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## APPENDIX 2-1

*SCOPING RESPONSES*

**Eoin O'Sullivan**

---

**From:** Phoebe Duvall <planning@antaisce.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 4 April 2023 14:53  
**To:** Sanghamitra Dutta  
**Subject:** Thank you for your query Re: Scoping Request: 211137 Ballyquin Quarry Extension, Co. Clare

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Thank you for your email. Please note that we receive a large volume of correspondence and resources are very limited. As such, we are unfortunately unable to respond to every query, and we ask that you review these [frequently asked questions](#). **If your message is a statutory referral to us per our role as a prescribed body, it will be processed as normal.**

Queries from An Taisce members are prioritised. If you are a member, please reply to the original message with your member number (if you did not include it already). If you wish to become a member, please visit [the membership page on our website](#).

Thank you very much.

--

Phoebe Duvall

*Planning and Environmental Policy Officer  
An Taisce - The National Trust for Ireland  
The Tailors' Hall, Back Lane, Dublin 8, Ireland  
Phone: 01 454 1786  
[www.antaisce.org](http://www.antaisce.org)*

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An Taisce is a membership-based charity  
Join at [www.antaisce.org/membership](http://www.antaisce.org/membership)

*Please note that I work Monday through Thursday.*

--

An Taisce - The National Trust for Ireland | [www.antaisce.org](http://www.antaisce.org)  
The Tailors' Hall, Back Lane, Dublin 8, Ireland  
Company Reg. No. 12469 | Charity Ref. No. CHY4741 | Charity Regulator No. 20006358  
An Taisce is a membership-based charity  
Join at [www.antaisce.org/membership](http://www.antaisce.org/membership)

## Eoin O'Sullivan

---

**From:** Tina Aughney <tinaa@batconservationireland.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday 6 September 2023 07:51  
**To:** Feargal Lennon  
**Subject:** RE: Scoping Request: 211137 Ballyquin Quarry Extension, Co. Clare

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Hi Fergal,  
BCIreland is a small wildlife charity that does not have the administrative capacity to comment on planning applications or proposed projects.  
Please ensure that all bat survey work is undertaken according to best practice guidelines.  
Regards,  
BCIreland

---

**From:** Feargal Lennon <flennon@mkoireland.ie>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 5, 2023 12:19 PM  
**To:** Tina Aughney <tinaa@batconservationireland.org>  
**Cc:** Eoin O'Sullivan <eosullivan@mkoireland.ie>  
**Subject:** RE: Scoping Request: 211137 Ballyquin Quarry Extension, Co. Clare

Dear Dr Aughney,

I am following up on the initial Scoping Request issued Tuesday, April 4, 2023, regarding Ballyquin Quarry Extension, Co. Clare.

We would welcome any comments in relation to the proposed project. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to come back to me. Thank you for your time and attention.

Kind regards,  
Feargal.

**Feargal Lennon**  
Graduate Environmental Scientist

**MKO**

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin  
[mkoireland.ie](http://mkoireland.ie) | +353 (0)91 735 611



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**From:** Sanghamitra Dutta  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 4, 2023 3:15 PM  
**To:** [tinaa@batconservationireland.org](mailto:tinaa@batconservationireland.org)  
**Cc:** Eoin O'Sullivan <[eosullivan@mkoireland.ie](mailto:eosullivan@mkoireland.ie)>  
**Subject:** Scoping Request: 211137 Ballyquin Quarry Extension, Co. Clare

Dear Dr. Aughney,

Please find attached to this email a Scoping Document for an Environmental Impact Assessment MKO are undertaking for a proposed quarry extension at Roadstone Ballyquin Quarry, located at Ballyquin, Co. Clare. The proposed development is located approximately 8km south-west of the town of Killaloe and 1.5km to the northwest of the village of Bridgetown.

The proposed development being applied for under this planning application includes for the extraction, processing, and washing of sand and gravel from an area measuring approximately 17.5 hectares. The proposed development will also include for the infilling and restoration of the existing and future quarry voids over an area of c.21 hectares.

As part of the scoping exercise for the proposed development, we would welcome any comments in relation to the proposed project.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to come back to me. Thank you for your time and attention,

Kind Regards,  
Sanghamitra.

**Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta**  
Environmental Scientist

**MKO**

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

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## Eoin O'Sullivan

---

**From:** Housing Manager DAU <Manager.DAU@npws.gov.ie>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 16 May 2023 16:15  
**To:** Sanghamitra Dutta  
**Cc:** Eoin O'Sullivan  
**Subject:** RE: Scoping Request: 211137 Ballyquin Quarry Extension, Co. Clare  
**Attachments:** G Pre 83 2023.pdf

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A chara

Please find attached Heritage related observations/recommendations for the above mentioned Pre-planning application.

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

*Regards  
Malcolm*

**Malcolm Hillis**  
*Executive Officer*

—  
**Aonad na nIarratas ar Fhorbairt**  
*Development Applications Unit*  
**An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht**  
*Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage*

**Oifigí an Rialtais**  
*Government Offices*  
**Bóthar an Bhaile Nua, Loch Garman, Contae Loch Garman, Y35 AP90**  
*Newtown Road, Wexford, County Wexford, Y35 AP90*

—  
[www.tithiocht.gov.ie](http://www.tithiocht.gov.ie)  
[www.housing.gov.ie](http://www.housing.gov.ie)



**An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht**  
*Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage*

---

**From:** Sanghamitra Dutta <sdutta@mkoireland.ie>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 4 April 2023 16:01

**To:** Housing Manager DAU <Manager.DAU@npws.gov.ie>  
**Cc:** Eoin O'Sullivan <eosullivan@mkoireland.ie>  
**Subject:** Scoping Request: 211137 Ballyquin Quarry Extension, Co. Clare

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached to this email a Scoping Document for an Environmental Impact Assessment MKO are undertaking for a proposed quarry extension at Roadstone Ballyquin Quarry, located at Ballyquin, Co. Clare. The proposed development is located approximately 8km south-west of the town of Killaloe and 1.5km to the northwest of the village of Bridgetown.

The proposed development being applied for under this planning application includes for the extraction, processing, and washing of sand and gravel from an area measuring approximately 17.5 hectares. The proposed development will also include for the infilling and restoration of the existing and future quarry voids over an area of c.21 hectares.

As part of the scoping exercise for the proposed development, we would welcome any comments in relation to the proposed project.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to come back to me. Thank you for your time and attention,

Kind Regards,  
Sanghamitra.

**Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta**  
Environmental Scientist

**MKO**

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin  
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Your Ref: **211137 Roadstone**  
Our Ref: **G-Pre 83/2023**

16 May 2023

MKO  
Tuam Road  
Galway  
H91 VW84

Via email: Sanghamitra Dutta <sdutta@mkoireland.ie>>

**Proposed Pre Planning Development: proposed quarry extension at Roadstone Ballyquin Quarry**

A chara

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

**Archaeology**

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has reviewed the 'Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Document' for the proposed Ballyquin Quarry Extension, Co. Clare.

The information provided was not sufficiently detailed to allow for a full assessment of the archaeological implications of this proposal, however this Department notes that an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) is scoped into the proposed EIA process as part of the overall Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment of the proposed development. The supplied methodology indicates that this will incorporate a detailed desktop study and field inspection and will be carried out by a suitably qualified Consultant Archaeologist (Tobar Archaeological Services). In this regard, the Department awaits the results of the Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (CHIA) and full EIAR for the scheme before commenting further.

Further to the above, and by way of general archaeological advice, please note that, whilst the proposed development site (PDS) may or may not contain within it known or subsurface Recorded Monuments and/or Archaeological sites that may require assessment as part of the overall CHIA, the PDS itself is located within a wider area of known archaeological settlement and activity (This Department's initial review of the Record of Monuments and Places, [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie) and cartographic sources). All of these Recorded Monuments, both within and outside the PDS, are subject to statutory protection in the Record of Monuments and Places, established under section 12 of the National Monuments Act 1930-



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2014. Therefore the CHIA should include an assessment of the possible effects of the proposal on the wider archaeological landscape. It is of importance that the study area for the CHIA should be of sufficient size and extent to support this.

Notwithstanding the above, the Department awaits the submission of this assessment before commenting further.

### **Nature Conservation**

The Department has been consulted by MKO at pre-planning stage regarding their preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment report (EIAR) for a proposed quarry extension at Ballyquin, Co.Clare. The observations here are not exhaustive, and are made without prejudice to any recommendation that may be made by this Department in the future. Data collected and surveys carried out in connection with this proposed development may raise other issues that have not been considered here.

The proposed Fahybeg windfarm (live planning application 23148) should be considered in the preparation of the EIAR for the proposed Roadstone quarry extension at Ballyquin. The Department wishes to highlight the following in relation to this:

- The windfarm planning application includes a Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plan and states “an area of c. 4.6 Ha of mixed broadleaved woodland will be retained within the quarry (Ballyquin). The woodland will be allowed to mature naturally. There will be an installation of 1 no. each of barn owl and kestrel nest boxes, 1 no. refugia and 1 no. log pile.” Furthermore, restoration of 3.76 hectares of an extant sand and gravel quarry (Ballyquin Quarry) to agricultural grassland is required to comply with condition no. 4 of substitute consent 03.SU.0127.
- Access to the windfarm site will be made through the existing Roadstone quarry (Baallyquin) to the southwest. The existing quarry entrance on the R466 will be utilised for construction purposes. This entrance will be widened as shown on 0100 series planning application drawings to permit large turbine components to enter the Site.
- The existing paved road at the quarry entrance is underlain by fen peat.
- The high impact/Schedule III invasive plant species Himalayan knotweed *Persicaria wallichii* is present at the proposed site, c. 50m north of the proposed access track running through the quarry in the south-west of the site. The medium-impact species sycamore is present in an area of young mixed broadleaved woodland on the boundary of the quarry.



