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Introduction

- 1.1 This Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) provides supporting information to accompany a planning application to Meath County Council submitted by BD Flood Unlimited Company (referenced as BD Flood within the EIAR), in respect of a proposed development at their existing sand and gravel pit at Baltrasna, Murrrens and Annagh townlands, Oldcastle, Co. Meath. The overall Sand & Gravel Pit site is familiarly known as and referred to as the Murrrens. The application site is located with the Murrrens townland.
- 1.2 The proposed development being applied for under this planning application will consist of:
- Extraction of sand and gravel (dry working) over a lateral extension extraction area of c. 4.2 hectares adjacent to the existing sand and gravel pit development permitted by planning permission KA/141129 (ABP PL17.245257) with access gained from the existing pit.
 - Restoration of the lands will form part of the overall adjacent sand and gravel pit restoration site, returning the lands to a combination of agricultural grazing and beneficial ecological habitat.
 - The development will be commensurate with the life of existing site permission (P. Ref. KA14/1129 & ABP PL.17.245257) which is due to expire in December 2036.
 - All associated site ancillary works within an overall application area of c. 5.8 hectares.
- 1.3 Further information on the proposed development, site activities, environmental management systems and controls at the application site are provided in the Chapter 2 of this EIAR.
- 1.4 The application is made in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

Rationale for Planning Application

- 1.5 The existing sand and gravel pit has been registered with Meath County Council in accordance with Section 261 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (Quarry Ref. No. QY 24).
- 1.6 A substitute consent application (PL17 .SU0079) was submitted in December 2013 to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) for part of the existing pit, in accordance with the Section 261A determination issued by Meath County Council. A grant of substitute consent was issued on 11 December 2014 by ABP.
- 1.7 A planning application (KA/141129) was made for an extension of extraction area of c. 23.9 hectares into lands adjacent to the existing pit, with an additional connection to the existing materials transport conveyor system and associated landscaping works in 2014. The planning application was accompanied by an Environmental Impact Statement¹.
- 1.8 Permission was granted by Meath County Council in July 2015. A third party appeal to An Bord Pleanála followed, and planning permission (PL17.245257) was granted by the Board in December 2016. A copy is provided in **Appendix 1-A**.
- 1.9 There is a portion (c. 4 hectares) of the existing permitted development of P. Ref. KA/141129 / ABP PL17.245257, located in the southwest area of the permitted extension

¹ The previous name by which Environmental Impact Assessment Reports were referred to, prior to the 2014 amendment to the EIA Directive which was transposed in Ireland by the European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 296 of 2018)

which will now not be extracted due to the poor quality of the materials that has been tested to date. This is shown as Area 1 on **Figure 1-3**.

- 1.10 The application site (shown as Area 2 on **Figure 1-3**) is a new proposed extension extraction area of c. 4.2 hectares that will effectively be a replacement source of sand and gravel materials with extraction to be commensurate with the life of P. Ref. KA14/1129 / ABP PL17.245257 which is due to expire in December 2036.

The Site

Site Location

- 1.11 The application site is located within a rural area referred to as 'The Murrens', located c. 4km west of Dromone and 6km southwest of Oldcastle town, refer to **Figure 1-1**. The R195 regional route that runs along the eastern edge of the existing quarry links Oldcastle, Co. Meath (to the north) to Castlepollard to the south.
- 1.12 The proposed pit extension area is located to the southeast of the existing pit and represents c. 4.2 hectares set within an overall landholding of c. 254 hectares. The existing pit site is located within the townlands of Annagh, Baltrasna and the Murrens. The proposed extension lands subject of this planning application are located with the townland of the Murrens. The land interest and application areas are shown on **Figure 1-2** and **Figure 1-3**.
- 1.13 For the avoidance of doubt, any reference within this EIAR to 'site' or 'application site' should be taken to refer to the application area (red line) shown in **Figure 1-3**.

Site Access & Entrance

- 1.14 The proposed development will use the existing permitted access to the existing sand and gravel pit. This access is from the local road L6818, which is an unmarked single carriageway road approximately 7.5 metres in width that provides a link between the R195 to the east of the application site and the R394 via the L5763 to the west.
- 1.15 At the site access there is a double gated entrance set back from the carriageway edge. Each of the gates measure 7 metres in width and open inwards allowing arriving vehicles to wait for entry off the public highway. The access is lit and appropriately signed with a 10mph speed restriction upon entering the site.
- 1.16 The junction layout provides generous space for HGV manoeuvring and unobstructed visibility is afforded in both directions on approach, access and egress to the site.

Site Description

- 1.17 The application site (c. 5.8 hectares) is an area of previous plantation woodland located immediately adjacent and southeast / east of the existing sand and gravel pit development permitted by planning permission KA/14/1129 (ABP PL17.245257).
- 1.18 The application site is made up rough ground and scrub terrain as a result of cleared forestry, which consisted of poorly performing Ash trees due to the presence of the widespread Ash dieback disease. Within the extraction area footprint of 4.2 hectares, there are some remaining clusters of trees (covering c. 0.5 hectare) within the southeastern portion of the site as shown on **Figure 2-1** in Chapter 2.
- 1.19 To the immediate west of the site, is the existing operational BD Flood sand and gravel pit. The northern application boundary forms the landholding boundary between the BD Flood lands and the third party quarry site operated by JJ Flood. The southwestern application boundary adjoins third party agricultural lands while the southern / southeastern boundary adjoins lands under the control of BD Flood and currently used for forestry plantation.

- 1.20 The application site does not adjoin any public road boundary. The R195 regional road is in excess of 100m southeast of the application site with the intervening area covered by mature forestry, which fully screens both the existing sand and gravel pit and the extension land areas from public view.
- 1.21 Within the application site, the topography is gently sloping from north to south, the highest point being the northern tip of the site at c. 140m AOD, and the lowest point being the southern boundary at c. 132m AOD. The surrounding landscape is gently undulating at elevations of between 120 and 140m AOD.
- 1.22 An underground 38KV and higher electricity cable underlies the application site just inside its southwestern boundary. The line connects offsite to the west to an overhead powerline and to the east it runs beneath ground along the R195 road. There are no structures within the application site.

Surrounding Landuse

- 1.23 There is a third-party quarry site immediately adjacent to the north.
- 1.24 The surrounding land-use to the northwest and west is dominated by the existing BD Flood sand and gravel pit and associated processing and storage facilities. The western area of the overall sand and gravel pit site is exhausted of resources and partly restored.
- 1.25 The central area contains the site facilities and processing area, including the existing crushing and screening and washing plant, a concrete batching plant, concrete block plant and block yard, bunded fuel storage, conveyor system, site offices, workshop, weighbridge & office, wheelwash and settlement lagoons.
- 1.26 Immediately west of the application site, extraction works within the existing pit are advancing southwards within the permitted extraction area of planning permission KA/141129 (ABP PL17.245257). There is a fixed field conveyor system transporting the extracted materials to the central site processing area over a distance of c. 1.5km. Also within the overall landholding there is the permitted precast factory operated by Flood Precast Ltd.
- 1.27 The application site is bounded to the south and east by a further block of plantation woodland and pastoral farmland. The character of the wider area is predominantly agricultural, interspersed with other small blocks of plantation woodland and small lakes. Small rural settlements and isolated farmsteads are scattered along the local road network. The regional R195 route is a dominant feature to the east of the application site.
- 1.28 Pasture fields bound by mature hedgerows dominate the landscape surrounding the site, however, other landscape elements are scattered throughout the area, such as loughs, fens, deciduous tree plantations, wooded eskers, peat bogs and sand and gravel pits.
- 1.29 Within the wider landscape, the general area consists of series of distinctive isolated hills which are typically steep sided. The hilly areas are separated by a number of parallel northwest-southeast trending valleys containing lakes, large ponds and rivers.
- 1.30 The Lough Naneagh proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA - Site Code 001814), part of which is located within the wider quarry landholding, is c. 400m west of the application site (see **Figure 1-3**). The White Lough, Ben Loughs and Lough Doo pNHA (Site Code 001810) is located c. 700m southwest of the application site.
- 1.31 Surface water drainage in the area around the existing pit consists of a number of lakes and large ponds with no channel outlet. Surface water infiltrates to the ground. A system of drains/ streams/ ponds located to the south and southeast of the application site drains into the Ben Loughs, Lough Doo complex and White Lough.

- 1.32 The closest European designated natura site is the White Lough, Ben Loughs and Lough Doo SAC (Site Code 001810), also c. 700m southwest of the application site. The Lough Bane and Lough Glass SAC (Site Code 002120) is located c. 1.9km southeast of it.
- 1.33 There are few residences in the immediate vicinity of the site, with the residential pattern comprising isolated farm dwellings and one-off housing developments along the local roads. The closest property is located 235m south of the application site, with six further properties within 500m of the application site, all in the south/southeast direction. In total there are 29 residential properties within a 1km radius of the application site.

The Applicant

- 1.34 This EIAR and accompanying supporting documentation has been prepared by SLR Consulting Ireland (SLR) on behalf of BD Flood Unlimited Company.
- 1.35 BD Flood is one of the main producers of readymix, aggregates and concrete blocks in Ireland.
- 1.36 It is part of the Flood Group, a family run business founded in 1938. It began its operation in the extraction of aggregates and later expanded into the production of readymix concrete and blocks.
- 1.37 The Group's Headquarters and Precast facility is based adjacent to the application site at Hilltown, Oldcastle, Co Meath. Eight other aggregate/readymix and concrete block plants are located throughout the midlands.
- 1.38 BD Flood is an IS EN 206 accredited company that supplies a range of products to the building trade, the farming industry and the housing sector. These products include readymix concrete, stone, aggregate products and blocks. All products are certified to the I.S EN ISO 9002 Quality.

