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Introduction

- 1.1 This Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) provides supporting information to accompany a planning application to Laois County Council submitted by Breedon Materials Ltd. trading as Breedon Ireland (hereafter referred to as Breedon), in respect of a proposed development at an existing sand and gravel pit at Mounthall and Cummer townlands, Camross, Co. Laois.
- 1.2 The proposed development being applied for under this planning application will consist of:
- Continued use and extension to existing permitted sand and gravel pit registered under Section 261 of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended (site ref. QY05/10) within an overall application area of c. 12.2 hectares;
 - Extraction of sand and gravel (dry working) over an area of c. 8 hectares with processing and washing of material on site (closed loop water recycling system with associated silt storage lagoons 1,952.25m²), and all ancillary works and structures;
 - Site facilities consisting of mobile processing plant, portacabin site office (6.25m²), portacabin welfare facility (18.9m²), serviced portaloo toilet, bunded fuel storage and refuelling pad with hydrocarbon interceptor, weighbridge, wheelwash, water supply borehole, perimeter berms, vegetation planting and fencing;
 - Access to the site will be via the existing sand & gravel pit entrance;
 - Restoration of the site to agricultural lands; and
 - The proposed extraction operational period is for 10 years plus 1 year to complete restoration (total duration sought 11 years).
- 1.3 Further information on the proposed development, site activities, environmental management systems and controls at the application site are provided in the Chapter 2 of this EIAR.
- 1.4 The application is made in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

The Site

Site Location

- 1.5 The application site is located within the townlands of Mounthall and Cummer, Camross, Co. Laois, approximately 3.5 km from the Laois / Offaly County border on the southeastern flanks of the Slieve Bloom mountains and c. 3km north of Camross village, refer to **Figure 1-1**. The site is approximately 9km northwest of Mountrath and 18km west of Portlaoise. The land interest and application areas are shown on **Figure 1-2** and **Figure 1-3**.
- 1.6 For the avoidance of doubt, any reference within this EIAR to 'site' or 'application site' should be taken to refer to the application area shown in **Figure 1-3**.

Site Access & Entrance

- 1.7 The proposed development will use the existing permitted access to the existing sand and gravel pit. This access is located on the local road L10317 along the northeastern site boundary.

- 1.8 The posted speed limit on the L10317 is 80kph. According to TII Publication Document DN-GEO-03060 a road with a design speed of 85kph, requires 160m of unobstructed visibility in each direction.
- 1.9 Whilst the required visibility relative to the posted speed limit is not available at the site entrance, it should be noted the L10317 is lightly trafficked (less than 3 vehicles/hour on average) and the alignment on approach to the site access is likely to passively control vehicle speeds and as a result, drivers will travel at speeds less than the posted speed limit of 80kph. The matter of sightlines was discussed at the pre-planning meeting and it was agreed by the Council that 90m sightlines would be acceptable for the proposed development. It is on this basis that sightline visibility of 90m in both directions is considered acceptable in this instance and will be maintained for the duration of the proposed development.

Site Description

- 1.10 Within the application area (c. 12.2 hectares) the northern portion of the site (c. 1.2 hectares) contains the existing sand and gravel pit and entrance onto the L10317.
- 1.11 The existing pit consists of a single face typically 8m in height. Ground levels rise from the entrance at c. 194m AOD westwards to the toe of the existing face along the western boundary where ground levels are c. 200-203m AOD.
- 1.12 At the site entrance, the existing gate is set back from the edge of the public road, with the area between the gate and road consisting of a concrete hard surface. The internal access route from the gate to the extraction area consists of hardcore road.
- 1.13 There are no structures within the existing pit.
- 1.14 To the south of the existing pit, existing agricultural grazing lands are situated, over which the proposed extension extraction operations (c. 8 hectares) are intended to gradually advance through. The extension lands are undulating, and ground levels are variable from c. 205m AOD adjacent to the existing pit to the north, falling south-eastwards to c. 195m AOD, before rising to 205m AOD and again falling away to c. 180m AOD in the southeast corner of the site.
- 1.15 The extension lands are bisected internally with native hedgerows, gorse and bramble scrub and some immature broadleaved woodland mixed with gorse scrub. There is a small pond (c. 20m in diameter) located along the eastern site boundary, which will be retained.
- 1.16 Two low-voltage overhead (10kv/20kv) powerline routes bisect the application site which provide power to the local residences and farms. One line runs NW to SE and the other runs NE to SW and they intersect near the centre of the extension extraction area. There are currently 5 no. electricity poles located within the proposed extension area that will require relocation.

Surrounding Landuse

- 1.17 The application site and the overall site are located within undulating rural agricultural landscape. The land rises as you move west and north away from the site into the Slieve Bloom mountains to c. 400-500m AOD, with the closest peak to the west at Arderin (c. 527m AOD).
- 1.18 The lands surrounding and within the application site predominantly comprise agricultural fields with the exception of the existing sand and gravel pit. There are isolated private residential property and agriculture farms located throughout the surrounding rural landscape, predominantly along the local road network. There are c. 21 residences located within 500m of the application boundary, with a further c. 29 residences between 500m and 1km.

- 1.19 Two local roads bound the application site. The L1031 local road borders its southeastern boundary and the L10317 local road to the east and northeast. Access to the existing pit is via the L10317 local road. A drainage channel bounds the southern application site, flowing east for c. 150m alongside the L1031 local road before it enters the Killeen stream.
- 1.20 The application site is not subject to any statutory or non-statutory nature conservation designations. The Slieve Bloom SPA (site code 004160) bounds the northern boundary of the existing sand and gravel pit with the proposed extension area to develop away from this SPA. The Slieve Bloom SAC (site code 000412) is located c. 1.5km to the north at its closest point and the River Barrow & River Nore SAC is c. 2km to the east.

The Applicant

- 1.21 This EIAR and accompanying supporting documentation has been prepared by SLR Consulting Ireland (SLR) on behalf of Breedon Materials Ltd. (trading as Breedon Ireland).
- 1.22 Breedon Materials Ltd. (trading as Breedon Ireland), is a leading supplier of aggregates and added-value construction materials products, principally concrete and asphalt, across the island of Ireland. The company is part of Breedon Group plc, a public company with ordinary shares traded on the London Stock Exchange.
- 1.23 Across Ireland, the UK and America the company employs approximately 4,200 and operates 2 cement plants, >110 quarries, >50 asphalt plants and >200 ready-mixed concrete plants.
- 1.24 Breedon trades in the Republic of Ireland as Breedon Ireland, a fully integrated aggregates and downstream products business headquartered in Dublin. It comprises all Breedon's construction materials and contracting services businesses (aggregates, asphalt, ready-mixed concrete, bitumen, contract surfacing highway maintenance, civil engineering and airfield construction) in the Republic of Ireland.
- 1.25 Breedon are fully committed to sustainability and social responsibility. This commitment is one of the six pillars of the company's growth strategy. In September 2020, Breedon committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050.
- 1.26 Breedon operates all its quarries in the Republic of Ireland in accordance with the environmental guidelines of the Irish Concrete Federation (ICF) and current best practice for the quarrying industry, as set out in the publication Guidelines on Environmental Management in the Extractive Industries published by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA, 2006).

EIA Screening

- 1.27 The start of the EIA process involves deciding whether an EIA needs to be undertaken in respect of the proposed development or not. An initial determination establishes whether the proposal is a project as understood by the EPA Guidelines or not, i.e., does it comprise development, works or activity, as defined in the relevant national legislation¹.
- 1.28 The decision-making process then proceeds by examining the relevant legislation which transposes Annexes I and II of the amended Directive². If this does not provide a clear screening outcome then the nature and extent of the project and the site and of the types of potential effects are examined. The totality of the project is considered, including off-site and secondary projects as well as indirect, secondary and cumulative impacts.

¹ Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)

² Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive 2011/92/EU (as amended by 2014/52/EU)

- 1.29 Part 1 and Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) set out the forms of development that require an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).
- 1.30 Paragraph 19 of Part 1 of Schedule 5 states that the following form of development requires an EIA:
“Quarries and open-cast mining where the surface of the site exceeds 25 hectares.”
- 1.31 Paragraph 2 of Part 2 of Schedule 5 refers to extractive industry and part (b) of that section states that the following requires an EIA:
“Extraction of stone, gravel, sand or clay, where the area of extraction would be greater than 5 hectares.”
- 1.32 The proposed development relates to the extension to the existing sand and gravel pit within where the extension extraction area will be greater than 5 hectares. On this basis the extraction area of the quarry exceeds the area stated under Part 2 (Paragraph 2) and an EIAR is required.

EIA Scoping and Consultation

Scoping Methodology

- 1.33 In preparing this Environmental Impact Assessment Report an online pre-planning consultation meeting was held between officials of Laois County Council and the Applicant on the 1st May 2024.
- 1.34 In addition, a pre-planning consultation document was issued to statutory consultees. The list of consultees and any responses received are noted in **Table 1-1** below, and full details provided in **Appendix 1-A**.

Table 1-1: Statutory Consultee Scoping and Responses

Consultee	Response Received (Yes/No)
Development Applications Unit	Yes – Archaeology only
Transport Infrastructure Ireland	Yes
Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI)	Yes
Uisce Éireann (formerly Irish Water)	Yes
Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)	Yes
Health and Safety Authority (HSA)	No
Health Service Executive (HSE)	Yes
An Taisce	No
Fáilte Ireland	No
National Parks & Wildlife Services (NPWS)	No
Heritage Council	No
ESB Networks	No
EPA	No

- 1.35 The Development Applications Unit at the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht made a response on archaeology only and noted the requirement for an

- Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) and Archaeological Investigations. The AIA has been completed by Dr. Charles Mount, Consultant Archaeologist and is provided in chapter 12 of the EIAR. The investigations were also commissioned by Dr Charles Mount and carried out by AMS who completed the geophysical survey (a high resolution magnetometry survey in April 2024 under NMS Licence No. 24R0247) and the results of the geophysical testing are provided in the AIA in EIAR Chapter 12 (**Appendix 12-B**).
- 1.36 Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) noted that the EIAR assessment and proposed mitigation measures should have regard to the 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities', TII publications, National Road Network impacts, TII Environmental Assessment and Construction Guidelines. A Traffic & Transport Assessment (TTA) has been carried out for the proposed development and is provided in chapter 14 of the EIAR.
- 1.37 The Geological Survey of Ireland in their response noted the range of publicly available information and datasets available through their website for reference, along with outlining guidelines for preparing the EIAR and in particular the Land, Soils & Geology chapter (EIAR chapter 6) and the Water chapter (EIAR chapter 7).
- 1.38 Uisce Éireann (UE) noted that they must be satisfied that the proposed development will have no impact on drinking water quality and that water sources and supplies are adequately protected. The EIAR should assess effects on UE abstraction points (noting the Camross groundwater abstraction point c. 3.1km to the south); outline the depth of excavation and whether dewatering will occur at the site; and assess any impacts from run-off and the protection of groundwater. Further details on this are provided in the Water chapter (EIAR Chapter 7).
- 1.39 Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) is tasked with the responsibility for the protection, management and conservation of the inland fisheries resource and in their response set out the requested baseline ecological studies to be undertaken to include ecological assessments of water courses, mapping of aquatic habitats and assessment of potential effects on aquatic receptors. Further details on this are provided in the Ecology chapter (EIAR chapter 5) and the Water chapter (EIAR chapter 7).
- 1.40 The Health Service Executive (HSE) Environmental Health Department made observations specific to environmental health areas in relation to the proposed development with specific reference to the topic areas of public consultation, site restoration, noise and vibration, air quality, surface and groundwater quality, ancillary facilities and cumulative impacts to be addressed in the EIAR. Further details on these topics are provided throughout the EIAR in Chapters 2, 7, 8 and 10.