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The proposed quarry site extension is not covered by any nature conservation designations. However, consideration will have to be given to potential indirect or cumulative effects on nearby and more distant nature conservation sites. The focus should be on realistic impacts arising from construction and operation of the quarry over its lifetime including, for example, from impacts on or emissions to surface water, groundwater or air.

The Department notes the scope of surveys outlined in the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Document. In undertaking surveys and assessments, the receiving environment should be defined to include all areas that will be impacted directly or indirectly by all parts of the project at all stages, and including any ancillary and associated works. The likely effects on sites, habitats and species should be assessed in the light of all aspects of project development and operation at the various stages.

Any necessary mitigation measures should be devised and specified in detail at the application stage, and shown in drawings, as relevant. This should include any method statements, environmental operating plans, etc., that may be required at site preparation and construction stages. It should be demonstrated, as part of any application, that mitigation measures can and will be delivered, that they will be effective in addressing and remediating the effects identified, and that any effects that could arise from mitigation measures themselves are taken into account and subjected to assessment. Similarly, full details of environmental monitoring proposals, if necessary, should be provided for review at the application stage, and should not be deferred to be developed and agreed at the post-consent stage.

The presence and potential for invasive non-native plant species at the site, and hence the potential for spread with material leaving the quarry, should be addressed in the EIAR. Any measures necessary to prevent and/or monitor the introduction or spread of such species should be specified as mitigation and implemented where necessary.

Specific reference should be made to the National Biodiversity Action Plan. Any losses of biodiversity habitat associated with this proposed development should be mitigated and compensated for. In addition, Annex 1 habitats which occur outside the Natura 2000 network are also important in terms of biodiversity conservation. The presence of any Annex I habitats outside the network should be given due consideration as part of the consideration of biodiversity matters generally for the proposed development.

You are requested to send further communications to the Development Applications Unit (DAU) at [manager.dau@npws.gov.ie](mailto:manager.dau@npws.gov.ie).

Is mise le meas,

**Malcolm Hillis**



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**Development Applications Unit  
Administration**

## Eoin O'Sullivan

**From:** Transport GCU <GeneralCo-OrdinationUnit@transport.gov.ie>  
**Sent:** Wednesday 4 October 2023 14:31  
**To:** Feargal Lennon  
**Subject:** RE: Scoping Request: 211137 Ballyquin Quarry Extension, Co. Clare

You don't often get email from generalco-ordinationunit@transport.gov.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good afternoon Fergal,

Thank you for contacting Department of Transport in relation to Scoping Request: 211137 Ballyquin Quarry Extension, Co. Clare.

The Department has no observations to make at this point in time.

It would be appreciated if you could keep us updated with any further developments regarding Ballyquin Quarry Extension.

Kind regards  
Jacqui

**Jacqui Traynor**  
*Central Policy, Coordination and Reform*  
**An Roinn Iompair**  
*Department of Transport*  
Lána Líosain, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 TR60  
Leeson Lane, Dublin, D02 TR60  
T +353 (0)1 604 1177  
[gcu@transport.gov.ie](mailto:gcu@transport.gov.ie) [www.gov.ie/transport](http://www.gov.ie/transport)

---

**From:** Feargal Lennon <flennon@mkoireland.ie>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 5 September 2023 12:20  
**To:** Transport GCU <GeneralCo-OrdinationUnit@transport.gov.ie>  
**Cc:** Eoin O'Sullivan <eosullivan@mkoireland.ie>  
**Subject:** RE: Scoping Request: 211137 Ballyquin Quarry Extension, Co. Clare

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am following up on the initial Scoping Request issued Tuesday, April 4, 2023, regarding Ballyquin Quarry Extension, Co. Clare.

We would welcome any comments in relation to the proposed project. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to come back to me. Thank you for your time and attention.

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Kind regards,  
Feargal.

**Feargal Lennon**  
Graduate Environmental Scientist

**MKO**

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84



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**From:** Sanghamitra Dutta  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 4, 2023 3:29 PM  
**To:** [gcu@transport.gov.ie](mailto:gcu@transport.gov.ie)  
**Cc:** Eoin O'Sullivan <[eosullivan@mkoireland.ie](mailto:eosullivan@mkoireland.ie)>  
**Subject:** Scoping Request: 211137 Ballyquin Quarry Extension, Co. Clare

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached to this email a Scoping Document for an Environmental Impact Assessment MKO are undertaking for a proposed quarry extension at Roadstone Ballyquin Quarry, located at Ballyquin, Co. Clare. The proposed development is located approximately 8km south-west of the town of Killaloe and 1.5km to the northwest of the village of Bridgetown.

The proposed development being applied for under this planning application includes for the extraction, processing, and washing of sand and gravel from an area measuring approximately 17.5 hectares. The proposed development will also include for the infilling and restoration of the existing and future quarry voids over an area of c.21 hectares.

As part of the scoping exercise for the proposed development, we would welcome any comments in relation to the proposed project.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to come back to me. Thank you for your time and attention,

Kind Regards,  
Sanghamitra.

**Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta**  
Environmental Scientist



**MKO**

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## Eoin O'Sullivan

**From:** planning applications <planning.applications@failteireland.ie>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 18 April 2023 14:25  
**To:** Sanghamitra Dutta  
**Cc:** Eoin O'Sullivan  
**Subject:** RE: Scoping Request: 211137 Ballyquin Quarry Extension, Co. Clare  
**Attachments:** Fáilte Ireland EIAR Guidelines.pdf

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**Caution:** This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hello Sanghamitra,

Thank you for your email regarding the Scoping Document for an Environmental Impact Assessment MKO are undertaking for a proposed quarry extension at Roadstone Ballyquin Quarry, located at Ballyquin, Co. Clare.

Please see attached a copy of Fáilte Ireland's Guidelines for the Treatment of Tourism in an EIA, which you may find informative for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed project. The purpose of this report is to provide guidance for those conducting Environmental Impact Assessment and compiling an Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR), or those assessing EIARs, where the project involves tourism or may have an impact upon tourism. These guidelines are non-statutory and act as supplementary advice to the EPA EIAR Guidelines outlined in section 2.

Regards & thanks,

Yvonne

**Yvonne Jackson**

Product Development-Environment & Planning Support | Fáilte Ireland

88-95 Amiens Street, Dublin 1, D01 WR86  
M +353 (0)86 0357590



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**From:** Sanghamitra Dutta <sdutta@mkoireland.ie>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 4 April 2023 15:35  
**To:** planning applications <planning.applications@failteireland.ie>  
**Cc:** Eoin O'Sullivan <eosullivan@mkoireland.ie>  
**Subject:** Scoping Request: 211137 Ballyquin Quarry Extension, Co. Clare

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Dear Sir/Madam,

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As part of the scoping exercise for the proposed development, we would welcome any comments in relation to the proposed project.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to come back to me. Thank you for your time and attention,

Kind Regards,  
Sanghamitra.

**Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta**  
Environmental Scientist

**MKO**

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**Fáilte Ireland**  
National Tourism Development Authority

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## **EIAR Guidelines for the Consideration of Tourism and Tourism Related Projects**



An tÚdarás Náisiúnta Forbartha Turasóireachta  
Áras Fáilte, 88–95 Sráid Amiens  
Baile Átha Cliath 1  
D01 WR86  
Éire

National Tourism Development Authority  
Áras Fáilte, 88 - 95 Amiens Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 WR86  
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Phone 1890 525 525  
or +353 1 884 7700  
Email [info@failteireland.ie](mailto:info@failteireland.ie)  
[www.failteireland.ie](http://www.failteireland.ie)

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## 1. Introduction

Tourism is a growing sector and substantial part of the Irish Economy. It contributes to both urban and rural economies in every part of the country. The impact and interaction of tourism with the environment is complex and the assessment of environmental impacts is of utmost importance to creating a sustainable tourism economy and protecting the natural resources that are so often a tourism attraction.

The purpose of this report is to provide guidance for those conducting Environmental Impact Assessment and compiling an Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR), or those assessing EIARs, where the project involves tourism or may have an impact upon tourism. These guidelines are non-statutory and act as supplementary advice to the EPA EIAR Guidelines outlined in section 2.

This guidance document has been prepared by Cunnane Stratton Reynolds on behalf of Fáilte Ireland to update their EIA guidelines in line with changes in legislative requirements.

## 2. Background to this Document

Tourism is one of the largest and most important sectors of the economy, providing employment for approximately **260,000 people**, an economic contribution of **€8.4 billion**, and exchequer revenue of **€1.78 billion** in 2018, which helps fund other key public services.

In 2018 Ireland welcomed **10.6 million overseas visitors**.