Environmental Commitment

- 1.39 The company is committed to achieving high environmental standards and has an established in-house environmental management system (EMS) at the site.
- 1.40 BD Flood is a member of the Irish Concrete Federation (ICF) and as a member commits itself to the principles of the Federations Environmental Code, which states:
"ICF members will minimise production of waste and where appropriate consider its beneficial use including recycling. They will deal with all waste in accordance with the relevant legislation and other controls in place, including waste contractors with valid Waste Collection Permits".
- 1.41 The company has achieved accreditation ISO14000 for its Environmental Management Systems. Copies of the company's Environmental Policy & NSAI 14001 Environmental Management Certification are provided in **Appendix 1-B**.

EIA Screening

- 1.42 The start of the EIA process involves deciding whether an EIA needs to be undertaken in respect of the proposed development or not. An initial determination establishes whether the proposal is a project as understood by the EPA Guidelines or not, i.e., does it comprise development, works or activity, as defined in the relevant national legislation².

² Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)

- 1.43 The decision-making process then proceeds by examining the relevant legislation which transposes Annexes I and II of the amended Directive³. If this does not provide a clear screening outcome then the nature and extent of the project and the site and of the types of potential effects are examined. The totality of the project is considered, including off-site and secondary projects as well as indirect, secondary and cumulative impacts.
- 1.44 Part 1 and Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) set out the forms of development that require an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).
- 1.45 Paragraph 19 of Part 1 of Schedule 5 states that the following form of development requires an EIA:
“Quarries and open-cast mining where the surface of the site exceeds 25 hectares.”
- 1.46 Paragraph 22 relates to changes or extensions. It states:
“Any change or extension of projects listed in this Annex where such a change or extension in itself meets the thresholds, if any set out in this Annex.”
- 1.47 Paragraph 2 of Part 2 of Schedule 5 refers to extractive industry and part (b) of that section states that the following requires an EIA:
“Extraction of stone, gravel, sand or clay, where the area of extraction would be greater than 5 hectares.”
- 1.48 In addition, paragraph 13(a) of Part 1 requires EIA in respect of:
“Any change or extension of development already authorised, executed or in the process of being executed (not being a change or extension refer to in Part 1) which would:-
i. result in the development being of a class listed in Part 1 or paragraphs 1 to 12 of Part 2 of this Schedule and
ii result in an increase in size greater than -
25 per cent, or
an amount equal to 50 per cent of the appropriate threshold,
whichever is the greater”.
- 1.49 The estimated extraction area for the existing permitted quarry within the landholding (which was the subject of EIA assessment previously) is 23.9 hectares, 25% of this extraction area equates to 5.98 ha.
- 1.50 An EIAR is not a mandatory requirement under Schedule 5, Part 1 or Part 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). Notwithstanding this, given the nature of the development as an extension to an existing sand and gravel extraction development that is in excess of the threshold limit, an Environmental Impact Assessment Report has been prepared to accompany the planning application.

EIA Scoping and Consultation

Scoping Methodology

- 1.51 In preparing this Environmental Impact Assessment Report a telephone pre-planning consultation meeting was held between an official of Meath County Council and SLR on the 21st October 2024.

³ Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive 2011/92/EU (as amended by 2014/52/EU)

- 1.52 In addition, a pre-planning consultation document was issued to statutory consultees. The list of consultees and any responses received are noted in **Table 1-1** below, and full details provided in **Appendix 1-C**.

Table 1-1: Statutory Consultee Scoping and Responses

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

- 1.53 The Development Applications Unit at the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht made a response on archaeology only and noted the requirement for an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA). The AIA has been completed by Dr. Charles Mount, Consultant Archaeologist and is provided in chapter 12 of the EIAR. As part of the AIA, it was further recommended to include ground investigations to include a targeted non-intrusive geophysical survey and targeted test excavations.
- 1.54 Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) noted that the EIAR assessment and proposed mitigation measures should have regard to the EPA Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports, 2022; the 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities'; TII publications; National Road Network impacts; TII Environmental Assessment and Construction Guidelines. A Traffic & Transport Assessment (TTA) has been carried out for the proposed development and is provided in chapter 14 of the EIAR.
- 1.55 The Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) in their response noted the range of publicly available information and datasets available through their website for reference, along with outlining guidelines for preparing the EIAR and in particular the Land, Soils & Geology chapter (EIAR chapter 6) and the Water chapter (EIAR chapter 7).
- 1.56 The GSI further noted the audit for Geoheritage sites (County Geological Sites (CGSs)) in Co. Meath was carried out in 2007 and records show that the proposed sand and gravel pit extension is located within a CGS: **Murrrens, Co. Meath (GR 252464, 274868), under IGH theme: IGH 7 Quaternary: Wooded ridge – esker and hummocky ground including gravel pit. This is a long beaded esker system which feeds into a large, supraglacial delta complex, with flanking fans and kames. Murrrens, is composed of a number of glacial depositional features. These include: an esker, formed by the deposition of sand and gravel by a subglacial river; and an ice contact fan and delta system, which is formed by the deposition of sand and gravel carried by glaciofluvial meltwater from a nearby ice sheet, creating**

hummocky terrain. This site is of very good quality, showing spectacular topography. Unique in Ireland and of international importance, the esker will be recommended for NHA designation. Refer to EIAR Chapter 6, Land, Soils & Geology for further details on this and the proposed appropriate mitigation measures to be put in place to minimise or mitigate potential impacts.

- 1.57 The Health & Safety Authority (HSA) noted that the proposed development appears to be outside the scope of the Chemicals Act (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) Regulations 2015, and therefore has no observations on the planning application.
- 1.58 The Health Service Executive (HSE) Environmental Health Department made observations specific to environmental health areas in relation to the proposed development with specific reference to the topic areas of public consultation, noise and vibration, air quality, surface and groundwater quality and climate impacts to be addressed in the EIAR. Further details on these topics are provided throughout the EIAR in Chapters 2, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Difficulties Encountered with EIAR Compilation

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

Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)

- 1.60 An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) *“means a statement of the effects, if any, which the proposed development, if carried out, would have on the environment”*. As such, it is a systematic analysis and assessment of the potential effects of a proposed project on the receiving environment.
- 1.61 The principal objectives of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report are to:
- identify and / or predict the significant impacts of a development;
 - identify what mitigation measures should be incorporated into the development to eliminate or reduce the perceived impacts;
 - interpret and communicate the above information on the impact of the proposed development, in both technical and non-technical terms; and
 - assist the Local Planning Authority in the decision-making process with respect to the associated planning application.

Format of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)

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

Chapter 1: Introduction / Screening / Scoping

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

Chapter 2: Project Description

- 1.64 Chapter 2 provides:

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

Chapter 3: Alternatives

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

Chapters 4 – 16

- 1.66 Chapters 4-14 provide detailed information on all aspects of the existing (baseline) environment, identifies, describes and presents an assessment of the likely significant impacts of the proposed project on the environment; and recommends mitigation and monitoring measures (where required) to reduce or alleviate these impacts and describes the residual impacts and conclusions. They are grouped under the following Chapters:

- Chapter 4: Population and Human Health
- Chapter 5: Biodiversity
- Chapter 6: Land, Soils and Geology
- Chapter 7: Water
- Chapter 8: Air Quality
- Chapter 9: Climate
- Chapter 10: Noise
- Chapter 11: Material Assets
- Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage
- Chapter 13: Landscape
- Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport
- Chapter 15: Interactions
- Chapter 16: Mitigation and Monitoring

- 1.67 The associated references, plates, figures and appendices are provided at the end of each chapter. Chapter 15 outlines the impacts that arise as a result of the interaction between several aspects of the development as set out in Chapters 4-14.

- 1.68 Chapter 16 provides a summary of mitigation and monitoring commitments as recommended by Section 3.8.4 of the Environmental Protection Agency Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports.

Non-Technical Summary

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

Contributors

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

Table 1-2: List of Contributors to the EIAR

Topic Chapter	Contributor	Company
Introduction	Shane McDermott BSc (Hons) MSCSI MRICS Lynn Hassett BSc (Hons), MSc, PIEMA, MEnvSc	SLR Consulting Ireland
Description of Development	Shane McDermott BSc (Hons) MSCSI MRICS Lynn Hassett BSc (Hons), MSc, PIEMA, MEnvSc	SLR Consulting Ireland
Alternatives	Shane McDermott BSc (Hons) MSCSI MRICS Lynn Hassett BSc (Hons), MSc, PIEMA, MEnvSc	SLR Consulting Ireland
Population & Human Health	Lynn Hassett BSc (Hons), MSc, PIEMA, MEnvSc	SLR Consulting Ireland
Biodiversity	Michael Bailey MCIEEM, CEcol. Jake Matthews BSc (Hons) MSc.	SLR Consulting Ireland
Land, Soils and Geology	Dr Peter Glanville BA, MSc, PhD, IQUA, IRLOGI, IGI Nikolina Bozinovic BSc., MSc.	SLR Consulting Ireland
Water	Dominica Baird (Hydrogeology) BSc., MSc., CGeol, EurGeol. Peter Glanville (Hydrology) BA, MSc, PhD, IQUA, IRLOGI, IGI Michelle Sherry BSc.	SLR Consulting Ireland
Air Quality	Rachel McHale BSc. MIAQM MIES	SLR Consulting Ireland