Difficulties Encountered with EIAR Compilation

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

Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)

- 1.42 An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) *"means a statement of the effects, if any, which the proposed development, if carried out, would have on the environment"*. As such, it is a systematic analysis and assessment of the potential effects of a proposed project on the receiving environment.
- 1.43 The principal objectives of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report are to:
- identify and / or predict the significant impacts of a development.

- identify what mitigation measures should be incorporated into the development to eliminate or reduce the perceived impacts.
- interpret and communicate the above information on the impact of the proposed development, in both technical and non-technical terms.
- assist the Local Planning Authority in the decision-making process with respect to the associated planning application.

Format of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)

- 1.44 To facilitate clarity, this EIAR has been prepared in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Guidelines (2022). The EIAR is sub divided into sixteen parts (chapters). As an overview, they comprise of:

Chapter 1: Introduction / Screening / Scoping

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

Chapter 2: Project Description

- 1.46 Chapter 2 provides:
- details of the physical characteristics of the whole project, including, where relevant, demolition works, the land-use requirements during construction and operation as well as other works that are integral to the project; and
 - the main characteristics of the operational phase of the project e.g. nature and quantity of materials and natural resources.

Chapter 3: Alternatives

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

Chapters 4 – 16

- 1.48 Chapters 4-14 provide detailed information on all aspects of the existing (baseline) environment, identifies, describes and presents an assessment of the likely significant impacts of the proposed project on the environment; and recommends mitigation and monitoring measures (where required) to reduce or alleviate these impacts and describes the residual impacts and conclusions. They are grouped under the following Chapters:
- Chapter 4: Population and Human Health
 - Chapter 5: Biodiversity
 - Chapter 6: Land, Soils and Geology
 - Chapter 7: Water
 - Chapter 8: Air Quality
 - Chapter 9: Climate
 - Chapter 10: Noise

- Chapter 11: Material Assets
 - Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage
 - Chapter 13: Landscape
 - Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport
 - Chapter 15: Interactions
 - Chapter 16: Mitigation and Monitoring
- 1.49 The associated references, plates, figures and appendices are provided at the end of each chapter. Chapter 15 outlines the impacts that arise as a result of the interaction between several aspects of the development as set out in Chapters 4-14.
- 1.50 Chapter 16 provides a summary of mitigation and monitoring commitments as recommended by Section 3.8.4 of the Environmental Protection Agency Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports.

Non-Technical Summary

- 1.51 A “*Non-Technical Summary of the Environmental Impact Statement*”, presenting the principal details and findings of each EIAR Chapter in less technical, easy to understand language is provided as a separate, stand-alone document.

Contributors

- 1.52 Breedon appointed SLR Consulting Ireland to prepare this Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) in support of its planning application for the proposed sand and gravel pit extension at Mounthall & Cummer, Camross, Co. Laois.
- 1.53 SLR Consulting Ireland (SLR) is a constituent company of SLR Group, a leading global environmental and advisory services consultancy. The company provides a full range of planning, EIA and environmental advisory services across 30 in-house specialist technical disciplines and operates a network of offices in Ireland, UK, Asia-Pacific, Africa and North America.
- 1.54 SLR Consulting Ireland has been carrying out Environmental Impact Assessments relating to extractive and waste development in Ireland since the EIA Directive was first transposed into national legislation in 1990.
- 1.55 The contributors who have assisted in the preparation of this EIAR are identified in **Table 1-2** below:

Table 1-2: List of Contributors to the EIAR

Topic Chapter	Contributor	Company
Introduction	Shane McDermott BSc (Hons) MSCSI MRICS	SLR Consulting Ireland
Description of Development	Shane McDermott BSc (Hons) MSCSI MRICS	SLR Consulting Ireland
Alternatives	Shane McDermott BSc (Hons) MSCSI MRICS	SLR Consulting Ireland
Population & Human Health	Lynn Hassett BSc (Hons), MSc, PIEMA	SLR Consulting Ireland
Biodiversity	Michael Bailey	SLR Consulting Ireland

	MCIEEM, CEcol. Jake Matthews BSc (Hons) MSc.	
Land, Soils and Geology	Dr Peter Glanville BA, MSc, PhD, IQUA, IRLOGI, IGI Nikolina Bozinovic BSc., MSc.	SLR Consulting Ireland
Water	Dominica Baird (Hydrogeology) BSc., MSc., CGeol, EurGeol. Peter Glanville (Hydrology) BA, MSc, PhD, IQUA, IRLOGI, IGI Mairéad Brown (Earth Science) BSc.	SLR Consulting Ireland
Air Quality	Hannah McGurran BSc. Conor Hughes MSc. Energy Science Shane McDermott BSc (Hons) MSCSI MRICS	SLR Consulting Ireland
Climate	Hannah McGurran BSc. Lynn Hassett BSc (Hons), MSc, PIEMA	SLR Consulting Ireland
Noise	Ronan Murphy BSc MIOA Michelle Dawson BSc MIOA	SLR Consulting Ireland
Material Assets	Lynn Hassett BSc (Hons), MSc, PIEMA	SLR Consulting Ireland
Cultural Heritage	Dr Charles Mount MA PhD. Dip. EIA & SEA Mgmt., MIAI	Consultant Archaeologist
Landscape	Anne Merkle Dipl. Ing (FH) MILI Saif Hidayat BSc (Hons)	SLR Consulting Ireland
Roads and Traffic	Aly Gleeson BSc (Hons) MEng (Hons) MBA RSA Cert CEng FIEI Antonis Papadakis MSc, MIEI	PMCE Consultants
Interactions	Lynn Hassett BSc (Hons), MSc, PIEMA	SLR Consulting Ireland
Schedule of Commitments	Lynn Hassett BSc (Hons), MSc, PIEMA	SLR Consulting Ireland
Co-ordination of EIA	Shane McDermott BSc (Hons) MSCSI MRICS Lynn Hassett BSc (Hons), MSc, PIEMA	SLR Consulting Ireland

- 1.56 Each contributor has been fully briefed about the development proposal and the background to it. They have visited and inspected the application site and surrounding area and have familiarised themselves with the local environment. Each contributor is considered to have the necessary competence, experience, expertise and knowledge required to prepare the EIAR chapter in respect of their specialist topic.
- 1.57 Breedon Materials has also provided detailed background knowledge of the site, details of site operations and records of ongoing baseline survey information. Company representatives have also undertaken a review of this EIAR.

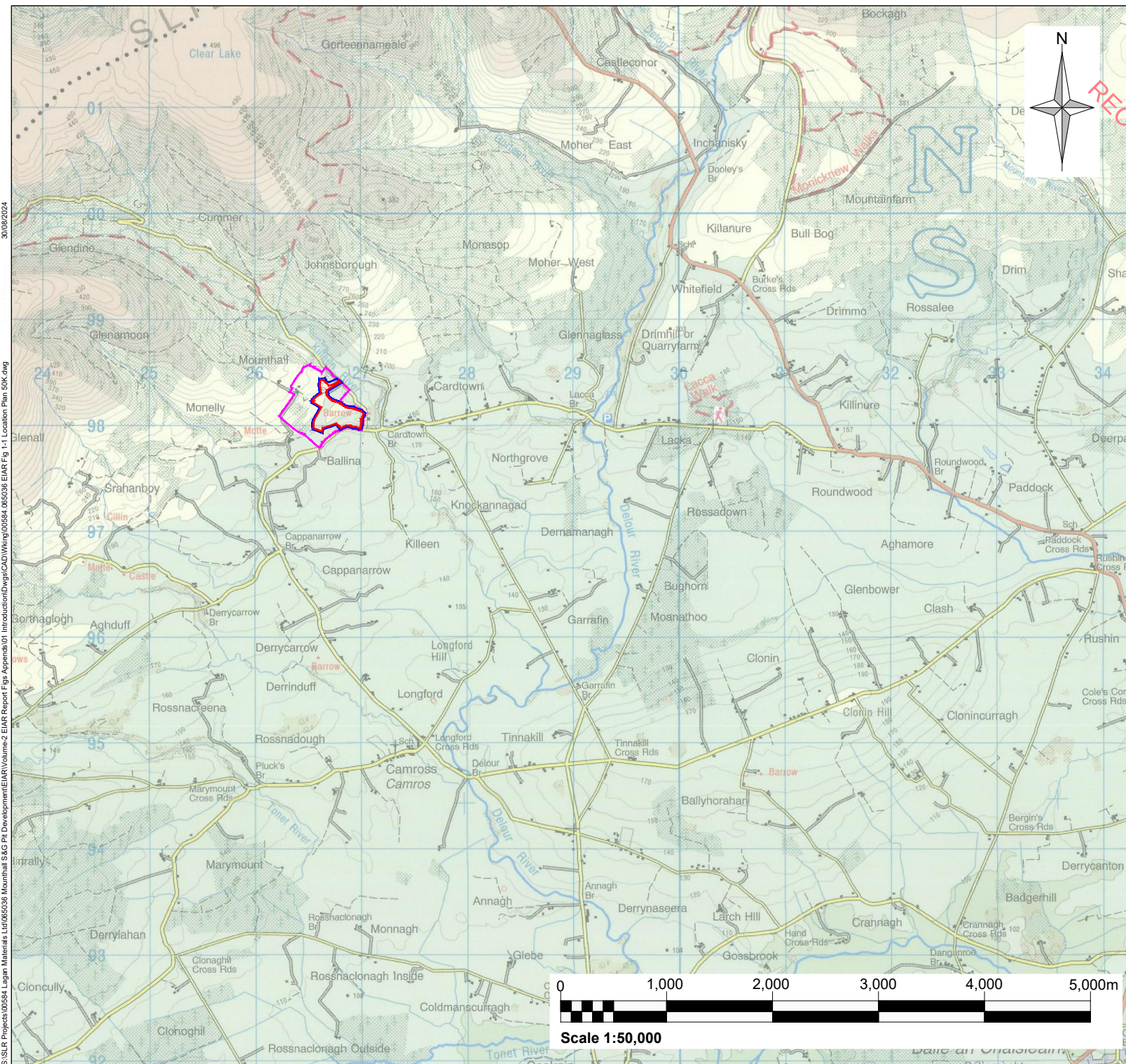
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Figures