Fáilte Ireland is the National Tourism Development Authority. Fáilte Irelands role is to support the tourism industry and work to sustain Ireland as a high-quality and competitive tourism destination. They provide a range of practical business supports to help tourism businesses better manage and market their products and services.

Fáilte Ireland also work with other state agencies and representative bodies, at local and national levels, to implement and champion positive and practical strategies that will benefit Irish tourism and the Irish economy.

Fáilte Ireland promotes Ireland as a holiday destination through a domestic marketing campaign (DiscoverIreland.ie) and manage a network of nationwide tourist information centres that provide help and advice for visitors to Ireland.

Tourism related projects cover a broad range of plans, programmes and developments, from the Wild Atlantic Way to a single hotel conversion. These guidelines apply to projects involving or impacting upon tourism. A tourism plan, strategy or programme where it is part of the statutory plan making process under the Planning and Development Acts (as amended), may be more appropriately assessed by a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as discussed in the next section.

It should be borne in mind that EIA is required where there is anticipated to be a significant impact on the environment, where tourism projects are of a prescribed type or meet thresholds identified below.

Where Natura 2000 Designated Sites are potentially affected by tourism development Appropriate Assessment must be carried out by the appropriate authority in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive.

### **3. Legislation and Statutory Guidance**

Environmental Impact Assessment is a procedure that ensures that the environmental implications of decisions are taken into account before planning based decisions are made. The assessment results in a report, called an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

#### ***Legislation***

These guidelines are produced under current EIAR legislative requirements, having regard to Directive 2011/92/EU (known as 'Environmental Impact Assessment' – EIA Directive), as amended by Directive EU 2014/52 which came into effect in May of 2017. These requirements were transposed into Irish Law on 1 September 2018 as most of the provisions of the European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 296 of 2018) came into effect. The principle of both Directives is to ensure that plans, programmes and projects likely to have significant effects on the environment are made subject to an environmental assessment, prior to their approval or authorisation.

#### ***Statutory Guidance***

In response to the changes to the EIAR requirements under Directive EU 2014/52, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed Draft guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports in August 2017. At the time of this document the guidelines have not been adopted from draft.

In addition to the EPA statutory guidance, the Department of Housing has produced Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment in August 2018.

The process of EIA is set out in the EPA EIAR Guidelines, which this document should be read in conjunction with and used as supplementary guidance to. The process for ascertaining whether an EIAR is required is known as 'screening' and the process to determine the breadth and scope of an EIAR is known as 'scoping'. Guidance on this can be found in Section 3.2 of the EPA Guidelines.

#### ***Screening***

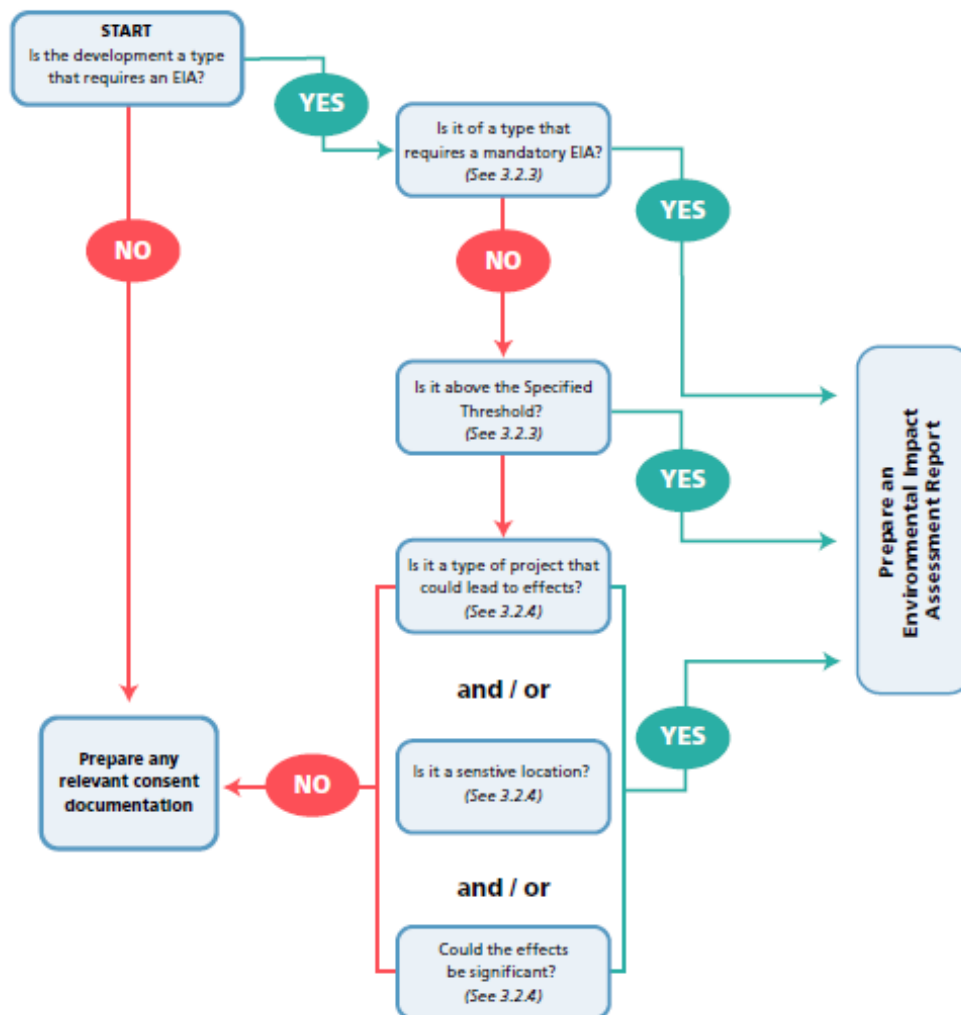
Through EIAR Screening, developments are either considered as requiring an EIAR due to the project type or because they exceed a threshold level. The screening process begins by establishing whether the proposal is a 'project' as understood by the Directive (as amended).

The prescribed development types and thresholds are set out in Annex I and II of the EIA Directive as transposed into Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2010-2018 (as amended). Development which do not exceed these thresholds but may require an EIAR are called sub threshold. Sub-Threshold considerations are outlined in Schedule 7 of European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 296 of 2018) as transposed from Annex III of the Directive. The Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment Reports note that projects at first glance may not appear to come under the Schedule



but on closer examination when the process is further examined, they may do so because of the sensitivity or significance of the receiving environment etc. Sub threshold developments require an EIAR if they are likely to have significant environmental impacts and must undergo assessment for likely significant impacts through an EIAR screening report. The contents of a screening report for subthreshold development are contained in Annex III of the EIA Directive.

Figure 1: EIAR Screening Process



(Taken from Fig 3.2 of the EPA Guidelines)

Tourism locations should be identified as sensitive receptors in screening assessments for particular impacts, depending on scale and sensitivity, as they would in a full EIAR. Section 6 below can act as guidance for Screening Reports as well as for full EIAR.

The screening process for considering where an EIAR is necessary, is summarised below in Figure 1 (excerpted from Figure 3.2 of the EPA Guidelines).

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a more strategic level of environmental assessment that examines plans, policies, objectives and programmes specifically rather than projects. For some tourism developments it may be more appropriate that they be examined through SEA, while individual projects or specific proposals are likely to be more assessed through EIAR. If a project is part of a plan, programme or policy/objective assessed by SEA there will still be a requirement for an EIAR for that development.



## ElAR Scoping

Scoping an ElAR is an opportunity to look at the breadth of issues and ensure that any areas of possible significant impact are assessed. Identifying sensitivities and stakeholders should take account of tourism facilities and consider Fáilte Ireland in scoping requests where necessary.

### 4. Assessing Tourism

There is no legal definition of 'tourism' in Irish legislation. The UNWTO definition of sustainable tourism is *"Tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities"*. This is widely accepted as a key definition of tourism as we move to a more sustainable future.

Tourism assessments are frequently carried out by economic consultants and by specific tourism consultants. It is always advisable, particular for tourism projects, that suitably qualified and experienced personnel are used to determine the impact of tourism related projects or to assess the impact of more general proposals on a tourism asset identified in a particular location. There is a requirement for ElAR under current legislation to contain a statement of competency within all ElAR documents, including screening and scoping reports.

#### ***Projects which involve a tourism element***

Tourism projects are wide ranging and diverse. While there are some projects which cater to tourism and are easily identified as such - Hotels, Museums, etc. there are other projects where tourism is a key service or element, but which may not be immediately obvious - forest trails, community facilities and others. ElAR conducted for developments containing tourist elements should be completed in accordance with the current guidance from the EPA.

Projects which include a tourism element have potential particular environmental effects which differ from a non-tourism development. These impacts can be intermittent, event related, inconsistent, dependent on weather, temporal, temporary or seasonal. This is considered within the prescribed environmental topics for ElAR outlined in Section 7 below.

#### ***Projects which may have an impact upon tourism***

While tourism projects may be diverse, the projects which can impact tourism are considerably more wide ranging, from large infrastructural developments to local energy developments. Disruption to or suppression of a tourist resource or amenity can have very local or more strategic impacts, directly or indirectly- for example energy projects in a rural area can have both a negative and positive impact in different regards. There can be temporary, periodic or even seasonal impacts occurring during construction or operational periods.