Climate	Lynn Hassett BSc (Hons), MSc, PIEMA	SLR Consulting Ireland
Noise	Ronan Murphy BSc MIOA	SLR Consulting Ireland
Material Assets	Lynn Hassett BSc (Hons), MSc, PIEMA, MEnvSc	SLR Consulting Ireland
Cultural Heritage	Dr Charles Mount MA PhD. Dip. EIA & SEA Mgmt., MIAI	Consultant Archaeologist
Landscape	Anne Merkle Dipl. Ing (FH) MILI Conor Nyland BSc (Hons) Saif Hidayat BSc (Hons)	SLR Consulting Ireland
Roads and Traffic	Aly Gleeson BSc (Hons) MEng (Hons) MBA RSA Cert CEng FIEI Antonis Papadakis MSc, MIEI	PMCE Consultants
Interactions	Lynn Hassett BSc (Hons), MSc, PIEMA, MEnvSc	SLR Consulting Ireland
Schedule of Commitments	Lynn Hassett BSc (Hons), MSc, PIEMA, MEnvSc	SLR Consulting Ireland
Co-ordination of EIA	Shane McDermott BSc (Hons) MSCSI MRICS Lynn Hassett BSc (Hons), MSc, PIEMA, MEnvSc	SLR Consulting Ireland

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

Figures

Figure 1-1: Site Location Map

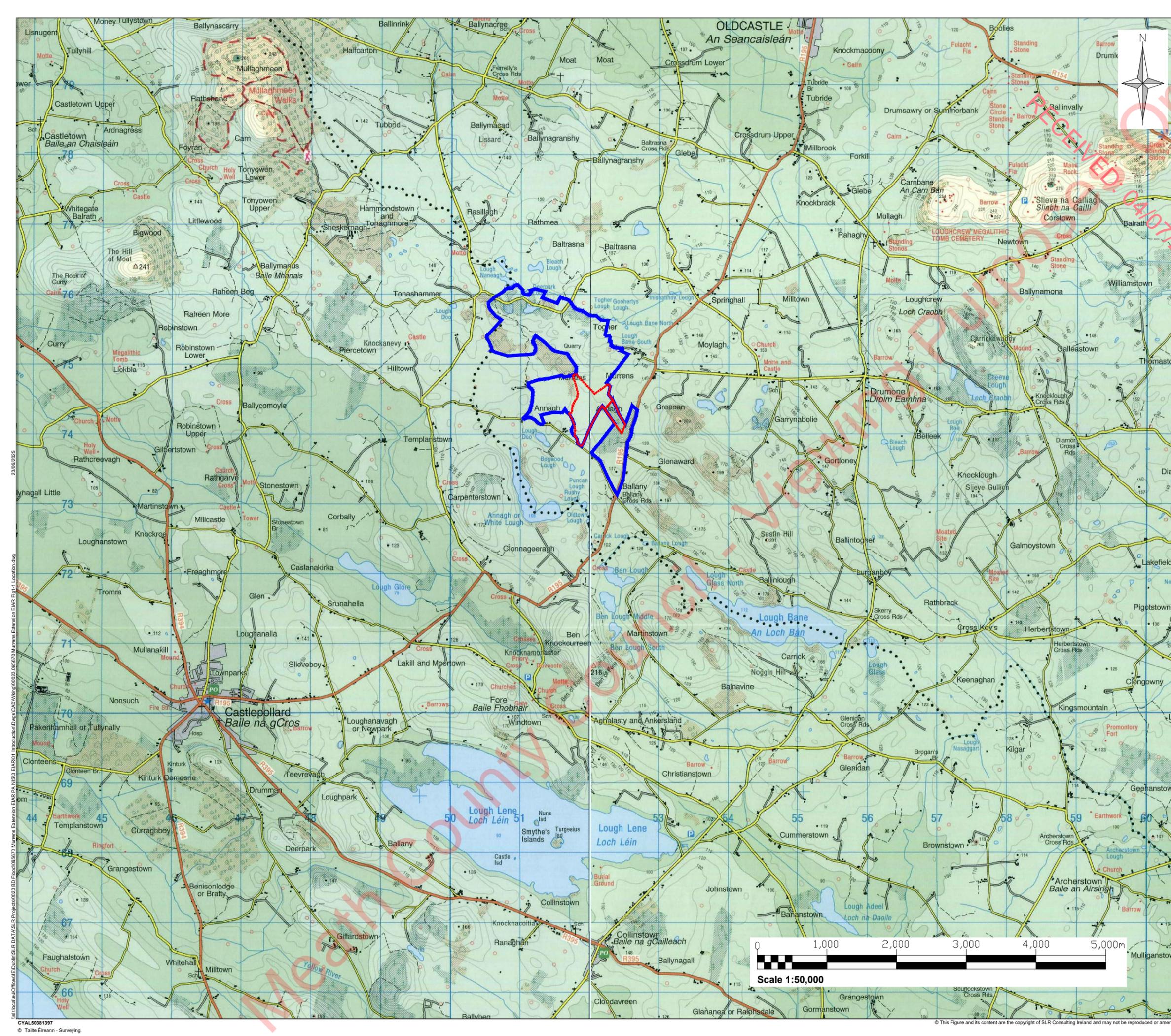
Figure 1-2: Site Location and Site Notice Map

Figure 1-3: Site Location and Site Notice Map

Figure 1-4: Landholding Site Overview Map

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Meath County Council - Viewing Purposes Only!



Notes:
 1. Based on 1:50,000 scale Tailte Eireann Discovery series maps 41 & 42

Legend:

- Landholding
- Planning Application Area (c. 5.8 hectares)
- Planning Permission Area P. Ref. KA/141129

Rev	Amendments	Date	By	Chk	Auth



www.slrconsulting.com

Client
BD Flood Unlimited Company

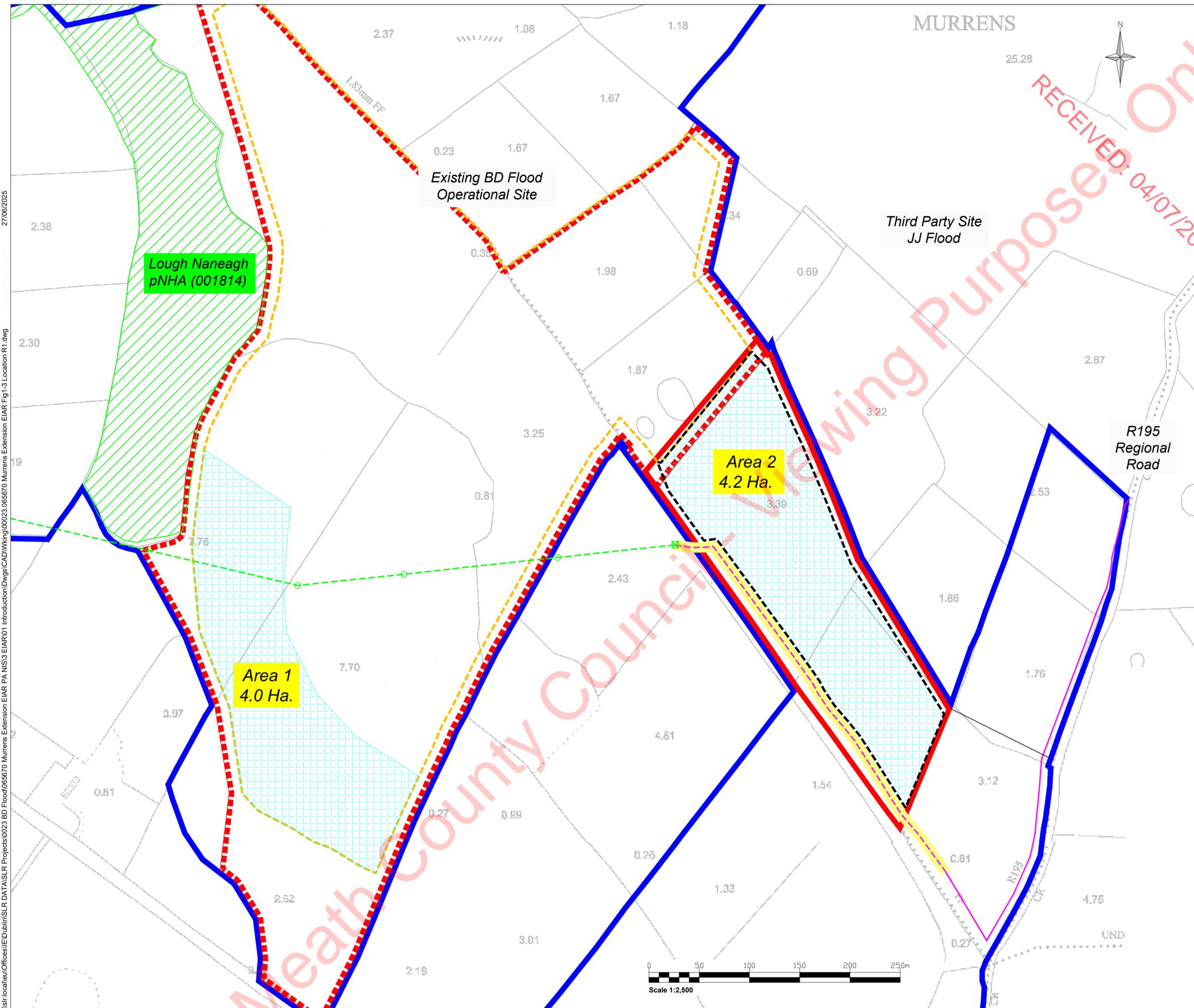
Project
**Sand & Gravel Pit Extension
 The Murrens, Oldcastle, Co. Meath**