Figure 1-1: Site Location Map

Figure 1-2: Site Location and Site Notice Map

Figure 1-3: Site Location and Site Notice Map



Notes:

1. Extract from Ordnance Survey Discovery Series mapping - sheet numbers 54

Legend:

Landowner Boundary (c.32.1 Hectares)
Third party landowner's land interest

Planning Application Area (c.12.2 Hectares)

Applicants Land Interest Area (c.12.4 Hectares)
under lease agreement from landowner

Rev	Amendments	Date	By	Chk	Auth
-----	------------	------	----	-----	------



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Client

Breedon Ireland

Project

Sand and Gravel Pit Extension Development,
Mounthall, Camross, Co. Laois

Figure Title

Site Location Map

Scale 1:50,000 @ A4		SLR Project No. 00584.065036	
Designed SMcD	Drawn SMcD	Checked LH	Authorised LH
Date 01/24	Date 01/24	Date 09/24	Date 09/24

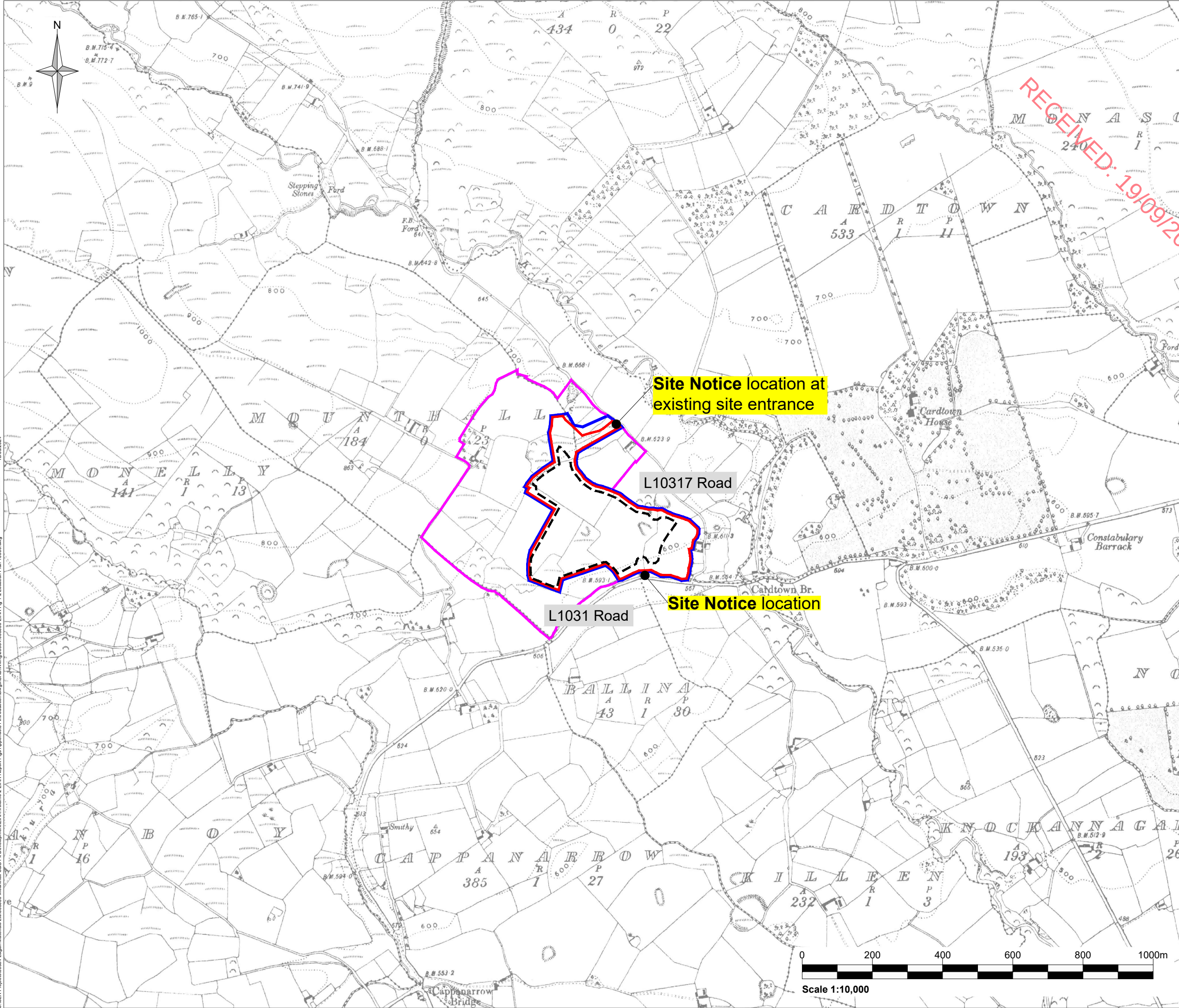
Figure Number

Figure 1-1

Rev.

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S:\SLR Projects\00584 Lagan Materials Ltd\065036 Mounthall S&G Pit Development\065036 EIA\Report Figs\Appendix 01 Introduction\Drawings\CAD\Wing\00584_065036 EIA\Fig 1-1 Location Plan 50K.dwg
30/08/2024



Notes:
1. Extract from Ordnance Survey 6 inch scale raster mapping - sheet numbers LS010, LS011, OY040

Legend:

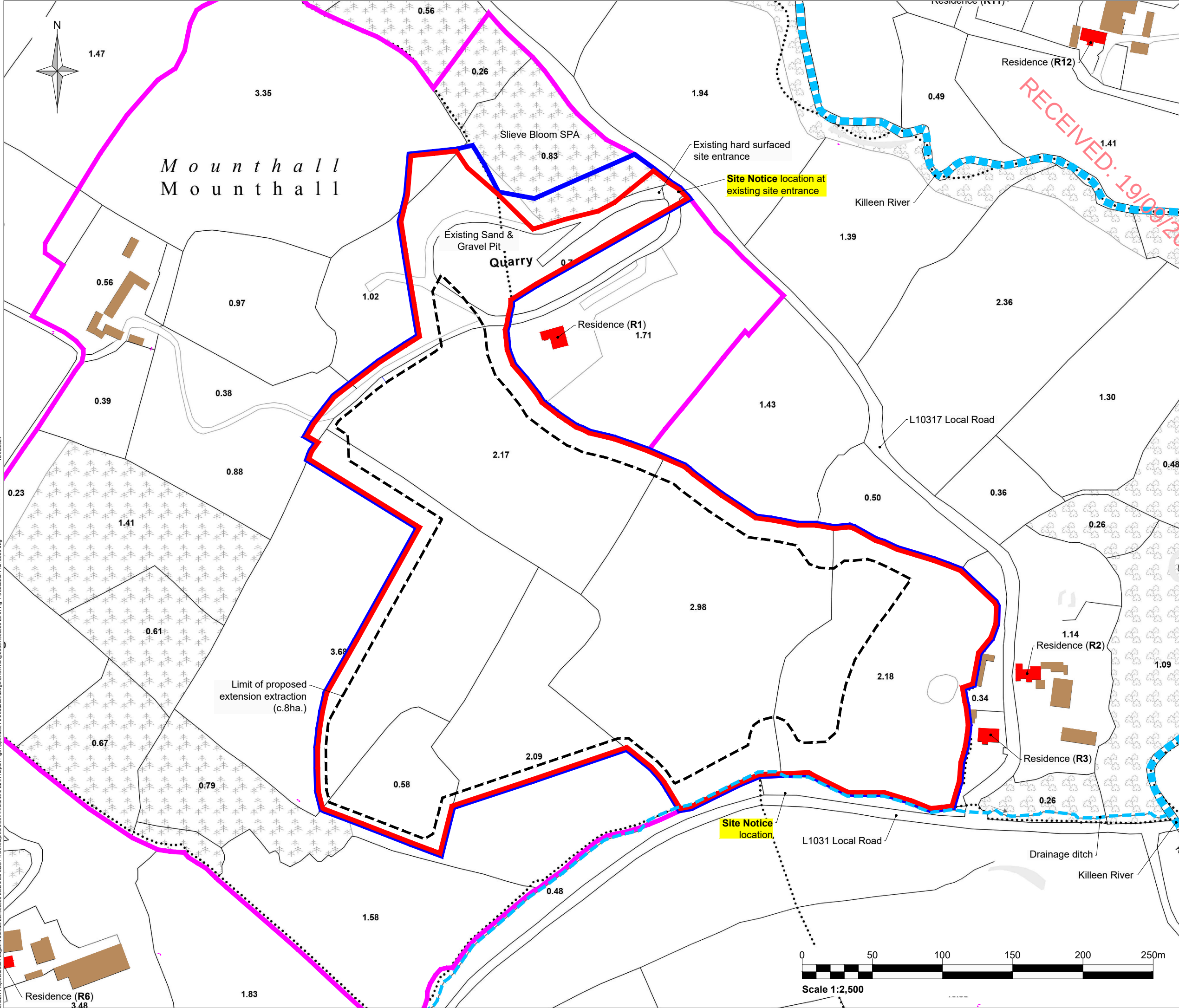
Landowner Boundary (c.32.1 Hectares)
Third party landowner's land interest

Planning Application Area (c.12.2 Hectares)

Applicants Land Interest Area (c.12.4 Hectares)
under lease agreement from landowner

Proposed S&G Extraction Area (c.8 Hectares)

Rev	Amendments	Date	By	Chk	Auth
SLR SLR CONSULTING IRELAND 7 DUNDUM BUSINESS PARK, WINDY ARBOUR, DUBLIN, IRELAND, D14 N2Y7					
www.slrconsulting.com					
Client Breedon Ireland					
Project Sand and Gravel Pit Extension Development, Mounthall, Camross, Co. Laois					
Figure Title Site Location Map / Site Notice Location					
Scale 1:10,000 @ A3		SLR Project No. 00584.065036			
Designed SMcD	Drawn SMcD	Checked LH	Authorised LH		
Date 01/24	Date 01/24	Date 09/24	Date 09/24		
Figure Number Figure 1-2					Rev. 0



Notes:

1. Extract from Ordnance Survey 5,000 scale mapping - sheet numbers 3880, 3881, 3937, 3938

Legend:

- Landowner Boundary (c.32.1 Hectares)
Third party landowner's land interest
- Planning Application Area (c.12.2 Hectares)
- Applicants Land Interest Area (c.12.4 Hectares)
under lease agreement from landowner
- Proposed S&G Extraction Area (c.8 Hectares)
- Residential Property
- Agricultural Shed / Other Building (non-residential)
- Water course / drainage channel

Rev	Amendments	Date	By	Chk	Auth
1					

SLR
SLR CONSULTING IRELAND
7 DUNDUM BUSINESS PARK,
WINDY ARBOUR,
DUBLIN,
IRELAND,
D14 N2Y7

www.slrconsulting.com

Client
Breedon Ireland

Project
Sand and Gravel Pit Extension Development,
Mounthall, Camross, Co. Laois

Figure Title
Site Location / Site Notice Location Map

Scale 1:2,500	@ A3	SLR Project No. 00584.065036	
Designed SMcD	Drawn SMcD	Checked LH	Authorised LH
Date 01/24	Date 01/24	Date 09/24	Date 09/24

Figure Number
Figure 1-3

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Appendices

Appendix 1-A: Consultee Responses

Development Applications Unit (Archaeology only)

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)

Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI)

Uisce Éireann (formerly Irish Water)

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)

Health Service Executive (HSE)



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Your Ref: 501.065036.00001

Our Ref: G Pre00121/2024

(Please quote in all related correspondence)

15 May 2024

SLR Consulting Ireland
7 Dundrum Business Park
Windy Arbour
Dublin
D14 N2Y7

Via email to: smcdermott@slrconsulting.com

Proposed Pre Planning Development: Proposed Sand and Gravel Pit Extension Development at Mounthall, Camross, Co Laois
--

A chara,

I refer to correspondence received in connection with the above. Outlined below are heritage-related observations/recommendations of the Department co-ordinated by the Development Applications Unit under the stated headings.