According to the Fáilte Ireland Tourism Facts 2018 Report, the most important factors in determining the attractiveness of tourism destinations for visitors to Ireland are;

- Beautiful Scenery and Unspoiled Environment
- Hospitality
- Safety
- Nature, Wildlife and Natural Attractions
- History and Culture
- Pace of Life

These factors used for the promotion of tourism in Ireland are also barometers of sensitivity to change in tourism sensitive or dominant locations where development may have an impact upon the tourism asset. The potential for development to impact these sensitivities, and the environmental criteria under which they can be considered, are identified in section 7 of the guidelines.

## **5. Guiding Principles of EIAR**

As outlined in the EPA Draft EIAR Guidelines, the fundamental principles to be followed when preparing an EIAR, including screening and scoping, are:

- Anticipating, avoiding and reducing significant effects
- Assessing and mitigating effects
- Maintaining objectivity
- Ensuring clarity and quality
- Providing relevant information to decision makers
- Facilitating better consultation.

Environmental assessment should be undertaken in accordance with the European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018.

## **6. Consideration of Competency and Qualifications**

As per Section 2.5 of the EPA Guidelines, EIAR is required to be completed by 'competent experts'.

Contributors to the preparation of environmental impact assessment reports, including screening and scoping assessments, should be qualified and competent. Sufficient expertise, in the relevant field of the project concerned, is required for the purpose of its examination by the competent authorities in order to ensure that the information provided by the developer is complete and of a high level of quality so that a full and proper assessment can be undertaken.

For tourism related projects, or projects likely to affect tourism assets, competent experts in the area of tourism should be utilised in the environmental assessment.

The competency of all involved in the production of an EIAR or any related report (eg. Screening and scoping) is required to be stated at the beginning of the EIAR report with further details as necessary in each following chapter.

Where tourism projects involve for example heritage or cultural components, input from heritage consultants, conservation architects, or historians may be required.

## **7. EIAR Requirements**

The following are the key requirements for an EIAR under the current guidance. This is not a definitive list and should be read in conjunction with regulations.

- project description;
- assessment of alternatives considered;

- baseline assessment;
- impact assessment;
- cumulative impact
- interaction of impacts
- mitigation.

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### ***Project Description***

Project descriptions are required to describe the whole project including site, scale, design and key factors. It is important that the EIAR and design team have a consistent understanding of the development description in full. The key requirements are outlined in section 3.5 of the EPA Guidelines however they identify the following;

- the location of the project
- the physical characteristics of the whole project
- the main characteristics of the operational phase of the project
- an estimate, by type and quantity, of the expected residues and emissions

The location of the project should include identifying key sensitive receptors (including tourism receptors). In the operational phase of the project any tourism based, or potentially tourism related activity, should be identified.

### ***Assessment of Alternatives***

The assessment of alternatives is a requirement of EIAR

Where tourism projects are location dependent the assessment of alternatives should consider alternative methods and technologies, detail the key considerations culminating in the selection of the design, the reasoning for these and the environmental effect of these decisions. This is particularly important for tourism projects which are often location tied. The developer is expected to consider reasonable alternatives. What is considered reasonable may vary from case to case.

### ***Baseline Assessment***

Baseline descriptions are evidence based, current descriptions of environmental characteristics with consideration of likely changes to the baseline environment evidenced in planning histories, unimplemented permissions, and applications pending determination. Baseline assessments should identify any tourism sensitivities in the zone of influence of a development. This zone of influence of a development is highly dependant on its **Context, Character, Significance, and Sensitivity**, as outlined in the Draft Guidelines. These characteristics apply to both the development and the environment.

For example, in a tourism context;

The location of sensitive tourism resources that are likely to be directly affected should be highlighted, and other premises which although located elsewhere, may be the subject of in combination impacts such as alteration of traffic flows or increased urban development.

The character of an area from a tourism perspective should be described and the principal types of tourism in the area. Where relevant, the specific environmental resources or attributes in the existing environment which each group uses or values should be stated and where relevant, indicate the time, duration or seasonality of any of those activities.

The significance of the tourism assets or activities likely to be affected should be highlighted. Reference to any existing formal or published designation or

recognition of such significance should be. Where possible the value of the contribution of such tourism assets and activities to the local economy should be provided.

If there are any significant concerns or opposition to the development known to exist among tourism stakeholders and interest groups, this should be highlighted. Identify, where possible, the particular aspect of the development which is of concern, together with the part of the existing tourism resource which may be threatened or impacted.

In addition, the baseline should include any methodologies employed in the study to obtain information, if particular databases are used to locate sensitive receptors they should be acknowledged. In relation to tourism information, the suggested information sources at the end of this document are a non-exhaustive list which may be of assistance in identifying tourism receptors.

### ***Impact Assessment***

The topics for consideration of impact are prescribed in the EIA Directive and transcribed into Irish law by the European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 296 of 2018). Impact assessment should contain the likely significant effects of a development arising from both construction and operation of a development. Advice on describing the effects is contained within the Draft Guidelines and includes the **quality, significance, extent, probability, type** and **duration** of the effect, with particular descriptors for each. In describing effects upon tourism receptors these descriptors should take account of the particular aspects and sensitivities of tourism, for example a temporary annual effect from a development may have different impacts upon tourism if it falls at peak season rather than off-peak.

Impact assessment should be carried out as per EPA guidelines and the best practice for that prescribed topic. It may be considered appropriate to consider impact on tourism assets under the 'material assets' topic below.

#### **Population and Human Health**

The consideration of tourism projects within the Population and Human Health is extensive, with impacts ranging from rural employment population impacts of seasonal tourism, to the health impact of air pollution from increased traffic in urban areas.

The impact upon tourism can be considered within this section through the sensitivities of Hospitality, Safety and Pace of Life. Changes in population can impact the perception of pace of life or safety in a particular location. Impacts upon these issues in areas which rely heavily on tourism or have a particular sensitive tourism generator should be considered in this section.

#### **Biodiversity**

Particular tourist activities can have a significant impact upon biodiversity. Landscapes which are 'unspoiled' can be attractors of tourism. However, the disturbance to ecology must be managed to minimise impact. Biodiversity is also a tourism asset and should be protected as such from other development and should be provided for in proposals where possible.

#### **Land, Soils and Geology**

A link between tourism and this prescribed environmental factor, beyond the normal development impacts, is rare, however particular activities or facilities which use geological features may have an impact upon soils and geology, such as mountain biking trails, recreational uses of old quarries etc. Indirect impacts such as material use for extensive landscaping and public realm should also be considered.

## Water

Tourism uses can be water intense, depending on development type. Recreational use of a surface water feature, water-based leisure centres etc have different impacts to standard development.

## Air Quality and Climate

Tourism impact upon air quality is dependent on activity proposed and sensitivity of the location.

## Noise and Vibration

A link between tourism and this prescribed environmental factor, beyond the normal development impacts, is rare, however the impact upon tourism of issues of noise and vibration can be significant. Construction adjoining hotels for example should consider the sensitivity of the development and ensure mitigation is in place.

## Material Assets; Traffic and Transport

The different transport patterns associated with tourism activities is a key impact of tourism and should be considered especially for tourism projects. These produce temporal and seasonal changes on the norm and specialist consideration and interpretation should be given. Tourism proposals should, where possible, be well served by public transport and should be accessible by modes other than the car. The impact of traffic on tourism assets can be substantial and can vary in severity according to season, the weather, etc. The impact of construction traffic can be a particular concern in tourism sensitive areas in terms of noise pollution and visual impact. The construction programme of developments should work to avoid peak tourism periods in tourism areas and should consider planned or anticipated tourism events and festivals.

## Cultural Heritage

Cultural heritage can be a key component of tourism projects and the impact of tourism on the maintenance of cultural heritage should be given the utmost consideration, whether positive or negative. As a tourism attraction, cultural heritage should be strongly considered in non-tourism developments and the impact upon tourism considered as a potential impact.

## Archaeology

Archaeology can be of tourism interest and can be an attractive or key component of tourism projects. Archaeology can be a tourism attractor but is generally not kept in situ except in key cases which could also be considered under cultural heritage.

## Material Assets; Waste Management

Tourism is a resource heavy activity and can impact waste streams and waste segregation. Impacts here should be considered strongly and with knowledge of the variation that arises from the particular tourist activity. Waste and Waste disposal issues can also impact the perception of an unspoiled environment, effecting tourism, which should be considered.

## Material Assets

Material assets are utilities and infrastructure. Tourism itself could be considered a material asset as its impact upon the economy and the infrastructure in place to support it is a material consideration in assessing economic impact.

## Landscape

The visual impact of a tourism development, especially in locations which are visually sensitive or renowned for their scenic or landscape beauty, should be considered carefully. A

development intended to utilise or enjoy a particular vista or environment should minimise impact upon that environment.

### ***Major Accident and Natural Disaster***

There is a requirement for tourist developments to describe expected significant effects on the environment of the proposed development's vulnerability to major accidents and/or natural disasters relevant to it. Where appropriate measures should be identified to prevent or mitigate the significant adverse effects of such accidents or disasters, including resulting from climate change, on the environment and detail the preparedness for the proposed response.