Figure Title
Site Location Map

Scale 1:50,000	@ A3	SLR Project No. 501.065670.00001
Designed smcd	Drawn smcd	Checked lh
Date 01/25	Date 01/25	Date 03/25
Date 01/25	Date 03/25	Date 03/25

Figure Number
Figure 1-1





Notes:
 1. Based on *Taitte Éireann* Digital maps 2304, 2305, 2367, 2368

- Legend:**
- Landholding
 - Planning Application Area (c. 5.8 hectares)
 - Proposed Extraction Area (c. 4.2 hectares)
 - Planning Permission KA14/1129 (c. 28.5 hectares)
 - Permitted Extraction Area KA14/1129 (c. 23.9 hectares)
 - 38KV overhead powerline
 - 38KV underground powerline (with 5m buffer each side)

AREA 1 = 4.0 hectares **inside** existing permitted extraction area
AREA 2 = 4.2 hectares **outside** existing permitted extraction area

PROPOSAL TO:

- Not extract **Area 1** and agricultural lands remain in-situ
- Seek permission to extract sand & gravel from **Area 2** in-lieu of Area 1
- No requirement for any amendment of conditions attached to existing permission KA14-1129
 - planning permission term to remain the same
 - permitted annual extraction rate to remain the same

Rev	Amendments	Date	By	Chk	Auth



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Client
BD Flood Unlimited Company

Project
Sand & Gravel Pit Extension
The Murrens, Oldcastle, Co. Meath

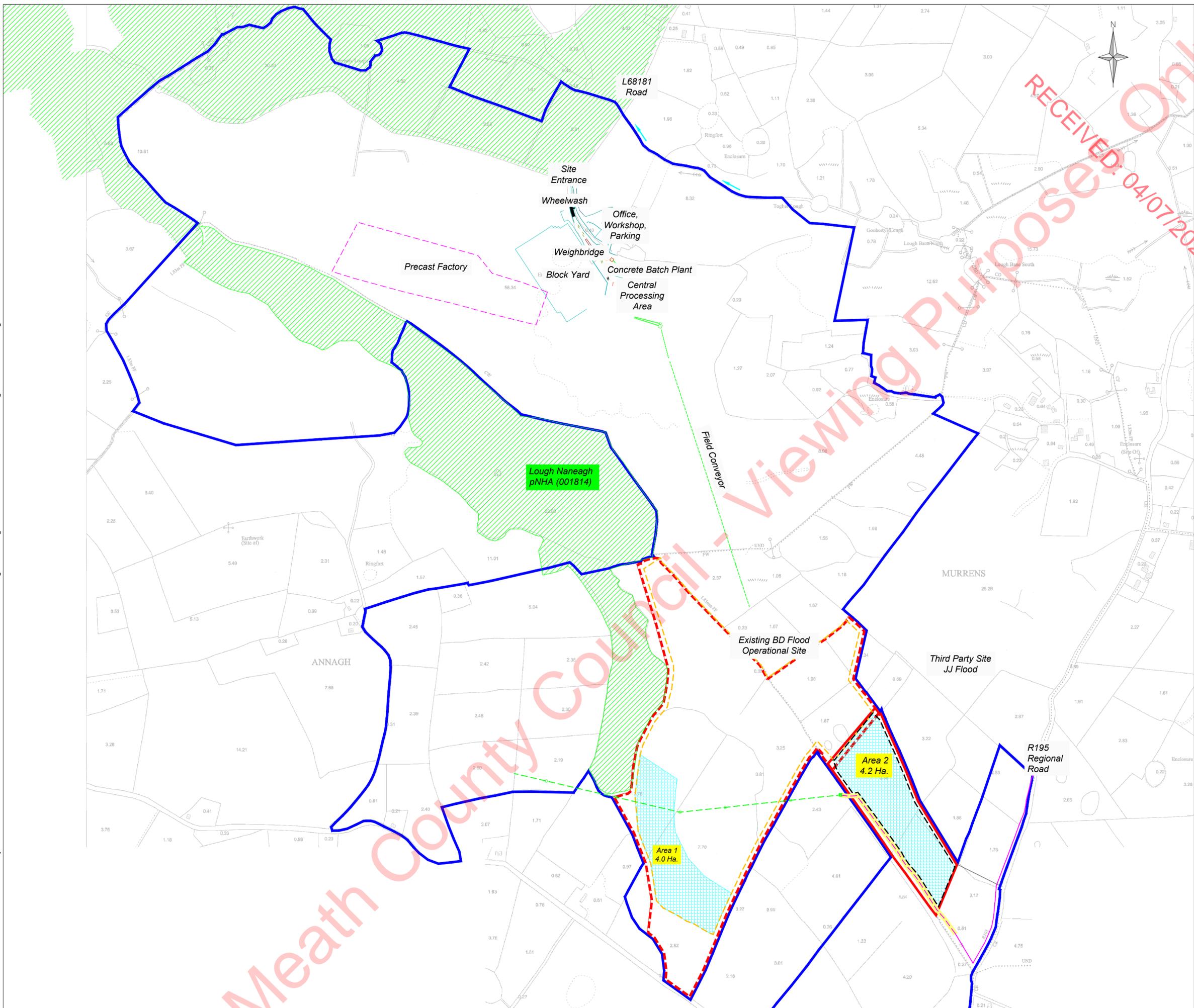
Figure Title
Proposed Application Area

Scale 1:2,500	@ A2	SLR Project No. 501.065670.00001
Designed smcd	Drawn scmd	Checked lh
Date 01/25	Date 01/25	Date 03/25
Authorised lh	Date 03/25	Rev.

Figure Number
Figure 1-3

\s\local\offices\IE\Dublin\SLR DATA\SLR Projects\0023 BD Flood\065670 Murrens Extension EIA\PA NIS\3 EIA\01 Introduction\Drawings\CAD\Working\00023.065670 Murrens Extension EIA\Fig 1-3 Location R1.dwg
 27/06/2025
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 © Taitte Éireann - Surveying.

23/06/2025
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Notes:
1. Based on *Taitte Éireann Digital maps 2304, 2305, 2367, 2368*

- Legend:**
- Landholding
 - Planning Application Area (c. 5.8 hectares)
 - Proposed Extraction Area (c. 4.2 hectares)
 - Planning Permission KA14/1129 (c. 28.5 hectares)
 - Permitted Extraction Area KA14/1129 (c. 23.9 hectares)

AREA 1 = 4.0 hectares **inside** existing permitted extraction area
AREA 2 = 4.2 hectares **outside** existing permitted extraction area

- PROPOSAL TO:**
- Not extract **Area 1** and agricultural lands remain in-situ
 - Seek permission to extract sand & gravel from **Area 2** in-lieu of Area 1
 - No requirement for any amendment of conditions attached to existing permission KA14-1129
 - planning permission term to remain the same
 - permitted annual extraction rate to remain the same

Rev	Amendments	Date	By	Chk	Auth



Client
BD Flood Unlimited Company

Project
Sand & Gravel Pit Extension
The Murrens, Oldcastle, Co. Meath

Figure Title
Landholding Site Overview Map

Scale NTS @ A2		SLR Project No. 501.065670.00001	
Designed smcd	Drawn smcd	Checked lh	Authorised lh
Date 01/25	Date 01/25	Date 03/25	Date 03/25

Figure Number
Figure 1-4

Appendices

Appendix 1-A:

Existing Planning Permission ABP PL17.245257 (P. Ref. KA14/1129)

Appendix 1-B:

BD Flood Environmental Management

Environmental Management Certification (NSAI 14001)

Environmental Policy

Appendix 1-C:

Consultee Responses

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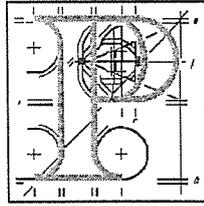
Appendix 1-A

Existing Planning Permission ABP PL17.245257 (P. Ref. KA14/1129)

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An Bord Pleanála



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTS 2000 TO 2015

Meath County

Planning Register Reference Number: KA/141129

An Bord Pleanála Reference Number: PL 17.245257

APPEAL by Triona Ní Fhionnáin of 39 Páirc Choil an tSirriam, An Muileann gCear, Contae na hIarmhí against the decision made on the 7th day of July, 2015 by Meath County Council to grant subject to conditions a permission to BD Flood Limited care of SLR Consulting Ireland of 7 Dundrum Business Park, Windy Arbour, Dublin in accordance with plans and particulars lodged with the said Council.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: Extension of the existing sand and gravel pit (quarry reference QY24) to include: an extraction area of circa 23.9 hectares; perimeter landscaped screening berms, all other associated site works/ancillary activities and restoration to a beneficial agricultural and ecological after-use within an overall planning application of circa 28.5 hectares at Annagh and Murrens Townlands, Oldcastle, County Meath, as amended by the further public notice received by the planning authority on the 14th day of May, 2015.

DECISION

GRANT permission for the above proposed development in accordance with the said plans and particulars based on the reasons and considerations under and subject to the conditions set out below.

MATTERS CONSIDERED

In making its decision, the Board had regard to those matters to which, by virtue of the Planning and Development Acts and Regulations made thereunder, it was required to have regard. Such matters included any submissions and observations received by it in accordance with statutory provisions.

REASONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

Having regard to:

- the established quarry land use at this location and the proposed integrated nature of the associated processing uses that will serve this proposed extension,
- the contained nature of the site which limit impacts on visual amenities and other receptors, and
- the separation of the proposed working areas from existing residences and other sensitive lands in the vicinity,

it is considered that, subject to compliance with the conditions set out below, including the employment of a phased approach to site development and restoration, the proposed extension of the established would not seriously injure the amenities of the area, would not have unacceptable impacts on the environment, would be acceptable in terms of traffic safety and convenience, would not be prejudicial to public health, and would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

CONDITIONS

1. The development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the plans and particulars lodged with the application and the Environmental Impact Statement submitted to the planning authority on 17th December, 2014, as amended by the further plans and particulars submitted on the 6th day of May, 2015 and on the 3rd day of July 2015, and with the further information submitted to An Bord Pleanála on the 30th day of August 2016, except as may otherwise be required in order to comply with the following conditions. Where such conditions require details to be agreed with the planning authority, the developer shall agree such details in writing with the planning authority prior to commencement of development and the development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the agreed particulars.

Reason: In the interest of clarity.

2. This permission is for a period of twenty years. At the end of this period, works shall cease and the site shall be decommissioned, unless before the end of that period, permission for the continuance of the use beyond that date shall have been granted.

In addition, the developer shall submit annually for the lifetime of the permission:

- (a) an aerial photograph, and
- (b) a 3-d topographic survey

which adequately enables the planning authority to assess the progress of the phases of extraction and restoration.

Reason: To enable the effect of the development on the amenities of the area to be reviewed, having regard to the circumstances then prevailing, and to enable satisfactory monitoring.

3. Excavation shall proceed no deeper than shown in the plans and particulars submitted to An Bord Pleanála on the 30th day August 2016, and shall be carried out such that excavation does not proceed below the winter water table. In this regard:

- at least three number groundwater monitoring boreholes shall be maintained in the extension area, and

- bench-marks shall be established in the extension area to facilitate compliance monitoring.

Reason: To protect groundwater in the area and in the interests of clarity.

4. Excavation and restoration (including replanting of hedgerows) shall be carried out in a phased manner, as set out in the plans and particulars submitted to An Bord Pleanála on the 30th day of August, 2016 (Drawings ABP-RFI 2 to ABP-RFI 4). The right of way indicated crossing the site shall be protected as per the design proposals during all phases of work.

Reason: To protect the amenities of the area.

5. All topsoil shall be stripped and stored separately from overburden, and shall be used in phased site restoration.

Reason: In order to facilitate effective site restoration.

6. During the operational phase of the proposed development, the noise level from within the boundaries of the site measured at noise sensitive locations in the vicinity, shall not exceed

- (a) an LArT value of 55 dB(A) during the period 0800 to 2000 hours. The T value shall be one hour, and
- (b) an LAeqT value of 45 dB(A) at any other time. The T value shall be 15 minutes. Night time emissions shall have no tonal component.

Reason: In order to protect the residential amenities of property in the vicinity.

7. (a) Dust levels at the site boundary shall not exceed 350 milligrams per square metre per day averaged over a continuous period of 30 days (Bergerhoff Gauge). Details of a monitoring programme for dust shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. Details to be submitted shall include monitoring locations, commencement date and the frequency of monitoring result and details of all dust suppression measures.

- (b) A monthly survey and monitoring programme of dust and particulate emissions shall be undertaken to provide for compliance with these limits. Details of this programme, including the location of dust monitoring stations, and details of dust suppression measures to be carried out within the site, shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of any quarrying works on the site. This programme shall include an annual review of all dust monitoring data, to be undertaken by a suitably qualified person acceptable to the planning authority. The results of the reviews shall be submitted to the planning authority within two weeks of completion. The developer shall carry out any amendments to the programme required by the planning authority following this annual review.

Reason: To control dust emissions arising from the development and in the interest of the amenity of the area.

8. (a) The developer shall monitor and record groundwater, surface water flow, noise, and dust deposition levels at monitoring and recording stations, the location of which shall be agreed in writing with the planning authority prior to commencement of development. Monitoring results shall be submitted to the planning authority at quarterly intervals for groundwater, surface water, and noise.
- (b) On an annual basis, for the lifetime of the facility (within two months of each year end), the developer shall submit to the planning authority five copies of an environmental audit. Independent environmental auditors approved of in writing by the planning authority shall carry out this audit. This audit shall be carried out at the expense of the developer and shall be made available for public inspection at the offices of the planning authority and at such other locations as may be agreed in writing with the authority. This report shall contain:
- (i) An annual topographical survey carried out by an independent qualified surveyor approved in writing by the planning authority. This survey shall show all areas excavated and restored. On the basis of this a full materials balance shall be provided to the planning authority.

- (ii) A record of groundwater levels measured at monthly intervals.
- (iii) A written record of all complaints, including actions taken in response to each complaint.
- (c) Notwithstanding this requirement, all incidents where levels of noise or dust exceed specified levels shall be notified to the planning authority within two working days. Incidents of surface or groundwater pollution or incidents that may result in groundwater pollution, shall be notified to the planning authority without delay.
- (d) Following submission of the audit or of such reports, or where such incidents occur, the developer shall comply with any requirements that the planning authority may impose in writing in order to bring the development in compliance with the conditions of this permission.

Reason: In the interest of protecting residential amenities and ensuring a sustainable use of non-renewable resources.

9. Prior to the commencement of development, details of the height, specification and exact location of all perimeter security fencing and site boundary treatment shall be agreed in writing with the planning authority.

Reason: In the interest of public amenity and public safety.

10. The development shall be operated and managed in accordance with an Environmental Management System (EMS), which shall be submitted by the developer to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. This shall include the following:

- (a) Proposals for the suppression of on-site noise.
- (b) Proposals for the on-going monitoring of sound emissions at dwellings in the vicinity.
- (c) Proposals for the suppression of dust on site.

- (d) Proposals for the bunding of fuel and lubrication storage areas and details of emergency action in the event of accidental spillage.
- (e) Details of safety measures for the land above the quarry, to include warning signs and stock proof fencing.
- (f) Management of all landscaping, with particular reference to enhancing the ecological value of the woodland and hedgerow on buffer areas.
- (g) Monitoring of ground and surface water quality, levels and discharges.
- (h) Details of site manager, contact numbers (including out of hours) and public information signs at the entrance to the facility.

The EMS shall include all of the monitoring requirements of this permission.

Reason: In order to safeguard local amenities.

11. The developer shall facilitate the planning authority in the archaeological appraisal of the site and in preserving and recording or otherwise protecting archaeological materials or features, which may exist within the site. In this regard, the developer shall: -

- (a) notify the planning authority in writing at least four weeks prior to the commencement of any stripping of top-soil, and
- (b) employ a suitably-qualified archaeologist to assess the site and monitor all site development works.

The assessment shall address the following issues: -

- (i) the nature and location of archaeological material on the site, and
- (ii) the impact of the proposed development on such archaeological material.

Arising from this assessment, the developer shall agree with the planning authority details regarding any further archaeological requirements (including, if necessary, archaeological excavation).

In default of agreement on any of these requirements, the matter shall be referred to the Board for determination.

Reason: In order to conserve the archaeological heritage of the site and to secure the preservation of any remains which may exist within the site.

12. Prior to commencement of development, the developer shall lodge with the planning authority a cash deposit, a bond of an insurance company, or such other security as may be acceptable to the planning authority, to secure the satisfactory phased reinstatement of the site, coupled with an agreement empowering the planning authority to apply such security or part thereof to such reinstatement. The deposit/bond amount can be refunded/reduced on a phased basis subject to successful implementation of the phasing programme set out in the submission received by An Bord Pleanála on the 30th day of August, 2016. The form and amount of the security (and any phasing) shall be as agreed between the planning authority and the developer or, in default of agreement, shall be referred to An Bord Pleanála Board for determination.

Reason: To ensure the satisfactory phased restoration of the site in the interest of visual amenity.

13. The developer shall pay to the planning authority a financial contribution in respect of public infrastructure and facilities benefiting development in the area of the planning authority that is provided or intended to be provided by or on behalf of the authority in accordance with the terms of the Development Contribution Scheme made under section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. The contribution shall be paid prior to the commencement of development or in such phased payments as the planning authority may facilitate and shall be subject to any applicable indexation provisions of the Scheme at the time of payment. Details of the application of the terms of the Scheme shall be agreed between the planning authority and the developer or, in default of such agreement, the matter shall be referred to the Board to determine the proper application of the terms of the Scheme.

Reason: It is a requirement of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, that a condition requiring a contribution in accordance with the Development Contribution Scheme made under section 48 of the Act be applied to the permission.



Member of An Bord Pleanála
duly authorised to authenticate
the seal of the Board.

Dated this 16th day of December 2016.

Appendix 1-B

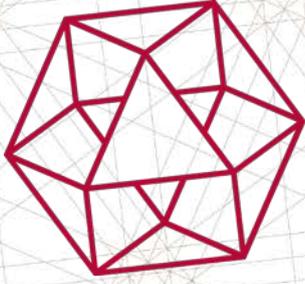
BD Flood Environmental Management

Environmental Management Certification (NSAI 14001)

Environmental Policy

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NSAI

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Certificate of Registration of Environmental Management System to I.S. EN ISO 14001:2015 **Flood Flooring t/a Flood Precast**

Hilltown
Oldcastle
Co. Meath
Ireland

NSAI certifies that the aforementioned company has been assessed and deemed to comply with the provisions of the standard referred to above in respect of:-

The manufacture of precast concrete products

Approved by: **Stewart Hickey**
Head - Business Excellence, NSAI



Registration Number: 14.0675
Original Registration: 16 August 2013
Last amended on: 15 June 2022
Valid from: 15 June 2022
Remains valid to: 15 August 2025

This certificate remains valid on condition that the Approved Environmental Management System is maintained in an adequate and efficacious manner. NSAI is a partner of IQNet – the international certification network (www.iqnet-certification.com)



All valid certifications are listed on NSAI's website – www.nsai.ie. The continued validity of this certificate may be verified under "Certified Company Search"



NSAI (National Standards Authority of Ireland), 1 Swift Square, Northwood, Santry, Dublin 9, Ireland T +353 1 807 3800 E: info@nsai.ie www.nsai.ie

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

BD Flood.