Archaeology

It is noted that the proposed development is large in scale and located in close proximity to Recorded Monument, LA011-008---- : Barrow – unclassified, which is subject to statutory protection in the Record of Monuments and Places, established under section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994. Given the scale, extent and location of the proposed development it could impact on subsurface archaeological remains.

With regard to the above proposed development the Department has reviewed the report that was submitted with your request for pre-planning consultation and note the following: 6.7 Cultural Heritage There are no protected structures or architectural conservation areas located within the vicinity of the proposed extension lands. There are no recorded monuments located within the landholding.

In line with national policy, see Section 3.6 of the Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage 1999, the Department recommends that an



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Archaeological Impact Assessment, as outlined below, should be prepared to assess any impact on archaeological remains within the proposed development site. This assessment should be submitted as with any planning application. This will enable the Planning Authority and this Department to prepare an appropriate archaeological recommendation before a planning decision is taken.

Archaeological Investigations

1. The applicant is required to engage the services of a suitably qualified archaeologist to carry out an archaeological assessment of the development site. No sub-surface developmental work, including geotechnical test pits, should be undertaken until the archaeological assessment has been completed and commented on by this Department.
2. The archaeologist shall carry out any relevant documentary research and inspect the development site. As part of the assessment a geophysical survey and a programme of test excavations should be carried out at locations chosen by the archaeologist (licensed under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004), having consulted the site drawings and this Department.
3. Having completed the work, the archaeologist shall submit a written report stating their recommendations to the Planning Authority and to the National Monuments Service of the Department. Where archaeological material/features are shown to be present, preservation in situ, preservation by record (excavation) or monitoring may be required.

Reason: To ensure the continued preservation (either in situ or by record) of places, caves, sites, features or other objects of archaeological interest.

The above observations/recommendations are based on the papers submitted to this Department on a pre-planning basis and are made without prejudice to any observations that the Minister may make in the context of any consultation arising on foot of any development application referred to the Minister, by the planning authority/authorities, in his/her role as statutory consultee under the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

You are requested to send any further communications to this Department's Development Applications Unit (DAU) at: manager.dau@npws.gov.ie



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Is mise, le meas,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the letters 'B' and 'B' followed by a flourish.

Brian Bone
Development Applications Unit
Administration

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Shane McDermott

From: INFO <Information@tii.ie>
Sent: 24 April 2024 15:06
To: Shane McDermott
Subject: TII24-126801 - Breedon Ireland / Pre-Planning Consultation / Sand & Gravel Pit Extension - Mounthall, Co. Laois Your Ref: 501.065036.00001

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You don't often get email from information@tii.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mr. McDermott,

Thank you for your correspondence of 4 April 2024 regarding the above. Transport Infrastructure Ireland's (TII's) position in relation to your enquiry is as follows.

TII wishes to advise that it is not in a position to engage directly with planning applicants with respect to proposed developments. TII will endeavour to consider and respond to planning applications referred to it, given its status and duties as a statutory consultee under the Planning Acts. The approach to be adopted by TII in making such submissions or comments will seek to uphold official policy and guidelines, as outlined in the Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DoECLG, 2012). Regard should also be had to other relevant guidance available at www.TII.ie.

The issuing of this correspondence is provided as best practice guidance only and does not prejudice TII's statutory right to make any observations, requests for further information, objections or appeals, following the examination of any valid planning application referred.

With respect to EIAR Scoping issues, the recommendations indicated below provide only general guidance for the preparation of an EIAR, which may affect the national road and/or light rail networks.

Having regard to the EPA's 'Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports' (2022), it is recommended, as appropriate, that the national road and light rail networks are recognised as strategic transport assets under "material assets".

EIAR assessment and mitigation should have regard to the following:

- National Roads: Official policy for development at or near national roads is set out in the DoECLG's 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2012) available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/85b83-planning-guidelines-standards/>
- TII Publications: In addition, as part of TII's responsibilities for managing and improving the country's national road and light rail networks, TII sets development guidance and standards for traffic and road assessments and construction, that may be necessary by reason of proposed development location, scale or typology, to be prepared to accompany applications for developments or works. Technical guidance and standards are contained in TII Publications, available at <https://www.tiipublications.ie/>

In addition, the EIAR should have regard to, *inter alia*, the following:

National Road Network:

- TII would be specifically concerned as to potential significant impacts the development would have on the national road network (and junctions with national roads) in the proximity of the proposed development.
- Consultations should be had with the relevant Local Authority/National Roads Design Office (RDO), with regard to locations of existing and future national road schemes.
- The EIAR should have regard to any prior Environmental Impact Statement or Assessment Report and all conditions and/or modifications imposed by An Bord Pleanála regarding road schemes in the area. The developer should, in particular, have regard to any potential cumulative impacts.
- The EIAR should have regard to the provisions of Chapter 3 of the DoECLG's Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines in the assessment.

TII Publications:

- It would be important that, where appropriate, subject to meeting the appropriate thresholds and criteria and having regard to best practice, a Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA) be carried out in accordance with relevant guidelines, noting traffic volumes attending the site and traffic routes to/from the site, with reference to impacts on the national road network and junctions of lower category roads with national roads. TII's 'Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines' (TII Publication No. PE-PDV-02045) should be referred to in relation to proposed development, with potential impacts on the national road network. The scheme promoter is also advised to have regard to Section 2.2 of the Guidelines, which addresses requirements for sub-threshold TTA.
- The designers and assessors are asked to consult TII Publications to determine whether a Road Safety Audit is required.

TII environmental assessment guidance:

- The EIAR should have regard to TII's Environmental Assessment and Construction Guidelines, including the 'Good Practice Guidance for the Treatment of Noise during the Planning of National Road Schemes' (National Road Authority (NRA), 2014).
- The EIAR should consider the 'European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations, 2018, (S.I. no. 549 of 2018)', and, in particular, how the development will affect future action plans by the relevant competent authority. The developer may need to consider the incorporation of noise barriers to reduce noise impacts (see 'Good Practice Guidance for the Treatment of Noise during the Planning of (NRA, 2014)').

Haul routes utilising the national road network:

- Elements of the national road network are operated and managed by a combination of (Public Private Partnerships) PPP Concessions, Motorway Maintenance and Renewal Contracts (MMaRC) and local road authorities in association with TII. In relation to haul route identification, the applicant/developer should clearly identify haul routes proposed and fully assess the network to be traversed, to ascertain any operational requirements, including delivery timetabling, etc., to ensure that the strategic function of the national road network is safeguarded.
- Separate structure approvals/permits and other licences and works specific deeds of indemnity may be required in connection with the proposed haul route, including where temporary modification to the road network may be required. Consultation with relevant local authorities, PPP Companies and MMaRC Contractors may also be required.
- All structures on the haul route should be checked by the applicant/developer to confirm their capacity to accommodate any abnormal load proposed, including abnormal weight load. Additionally, any damage caused to the pavement on the existing national road arising from any temporary works due to the turning movement of abnormal loads (e.g. tearing of the surface course, etc.), shall be rectified in accordance with TII

Pavement Standards and details in this regard shall be agreed with the Road Authority prior to the commencement of any development on site.

Notwithstanding any of the above, the developer should be aware that this list is non-exhaustive, thus site and development specific issues should be addressed in accordance with best practice.

I hope that this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Moore

Senior Regulatory & Administration Executive

From: Shane McDermott <smcdermott@slrconsulting.com>

Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2024 1:15 PM

To: Landuse Planning <LandUsePlanning@tii.ie>

Subject: Breedon Ireland / Pre-Planning Consultation / Sand & Gravel Pit Extension - Mounthall, Co. Laois

You don't often get email from smcdermott@slrconsulting.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Transport Infrastructure Ireland

Parkgate Business Centre

Parkgate Street

Dublin 8

D08 DK10

Dear Consultee,

Please find enclosed a pre-planning consultation document on behalf of Lagan Materials Limited (trading as Breedon Ireland) who intend to apply for planning permission for an extension to an existing sand and gravel pit at Mounthall & Cummer townlands, Camross, Co. Laois.

Should you wish to provide any feedback, could you please do so before **10 May 2024** by return email or by post to:

Shane McDermott

SLR Consulting Ireland

7 Dundrum Business Park

Windy Arbour

Dublin

D14 N2Y7

Thank you for your time, and if you require any further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Shane McDermott

Technical Director-Environmental & Social Impact Assessment

☎ +353 1 296 4667

✉ smcdermott@slrconsulting.com

SLR Consulting Ireland

7 Dundrum Business Park, Windy Arbour, Dublin, Ireland D14 N2Y7



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RECEIVED: 19/09/2024



RECEIVED: 19/05/2024
07 May 2024

Shane McDermott
SLR Consulting Ireland
7 Dundrum Business Park
Windy Arbour
Dublin, D14 N2Y7

Re: Proposed Sand & Gravel Extension Development at Mounthall, Camross, Co. Laois
Your Ref: 501.065036.00001
Our Ref: 24/119

Dear Shane,

Geological Survey Ireland is the national earth science agency and is a division of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. We provide independent geological information and gather various data for that purpose. Please see our [website](#) for data availability. We recommend using these various data sets, when conducting the EIAR, SEA, planning and scoping processes. Use of our data or maps should be attributed correctly to 'Geological Survey Ireland'.

The publicly available data referenced/presented here, should in no way be construed as Geological Survey Ireland support for or objection to the proposed development or plan. The data is made freely available to all and can be used as independent scientific data in assessments, plans or policies. It should be noted that in many cases this data is a baseline or starting point for further site-specific assessments.

With reference to your letter received on the 04 April 2024, concerning the proposed Sand & Gravel Extension Development at Mounthall, Camross, Co. Laois, Geological Survey Ireland would encourage use of and reference to our datasets. Please find attached a list of our publicly available datasets that may be useful to the environmental assessment and planning process. We recommend that you review this list and refer to any datasets you consider relevant to your assessment. The remainder of this letter and following sections provide more detail on some of these datasets.