### ***Interaction of Effects***

Where two or more environmental impacts combine or interact they should be considered under the prescribed topics. It is best practice to provide a table of interactions within an EIAR or EIAR Screening Report.

### ***Mitigation***

Mitigation should follow the hierarchy of minimisation in descending order of preference- Avoid, Reduce, Remedy

*Avoid* sensitive tourism resources- such as views, access and amenity areas including habitats as well as historical or cultural sites and structures.

*Reduce* the exposure of sensitive resources to excessive environmental impact

*Reduce* the adverse effects to tourism land uses and patterns of activities, especially through interactions arising from significant changes in the intensity of use or contrasts of character or appearance.

*Remedy* any unavoidable significant residual adverse effects on tourism resources or activities.

Mitigation measures must be measurable and achievable within the bounds of the project.

### ***Cumulative Impact***

The cumulative impact is that of the project combined with any known likely project which will interact or compound an environmental impact.

### ***Transboundary Impact***

Transboundary impacts should be included in EIAR. In the case of tourism, especially international travel, the transboundary impacts may not be proximate to the EIAR site.

## **8. Sources of information on Tourism**

### ***Information available online***

#### ***Fáilte Ireland***

Fáilte Ireland offers detailed research analysis and insights into the Irish Tourism Industry. The National Tourism Development Authority has a portfolio of research across a number of areas including facts and figures, briefing papers and reports and visitor feedback. The Fáilte Ireland website has a dedicated research library which can be accessed [here](#)

### *Tourism Ireland*

Tourism Ireland is responsible for marketing the island of Ireland overseas as a holiday and business tourism destination. Tourism Ireland publishes a range of research documents including; visitor facts and figures, seasonal updates and industry insights which are accessible [here](#)

### *Local Authorities*

Local Authorities are an invaluable source of information. They produce tourism strategies and audits of tourism assets within their jurisdiction. Local authorities will also produce landscape and seascape studies. Protected views and prospects as well as the record of protected structures and other designated protected buildings are contained within the Statutory Development Plans.

### *Regional Authorities*

Regional Authorities can also be consulted on high level strategic tourism and potential Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs) should be consulted.

### *Central Statistics Office*

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) is Ireland's national statistical office and their purpose is to impartially collect, analyse and make available statistics about Ireland's people, society and economy. The Tourism and Travel Section of the Central Statistics Office is the major source for tourism statistics in Ireland and is updated regularly.



## Sanghamitra Dutta

---

**From:** GSI Planning <GSIPlanning@GSI.ie>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 10:47 AM  
**To:** Sanghamitra Dutta  
**Cc:** GSI Planning  
**Subject:** RE: EIS 23/88 - Proposed Quarry Extension, Ballyquin, Co Clare  
**Attachments:** 23\_88 Proposed quarry ext Ballyquin Co Clare.pdf; GSI datasets relevant to EIA & SEA\_20210421.pdf

RECEIVED: 29/11/2024

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

**Caution:** This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear Sanghamitra,

With reference to your email received on the 04 April 2023, concerning the Proposed Quarry Extension, Ballyquin, Co Clare, please find attached response and dataset sheet from Geological Survey Ireland.

If you have any further queries or if we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me Trish Smullen, or my colleague Clare Glanville at GSIPlanning@gsi.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Trish Smullen  
Geological Survey Ireland

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**From:** John Butler <John.Butler@gsi.ie>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 4 April 2023 15:43  
**To:** Clare Glanville <Clare.Glanville@decc.gov.ie>; Sophie O'Connor <Sophie.OConnor@decc.gov.ie>; Monica Lee <Monica.Lee@gsi.ie>; Taly Hunter Williams <Taly.HunterWilliams@gsi.ie>; Sean Cullen <Sean.Cullen@gsi.ie>; Charise McKeon <Charise.McKeon@gsi.ie>; Jim Hodgson <jim.hodgson@gsi.ie>; Eoin McGrath <Eoin.McGrath@gsi.ie>; Trish Smullen <Trish.Smullen@gsi.ie>  
**Cc:** GSI Planning <GSIPlanning@GSI.ie>  
**Subject:** EIS 23/88 - Proposed Quarry Extension, Ballyquin, Co Clare

EIS 23/88

Proposed Quarry Extension, Ballyquin, Co Clare. Request for observations by MKO. Letter with EIA Scoping document is enclosed.

Regards,

John

---

**From:** Sanghamitra Dutta <[sdutta@mkoireland.ie](mailto:sdutta@mkoireland.ie)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 4 April 2023 15:36  
**To:** John Butler <[John.Butler@gsi.ie](mailto:John.Butler@gsi.ie)>; GSI Planning <[GSIPlanning@GSI.ie](mailto:GSIPlanning@GSI.ie)>  
**Cc:** Eoin O'Sullivan <[eosullivan@mkoireland.ie](mailto:eosullivan@mkoireland.ie)>  
**Subject:** Scoping Request: 211137 Ballyquin Quarry Extension, Co. Clare





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13 April 2023

MKO  
Tuam Road,  
Galway, H91 VW84.

**Re: Proposed Quarry Extension, Ballyquin, Co Clare**  
**Your Ref: n/a**  
**Our Ref: 23/88**

Dear Sir/Madam,

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 advice 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'.

With reference to your email received on the 04 April 2023, concerning the Proposed Quarry Extension, Ballyquin, Co Clare, 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. Clare was completed in 2005. The full report details can be found [here](#). **Our records show that there are no CGSs in the vicinity of the proposed quarry 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 quarry site is worthy of recognition post extraction and through aftercare/restoration planning.
2. If deemed appropriate in (1) above, leaving a representative section of the quarry 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.

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.



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## **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 aquifers classed as a 'Locally Important Aquifer - Bedrock which is Moderately Productive only in Local Zones' and a 'Locally important gravel aquifer' underlie the proposed quarry extension. The Groundwater Vulnerability map indicates the area covered is classed as '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 within the proposed quarry extension area. 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.

## **Guidelines**

The following guidelines may also be of assistance:



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- 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 contact me Clare Glanville, or my colleague Trish Smullen at [GSIPlanning@gsi.ie](mailto:GSIPlanning@gsi.ie).

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Clare Glanville  
**Senior Geologist**  
**Geological Survey Ireland**

Trish Smullen  
**Geoheritage and Planning Programme**  
**Geological Survey Ireland**

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.	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b68c1e4a9044a5981f950e9b9c5625c">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b68c1e4a9044a5981f950e9b9c5625c</a>
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]	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=848f83c85799436b808652f9c735b1cc">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=848f83c85799436b808652f9c735b1cc</a>
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]	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=848f83c85799436b808652f9c735b1cc">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=848f83c85799436b808652f9c735b1cc</a>
Geohazards	Radon Map	Land & Soils/Air	National		<a href="http://www.epa.ie/radiation/radonmap/">http://www.epa.ie/radiation/radonmap/</a>
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.	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=a30af518e87a4c0b2fde2aaac3c228">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=a30af518e87a4c0b2fde2aaac3c228</a>
Geological Mapping	Bedrock geology:	Land & Soils	National	1:100,000 scale and associated memoirs.	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&amp;scale=0">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&amp;scale=0</a>
Geological Mapping	Bedrock geology:	Land & Soils	Regional	1:50,000 scale	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&amp;scale=0">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&amp;scale=0</a>
Geological Mapping	Quaternary geology: Sediments	Land & Soils	National	1:50,000 scale	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&amp;scale=0">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&amp;scale=0</a>
Geological Mapping	Quaternary geology: Geomorphology	Land & Soils	National	1:50,000 scale	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&amp;scale=0">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&amp;scale=0</a>
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	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=afa76a20fc54877843aca107c5c2b">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=afa76a20fc54877843aca107c5c2b</a>
Geological Mapping	GeoUrban: Spatial geological data for the greater Dublin and Cork areas	Land & Soils	Regional	includes 3D models	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9768f4818b79416093beb221a850ce6&amp;scale=0">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9768f4818b79416093beb221a850ce6&amp;scale=0</a>
Geological Mapping	Geotechnical database	Land & Soils	National	Digitised geotechnical and Site Investigation Reports and boreholes which can be accessed through online downloads	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a2718be1873d47a585a3f0415b4a724c">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a2718be1873d47a585a3f0415b4a724c</a>
Goldmine	Historical data sets including geological memoirs and 6" to 1 mile geological mapping records	Land & Soils/Water	National	available online	<a href="https://secure.dcaa.gov.ie/goldmine/index.html">https://secure.dcaa.gov.ie/goldmine/index.html</a>
Groundwater & Geothermal	Groundwater resources (aquifers)	Water	National	Data limited to 1:100,000 scale; sites should be investigated at local scale	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef</a>
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	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef</a>
Groundwater & Geothermal	Groundwater vulnerability.	Water	National	Data limited to 1:40,000 scale; sites should be investigated at local scale	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef</a>
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.	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef</a>
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	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef</a>
Groundwater & Geothermal	Catchment and WFD management units.	Water	National		<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef</a>
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)	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef</a>
Groundwater & Geothermal	Wells and Springs	Water	National	Not comprehensive, there may be unrecorded wells and springs	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef</a>
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	<a href="https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/groundwater-and-geothermal-unit/activities/understanding-ireland-groundwater/Pages/Groundwater-bodies.aspx">https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/groundwater-and-geothermal-unit/activities/understanding-ireland-groundwater/Pages/Groundwater-bodies.aspx</a>
Groundwater & Geothermal	Geothermal Suitability maps	Land & Soils/Water	National		<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9eae46bee08de41278b9a9916d00b9e">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9eae46bee08de41278b9a9916d00b9e</a>
Marine & Coastal Unit	INFOMAR - Ireland's national marine mapping programme; providing key baseline data for Ireland's	Water	National		<a href="https://secure.dcaa.gov.ie/GSI/INFOMAR_VIEWER/">https://secure.dcaa.gov.ie/GSI/INFOMAR_VIEWER/</a>
Marine & Coastal Unit	CHERISH - Coastal change project (Climate, Heritage and Environments of Reefs, Islands, and Headlands)	Water	Regional		<a href="http://www.cherishproject.eu/en/">http://www.cherishproject.eu/en/</a>
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	<a href="https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/marine-and-coastal-unit/projects/Pages/Coastal-Vulnerability-Index.aspx">https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/marine-and-coastal-unit/projects/Pages/Coastal-Vulnerability-Index.aspx</a>
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	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ee8c4c285a49413aa6f1344416dc9956">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ee8c4c285a49413aa6f1344416dc9956</a>
Minerals	Active quarries	Land & Soils	National		<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ee8c4c285a49413aa6f1344416dc9956">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ee8c4c285a49413aa6f1344416dc9956</a>
Minerals	Historic mines	Land & Soils/Cultural Heritage	National	Inventory and Risk Classification 2009. Environmental Protection Agency, Economic Minerals Division and Geological Survey Ireland (DECC).	<a href="https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/default?teasing=7&amp;nothing=7&amp;lid=EPA:LEMA_Facilities_Extractive_Facilities">https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/default?teasing=7&amp;nothing=7&amp;lid=EPA:LEMA_Facilities_Extractive_Facilities</a>
Tellus	Geochemical data: multi-element data for shallow soil, stream sediment and stream water	Land & Soils	Regional	A national mapping programme	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6304e122b733498b99642707f72754">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6304e122b733498b99642707f72754</a>
Tellus	Airborne geophysical data including radiometrics, electromagnetics and magnetics	Land & Soils	Regional	A national mapping programme	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6304e122b733498b99642707f72754">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6304e122b733498b99642707f72754</a>
Tellus	urban geochemistry mapping (Dublin SURGE project).	Land & Soils	Regional		<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6304e122b733498b99642707f72754">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6304e122b733498b99642707f72754</a>