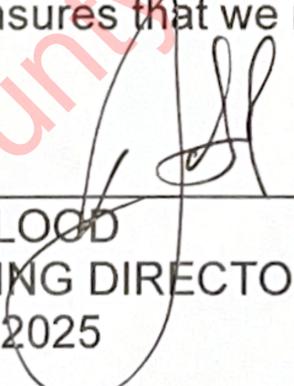
Is a provider of natural aggregates and construction materials operating at Murrens Quarry, Hilltown, Oldcastle, Co. Meath.

We recognise that each activity, product and service that we provide has a potential impact on the environment and the local community. Our objective is to minimize the environmental impacts and where practicable provide environmental benefit.

The company is committed to compliance with existing legislation, prevention of pollution and continuous improvement of environmental management.

To ensure that environmental impacts are controlled and minimized and that our objectives & commitments are achieved we have established and will maintain an Environmental Management System.

This system is part of the overall management system for the site and will enable us to provide materials and services to society in a manner which ensures that we meet our environmental obligations.



JOHN FLOOD
MANAGING DIRECTOR
January 2025

DATE 6/1/25

OLDCASTLE • LAVEY • KELLS • CROOKEDWOOD • MULLINGAR • DRUMLISH • KNOCKMANT • RHODE

Certified to ISO 9001 standard quality management systems, CE mark construction product registration, and EN 206 product standard.

Directors: John Flood, Catherine Flood, Tom Gallagher, Registered in Ireland No. 30473



Appendix 1-C

Consultee Responses

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Ref: G Pre Planning-MH-Murrens

11 March 2024

SLR Consulting Ltd.,
7 Dundrum Business Park
Windy Arbour
Dublin 14

Development: proposed sand and gravel pit extension at their existing permitted site

A Chara,

I refer to correspondence received in connection with the above.

Outlined below are heritage-related observations/recommendations of the Department co-ordinated by the Development Applications Unit under the stated heading:

Archaeology

The information provided was not sufficiently detailed to allow for a full assessment of the archaeological implications of this proposal. The Department, however, wishes to advise that as part of EIA requirements you are obliged to retain the services of a Consultant Archaeologist to carry out the Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) as part of the overall Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (CHIA) of the proposed development, which should be integrated into the finalised EIAR.

Planning & Design

In order to assess the impacts of the proposed development, this Department recommends that Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) should be carried out at an early stage of planning and design. The AIA must incorporate all lands on which development may be proposed, including but not limited to, access areas, haul roads, temporary compounds etc. The AIA must 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 AIA should be of sufficient size and extent to support this.

The Archaeological Impact Assessment must include:

- A baseline archaeological and historical study comprising site inspection/s by a suitably qualified Archaeologist and documentary research including reviews of historical, cartographic and aerial photography sources.
- Walkover surveys and field inspections
- An Archaeological/Historic Landscape study.



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- Visual Impact Assessment
- The desk-study and field inspection regime should inform (as appropriate):
 - Targeted non-intrusive advance geophysical survey or prospection (such as Ground Penetrating Radar Surveys)
 - Targeted advance archaeological test excavation
- Any and all intrusive advance investigations (such as, but not limited to, ground investigations for soils/geology/hydrogeology) carried out as part of the EIA or design process should be subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring by a suitably qualified archaeologist. Comprehensive assessment is required in order to fully characterise the archaeological potential of the lands proposed for development and allow a clear and comprehensive archaeological impact statement to be made. The results of these investigations should inform the EIA process and be incorporated within the EIA Report. Sub-surface archaeological features and deposits may exist within the proposed extended development. Advance prospection would be required to establish the extent of such features so that the potential likely impacts of the proposed development could be established. Therefore, the Department would strongly advise that the EIA methodology includes such investigations and does not rely solely on desk-based research.

This Department is happy to provide further advice and clarification as and if required in relation to the preparation of suitably comprehensive assessments as outlined above, with particular regard to the scope and locations for any advance non-intrusive prospection or advance test excavation that would be appropriate to inform the assessment of this proposed scheme.

Assessment of Potential Effects

The AIA/EIAR must include an archaeological impact statement and present appropriate mitigation to ensure the protection of the archaeological heritage. It should set out the likely effects of the proposed development at all stages—Construction, Operation and Restoration. It is of particular importance that the likely effects of the proposal at Restoration stage are fully assessed, particularly where the AIA/EIAR identifies vulnerable heritage assets located in proximity to the proposed development site (PDS) and the mitigation measures for Construction and Operation phases include protective measures for the preservation in situ of these assets.

National policy as detailed in *Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage* (Government of Ireland, 1999) is that there should always be a presumption in favour of avoiding developmental impacts on the archaeological heritage.



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Direct Effects

The AIA/EIAR must include assessment of any potential for direct impacts on the archaeological resource, including previously unrecorded archaeological remains which may have no above-ground expression. The results of appropriate non-intrusive advance and archaeological test excavation will assist in this regard.

Indirect Effects

In addition to mitigating potential for physical impacts on the archaeological heritage, careful consideration should also be given in design to the potential for impacts on the setting and amenity of recorded monuments and the landscape/s in which they are situated. Similarly, archaeological sites and monuments located in proximity to certain types of developments such as quarries or mines may be vulnerable to indirect impacts from vibration, dust, etc.

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

You are requested to send any further communications to this Department's Development Applications Unit (DAU) at referrals@npws.gov.ie, where used, or to the following address:

The Manager
Development Applications Unit (DAU)
Government Offices
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

Is mise, le meas

David O'Connor
Development Applications Unit
Administration

Shane McDermott

From: INFO <Information@tii.ie>
Sent: 05 February 2025 15:45
To: Shane McDermott
Subject: TII25-130096 - EIAR Scoping request Murrens S&G Extension Murrens, Oldcastle, Co. Meath.

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

Dear Mr. McDermott,

Thank you for your email of 21 January 2025 in relation to the above. The position in relation to your enquiry is as follows.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) wishes to advise that it is not in a position to engage directly with planning applicants with respect to proposed developments. TII will endeavour to consider and respond to planning applications referred to it given its status and duties as a statutory consultee under the Planning Acts. The approach to be adopted by TII in making such submissions or comments will seek to uphold official national road and light rail policy and guidelines including Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoECLG, 2012) and TII Publications.

Regard should also be had to other relevant guidance available at www.TII.ie.

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

With respect to EIA scoping issues, the recommendations indicated below provide only general guidance for the preparation of an EIA, which may affect the national roads networks.

The project promoter should have regard, inter alia, to the following:

Having regard to the EPA Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports, 2022 it is recommended as appropriate that the national road and light rail networks be recognised as strategic transport assets under "material assets". EIA assessment and mitigation should have regard to the following:

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

Any Greenway and National Cycle Network Plan (NCN) proposals in the vicinity of the proposal or haul route, consultation with the local authority's internal project and/or design staff is recommended.

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

National Road Network:

- TII would be specifically concerned with the potential significant impacts the development would have on the national road network (and junctions with national roads) in the proximity of the proposed development,
- Consultations should be had with the relevant local authority/National Roads Design Office (RDO) with regard to locations of existing and future national road schemes,

- The EIAR should have regard to any prior Environmental Impact Statement or Assessment Report and all conditions and/or modifications imposed by An Bord Pleanála regarding road schemes in the area. The developer should in particular have regard for any potential cumulative impacts,
- The EIAR should have regard to the provisions of Chapter 3 of the DoECLG Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines in the assessment.

TII Publications:

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

TII environmental assessment guidance:

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

Haul routes utilising the national road network:

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Begley
Regulatory & Administration Executive
Transport Infrastructure Ireland



From: Shane McDermott
Sent: Tuesday 21 January 2025 15:40
To: Landuse Planning
Subject: BD Flood / TII Consultation / Murrens S&G Extension

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

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Transport Infrastructure Ireland

Parkgate Business Centre
Parkgate Street, Dublin 8
D08 DK10

Dear Consultee,

Please find enclosed a pre-planning consultation document on behalf of BD Flood who intend to apply for planning permission (with EIAR / AA) for a proposed sand and gravel pit extension at their existing permitted site at the Murrens, Oldcastle, Co. Meath.

Should you wish to provide any feedback, could we ask you please do so before **28 February 2025** where possible, by return email or by post to:

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

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

Kind regards,

Shane McDermott
Technical Director-Environmental & Social Impact Assessment

O +353 1 296 4667

E smcdermott@slrconsulting.com

SLR Consulting Ireland

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



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SLR is committed to the responsible and ethical use of relevant technologies including artificial intelligence (AI). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us directly.

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De réir pholasaí BIÉ An Ceart gan a bheith Ceangailte, má tá an ríomhphost seo á fháil agat lasmuigh de na gnáthuaireanta oibre, nílim ag súil le freagra ná le gníomh uait lasmuigh de do ghnáthuaireanta oibre féin mura bhfuil sé ráite go soiléir go bhfuil gá gníomhú go práinneach.