Geoheritage

A national inventory of geoheritage sites known as County Geological Sites (CGSs) is managed by the Geoheritage Programme of Geological Survey Ireland. CGSs, as adopted under the National Heritage Plan, include sites that are of national importance which have been selected as the very best examples for NHA (Natural Heritage Areas) designation. NHA designation will be completed in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). CGSs are now routinely included in County Development Plans and in the GIS of planning departments, to ensure the recognition and appropriate protection of geological heritage within the planning system. CGSs can be viewed online under the Geological Heritage tab on the online [Map Viewer](#).

The audit for Co. Laois was carried out in 2016. The full report details can be found [here](#). **Our records show that there are no CGSs in the vicinity of the proposed sand & gravel pit extension.**

Geological Survey Ireland would request that the operator might assist our geological heritage goals with the following (and ideally this would be written into the restoration / closure plan) and be included as a condition of planning as deemed appropriate by the planning authority:

1. Allowing access to quarry faces by appropriate scientists (upon request and with due regards to Health and Safety requirements) during quarrying to check for interesting new stratigraphies / relationships as they might become exposed and to establish if the sand and gravel pit is worthy of recognition post extraction and through aftercare/restoration planning.
2. If deemed appropriate in (1) above, leaving a representative section of the sand & gravel pit face at the end of the quarry life or inclusion of information panels to promote the geology to the public or develop tourism or educational resources if appropriate depending on the future use of the site. Natural exposures are few, or deeply weathered, this measure would permit on-going improvement of geological knowledge of the subsurface.



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The Geoheritage Programme tries to promote a partnership between geological heritage and active quarrying, with such measures as those outlined in the 'Geological Heritage Guidelines for the Extractive Industry', which can be downloaded [here](#). This document, written in association with Irish Concrete Federation, acts as a comprehensive guide in the sustainable extraction of natural resources while preserving the geological heritage of Ireland.

Groundwater

Geological Survey Ireland's [Groundwater and Geothermal Unit](#), provides advice, data and maps relating to groundwater distribution, quality and use, which is especially relevant for safe and secure drinking water supplies and healthy ecosystems. Proposed developments need to consider any potential impact on specific groundwater abstractions and on groundwater resources in general. We recommend using the groundwater maps on our [Map viewer](#) which should include: wells; drinking water source protection areas; the national map suite - aquifer, groundwater vulnerability, groundwater recharge and subsoil permeability maps. For areas underlain by limestone, please refer to the karst specific data layers (karst features, tracer test database; turlough water levels (gwlevel.ie). Background information is also provided in the Groundwater Body Descriptions. Please read all disclaimers carefully when using Geological Survey Ireland data.

The Groundwater Data Viewer indicates an aquifer classed as a 'Locally Important Aquifer - Bedrock which is Moderately Productive only in Local Zones' underlies the proposed development. The Groundwater Vulnerability map indicates the area covered is classed as 'Moderate' to 'High' Vulnerability.

[GWClimate](#) is a groundwater monitoring and modelling project that aims to investigate the impact of climate change on groundwater in Ireland. This is a follow on from a previous project (GWFlood) and the data may be useful in relation to Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and management plans. Maps and data are available on the [Map viewer](#).

Geological Survey Ireland has completed Groundwater Protection Schemes (GWPSs) in partnership with Local Authorities, and there is now national coverage of GWPS mapping. A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater. **The Groundwater Protection Response overview and link to the main reports is here:** <https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/groundwater/projects/protecting-drinking-water/what-is-drinking-water-protection/county-groundwater-protection-schemes/Pages/default.aspx>

Geological Mapping

Geological Survey Ireland maintains online datasets of bedrock and subsoils geological mapping that are reliable and accessible. We would encourage you to use these data which can be found [here](#), in your future assessments.

Please note we have recently launched QGIS compatible bedrock (100K) and Quaternary geology map data, with instructional manuals and videos. This makes our data more accessible to general public and external stakeholders. QGIS compatible data can be found in our downloadable bedrock 100k .zip file on the [Data & Maps](#) section of our website.

Geohazards

Geohazards can cause widespread damage to landscapes, wildlife, human property and human life. In Ireland, landslides, flooding and coastal erosion are the most prevalent of these hazards. We recommend that geohazards be taken into consideration, especially when developing areas where these risks are prevalent, and we encourage the use of our data when doing so.

Landslides are common in areas of peat, rock near surface and in fine to coarse range materials (such as glacial tills), areas which are found close to the proposed sand & gravel pit extension. Geological Survey Ireland has information available on landslides in Ireland via the National Landslide Database and Landslide Susceptibility Map both of which are available for viewing on our dedicated [Map Viewer](#). Associated guidance documentation relating to the National Landslide Susceptibility Map is also available.

Geological Survey Ireland also engaged in a national project on Groundwater Flooding. The data from this project may be useful in relation to Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and management plans, and is described in more detail under 'Groundwater' above.



RECEIVED 10/01/24

Geochemistry of soils, surface waters and sediments

Geological Survey Ireland provides baseline geochemistry data for Ireland as part of the Tellus programme. Baseline geochemistry data can be used to assess the chemical status of soil and water at a regional scale and to support the assessment of existing or potential impacts of human activity on environmental chemical quality. Tellus is a national-scale mapping programme which provides multi-element data for shallow soil, stream sediment and stream water in Ireland. At present, mapping consists of the border, western and midland regions. Data is available at <https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/data-and-maps/Pages/Geochemistry.aspx>.

Geophysical data

Geological Survey Ireland produces high-resolution geophysical data (Magnetic field, electrical conductivity, natural gamma-ray radiation) of soils & rocks as part of the [Tellus programme](#). These data currently cover approximately 75% of the country and provide supporting geological information on a regional scale useful for assessing environmental impact and risk. [Tellus programme](#) provides expertise to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the determination of radon risk. The data is used in mineral exploration or is useful in aiding site investigation works for large scale projects.

Guidelines

The following guidelines may also be of assistance:

- Institute of Geologists of Ireland, 2013. Guidelines for the Preparation of the Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology Chapters of Geology in Environmental Impact Statements.
- [EPA, 2022](#). Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR)
- Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2004. Quarries and Ancillary Activities, Guidelines for Planning Authorities.
- Environmental Protection Agency, 2006. Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry: Non-Scheduled Minerals.
- Geological Survey of Ireland - Irish Concrete Federation, 2008. Geological Heritage Guidelines for the Extractive Industry.

Other Comments

Should development go ahead, all other factors considered, Geological Survey Ireland would much appreciate a copy of reports detailing any site investigations carried out. The data would be added to Geological Survey Ireland's national database of site investigation boreholes, implemented to provide a better service to the civil engineering sector. Data can be sent to the Geological Mapping Unit, at <mailto:GeologicalMappingInfo@gsi.ie>, 01-678 2795.

I hope that these comments are of assistance, and if we can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to the Geological Survey Ireland Planning Team at GSIPlanning@gsi.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Geoheritage and Planning Programme

Enc: Table - Geological Survey Ireland's Publicly Available Datasets Relevant to Planning, EIA and SEA processes.

Geological Survey Ireland's Publicly Available Datasets Relevant to Planning, EIA and SEA processes
following European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018
(S.I. No. 296 of 2018)

Geological Survey Ireland Programme	Dataset	Relevant EIA Topic	Coverage	Description / Notes / Limitations	Link to Geological Survey Ireland map viewer
Geohazards	Landslide: National landslide database and landslide susceptibility map	Land & Soil/Climate/Landscape	National	Associated guidance documentation relating to the National Landslide Susceptibility Map is also available.	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b68c1e4a9044a5981f950e9b9c5625c
Geohazards	Groundwater Flooding (Historic)	Water	Regional	Provide information of historic flooding, both surface water and groundwater. [A lack of flooding presented in any specific location of the map only indicates that a flood has not been detected. It does not indicate that a flood cannot occur in that location at present or in the future]	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=848f83c85799436b808652f9c735b1cc
Geohazards	Groundwater Flooding (Predictive)	Water	Regional	Provides information on the probability of future karst groundwater flooding (where available). [The maps do not, and are not intended to, constitute advice. Professional or specialist advice should be sought before taking, or refraining from, any action on the basis of the flood maps]	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=848f83c85799436b808652f9c735b1cc
Geohazards	Radon Map	Land & Soils/Air	National		http://www.epa.ie/radiation/radonmap/
Geohazards	County Geological Sites as adopted by National Heritage Plan and listed in County Development Plans	Land & Soils/Landscape	Regional	All geological heritage sites identified by Geological Survey Ireland are categorised as CGS pending any further NHA designation by NPWS.	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=a30af518e87a4c0b2fde2aaac3c228
Geological Mapping	Bedrock geology:	Land & Soils	National	1:100,000 scale and associated memoirs.	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&scale=0
Geological Mapping	Bedrock geology:	Land & Soils	Regional	1:50,000 scale	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&scale=0
Geological Mapping	Quaternary geology: Sediments	Land & Soils	National	1:50,000 scale	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&scale=0
Geological Mapping	Quaternary geology: Geomorphology	Land & Soils	National	1:50,000 scale	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&scale=0
Geological Mapping	Physiographic units:	Land & Soils	National	Broad-scale physical landscape units mapped at 1:100,000 scale in order to be represented as a cartographic digital map at 1:250,000 scale	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=afa76a20fc54877843aca107c5c2b
Geological Mapping	GeoUrban: Spatial geological data for the greater Dublin and Cork areas	Land & Soils	Regional	includes 3D models	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9768f4818b79416093beb2212a850ce6&scale=0
Geological Mapping	Geotechnical database	Land & Soils	National	Digitised geotechnical and Site Investigation Reports and boreholes which can be accessed through online downloads	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a2718be1873d47a585a3f0415b4a724c
Goldmine	Historical data sets including geological memoirs and 6" to 1 mile geological mapping records	Land & Soils/Water	National	available online	https://secure.dcaa.gov.ie/goldmine/index.html
Groundwater & Geothermal	Groundwater resources (aquifers)	Water	National	Data limited to 1:100,000 scale; sites should be investigated at local scale	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef
Groundwater & Geothermal	Groundwater recharge.	Water	National	Data limited to 1:40,000 scale; sites should be investigated at local scale; long term annual average recharge	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef
Groundwater & Geothermal	Groundwater vulnerability.	Water	National	Data limited to 1:40,000 scale; sites should be investigated at local scale	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef
Groundwater & Geothermal	Group scheme and public supply source protection areas.	Water	National	Not all PWS / GWS have SPZ / ZOC. Check with IW / coco / NFGWS for private supplies.	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef
Groundwater & Geothermal	Groundwater Protection Schemes	Water	National	Data is limited to scale of 1:40,000. Data does not include all of the source protection areas	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef
Groundwater & Geothermal	Catchment and WFD management units.	Water	National		https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef
Groundwater & Geothermal	karst specific data layers	water	National	For areas underlain by limestone, includes karst features, tracer test database; turf/rough water levels (gwlevel.ie)	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef
Groundwater & Geothermal	Wells and Springs	Water	National	Not comprehensive, there may be unrecorded wells and springs	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef
Groundwater & Geothermal	Groundwater body Descriptions	Water	National	Not exhaustive; only those in designated SACs; could be other GWDTEs; for more information contact NPWS / EPA / site investigations Also, Roadmap for a Policy and Regulatory Framework for Geothermal Energy, November 2020	https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/groundwater-and-geothermal-unit/activities/understanding-ireland-groundwater/Pages/Groundwater-bodies.aspx
Groundwater & Geothermal	Geothermal Suitability maps	Land & Soils/Water	National		https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9eae46bee08de41278b90a9916d00b9e
Marine & Coastal Unit	INFOMAR - Ireland's national marine mapping programme; providing key baseline data for Ireland's	Water	National		https://secure.dcaa.gov.ie/GSI/INFOMAR_VIEWER/
Marine & Coastal Unit	CHERISH - Coastal change project (Climate, Heritage and Environments of Reefs, Islands, and Headlands)	Water	Regional		http://www.cherishproject.eu/en/
Marine & Coastal Unit	Coastal Vulnerability Index (CVI).	water / Land & Soils	Regional	Currently the project is being carried out on the east coast and will be rolled out nationally	https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/marine-and-coastal-unit/projects/Pages/Coastal-Vulnerability-Index.aspx
Minerals	Aggregate potential	Land & Soils/Material Assets	National	Consideration of mineral resources and potential resources as a material asset which should be explicitly recognised within the environmental assessment process	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ee8c4c285a49413aa6f1344416dc9956
Minerals	Active quarries	Land & Soils	National		https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ee8c4c285a49413aa6f1344416dc9956
Minerals	Historic mines	Land & Soils/Cultural Heritage	National	Inventory and Risk Classification 2009. Environmental Protection Agency, Economic Minerals Division and Geological Survey Ireland (DECC).	https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/default?zesting=7&nothing=7&lid=EPA:LEMA_Facilities_Extractive_Facilities
Tellus	Geochemical data: multi-element data for shallow soil, stream sediment and stream water	Land & Soils	Regional	A national mapping programme	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6304e122b733498b99642707f72754
Tellus	Airborne geophysical data including radiometrics, electromagnetics and magnetics	Land & Soils	Regional	A national mapping programme	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6304e122b733498b99642707f72754
Tellus	urban geochemistry mapping (Dublin SURGE project).	Land & Soils	Regional		https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6304e122b733498b99642707f72754