**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.



An tSeirbhís Sláinte Comhshaoil  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,  
Ionad 6, Páirc Ghnó Bothar Chuinche,  
Inis, Co. An Chlár.

Environmental Health Service,  
Health Service Executive,  
Unit 6, Quin Road Business Park,  
Ennis, Co. Clare.

☎ (065) 6706660

**HSE EIAR Scoping Consultation Report  
Environmental Health Service Submission Report**

**Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023  
**Consultant's reference:** 211137  
**Our reference:** EHIS 3108  
**Type of Consultation:** EIA Scoping  
**Applicant:** Roadstone Ltd  
**Development:** Proposed extension to quarry at Ballyquinn.

The site of the proposed development is located approximately 8 kilometers southwest of the town of Killaloe and 1.5 kilometres to the northwest of the village of Bridgetown. The site comprises land in the townlands of Ballyquin More, Leitrim, Woodpark and Fahy More North.

The following HSE stakeholders have been notified of the scoping of the EIA on the 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023

- **Emergency Planning**
- **Estates**
- **Director of National Health Protection**
- **CHO**

For clarification on the content of this submission, contact should be made, in the first instance, to Gerard Leen, Principal Environmental Health Officer, undersigned.

Gerard Leen  
Principal Environmental Health Officer

## General

The proposed development includes for the extraction, processing and washing of sand and gravel from an area measuring approximately 17.5 hectares. The proposed development also includes for the infilling and restoration of the existing and future quarry voids over an area of approximately 21 hectares. The proposed development also includes for the installation and operation of a concrete batching plant.

The following documents should be considered when preparing the Environmental Impact Assessment Report:

EPA Published Guidance

- Guidelines on the information to be contained in EIAR 2022

[www.epa.ie](http://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\\_pleanala\\_on\\_carrying\\_out\\_eia\\_-\\_august\\_2018.pdf](https://www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/publications/files/guidelines_for_planning_authorities_and_an_bord_pleanala_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](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 existing baseline conditions and 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.

Directive 2014/52/EU has an increased requirement to assess likely significant impacts on Population and Human Health. In the experience of the Environmental Health Service (EHS) impacts on human health are generally inadequately assessed in EIA in Ireland. It is recommended that the wider determinants of health and wellbeing are considered in a proportionate manner when considering the EIA. Guidance on wider determinants of health can be found at [www.publichealth.ie](http://www.publichealth.ie)

It should be noted that any positive likely significant impacts should be identified and assessed, not just the likely significant negative impacts from the proposed development.

Potential health impacts arising from the proposed quarry extension should be considered under the EIAR chapters on Water, Land, Soils and Geology, Air Quality and Climate and Acoustics.

The HSE will consider the final EIAR accompanying the planning application and will in particular make comments to the Planning Authority on the methodology used for assessing the likely significant impacts and the evaluation criteria used in assessing the significance of the impacts.

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.

The Environmental Health Service (EHS) considers the following should be assessed in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

- Any potentially significant emissions to surface water
- Any potentially significant emissions to ground water, in particular to any watercourses or waterbodies used for the supply of drinking water (private wells, Public Water Supplies, Group Water Schemes)
- Potential impacts on groundwater resulting from blasting activities, if undertaken, should also be considered.
- Any potentially significant emissions to air, including noise, vibration and dust



Other areas for consideration in the EIA include

- Public consultation, in addition to consultation with statutory and non-statutory agencies.
- Details of site restoration which should be provided in a Site Decommissioning and Restoration Plan. A timescale for the proposed quarry restoration should be included.
- Potential for future health gain from the restoration of the proposed development.
- Cumulative impacts of developments in the locality including any impacts from the existing quarry and any additional quarries and other developments in the area
- Maintenance of access roads
- Additional traffic including HGVs generated as a result of the proposed development

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

Evidence of compliance with planning conditions during the previous operation of the quarry (such as the results of noise, water quality and dust monitoring) should be included in the EIAR. Information should be provided in the EIAR on the outcome of mitigation measures employed during the operation of the existing quarry.

The results of any monitoring undertaken in 2020 will be viewed in the context of the limited operation of the quarry during Covid 19 restrictions.

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).

When assessing the above potential impacts, the existing environment, the assessment methodology and evaluation criteria should be clearly reported in the EIAR. Existing baseline assessments (noise, dust, ground and surface water quality) should be included. Any mitigation proposed should be identified and the predicted residual impact clearly stated. Assessment should be carried out for both the operation phase and the remedial phase of the proposed development.

### **Emissions to surface water**

Settlement lagoons should be of sufficient size to cope with flooding and periods of heavy rain and should be adequately sealed with an impermeable material to prevent leaching to groundwater.

Hard standing areas used for refuelling vehicles should drain to Class 1 Hydrocarbon Interceptors prior to discharge.

Details of the fuels and chemicals used and stored on site and the method proposed for the bunding of fuel and chemical storage tanks should be outlined in the EIAR. Provision should be made for the inspection and monitoring of bunding structures.

In order to minimise the wastage of water, surface water should be used for activities such as wheel washing and dust suppression.

### **Emissions to Groundwater**

It is recommended that detailed information is gathered on the location of private wells (which are used as a drinking water supply) serving properties within a 2km radius of the quarry. Reference should be made in the EIA to the Geological Survey of Ireland's (GSI) Groundwater Protection Scheme to determine if there are vulnerable groundwater sources or aquifers in the vicinity of the proposed development.

Details of all potential impacts of the proposed quarry extension on groundwater quality, including any potential increase in ammonia levels which may be attributable to blasting, must be included in the EIAR. Mitigation measures aimed at the protection of groundwater and public health should be described. As indicated, water monitoring results associated with the existing quarry should also be included in the EIAR.

## **Emissions to air, including noise, vibration and dust**

The EHS recommends that the developer notes the limit values specified in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 180 of 2011) which apply to ambient air quality in the vicinity of developments such as quarries.

The EIA should establish baseline air quality at the nearest sensitive receptors by means of background air quality monitoring. Air quality monitoring should be undertaken prior to the commencement of operations in the quarry/ extension and throughout the operation of the site using the Bergerhoff Method as specified in the German TA Luft Air Quality Standards (TA Luft 1986).

Total dust deposition should not exceed  $350\text{mg/m}^2/\text{day}$  when averaged over a thirty day period. This is a maximum limit and the EMS should be such that dust depositions seldom reach this level.

The Environmental Management System should include dust minimisation and suppressions measures to be employed to minimise the impact of dust emissions from the quarry.

