} and nuisance dust), a Dust Risk Assessment ('DRA') was completed. This DRA was completed to provide an estimation of the risks associated with the Development and past activities, which would give insight into potential likely and significant impacts (if there were any). An air dispersion model has been completed for the asphalt plant by Bord na Móna Technical Services.

The highest possible residual source emission was assumed for historical activities at the Development, which resulted in the conclusion that there would be only a slight adverse effect on high-sensitivity receptors in the vicinity of the Development. As such, this represents the maximum possible effect that could arise from the Development, given the location of sensitive receptors. Provided that operations onsite do not expand to be closer to sensitive receptors, a worst-case scenario for effects arising from current and future operations is slight adverse effects on sensitive receptors, before mitigation.

ABP approved an air emissions licence for the Development in 2005. The licence established limits for asphalt plant emissions, ambient air concentrations and dust deposition. A dust deposition limit for the Site was set at 180mg/m^2/day, a requirement for air dispersion model of asphalt plant emissions. Periodic monitoring was established for the asphalt plant, with continuous monitoring set for dust, and monthly dust deposition monitoring was also established. Initial monitoring periods were modified under licence condition 6.6 to every six months, after a year of operation within the established NO_x limits.

Air dispersion modelling based on the results of an August 2006 monitoring and the final report was completed in November 2006. Modelling was carried out for all ambient air parameters. The predicted concentrations for all parameters resulting from the model were compliant with the licence limits and environmental standards.

For ambient air quality management and monitoring in Ireland, four zones (A, B, C and D) are defined in the AQS Regulations (S.I. No. 180 of 2011). According to the classification, the Development is in Zone D. No baseline data was available for Zone D prior to 2013, and the most recent dataset covers 2023.

Other notable sources of emissions to air in the vicinity of the Development include:

- Traffic associated with the nearby N15 road and local roads;
- Agricultural activities; and,
- Roadstone Ballintra Quarry (1.3km northeast of Site).

As there are no Industrial Emission Licences within 1km of the Site, potential cumulative and in-combination effects from facilities locally are determined unlikely and not significant.

Between 2006 and 2022, 169 Bergerhoff monitoring events were conducted at five locations, for a total of 845 dust samples. In order to provide a worst-case scenario for dust deposition using the available data, focus was given to the upwind monitoring locations DS1 and DS3. These sampling locations represent 338 sampling events, with 20 samples (5.92%) above the limit. The past historical dust data, along with the history of dust fouling complaints noted in

the ABP Inspectors Reports, indicate that historical nuisance dust deposition has occurred. Based on this, the overall historical effects related to dust should be considered slight adverse under EIAR definitions

There is no requirement for ambient air quality monitoring established within the air licence for the Development, only exhaust (i.e. stack) emission monitoring. Compliance with the ambient air is determined through air dispersion modelling – see Volume 3 Appendix 9-1.

The effect of historical odour is assessed as slight negative effect, given that odour was "*assessed and deemed to be acceptable"* by ABP and its inspectors, with current operations reflective of or reduced from peak odour-producing activities.

The Site has ceased activities in the north quarry, with activities restricted to the south quarry. Air quality effects associated with these activities include dust and asphalt plant emissions. The highest possible residual source emission was assumed for historical activities at the Development, which concluded that there would be only a slight adverse effect on high-sensitivity receptors in the vicinity of the Development. As such, this represents the maximum possible effect that could arise from the Development, given the location of sensitive receptors. Provided that operations onsite do not expand to be closer to sensitive receptors, a worst-case scenario for effects arising from current and future operations is slight adverse effects on sensitive receptors, before mitigation measures are considered.

The surrounding landscape is primarily used for grazing, rather than tillage. As such, only giving rise to a short period of seasonal dust generation each year, where the potential for cumulative and in-combination effects exists. As lime spreading is not a regular occurrence, the cumulative and in-combination impact from agricultural activity within the vicinity of the Site was imperceptible. The Roadstone facility is located northeast of the Development with similar operations to the Development; however, it is located outside of the 400m of the IAQM screening distances for mineral dust. As such, the cumulative and in-combination impact from Roadstone activity within the vicinity of the Site was imperceptible. The background concentrations of PM_{10} (or ambient dust) have been considered. As Zone D (which is reflective of baseline conditions) has been taken as the background concentration, there is little risk of the annual AQS limit being exceeded, and no further consideration of the risk posed by ambient PM_{10} was warranted in a cumulative sense.

Monitoring will continue in line with the requirements of the air emission licensing.

Based on the receiving environment, type and intensity of activities (associated with the Development), the mitigation measures employed, the residual impact on air quality from dust is considered to have been not significant.