- Notes:
- The maps and data listed above are available on the Geological Survey Ireland map viewer <https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/data-and-maps/Pages/default.aspx>
 - Please read all disclaimers carefully when using Geological Survey Ireland data
 - Geological Survey Ireland and Irish Concrete Federation published guidelines for the treatment of geological heritage in the extractive industry in 2008.

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Uisce Éireann Ref: PN24000002626

SLR Consulting
7 Dundrum Business Park,
Windy Arbour,
Dublin,
D14 N2Y7

Attention: Shane McDermott
smcdermott@slrconsulting.com

14 May 2024

Re: EIAR Scoping Request – Proposed sand and gravel extension at Mounthall,
Camross, Co. Laois.

A Chara,

Uisce Éireann has received your Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) scoping request relating to the proposed sand and gravel extension at Mounthall, Camross, Co. Laois.

It is UÉ's current policy to maintain safe and secure drinking water supplies and that no development that will impact Drinking Water Source. Uisce Éireann must be satisfied that the proposed development has no impact on drinking water quality and that water sources are adequately protected. It is a requirement of the Water Framework Directive that waters used for the abstraction of drinking water are protected so as to avoid deterioration in quality.

UÉ is currently preparing a DWSP for each of our Drinking Water Supplies in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and accordance with the EPA Drinking Water Advice Note No. 8. The development of the plans will be advised by a national steering group and regional working groups (which include Local Authorities). It is expected the plans will include a source risk assessment (incorporating a review of existing source protection plans and zones of contribution defined by the GSI) and source protection measures will be determined and implemented in conjunction with a number of bodies including the EPA and Local Authorities who have the lead role in integrated catchment management.

Having reviewed the documentation submitted Uisce Éireann strongly recommend the following items be addressed ahead of lodging a planning application for your proposals:

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Uisce Éireann
Bosca OP 6000
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 WA07
Éire

Uisce Éireann
PO Box 6000
Dublin 1
D01 WA07
Ireland

T: +353 1 89 25000
F: +353 1 89 25001
www.water.ie

1. Proximity to Abstraction Point

All potential impacts arising from the development proposal on Uisce Éireann's abstraction points must be identified and addressed in the EIAR. This included the Camross groundwater abstraction borehole located approximately 3.1 km to the south and any other surface water or groundwater abstraction points where a potential hydrological and hydrogeological exists. The EIAR must include and consider all direct, indirect and cumulative effects on the abstraction points.

2. Groundwater and Dewatering

No details have been submitted on the exact extent, methodology or depth of the excavation(s) proposed. The applicant is requested to provide full details in EIAR along with assessment of risks to groundwater. Given the proposals excavate below existing groundwater levels there exists the potential for dewatering of the surrounding area. The potential impacts of dewatering of the ground water must be identified, modelled and addressed in the EIAR.

3. Stormwater Run Off and Hydrocarbons

The potential impacts arising from run off and hydrocarbon during construction, operational and decommissioning phases should be addressed to include mitigations against contaminants entering groundwater and surface waters via hydrological and hydrogeological pathways.

In addition to the specific items outlined above requiring clarification within the EIAR, the following aspects of Water Services should also be considered in the scope of an EIA where relevant;

- a) Where the development proposal has the potential to impact an Uisce Éireann Drinking Water Source(s), the applicant shall provide details of measures to be taken to ensure that there will be no negative impact to Uisce Éireann's Drinking Water Source(s) during the construction and operational phases of the development. Hydrological / hydrogeological pathways between the applicant's site and receiving waters should be identified as part of the report.
- b) Where the development proposes the backfilling of materials, the applicant is required to include a waste sampling strategy to ensure the material is inert.
- c) Mitigations should be proposed for any potential negative impacts on any water source(s) which may be in proximity and included in the environmental management plan and incident response.
- d) Any and all potential impacts on the nearby public water supply water source(s) are assessed, including any impact on hydrogeology and any groundwater/ surface water interactions.
- e) Impacts of the development on the capacity of water services (*i.e. do existing water services have the capacity to cater for the new development*). This is

confirmed by Uisce Éireann in the form of a Confirmation of Feasibility (COF). If a development requires a connection to either a public water supply or sewage collection system, the developer is advised to submit a Pre-Connection Enquiry (PCE) enquiry to Uisce Éireann to determine the feasibility of connection to the Uisce Éireann network.

- f) The applicant shall identify any upgrading of water services infrastructure that would be required to accommodate the proposed development.
- g) In relation to a development that would discharge trade effluent – any upstream treatment or attenuation of discharges required prior to discharging to an Uisce Éireann collection network.
- h) In relation to the management of surface water; the potential impact of surface water discharges to combined sewer networks and potential measures to minimise and or / stop surface waters from combined sewers.
- i) Any physical impact on Uisce Éireann assets – reservoir, drinking water source, treatment works, pipes, pumping stations, discharges outfalls etc. including any relocation of assets.
- j) When considering a development proposal, the applicant is advised to determine the location of public water services assets, possible connection points from the applicant's site / lands to the public network and any drinking water abstraction catchments to ensure these are included and fully assessed in any pre-planning proposals. Details, where known, can be obtained by emailing an Ordnance Survey map identifying the proposed location of the applicant's intended development to datarequests@water.ie
- k) Other indicators or methodologies for identifying infrastructure located within the applicant's lands are the presence of registered wayleave agreements, visible manholes, vent stacks, valve chambers, marker posts etc. within the proposed site.
- l) Any potential impacts on the assimilative capacity of receiving waters in relation to Uisce Éireann discharge outfalls including changes in dispersion / circulation characterises. Hydrological / hydrogeological pathways between the applicant's site and receiving waters should be identified within the report.
- m) Any potential impact on the contributing catchment of water sources either in terms of water abstraction for the development (*and resultant potential impact on the capacity of the source*) or the potential of the development to influence / present a risk to the quality of the water abstracted by Uisce Éireann for public supply should be identified within the report.
- n) Where a development proposes to connect to an Uisce Éireann network and that network either abstracts water from or discharges wastewater to a "protected"/ sensitive area, consideration as to whether the integrity of the site / conservation

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objectives of the site would be compromised should be identified within the report.

- o) Uisce Éireann does not permit building over of its assets. As an applicant you are required to;
- survey the site to determine the exact location of the assets. Any trial investigations should be carried out with the agreement and in the presence of Uisce Éireann.
 - Provide evidence of separation distances between the existing Uisce Éireann assets and proposed structures, other services, trees, etc. have to be in accordance with the Irish Water Codes of Practice and Standard Details.
- p) Where a diversion of Public Infrastructure may be required subject to layout proposal of the development and separation distances, the applicant is required to submit a Diversions Enquiry to diversions@water.ie
- q) Mitigation measures in relation to any of the above ensuring a zero risk to any Uisce Éireann drinking water sources (Surface and Ground water).

This is not an exhaustive list.

Please note;

- Where connection(s) to the public network is required as part of the development proposal, applicants are advised to complete the Pre-Connection Enquiry process and have received a Confirmation of Feasibility letter from Uisce Éireann ahead of any planning application.
- Uisce Éireann will not accept new surface water discharges to combined sewer networks.

Queries relating to the terms and observations above should be directed to planning@water.ie

PP Ali Robinson

Signed on behalf of Dermot Phelan
Connections and Developer Services

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Shane McDermott
SLR Consulting Ireland,
7 Dundrum Business Park,
Windy Arbour,
Dublin,
D14 N2Y7



Iascaigh Iníre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

RECEIVED: 19/09/2024

24 April 2024

Re: Lagan Materials Limited trading as Breedon Ireland: Proposed Sand & Gravel Extension Development at Mounthall, Camross, Co. Laois

Via Email to: smcdermott@slrconsulting.com

Dear Mr. McDermott,

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) is the statutory authority tasked under section 7(1) of the Inland Fisheries Act 2010 (No. 10 of 2010) with responsibility for the protection, management, and conservation of the inland fisheries resource. In respect of the statutory ecological surveys proposed by SLR Consulting, IFI wish to make the following observations:

IFI requests that the following assessments be provided:

- Baseline ecological assessments of water courses potentially affected by the proposed development, including fish species as well as other biological and physico-chemical surveys
- Maps of all aquatic habitats potentially affected by the project, including all drainage channels (temporary and permanent) potentially impacted by the proposed development
- An assessment of the potential adverse effects of the proposed works on all relevant aquatic receptors, including fish. Assessments should cover area of the proposed development and the potential upstream and downstream impacts
- An assessment of the cumulative effects of the proposed development along with other existing or approved projects
- An assessment of the impact on the conservation objectives of species listed as qualifying interests in the Barrow – Nore SAC, which includes Lamprey species and Atlantic Salmon
- The proposed mitigation measures to prevent erosion from soil disturbance in excavation areas and areas where there is significant movement of plant and machinery

Among the sources which may be used for fish ecological status and data are the Water Framework Directive Fish Ecological Status 2008-2021 fish survey results <http://wfdfish.ie/> and <https://opendata-figis.hub.arcgis.com/datasets/IFIGis::water-framework-directive-fish-ecological-status-2008-2021>. This layer shows WFD fish ecological status for river site locations 2008-2021. Fish species present at each site is also indicated. SLR may also complete a data request form specific fish survey data from our research department is required.