Methods can include, but are not limited to

- Wheel washing of every vehicle leaving the site
- Covering every load on vehicles leaving the site
- Protect and replace vegetation on site
- Where possible, use enclosed conveyors rather than trucks within the site
- Cover stockpiles to prevent windblown dust
- Spray and wash access and haul roads frequently to suppress dust
- Provide screening berms of adequate height
- Undertake regular plant and vehicle maintenance
- Undertake regular monitoring and inspection of access and haul roads to identify and attend to accidental spillages and structural defects to roads (i.e. potholes). Proposals for an agreement between the local roads authority and the applicant for the on-going maintenance of haul roads during the operation of the proposed development should be outlined.

- considering meteorological conditions (wind speed and wind direction) when siting stockpiles

If it is proposed to undertake blasting on site, the EHS recommends that a Vibration Monitoring Report is included in the EIA which includes blasting methods to be employed during the operation of the proposed quarry extension. Details of any advanced notification system advising occupants in the locality of the date and time of proposed blasting, should be included in the EIA. Blasting should not occur during hours of darkness or at weekends.

Details of any blast and vibration monitoring results for the existing quarry, if any, should be included in the EIAR.

Consideration should be given to adopting noise reduction measures recommended in the EPA's 'Environmental Management Guidelines on the Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry (Non-Scheduled Minerals) 2006' in particular those relating to adequate screening of the site, maintenance of plant and machinery, reducing truck movements within the site and efficient methods of blasting. Details of the proposed noise mitigation measures to be employed should be included in the EIA.

The existing background noise level should be considered when assessing the impact of noise from the proposed development on local receptors and when setting ELVs.

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

## **Public consultation**

The EHS emphasizes the need for early and meaningful public consultation in the development process. Accurate information should be obtained regarding the location of sensitive receptors referred to above. There should be on-going engagement with these receptors during the EIA process and the EIAR should detail proposals for keeping sensitive receptors informed and any measures to be employed during the operational phase for dealing with enquiries and/or complaints from members of the public.

The future use of the restored site should be included in the public consultation process.

A copy of the complaints procedure and a log of complaints received in respect of the existing quarry during the past five years should be included in the EIAR.

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

Potential for future health gain from the restoration of the proposed development should be included in the EIAR.



A Decommissioning and Site Restoration Plan for the proposed extraction facility should be put in place. The potential to provide a facility on site which will provide an opportunity for health gain for the wider community should be considered, for example, walkways, cycle paths, woodland paths, pitch and putt course or an amenity park including a number of these options.


### **Decommissioning**

The EIAR should include an indication of the proposed operational lifetime of the quarry and should include a Decommissioning Plan.

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.

### **Cumulative impacts of developments in the locality**

All extraction and quarrying facilities within a 5km radius of the proposed facility should be identified and assessed when considering the potentially significant cumulative impacts from the proposed development. The EIA should include cumulative traffic, noise, dust and hydrological impacts.

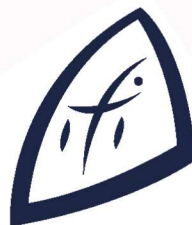


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Dublin



Iascach Intíre Éireann  
Inland Fisheries Ireland

RECEIVED: 29/11/2024

14.04.2023

## **Re. Consultation Request for Proposed Extension of Ballyquin Quarry, Co. Clare**

Dear Eoin,

Thank you for your email dated April 4th regarding a request for consultation on the proposed Ballyquin Quarry extension. Please find below our initial concerns and recommendations in relation to this development.

Our main concerns in relation to this development will be the protection of the aquatic resource and the associated riparian habitat. In particular, IFI are concerned about the protection of streams flowing at the southeast of the site into the Black river and flowing north into the Glenomra/Broadford rivers, both of which are salmonid rivers. Current flow regimes must not be changed due to the windfarm construction.

The accompanying maps are low on detail making it difficult to assess the potential river interactions or the area of the site where the extension is planned. Therefore, the comments below are generic in nature and reflect our general concerns in relation to such developments. Additional concerns may be raised when the final EIAR and planning application is submitted.

### **Silt deposition**

The main potential impact from the development is the discharge of silt laden waters to streams. Suspended solids or undissolved particles such as silt from the site can affect the life of a river in a number of ways. The solids may "smother" the stream bed, preventing water from passing through the gravel in which trout and salmon lay their eggs (thus destroying salmonid spawning grounds) or may change the character of the river bed so that it becomes less favourable habitat for many kinds of aquatic life. The turbid water can cut off or reduce the light necessary for plant growth, thus affecting the productivity of the water. It can also inhibit the feeding of fish and fry, as the food items are no longer visible in turbid waters. The silt can in extreme cases suffocate fish by clogging their gills. In less extreme cases solids can cause chronic sub-lethal effects, which can result in reduced tolerance to further stress. No process water or surface water should be allowed to discharge to receiving waters without treatment. Any discharges from the site must be in accordance with a licence under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977 & 1990. Full details of the design, layout and capacity of the silt treatment system should be included in the EIAR.



Iascach Intíre Éireann  
Inland Fisheries Ireland

### Overburden

The storage of overburden should not be permitted close to the receiving waters as it would pose an unnecessary risk of silt/solids discharges to waters. The risk would increase when the overburden is to be used for site works/restoration. We recommend that a minimum 30m wide undisturbed riparian strip of land along the full length of the site boundary adjoining adjacent watercourses should be preserved at all times.

### Storm Events and Surface Water Throughput.

IFI should be satisfied that settlement lagoons/surface water treatment facilities such as oil interceptors are sufficient to cater for storm events and resulting surface water throughput from the site.

### Fuel/Oil Storage and Refuelling Areas.

IFI is of the view that refuelling should only take place in a designated area and that fuel/oil (including waste oils) storage areas should be adequately bunded and hydrocarbon interceptors placed in locations to contain potential spillages on refuelling/working areas. IFI is of the view that there should be an oil/hydrocarbon interceptor adjacent to the refuelling and parking areas for ease of access and maintenance.

### Hydrological Regime

Any changes to the current discharge regime should be fully quantified including expected changes to volumes and flows of water discharges to ground or surface waters. Details of monitoring undertaken in compliance with the Section 4 discharge licence should be included with test result certificates also included.

Should you require any further information or clarification from IFI, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

*Jane Gilleran*

.....

Jane Gilleran  
Fisheries Environmental Officer  
Inland Fisheries Ireland - Limerick



**Iascach Intíre Éireann**  
**Inland Fisheries Ireland**

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## Eoin O'Sullivan

---

**From:** MKO-Admin  
**Sent:** Friday 14 April 2023 14:08  
**To:** Eoin O'Sullivan  
**Subject:** FW: Attn. EoinO'Sullivan - IFI submission re. Ballyquin Quarry

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Kind regards,  
Olivia

**Olivia Coen**  
Receptionist

---

### MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

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**From:** Jane Gilleran <Jane.Gilleran@fisheriesireland.ie>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2023 1:59 PM  
**To:** MKO-Admin <info@mkoireland.ie>  
**Subject:** RE: Attn. EoinO'Sullivan - IFI submission re. Ballyquin Quarry

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Eoin,

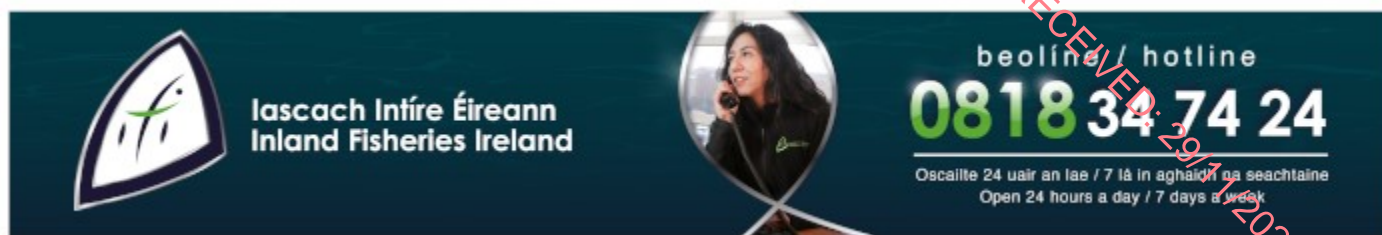
Additionally, we have recorded Salmon and trout as far up the system as Scott's Bridge with Ahnagor bridge deemed unfishable. Trout are highly likely to occur upstream of Scott's bridge.

Regards

Jane

**Jane Gilleran**  
**Fisheries Environmental Officer**

✉ [Jane.Gilleran@fisheriesireland.ie](mailto:Jane.Gilleran@fisheriesireland.ie) • ☎ +353 (0)61 300238 • 🌐 [www.fisheriesireland.ie](http://www.fisheriesireland.ie) • 🏠 V94 NPEO



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**From:** Jane Gilleran <[Jane.Gilleran@fisheriesireland.ie](mailto:Jane.Gilleran@fisheriesireland.ie)>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2023 1:49 PM  
**To:** [info@mkofireland.ie](mailto:info@mkofireland.ie)  
**Subject:** Attn. EoinO'Sullivan - IFI submission re. Ballyquin Quarry

Dear Eoin,

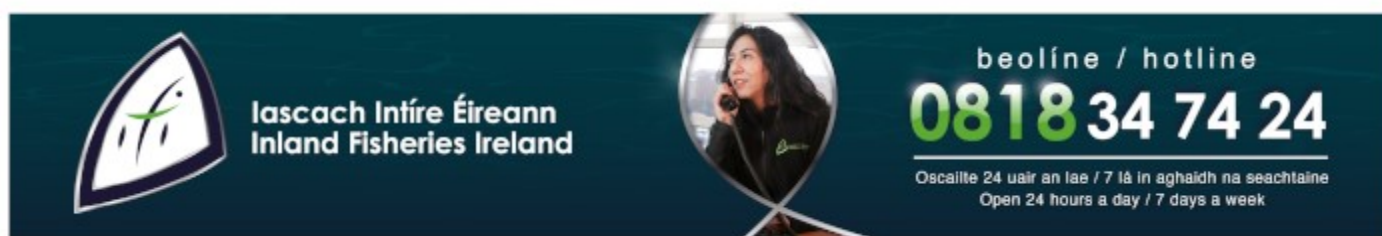
Please find attached the submission of IFI in relation to the above consultation request.