10 CLIMATE

A desk-based assessment was carried out to determine the effect of the Development on national Greenhouse Gas ('GHG') emissions in the context of global climate change. The Development's activities and associated GHG emissions were categorised according to Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions associated with the operational phase. These were compared to historical national emission projections for the relevant sector. As the Climate Action and Low Carbon Act came into effect in Ireland in 2015 and associated National Carbon Budgets were set in 2021 by the Climate Change Advisory Council, the baseline year for the assessment of GHG emissions from the Development was 2015. GHG emissions prior to this were scoped out of the assessment. A worst-case scenario in terms of maximum GHG emissions was assessed from 2015-2023, assuming peak operation across all years. This was an overestimation to demonstrate no significant effects from the GHG emissions associated with the Development on Climate in the context of national emissions ceilings and carbon budgets.

Due to the size and nature of the Development, there was no potential for historical impacts on microclimate. As such, the potential historical impacts of the Development on microclimate were not assessed further.

The primary source of GHG emissions associated with the Development was from Scope 1 emissions: transport of materials and the operation of machinery and machinery movement. The estimation of the tonnes of CO_2e ('e' - equivalent) that were emitted as part of the historical operations of the Site was determined using the most recent conversion factors, as they were the highest values attributed to the fuel type (100% mineral diesel) since 2016.

10.1 Operational Phase GHG Emissions

GHG emissions associated with the Development were discussed in the context of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Act (2015), which came into effect in 2015. The period accessed was historical operations between 2015-2023.

The main source of GHG emissions from the Development arose from energy consumption and transport. These emissions, based on the assessment undertaken, did not have a significant effect in the context of annual national GHG emissions.

Emissions associated with the historical operations of the Development were from the operation of plant equipment, movement of HGVs onsite and the movement of employees to and from the Site (LGVs).

Based on a typical operating year, the GHG emissions from the Development were estimated to be 0.00656Mt of CO_{2e}. Over the course of the assessment period (2015-2023), this equates to a total of 0.00656Mt of CO_{2e} per annum. In the context of the First National Carbon Budget (2021-2025), this is a 0.0022% contribution per annum to this carbon budget.

Based on the average GHG emissions from National Road Transportation between 2015-2023 (11.36Mt of CO_{2e}), the Development contributed approximately 0.03% of the total emissions from National Road Transportation and therefore the effects have been determined as "imperceptible" in a national context.

The effects on national GHG emissions as a result of the historical operation of the Development was classified as 'not significant' based on the size and type of the Development and the associated GHG emissions.

11 NOISE AND VIBRATION

A comprehensive noise and vibration impact assessment was conducted based on best practice guidance, both statutory and non-statutory noise impact assessment criteria for the Site.

The assessment of vibration takes account of historical blasting events, which produce air over-pressure and vibration. Site-associated traffic vibration was considered, but was then screened out for further assessment, as no significant vibration impacts from traffic arising from the Development was deemed likely.

Noise modelling was carried out using iNoise version 2024 software. The noise models have been developed for the Site to incorporate noise emission sources during the historic and current operation of the Development. The noise models incorporated the Site-specific noise sources and the layout of the local environment but did not incorporate ambient sources (e.g., road traffic). The model assumed all sources were fully operational for the full working day.

A total of eight Noise Sensitive Receptors ('NSRs') were identified in the locality. Ambient noise monitoring of the daytime sound levels was conducted in November 2024. The ambient acoustic environment was found to be influenced by noise from agricultural, transport and quarrying sources from the Site.

Noise during the historic Site preparation would have included noise from the required plant and equipment, e.g., excavator and bulldozer. Based on typical noise references for this plant type, it can be calculated that the noise experienced at the NSRs would have been within guideline figures. Vibration impacts would have been imperceptible.

Noise during the historic operational period at the Site would have consisted of:

- Blasting events. These were monitored for air overpressure and vibration by the blast specialist. The results were documented in blast records which demonstrate that each event was compliant with the industry standard limits; and,
- Processing noise from the various plant and equipment used to crush and screen the rock. A noise model was prepared using specialist acoustic software and determined that noise levels at all NSRs were below industry standard limits deemed to be 'noise nuisance'.

For the currently operational period the processing plant is fixed and requires the use of various plant such as tracked excavators and a variety of crushers and screeners. The screening plant consists of a number of screens and conveyor belts capable of screening the crushed aggregate into various grades from the maximum size that the screen mesh can pass, down to dust. The noise areas were identified and modelled to represent the currently operational phase. The Site-specific sound levels at all NSRs were predicted to be below noise nuisance criteria. The Readymix concrete and asphalt plant could be in use at any time, day or night, though typically are operated during normal business hours at the Site. The Site-specific noise levels for evening and night-time period show compliance with the lower limit of $L_{Aeq,1hr}$ 45dBA.