Iascaigh Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

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The proposed works are located in the catchment area of the Killeen (Delour)_010 surface water body, which connects directly to the Barrow – Nore SAC. The current WFD ecological status of this waterbody is *Good*. The proposed surveys / reports must demonstrate how the proposed works would cause no deterioration to the above surface water body and is consistent with it retaining *Good* ecological status in accordance with Article 5 of the Surface Water Regulations (SI 272 of 2009). At all times the precautionary principle should be applied throughout the development.

During the construction and operational phases, the applicant should adhere to the recommendations and guidelines outlined in IFI's *Guidelines on Protection of Fisheries during Construction Works in and adjacent to Waters* 2016.

There should be no interference with the bed, gradient, profile or alignment of watercourses without prior notification and the agreement of Inland Fisheries Ireland. Proposed instream works must be accompanied by a site-specific method statement provided to IFI. The applicant should provide a commitment to provide these at least ten working days before works commence. Written approval from IFI should be obtained before works proceed. Instream works may take place only during the period 1 July to 30 September.

Where existing water crossings must undergo alteration, IFI request that crossings are upgraded in the interests of habitat improvement and biodiversity enhancement. Crossings must satisfy IFI's Fisheries Construction Guidelines referred to above. IFI also recommends that the applicant refer to the OPW's *Design Guidance For Fish Passage On Small Barriers* (2021). IFI should be consulted at the design stage for any new crossings or alterations to existing crossings.

The proposed assessments must also include a review of the applicant's discharge licence where relevant. This should include a review of the assimilative capacity and mass balances of the receiving waters at the point of discharge relative to the proposed discharge volumes and ELVs.

Records should be kept of biological and chemical monitoring of undertaken for the development. These records should be made available upon request to any authorised person as defined under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts.

Future correspondence or any requests for clarification can be sent via email to cormac.goulding@fisheriesireland.ie or by post to the address below.

Yours sincerely,

Cormac Goulding
Fisheries Environmental Officer
South-Eastern River Basin District

Shane McDermott

From: Cormac Goulding <Cormac.Goulding@fisheriesireland.ie>
Sent: 09 May 2024 12:27
To: Shane McDermott
Cc: Lynn Hassett
Subject: RE: Breedon Ireland / Pre-Planning Consultation / Sand & Gravel Pit Extension - Mounthall, Co. Laois

Hi Shane,

I've provided my responses below. Any queries let me know. If you want to call, my number is 087 7808340.

Regards,

Cormac

Cormac Goulding
Fisheries Environmental Officer

✉ Cormac.Goulding@fisheriesireland.ie • ☎ +353 (0)52 6180 055 • 🌐 www.fisheriesireland.ie • 🏠 E91 RD25



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Our confidential phone number is 0818 34 74 24, which is open 24 hours a day / 7 days a week.

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From: Shane McDermott <smcdermott@slrconsulting.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2024 12:23 PM
To: Cormac Goulding <Cormac.Goulding@fisheriesireland.ie>
Cc: Lynn Hassett <lhassett@slrconsulting.com>
Subject: RE: Breedon Ireland / Pre-Planning Consultation / Sand & Gravel Pit Extension - Mounthall, Co. Laois

Hi Cormac,

Thank you again for the feedback and further to your planning consultation response dated the 24th April 2024, could we make the following comments in relation to the proposed development and the requirement for surveys.

The proposed Sand and Gravel Pit development at Mounthall, Co. Laois, is predominantly a greenfield development and will comprise the following elements:

- i. The pit will be worked dry above the groundwater table; **Noted**
- ii. There will be no discharge of any water from the site; **Noted**

- iii. Process water for aggregate washing will be treated in a closed system and will be recirculated and reused; **Noted**
- iv. There will be no alteration of any drain or watercourse as part of the proposed development and no crossing of a drain or watercourse which would involve a culvert structure; **Noted**
- v. All fuels will be stored on site in appropriate containers, either bunded or under cover on drip trays; **Noted**
- vi. An emergency spill kit will be maintained on site; **Noted**
- vii. An environmental management system (EMS) will be implemented at the site and there will also be an environmental emergency plan (EMP) implemented at the site. Both of these are designed to protect groundwater and surface water quality; **Noted – details should be provided in applicant's documents**
- viii. Monitoring at the site will include groundwater quality, surface water quality in nearby watercourses as well as an annual Biological Q Survey; **EIAR should include locations, frequency and timing of proposed monitoring, including the parameters to be tested. The applicant should provide a commitment to provide the results of this monitoring with persons authorised the Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts, 1977 and 1990 (as amended)**
- ix. Soil will be managed on site in line with best construction practice (IFI's 2016 guidelines) to prevent any material going to any drains or watercourses. **Noted – details should be provided in applicant's documents.**

All these mitigation measures are designed to protect groundwater and surface water quality, and by extension any water dependent ecological receptors downstream.

Below is a list of the IFI consultation response items (24/04/2024) and our response.

1. Baseline ecological assessments of water courses potentially affected by the proposed development, including fish species as well as other biological and physico-chemical surveys.
 - The site will be worked dry above the groundwater table and there will be no discharge of water from the site.
 - We propose to undertake baseline Biological Q survey and surface water quality monitoring (physico-chemical surveys) for adjacent watercourses only.

Baseline surveys should include the WFD fish data accessible at the links provided in the IFI submission dated 24 April. Alternatively a request can be submitted to IFI for relevant data as indicated. Given that there is no discharge proposed from the site additional fish surveys are not required, i.e. desktop survey will suffice.

2. Maps of all aquatic habitats potentially affected by the project, including all drainage channels (temporary and permanent) potentially impacted by the proposed development;
 - The site will be worked dry above the groundwater table and there will be no discharge of water from the site, therefore there are no aquatic habitats potentially affected by the site..
 - We propose to undertake a survey of local drainage channels and surface water courses around the site.

As indicated above, the EIAR should include locations, frequency and timing of proposed monitoring, including the parameters to be tested.

3. An assessment of the potential adverse effects of the proposed works on all relevant aquatic receptors, including fish. Assessments should cover area of the proposed development and the potential upstream and downstream impacts

- The site will be worked dry above the groundwater table and there will be no discharge of water from the site.
 - The EclA and NIS will include an assessment of the proposed development based on the baseline Biological Q survey and surface water quality monitoring (physico-chemical surveys) for adjacent watercourses only, with the above mitigation measures in place at the site. **Noted**
4. An assessment of the cumulative effects of the proposed development along with other existing or approved projects
 - The EclA and NIS will include a cumulative assessment of impacts. **Noted**
 5. An assessment of the impact on the conservation objectives of species listed as qualifying interests in the Barrow – Nore SAC, which includes Lamprey species and Atlantic Salmon.
 - The EclA and NIS will include a cumulative assessment of impacts.
 6. The proposed mitigation measures to prevent erosion from soil disturbance in excavation areas and areas where there is significant movement of plant and machinery.
 - The proposed development will be operated in line with industry best practice. Soil will be managed on site in line with best construction practice (IFI's 2016 guidelines) to prevent any material going to any drains or watercourses. **Noted – details should be provided in applicant's documents.**

A WFD Assessment will be undertaken, based on the above proposed surveys, to demonstrate that with the mitigation measures the proposed development will not result in a deterioration in surface water, groundwater and hydromorphology. **Noted**

The proposed development will not change or alter any watercourses. There are no existing water crossings at the site. There will be no discharge of water from the site and therefore the proposed development does not require a Section 4 Discharge Licence from Laois Co. Council.

We would be very grateful if you can please confirm that the above level of surveys would be satisfactory? **Yes, subject to my comments above.**

Thank you for your time.

Kind regards
Shane

Shane McDermott

Technical Director - Environmental & Social Impact Assessment

O +353 1 296 4667

E smcdermott@slrconsulting.com

SLR Consulting Ireland

7 Dundrum Business Park, Windy Arbour, Dublin, Ireland D14 N2Y7

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From: Cormac Goulding <Cormac.Goulding@fisheriesireland.ie>

Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 2:30 PM

To: Shane McDermott <smcdermott@slrconsulting.com>

Subject: FW: Breedon Ireland / Pre-Planning Consultation / Sand & Gravel Pit Extension - Mounthall, Co. Laois

You don't often get email from cormac.goulding@fisheriesireland.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Shane,

Please find attached a response from Inland Fisheries Ireland to your request below.

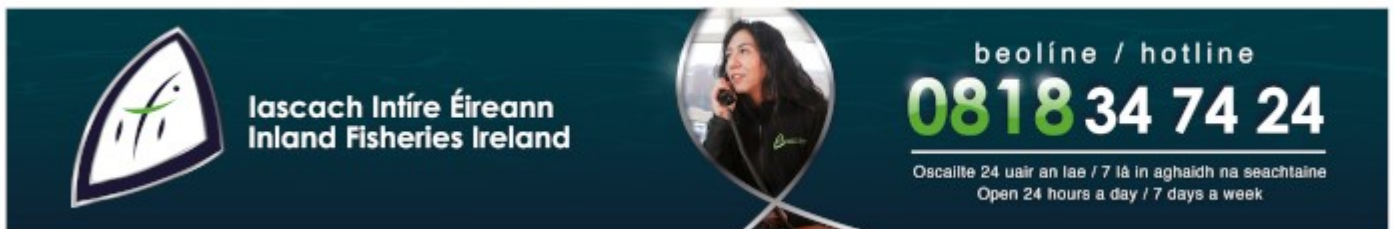
Regards,

Cormac

Cormac Goulding

Fisheries Environmental Officer

✉ Cormac.Goulding@fisheriesireland.ie • ☎ +353 (0)52 6180 055 • 🌐 www.fisheriesireland.ie • 🏠 E91 RD25



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To read our Privacy Policy and Email Disclaimer Notice, Please visit www.fisheriesireland.ie

From: Susan Sayers <Susan.Sayers@fisheriesireland.ie>

Sent: Friday, April 5, 2024 9:16 AM

To: Cormac Goulding <Cormac.Goulding@fisheriesireland.ie>

Subject: Fw: Breedon Ireland / Pre-Planning Consultation / Sand & Gravel Pit Extension - Mounthall, Co. Laois

Hi Cormac,

Please see below and attached.