Regards,

Jane

**Jane Gilleran**  
**Fisheries Environmental Officer**

✉ [Jane.Gilleran@fisheriesireland.ie](mailto:Jane.Gilleran@fisheriesireland.ie) • ☎ +353 (0)61 300238 • 🌐 [www.fisheriesireland.ie](http://www.fisheriesireland.ie) • 🏠 V94 NPEO



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## Eoin O'Sullivan

---

**From:** IWT Info <info@iwt.ie>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 4 April 2023 17:00  
**To:** Sanghamitra Dutta  
**Subject:** Re: Scoping Request: 211137 Ballyquin Quarry Extension, Co. Clare

RECEIVED: 29/11/2023

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Dear Sanghamitra,

Thank you for contacting us. We do not have the staff capacity to respond to this consultation at the moment but we will endeavour to respond if possible.

Kind regards,  
Fabiola Vieira

On Tue, 4 Apr 2023 at 15:38, Sanghamitra Dutta <[sdutta@mkoireland.ie](mailto:sdutta@mkoireland.ie)> wrote:

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached to this email a Scoping Document for an Environmental Impact Assessment MKO are undertaking for a proposed quarry extension at Roadstone Ballyquin Quarry, located at Ballyquin, Co. Clare. The proposed development is located approximately 8km south-west of the town of Killaloe and 1.5km to the northwest of the village of Bridgetown.

The proposed development being applied for under this planning application includes for the extraction, processing, and washing of sand and gravel from an area measuring approximately 17.5 hectares. The proposed development will also include for the infilling and restoration of the existing and future quarry voids over an area of c.21 hectares.

As part of the scoping exercise for the proposed development, we would welcome any comments in relation to the proposed project.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to come back to me. Thank you for your time and attention,

RECEIVED: 29/11/2024

Kind Regards,  
Sanghamitra.

**Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta**

Environmental Scientist

**MKO**

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84



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Registered Charity (CRA) Number: 20010966  
Facebook: IrishWildlifeTrust  
Twitter: @irishwildlife  
Phone: 01 445 7259 (landline available Wednesday-Thursday 9:30 to 5pm)



## Eoin O'Sullivan

**From:** Drainage Admin <drainage.admin@opw.ie>  
**Sent:** Thursday 7 September 2023 13:05  
**To:** Feargal Lennon  
**Subject:** FW: Scoping Request: 211137 Ballyquin Quarry Extension, Co. Clare

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Dear Fergal,

This office have no comment to make regarding the initial Scoping Request issued Tuesday, April 4, 2023, regarding Ballyquin Quarry Extension, Co. Clare.

Kind regards  
Karen

---

**From:** Feargal Lennon <[flennon@mkoireland.ie](mailto:flennon@mkoireland.ie)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 5 September 2023 12:20  
**To:** Info Opw <[info@opw.ie](mailto:info@opw.ie)>  
**Cc:** Eoin O'Sullivan <[eosullivan@mkoireland.ie](mailto:eosullivan@mkoireland.ie)>  
**Subject:** RE: Scoping Request: 211137 Ballyquin Quarry Extension, Co. Clare

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am following up on the initial Scoping Request issued Tuesday, April 4, 2023, regarding Ballyquin Quarry Extension, Co. Clare.

We would welcome any comments in relation to the proposed project. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to come back to me. Thank you for your time and attention.

Kind regards,  
Feargal.

**Feargal Lennon**  
Graduate Environmental Scientist

**MKO**

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

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[mkoireland.ie](http://mkoireland.ie) | +353 (0)91 735 611



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**From:** Sanghamitra Dutta  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 4, 2023 3:39 PM  
**To:** [info@opw.ie](mailto:info@opw.ie)  
**Cc:** Eoin O'Sullivan <[eosullivan@mkoireland.ie](mailto:eosullivan@mkoireland.ie)>  
**Subject:** Scoping Request: 211137 Ballyquin Quarry Extension, Co. Clare

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached to this email a Scoping Document for an Environmental Impact Assessment MKO are undertaking for a proposed quarry extension at Roadstone Ballyquin Quarry, located at Ballyquin, Co. Clare. The proposed development is located approximately 8km south-west of the town of Killaloe and 1.5km to the northwest of the village of Bridgetown.

The proposed development being applied for under this planning application includes for the extraction, processing, and washing of sand and gravel from an area measuring approximately 17.5 hectares. The proposed development will also include for the infilling and restoration of the existing and future quarry voids over an area of c.21 hectares.

As part of the scoping exercise for the proposed development, we would welcome any comments in relation to the proposed project.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to come back to me. Thank you for your time and attention,

Kind Regards,  
Sanghamitra.

**Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta**  
Environmental Scientist

**MKO**

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## Eoin O'Sullivan

**From:** INFO <Information@tii.ie>  
**Sent:** Thursday 6 April 2023 10:51  
**To:** Sanghamitra Dutta  
**Cc:** Eoin O'Sullivan  
**Subject:** RE: Scoping Request: 211137 Ballyquin Quarry Extension, Co. Clare

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A Chara,

Thank you for your email of 4 April 2023 regarding the above. The position in relation to your enquiry is as follows.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (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](http://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 Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) scoping issues, the recommendations indicated below provide only general guidance for the preparation of an EIAR, which may affect the National Road Network.

The developer/scheme promoter should have regard, inter alia, to the following;

- Consultations should be had with the relevant Local Authority/National Roads Design Office with regard to locations of existing and future national road schemes;
- 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;
- The developer should assess visual impacts from existing national roads;
- The developer should have regard to any Environmental Impact Statement 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 developer, in preparing the EIAR, should have regard to TII Publications (formerly DMRB and the Manual of Contract Documents for Road Works);
- The developer, in preparing the EIAR, should have regard to TII's Environmental Assessment and Construction Guidelines, including the Guidelines for the Treatment of Air Quality During the Planning and Construction of National Road Schemes (National Roads Authority, 2006);

- The EIAR/EIS should consider the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 (SI 140 of 2006) 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 Guidelines for the Treatment of Noise and Vibration in National Road Schemes (1st Rev., National Roads Authority, 2004));
- 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. While it is noted that the EIAR Scoping Report makes reference to the use of the IHT Guidelines for Traffic Impact Assessment, in relation to national roads, the Authority's Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines (2014) should be referred to. The scheme promoter is also advised to have regard to Section 2.2 of the NRA/TII TTA Guidelines which addresses requirements for sub-threshold TTA. Any improvements required to facilitate development should be identified. It will be the responsibility of the developer to pay for the costs of any improvements to national roads to facilitate the private development proposed as TII will not be responsible for such costs;
- The designers are asked to consult TII Publications to determine whether a Road Safety Audit is required;
- In the interests of maintaining the safety and standard of the national road network, the EIAR should identify the methods/techniques proposed for any works traversing/in proximity to the national road network;
- TII recommends that that applicant/developer should clearly identify haul routes proposed and fully assess the network to be traversed. Where abnormal 'weight' loads are proposed, separate structure approvals/permits and other licences may be required in connection with the proposed haul route and all structures on the haul route through all the relevant County Council administrative areas should be checked by the applicant/developer to confirm their capacity to accommodate any abnormal 'weight' load proposed.

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 practise.

I trust that the above comments are of use in your EIAR preparation.

Mise le meas,

**Michael Kennedy**  
**Head of Regulatory & Administration Unit**  
**Ref No. TII23-122523**



**From:** Sanghamitra Dutta <[sdutta@mkoireland.ie](mailto:sdutta@mkoireland.ie)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 4 April 2023 15:41  
**To:** Landuse Planning <[LandUsePlanning@tii.ie](mailto:LandUsePlanning@tii.ie)>  
**Cc:** Eoin O'Sullivan <[eosullivan@mkoireland.ie](mailto:eosullivan@mkoireland.ie)>  
**Subject:** Scoping Request: 211137 Ballyquin Quarry Extension, Co. Clare

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached to this email a Scoping Document for an Environmental Impact Assessment MKO are undertaking for a proposed quarry extension at Roadstone Ballyquin Quarry, located at Ballyquin, Co. Clare. The proposed development is located approximately 8km south-west of the town of Killaloe and 1.5km to the northwest of the village of Bridgetown.

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As part of the scoping exercise for the proposed development, we would welcome any comments in relation to the proposed project.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to come back to me. Thank you for your time and attention,

Kind Regards,  
Sanghamitra.

**Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta**  
Environmental Scientist

**MKO**

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

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