Noise complaints have been received by the applicant as a result of activities associated with the Development

In relation to noise and vibration, the residual effect on NSRs and the environment is deemed to have been long term and not significant on a local level, and imperceptible in the wider environment.

12 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL

A remedial Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment ('rLVIA') was undertaken to describe the visual context of the Site and assess the historic impacts of the Development on the local landscape in terms of both landscape character and visual amenity. The rLVIA was prepared by Macro Works Ltd.

This rLVIA uses a baseline data of ca. 2000, and while images, maps and documents all provide data, the description of landscape character and views / visual amenity is general and high-level, as one has to interpret the data in order to describe the context at that time. It is not possible to give an exact description of a landscape in the past, but rather an informed opinion based on available data.

12.1 Landscape Impact Assessment

The northern extent of the quarry is not highly visible, and thus its potential to notably impact the local landscape is considerably reduced. In contrast, the southern extent of the existing quarry is more prominently visible and will influence the local landscape character. Clear visibility of this part of the quarry tends to occur only from its immediate surroundings and from the most elevated areas nearby. The sensitivity of the Site and its immediate context is deemed to be Medium-low.

The wider study area shares similar characteristics with the immediate Site context, although it is much more varied in nature, comprising different landscape areas and features. It is considered that the majority of the inland parts of the wider study area are consistent with a landscape of Medium-low sensitivity, while the coastal environs to the west are considered to have a landscape sensitivity ranging between Medium-high and High.

As noted in the aerial mapping dating back to 1995, the extent of the quarry is very similar to its current extent. While the depth of the quarry and excavated areas may have marginally increased since the early 2000s, the predominant landscape effects took place prior to 1995, as per the historic aerial mapping. While the ongoing operations of the quarry would generate some landscape effects on the surrounding landscape character, and the additional excavations will have resulted in some further localised physical landscape impacts within the existing quarry extent, it is not considered that the magnitude of landscape effects within the assessed retrospective period would be any greater than Medium-low, as the quarry was already a well-established feature of the local landscape.

Effects which have occurred:

- At the localised landscape scale, the landscape effect is considered Moderate-slight on the basis of a Medium-low degree of landscape sensitivity weighed against a Medium-low magnitude of landscape change. It is also important to note that there have been no ongoing quarry operations since 2013, which will have resulted in a decrease in the intensity of activity at the Site; and,
- The magnitude of change which has occurred at the wider landscape scale relates primarily to the landscape character, as opposed to the physical effects on the landscape. The existing quarry has been a well-established feature within the landscape since the mid-1990s. As noted above, the scale and extent of the existing quarry have not considerably increased in the intervening period since the mid-1990s. Overall, it is not considered that the quarry would have a material landscape effect on the surrounding landscape during the retrospective period assessed.

Effects which are occurring:

- At the localised landscape scale, the landscape effect is considered Slight-imperceptible on the basis of an overall medium-low degree of landscape sensitivity

weighed against a Low-negligible magnitude of landscape change. Whilst areas of the wider landscape have been classified with a High-medium, and in some cases High landscape sensitivity, these areas are so far offset from the Site that the existing quarry will have no effect on their landscape character; and,

- Whilst all ongoing extractive operations have ceased, the facility is still used to facilitate the ongoing operations of a macadam plant, a concrete plant, and a concrete block plant within the southern extent of the existing quarry complex. The significance of ongoing effects is considered Slight-imperceptible in the context of the established quarry and these do not extend beyond the immediate Site context where the daily activities are less noticeable.

12.2 Visual Impact Assessment

The sensitivity of visual receptors does not range widely across the central study area, as much of the surrounding landscape is contained in rolling pastoral lands that are not highly distinctive or rare. In fact, much of the central study area is influenced by an array of anthropogenic development types in addition to more traditional rural land uses. There are some surrounding loughs that will present a more notable sense of scenic amenity, albeit at a localised scale. Beyond the central study area are some more distinctive areas of the coastline that present a higher degree of susceptibility. Views along the immediate coastline would be considered to have a receptor sensitivity of High-medium and High.

Figure 12-1: Viewpoint ('VP') Location Map

Five VPs were used to assess the visual impact of the Site within the immediate vicinity of the Site (see Figure 12-1 above). The VPs are described under the headings 'Existing view', 'Visual Receptor Sensitivity', Magnitude of Change' (which has occurred) and 'Significance of Effect', with the results summarised in Table 12-1 below.