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

05 February 2025

Re: Proposed sand and gravel pit extension at Murrens, Oldcastle, Co. Meath
Your Ref: 501.065670.00001
Our Ref: 25/20

Dear Shane,

Geological Survey Ireland is the national earth science agency and is a division of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. We provide independent geological information and interpretation and gather various data for that purpose. Please see our [website](#) for data availability.

With reference to your email received on the 29 January 2025, concerning the pre-planning consultation on a proposed sand and gravel pit extension at Murrens, Oldcastle, Co. Meath, we recommend using our various data sets when conducting the EIAR, SEA, planning and scoping processes for developments, plans and policies. For more detailed information on how to access this data please access 'Data and Maps' [Data & Maps \(gsi.ie\)](#) on our 'Geoscience for planning' webpage. Use of our data or maps should be attributed correctly (please refer to each individual dataset's metadata for correct attribution).

For specific data available for Environmental Assessment and Planning topics please follow this link [[Data by Environmental Assessment and Planning Topic \(gsi.ie\)](#)], where you will find our data arranged by environmental assessment topic as illustrated below:

<p>Land and soils</p> <p><i>Soil</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsoils (Quaternary Geology) Tellus Geochemistry Geotechnical <p><i>Geology</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bedrock Geophysics Bedrock & Quaternary 3D 	<p>Water</p> <p><i>Groundwater</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aquifers GW vulnerability, GWPSs (GWPPs) <p><i>Surface water</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tellus Geochemistry <p><i>Estuarine & marine waters</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine and coastal <p><i>Flooding</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GWClimate Karst 	<p>Climate Change</p> <p><i>Carbon accounting / Carbon balance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geothermal Carbon capture and storage <p><i>Climate change trends</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National coastal change assessment
<p>Cultural Heritage</p> <p><i>Archaeology</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cherish <p><i>Underwater Archaeology</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shipwrecks 	<p>Material Assets</p> <p><i>Built Services</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural resources (Minerals & Aggregates) Active quarries 	<p>The Landscape</p> <p><i>Landscape Appearance & Character</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physiographic units <p><i>Historical landscapes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historic mines
<p>Other Relevant Data</p>		
<p><i>Natural (Geo) hazards</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landslide Susceptibility Mapping Groundwater flooding Coastal vulnerability Subsidence Radon 	<p><i>Natural heritage</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geoheritage (County Geological Sites) Dimension Stone/Stone Built Ireland 	



RECEIVED 21/01/2025
Meath County Council
For Official Purposes Only!

Geoheritage

Geological Survey Ireland is in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage), to identify and select important geological and geomorphological sites throughout the country for designation as geological NHAs (Natural Heritage Areas). This is addressed by the Geoheritage Programme of Geological Survey Ireland, under 16 different geological themes, in which the minimum number of scientifically significant sites that best represent the theme are rigorously selected by a panel of theme experts.

County Geological Sites (CGSs), as adopted under the National Heritage Plan, include additional sites that may also be of national importance, but which were not selected as the very best examples for NHA designation. All geological heritage sites identified by Geological Survey Ireland are categorised as CGS pending any further NHA designation by 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. Meath was carried out in 2007. The full report details can be found [here](#). **Our records show that the proposed sand and gravel pit extension is located within a CGS.**

Murrens, Co. Meath (GR 252464, 274868), under IGH theme: IGH 7 Quaternary. Wooded ridge – esker and hummocky ground including gravel pit. This is a long beaded esker system which feeds into a large, supraglacial delta complex, with flanking fans and kames. Murrens, is composed of a number of glacial depositional features. These include: an esker, formed by the deposition of sand and gravel by a subglacial river; and an ice contact fan and delta system, which is formed by the deposition of sand and gravel carried by glaciofluvial meltwater from a nearby ice sheet, creating hummocky terrain. This site is of very good quality, showing spectacular topography. Unique in Ireland and of international importance, the esker will be recommended for NHA designation. Link to Site Report: [MH014](#).

With the current plan, it is our opinion it is probable that the planning authority could identify likely impacts on the integrity of current CGSs envisaged by the proposed development. Ideally, the site should not be damaged or integrity impacted or reduced in any manner due to the proposed development. This is an extension to an existing sand and gravel pit, which already has a significant impact on the county geological site. The gravel extractions should not extend to the entire county geological site feature in the future. Appropriate mitigation measures should be put in place to minimize or mitigate potential impacts. Some suggestions are made below.

As with other quarries and gravel pits that are also CGSs, the extraction process can in some cases add knowledge to the understanding of the site. **In these cases, the fresh exposures should be clearly documented, recorded and assessed by a competent geologist. We recommend that this be included as part of the EIAR mitigating actions and that a report be produced as an output.**

Where the integrity cannot be preserved, **we would ask that careful consideration be given in design to accommodating preservation of faces** and access to the site during construction to record the exposures to strengthen our knowledge and datasets. We would also ask that the design of any future development **considers the use of information panels as appropriate to highlight the significance of the impacted CGS**. Please contact Clare Glanville (Clare.Glanville@gsi.ie) for further information and possible mitigation measures if applicable.

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 sand and gravel 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 representative sections of the sand and gravel faces at the end of the pit 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.

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 redacted for confidentiality and 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>.

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.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Clare Glanville
Senior Geologist
Geoheritage and Planning Programme
Geological Survey Ireland

Trish Smullen
Geologist
Geoheritage and Planning Programme
Geological Survey Ireland

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

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

Our Ref: CAS-20862-J2N4

24/02/25

Re: BD Flood / HSA Consultation / Murrens S&G Extension

Dear Mr. Mc Dermott,

The Health and Safety Authority (the Authority), acting as the Central Competent Authority under the Chemicals Act (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) Regulations 2015 (S.I. 209 of 2015) gives technical advice to the Planning Authority when requested, under regulation 24(2) in relation to:

- (a) the siting and development of new establishments;
- (b) modifications to establishments of the type described in Regulation 12(1);
- (c) new developments including transport routes, locations of public use and residential areas in the vicinity of establishments, where the siting, modifications or developments may be the source of, or increase the risk or consequences of, a major accident.

Since the above-referenced application appears to be outside the scope of the Regulations, the Authority has no observations to forward.

If you have any queries please contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely

Tara Horigan

Tara Horigan
Inspector,
COMAH, Chemical Production & Storage (CCPS)

Shane McDermott and Lynn Hassett,
SLR Consulting Ireland,
7 Dundrum Business Park,
Windy Arbour,
Dublin 14,
D14 N2Y7.
smcdermott@slrconsulting.com and lhasset@slrconsulting.com

Date: 3rd April 2025
Name: Shane McDermott and Lynn Hassett, SLR Consulting Ireland.
Consultant's reference: 501.0656770.00001
Re: EIA Scoping
Proposed development: Sand and Gravel Pit Extension
Applicant: BD Flood Unlimited Company
EHIS Reference: 4700

Dear Shane and Lynn,

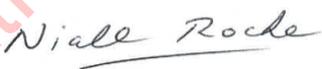
Please find enclosed the HSE Consultation Report in relation to the above proposal.

The following HSE departments were made aware of the consultation request for the proposed development on 10th March 2025.

- Emergency Planning – Brendan Lawlor
- National Capital Estates Office – Regional AND
- Director of National Health Protection – Eamonn O' Moore /Ina Kelly
- REO Dublin & North East – Sara Long

If you have any queries regarding this report please contact Ms. Elish O'Reilly, PEHO, Meath (elish.oreilly@hse.ie) in the first instance

Yours sincerely



pp

Elish O'Reilly
Principal Environmental Health Officer

HSE EIA Scoping

National Environmental Health Service Submission Report

Date: 3rd April 2025

Our reference: EHS 4700

Report to: Shane McDermott and Lynn Hassett, SLR Consulting Ireland

Type of Consultation: EIA Scoping

Proposed development: Sand and Gravel Pit Extension

Location: Annagh townland, Murrens, Oldcastle, Co. Meath

Applicant: BD Flood Unlimited Company

Proposed Development:

BD Flood Unlimited Company intends to apply to Meath County Council for planning permission to extend sand and gravel (S&G) extraction from the existing S&G pit in a westerly direction into the extension lands. The area of extension is circa 4.7 hectares.

The site operates under planning permission KA/141129 (ABP PL17.245257) and is located in the townland of Annagh, Murrens, Oldcastle, Co. Meath. It is described in the pre-planning consultation report as "a replacement source of sand and gravel materials with extraction to be commensurate with the life of P.Ref. KA14/1129 which is due to expire in December 2036.

The extraction rate is said in the pre-planning consultation report to remain the same at a maximum of 500,000 tonnes per annum.

No reference to a period of decommissioning/restoration was found in the pre-planning consultation report.

General Introduction

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

- Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (2022), EPA.
- Advice Notes on Current Practice in the preparation of EIS (2003), 435kb
- Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment

https://www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/publications/files/guidelines_for_planning_authorities_and_an_bord_pleanála_on_carrying_out_eia_-_august_2018.pdf

EU publication: Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects Guidance on the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, EU, 2017

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/pdf/EIA_guidance_EIA_report_final.pdf

Adoption of the Directive (2014/52/EU) in April 2014 initiated a review of the above guidelines. The draft new guidelines can be seen at:

<http://www.epa.ie/pubs/consultation/reviewofdraftteisguidelinesadvicenotes>

Climate Action Plan 2024 CAP 2024 Govt. of Ireland, May 2024

Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022

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

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

Directive 2014/52/EU has an enhanced requirement to assess likely significant impacts on Population and Human Health. It is the experience of the National Environmental Health Service (NEHS) that impacts on human health are often inadequately assessed in EIAs in Ireland. It is recommended that the wider determinants of health and well-being are considered in a proportionate manner when considering the EIA including climate change.