Thanks,

Susan

Susan Sayers

Administrative Assistant



At Inland Fisheries Ireland, we work flexibly. I'm sending this message now because it suits my work hours. I don't expect that you will read this message outside of usual hours. If you have any concerns or feel overwhelmed or need further support please consider visiting our Empowerment Spectrum Life which can offer you or your family support on any personal or work related issues.

To read our Privacy Policy and Email Disclaimer Notice, Please visit www.fisheriesireland.ie

From: info <info@fisheriesireland.ie>

Sent: 04 April 2024 16:50

To: Limerick Info <Limerick@fisheriesireland.ie>; Clonmel Info <Clonmel@fisheriesireland.ie>

Subject: FW: Breedon Ireland / Pre-Planning Consultation / Sand & Gravel Pit Extension - Mounthall, Co. Laois

Afternoon ladies,

Please see below email and attachment received, not sure which RBD this townland belongs to?

Thanks in advance,

Kate

From: Shane McDermott <smcdermott@slrconsulting.com>

Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2024 1:45 PM

To: info <info@fisheriesireland.ie>

Subject: Breedon Ireland / Pre-Planning Consultation / Sand & Gravel Pit Extension - Mounthall, Co. Laois

Inland Fisheries

3044 Lake Drive

Citywest Business Campus

Dublin

D24 Y265

Dear Consultee,

Please find enclosed a pre-planning consultation document on behalf of Lagan Materials Limited (trading as Breedon Ireland) who intend to apply for planning permission for an extension to an existing sand and gravel pit at Mounthall & Cummer townlands, Camross, Co. Laois.

Should you wish to provide any feedback, could you please do so before **10 May 2024** by return email or by post to:

Shane McDermott
SLR Consulting Ireland
7 Dundrum Business Park
Windy Arbour
Dublin
D14 N2Y7

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Thank you for your time, and if you require any further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Shane McDermott
Technical Director - Environmental & Social Impact Assessment

☎ +353 1 296 4667
✉ smcdermott@slrconsulting.com

SLR Consulting Ireland
7 Dundrum Business Park, Windy Arbour, Dublin, Ireland D14 N2Y7



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RECEIVED: 19/09/2024



National Environmental Health Service
St. Fintan's Health Campus
Dublin Road,
Portlaoise,
Co. Laois

RECEIVED: 19/09/2024

Shane McDermott
SLR Consulting Ireland
7 Dundrum Business Park
Windy Arbour
Dublin
D14 N2Y7

7 May 2024

Applicant: Lagan Materials Limited trading as Breedon Ireland

Proposal: Proposed Sand and Gravel Extension Development at Mounthall, Camross, Co Laois

Ref: 501.065036.00001

Dear Sir/Madam,

The HSE Environmental Health Consultation report regarding the above application is attached below. The following HSE departments were made aware of the consultation request for the proposed development on 9 April 2024.

- HSE Estates – Helen Maher/Stephen Murphy
- Emergency Planning – Brendan Lawlor
- Director of National Health Protection – Eamonn O'Moore/Ina Kelly
- CHO – Carole Broadbank

All commitments to future actions including mitigation and further testing have been taken as read and all data results have been accepted as accurate. No additional investigations or measurements were undertaken. This report only refers to those sections of the documents which are relevant to the HSE.

If you have any queries regarding the report, please contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

Pp John Ryan

Principal Environmental Health Officer



RECEIVED: 19/09/2024

7 May 2024

EHIS Reference No. 3855

HSE EIA SCOPING

Environmental Health Service Consultation Report

Report to: Shane McDermott, SLR Consulting Ireland, 7 Dundrum Business Park, Windy Arbour, Dublin
Type of consultation: EIA Scoping
Applicant: Lagan Materials Limited trading as Breedon Ireland
Proposal: Proposed Sand and Gravel Extension Development at Mounthall, Camross, Co Laois

Introduction

This report only comments on Environmental Health impacts of the proposed development. The Environmental Health Service (EHS) has made observations and submissions on the following specific environmental health areas.

Description of proposed development

The applicant intends to apply for planning permission to extend the existing sand and gravel pit which will consist of the phased extraction of sand and gravel (dry working) over an area of c. 8 hectares. The proposed development will include processing of extracted material including washing (closed water recycling system with associated silt storage lagoons, screening and all ancillary works and structures. Site facilities will be provide consisting of mobile aggregate processing plant, weighbridge office/toilet, welfare facility including canteen and cloakroom, serviced portaloo toilet, refuelling pad with hydrocarbon interceptor, weighbridge, wheelwash, perimeter berms, vegetation planting and fencing. The applicant advises that the site will be restored to agricultural lands. The proposed extraction period is for 10 years and 2 additional years to complete the site restoration works.

General Scoping Introduction

The following documents should be taken into consideration when preparing the Environmental Impact Assessment Report:

- Guidelines on the information to be contained in EIAR, 2022, www.epa.ie.
- Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment https://www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/publications/files/guidelines_for_planning_authorities_and_an_bord_pleanála_on_carrying_out_eia_-_august_2018.pdf

EU publication: Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects - Guidance on the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, EU, 2017
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/pdf/EIA_guidance_EIA_report_final.pdf

Generally the Environmental Impact Assessment should examine all likely significant impacts and provide the following information for each:

- a) Description of the receiving environment
- b) The nature and scale of the impact
- c) An assessment of the significance of the impact
- d) Proposed mitigation measures
- e) Residual impacts



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12/01/2024

Directive 2014/52/EU has an enhanced requirement to assess likely significant impacts on Population and Human Health. The impacts on human health must be fully assessed in the EIAR, it is recommended that the wider determinants of health and wellbeing are considered. Guidance on wider determinants of health can be found at www.publichealth.ie

In addition to any likely significant negative impacts from the proposed development, any positive likely significant impacts should also be assessed.

The Environmental Health Service (EHS) recommends that the following matters are included and assessed in the EIAR:

- Water (Hydrology and Hydrogeology)
- Land, Soils and Geology
- Air Quality
- Climate Change and Opportunity for Health Gain
- Noise and Vibration
- Waste Management

The EIAR should identify the nearest sensitive receptors and consider the impact of the existing and proposed development on them. Sensitive receptors include but are not limited to:

- Occupied houses
- Farms
- Schools
- Childcare facilities
- Medical facilities and nursing homes
- Sports and community facilities and
- Food premises.

In considering the measures to be employed by the developer to minimise the potential impacts of the proposed development to human health, reference was made by the EHS to the EPA's 'Environmental Management Guidelines on the Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry (Non-Scheduled Minerals) 2006'

It is recommended that an Environmental Management System (EMS) is put in place, with training of all site staff. There should be on-going review of the effectiveness of the EMS. The EMS should be devised in accordance with international standards such as ISO 14001 2015 and EU EMAS (1993).

Public Consultation

Public consultation, where the local community is fully informed of the proposed development must be undertaken. Members of the public should be given sufficient opportunities to express their views on the proposed development. The applicant should consider the appointment of a community liaison officer.

Early and meaningful public consultation with the local community should be carried out to ensure all potentially significant impacts have been adequately addressed. All parties affected by the proposed development must be fully informed of what the proposal entails especially with regard to potential impacts on surrounding areas. Sensitive receptors and other stake-holders should be identified to ensure all necessary and appropriate mitigation measures are put in place to avoid any complaints about the proposed Quarry development in the future.

Site operation times should be considered as part of the consultation process with local residents.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) should clearly demonstrate the link between public consultations and how those consultations have influenced the decision-making process in the EIAR.

Decommissioning/site restoration

The decommissioning of the site must be considered in the EIAR. A site restoration plan should be included in the EIAR with a timeframe for restoration works. Potential for future health gain from the restoration of the proposed development should be included in the EIAR.



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On decommissioning, the Environmental Health Service recommends that consideration be given to infilling the entire quarry void for use as agricultural land or as a public amenity. As a minimum, regard should be had to the guidance issued by the Health and Safety Authority's on 'Quarrying – Trespass, Boundary Fencing and Prevention of Drowning'. To discourage trespassers a barrier of sufficient height and strength should be installed around the perimeter of the proposed water-filled void. Barriers should be inspected regularly and maintained in good condition.

Noise and Vibration

The potential impacts for noise and vibration from the proposed development on all noise sensitive locations must be clearly identified in the EIAR. The EIAR must also consider the appropriateness and effectiveness of all proposed mitigation measures to minimise noise and vibration. A baseline noise monitoring survey should be undertaken to establish the existing background noise levels. Noise from any existing industry/quarries or any potential sources in the area should not be included as part of the background levels.

In addition, an assessment of the predicted noise impacts during the construction phase and the operational phase of the proposed Quarry development must be undertaken which details the change in the noise environment resulting from the proposed development.

Details of the location and frequency of noise monitoring for the proposed development should be included in the EIAR to be submitted as part of the Planning Application.

Air Quality

Due to the nature of the proposed works, generation of airborne dust has the potential to have significant impacts on sensitive receptors.

Dust control and mitigation measures should be included in the EIAR and measures should include:

- Sweeping of hard road surfaces
- Provision of a water bowser on site, regular spraying of haul roads
- Wheel washing facilities at site exit
- Restrict speed on site
- Provide covers to all delivery trucks to minimise dust generation
- Inspect and clean public roads in the vicinity if necessary
- Material stockpiling provided with adequate protection from the wind
- Dust monitoring at the site boundary
- Truck inspection and maintenance plan
- Details of a road maintenance agreement between the operator and the Local Roads Authority to clarify responsibility for the upkeep and repair of access roads during the construction phase of the project.

Surface and Ground Water Quality

The proposed development has the potential to have a significant impact on the quality of both surface and ground water.

All drinking water sources, both surface and ground water, must be identified.

Public and Group Water Scheme sources and supplies should be identified in addition to any private wells supplying potable water to houses in the vicinity of the proposed development. Measures to ensure that all sources and supplies are protected should be described.

The Environmental Health Service recommends that a walk-over survey of the site is undertaken in addition to a desktop analysis of Geological Survey of Ireland data in order to identify the location of private wells used for drinking water purposes. Any potential significant impacts to drinking water sources should be assessed. Details of bedrock, overburden, vulnerability, groundwater flows, aquifers and catchment areas should be considered when assessing potential impacts and any proposed mitigation measures.



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Ancillary Facilities

The EIAR should include details of the location of the site office, construction compound, fuel storage depot, wheel washing, sanitary accommodation and canteen. Proposals for the sanitary disposal of wastewater and the provision of a potable water supply to the site canteen should be included.

Cumulative Impacts

All existing or proposed Quarries/industry or developments/housing in the vicinity should be clearly identified in the EIAR. The impact on sensitive receptors of the proposed development combined with any other developments in the vicinity should be considered. The EIAR should include a detailed assessment of any likely significant cumulative impacts of the proposed Quarry application.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Carmel Lynch', is positioned above the printed name.

Carmel Lynch
Environmental Health Officer
Environment and Climate Change Network Support Unit