Table 12-1: Summary of Effects on Viewpoints

Point	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Quarry Visible	Significance of Effect	Magnitude of Change
VP1	Medium-Low	No	Slight-imperceptible	Low-negligible
VP2	Medium-Low	Yes	Slight-imperceptible	Low-negligible
VP3	Medium	No	Imperceptible	Negligible
VP4	Medium	Yes	Slight	Low
VP5	Low	Yes	Imperceptible	Negligible

The effects which are occurring are primarily the continuing production operations within the southern extent of the Site. These relate to the ongoing operations of a macadam plant, a concrete plant, and a concrete block plant and are the continuation of development that has been taking place over the past decade. It is important to note that all extraction-related activities have ceased on the Site. Overall, the continuation of production operations on the Site are considered to result in a residual significance of visual effect no greater than Slight and are of a Negative-neutral quality.

The Methodology and Limitations sections outline the difficulties in assessing a development retrospectively, and in some cases, it is not possible to be exact regarding the extent of the change which has happened in this time. Notwithstanding these limitations, the assessment concludes that significant landscape and visual effects have not occurred since the baseline date, nor are cumulative impacts with other developments over the same period deemed to be significant.

13 CULTURAL HERITAGE

This remedial environmental impact assessment report has been undertaken to assess the significant effects, if any, on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage, which may have occurred, are occurring or can reasonably be expected to occur because of quarrying in approximately 13.26ha located in the townlands of Glasbolie Ballymagrorty Irish and Ballymagrorty Scotch Co. Donegal.

Impacts on the archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage of the Site and the surrounding area arising from the Development was assessed. The assessment consisted of:

- Baseline Studies; and,
- Assessment of the Site.

The County Donegal Development Plan 2024-30 is the statutory plan detailing the development objectives / policies of the local authority. The plan includes objectives and policies relevant to this assessment.

Baseline studies of the application site consisted of using existing written and graphical information to identify the likely context, character, significance, and sensitivity of the known or potential cultural heritage, archaeological and structural resource. A detailed investigation of the archaeological and historical background of the application site, the landholding and the surrounding area extending 1km from the development boundary was undertaken. A field inspection was also to identify and assess any known archaeological sites and previously unrecorded features and portable finds within the application site.

There are no structures listed in the Record of Protected Structures located within the application site or close vicinity. There are no structures listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage located within the application site or close vicinity. The field inspection identified no unlisted upstanding structures with special architectural significance in the vicinity of the Site.

Examination of the Record of Monuments and Places indicates that there are no Recorded Monuments in the application site or the close vicinity.

There are no sites or monuments listed in the Sites and Monuments Record (‘SMR’) within the application site or in the close vicinity.

There have been no direct or indirect effects on any known items of archaeology, cultural heritage or buildings of heritage interest in the application area or the vicinity. As there have been no effects on cultural heritage, no mitigation is required.

14 MATERIAL ASSETS – TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

This chapter reports the findings of a retrospective assessment on the likely significant effects on traffic and transportation as a result of quarrying / extraction activities within the Site during the operational phase.

The scope of this assessment included a junction traffic count at the existing N15 / Ballintra priority junction, and a capacity assessment using the computer programme PICADY for the N15 / Ballintra Quarry priority junction was carried out. The Site is currently operational, and an assessment of the current traffic flows generated by the Site as a result of activities within the Site has been carried out.

At present, the existing N15 / Ballintra Quarry priority junction currently operates within capacity with no queues and minimal delays during the AM and PM peak hours. In 2029 and 2039, with the Site operational, the existing N15 / Ballintra priority junction will continue to operate within capacity with no queues and minimal delays during the AM and PM peak hours.

At present, there are no proposed developments that will have a potential to impact on traffic in the area.

The flow to capacity – RFC ratios of the junction are significantly below capacity, and no increase is predicted. The local roads infrastructure has the capacity to cater for the quarry traffic loads, and therefore the quarry will not have a significant impact on this infrastructure.

All traffic coming to and departing the development will be logged by security at the entrance to the Site. The Applicant will also continuously monitor the routing policy to ensure all movements are made via the strategic road network to ensure that delays and impacts at key junctions are minimised.

15 INTERACTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

In accordance with remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report ('rEIAR') best practice procedures, the cumulative impacts associated with all of the relevant interactions has been addressed in the specific specialist chapters of the main rEIAR report.

16 SCHEDULE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

As part of the rEIAR, all of the mitigation and enhancement measures arising from each of the individual assessments for all phases were summarised in an overall Schedule of Environmental Commitments that is presented at the end of Volume 2 of the rEIAR. The applicant is fully committed to implementing all of these commitments. The implementation of these measures will ensure that the Development will not result in any significant adverse impacts on the receiving environment.