In addition to any likely significant negative impacts from the proposed development, any positive likely significant impacts should also be assessed. For example the potential for health gain should also be assessed, particularly in the context of climate action.

The HSE will consider the final EIAR accompanying the Planning application and will 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 impact

This report only comments on Environmental Health Impacts of the proposed development. It is based on an assessment of the correspondence submitted, namely the Pre-Planning Consultation Report dated 21st January 2025.

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

- Public Consultation
- Population and Human Health including Opportunity for Health Gain
- Land, Soils and Geology
- Surface and Ground Water Quality
- Air Quality including Dust
- Climate Change
- Noise & Vibration
- Surface and Groundwater Quality
- Cumulative impacts

Some comment on selected criteria for inclusion are provided below.

Public/Community Consultation

The full EIAR should demonstrate that the public, primarily potential sensitive receptors, have been consulted about the proposed development. Public consultation should be inclusive and use a range of communication methods (hard and digital methods) to ensure all sections of the community participate in the process at each stage most notably during the operation of the sand and gravel pit and the restoration/decommissioning phase.

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

Population and Human Health including Opportunity for Health Gain

The National Environmental Health Service (NEHS) recommends that potential impacts on human health are assessed in each of the proposed development phases.

The EIAR should further assess the potential health gains the proposed development offers. For example does the development intend to create recreational space for the local population providing health and well-being benefits? In this context will the restoration only restore the land to agriculture use or will other options be explored?

Climate Change

“Climate Change poses the greatest threat to global health this century” (World Health Organisation) and therefore should be considered in the context of Population and Human Health.

The EIAR should clearly illustrate how the development contributes to obligations under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 and amendment of 2021 and the most recent Climate Action Plan 2024. It should also illustrate a link to National Planning Objective 54 under Chapter 9 – Realising our Sustainable Future within the National Planning Framework (Project Ireland 2040).

Under Mitigation of Green House Gas emissions the NEHS recommends that the EIAR assess, in the context of carbon budgets, the quantity of GHGs from the proposed development at every phase, both operations and decommissioning. For example how will the mechanical excavators used to extract sand and gravel minimise/reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions?

Under Adaptation to Climate Change the NEHS recommends that the EIAR assess the risks to the proposed development in the context of climate change. Many of those risks are related to Severe

Weather Events such as floods but also may include slower onset events such as dry spells. Once risks have been assessed the EIAR should demonstrate the measures to be taken to prevent, mitigate, prepare and plan for dealing with such risks.

Noise & Vibration

The potential impacts for noise and vibration from the proposed development on all noise sensitive locations must be clearly identified in the EIAR. The EIAR must also consider the appropriateness and effectiveness of all proposed mitigation measures to minimise noise and vibration.

A baseline noise monitoring survey should be undertaken to establish the existing background noise levels.

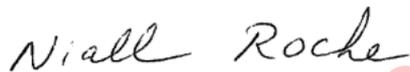
Air Quality including Dust

The EIAR should identify the air pollutants of public health concern in each of the phases of the proposed development. The generation of Dust during operations and the potential impact on sensitive receptors should be addressed in the EIAR including mitigation measures needed to protect sensitive receptors.

Water - Surface and Ground Water Quality

The pre-planning consultation report indicated that there “are no surface water features in the vicinity of the site and there is no discharge from the site”. Reference to ground water features was not found.

The NEHS recommends that the potential impact on both surface water and ground water quality is assessed. Any potential significant impacts to drinking water sources should be assessed. Details of bedrock, overburden, vulnerability, groundwater flows, aquifers and catchment areas should be considered when assessing potential impacts and any proposed mitigation measures.



Niall Roche

Oifigeach Sláinte Comhshaoil - Environmental Health Officer

Timpeallacht/Athrú Aeráide, Aonad Tacaíochta Líonra - Environment/Climate Change, Network Support Unit (NSU)

Shane McDermott

From: DialBeforeYouDig (ESB Networks) <dig@esb.ie>
Sent: 22 January 2025 14:16
To: Lynn Hassett
Cc: Shane McDermott
Subject: Electrical Network Information Request Reference No: 20250122-060_A0
Attachments: 20250122-060_A0.pdf; 20250122-060-001_A0.pdf; 20250122-060-002_A0.pdf; 20250122-060-003_A0.pdf; 20250122-060-004_A0.pdf

ESB Networks Reference: 20250122-060_A0

To Whom it May Concern,

Thank you for your recent enquiry regarding the location of ESB electrical network. Please find notice below of documentation which must be reviewed carefully in advance of site works at the requested location.

- Attached PDF map(s) of requested location.
- ESB Networks “Code of Practice for Avoiding Danger From Overhead Electricity Lines”.
 - o [ESB Networks Code of Practice for Avoiding Danger from Overhead Electricity Lines](#)
- H.S.A. Code of Practice for Avoiding Danger from Underground Services
 - [https://www.hsa.ie/eng/publications_and_forms/publications/construction/cop_avoiding_danger_from_underground_services .pdf](https://www.hsa.ie/eng/publications_and_forms/publications/construction/cop_avoiding_danger_from_underground_services.pdf)

ESB Networks ‘Safe Construction and the Electricity Network’.

o [safe-construction-with-electricity-new.pdf \(esbnetworks.ie\)](#)

- ESB Networks ‘How You Can Avoid Hitting Electrical Cables When Digging and Drilling”

[how-you-can-avoid-hitting-electrical-cables-when-digging-and-drilling-v2.0.pdf \(esbnetworks.ie\)](#)

Please fully read the contents of this e-mail and all attached or referenced Documentation carefully before you proceed.

The attached PDF map(s) indicate the approximate location of ESB Networks underground (UG) cables and overhead (OH) lines. ESB Networks makes no representation that the maps accurately show the location of ESB Networks cables and lines.

ESB Networks has issued this map as a PDF document. If printing a paper version of this map and to maintain a clear and correct representation of the electrical network information, it must be ensured that

- (1) It has been printed in colour to fit the page size that has been indicated within each PDF document (The PDF document indicates if the map should be printed on either of A4, A3, A2, A1, A0).

(2) Each of the colours indicated on the colour code legend (incorporated in the PDF document) are clear and distinct from each other.

Please note that there are High Voltage Overhead Lines and Underground Cables in the area concerned. If you intend working or undertaking development within an 80 meter corridor of the overhead lines or in the direct vicinity of the underground cables you must immediately contact 1800 372 757 to agree safe working procedures and necessary clearances between the lines and the development in advance of any excavation.

It is essential before excavating in the vicinity of ESB Networks cables that you fully understand and comply with the requirements of the H.S.A. Code of Practice for Avoiding Danger from Underground Services and that you contact ESB Networks. If works don't commence before or continue beyond 6 weeks following the date of issue, then you must obtain an updated map. Each new job requires a new map. It is imperative that before any works commence you first locate and trace the routes of all electricity cables by using appropriate locator equipment (in both power and radio modes). Before using a mechanical excavator, ONLY MANUAL means should be employed to prove the location of ESB Networks cables. Even where manual excavation is used, extreme caution must always be exercised, as failure to do so could result in serious injury or electrocution. Under no circumstances should iron bars be used during manual excavation. Careful hand digging of trial holes should be carried out for accurate cable location and prior to using a mechanical excavator in the vicinity of electricity cables.

As outlined in the H.S.A. Code of Practice for Avoiding Danger from Underground Services, if an electricity cable suffers any impact or any damage, however slight, the incident must be reported to ESB Networks at 1800 372 999 without any undue delay. Please note that, if during excavation, damage or interference occurs to our cables, causing damage to any property, injury or death to any person or loss of supply to any customers, ESB Networks may at its discretion serve a Notification to Stop Work, and notify the Health and Safety Authority immediately. The user will also be liable to reimburse ESB Networks on a full indemnity basis, the full costs, expenses and damages arising (directly or indirectly) as a result.

ESB Networks will extend every reasonable assistance in indicating the route of the cables and arrangements can be made by contacting ESB Networks at 1800 372 757. ESB Networks cannot, however, accept responsibility for the absence or incorrect position of any particular cable on ESB Networks records and drawings supplied. Please note that a charge may be made where a movement of networks is required, and/or where ESB Networks provide staff outside of normal working hours.

Please ensure that all contractors and their personnel involved in excavations have been furnished with this map.

In the event that you have any issues of concern please do not hesitate to contact dig@esb.ie

Kind regards,

Dial Before You Dig Service

From: Lynn Hassett <lhassett@slrconsulting.com>

Sent: Wednesday 22 January 2025 11:28

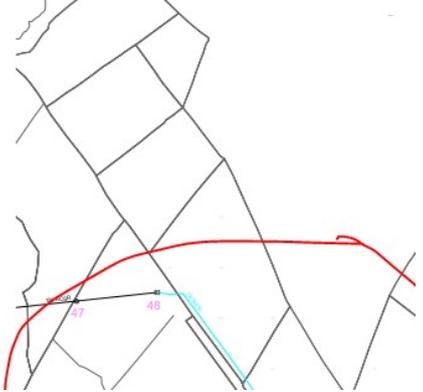
To: DialBeforeYouDig (ESB Networks) <dig@esb.ie>
Cc: Shane McDermott <smcdermott@slrconsulting.com>
Subject: RE: Electrical Network Information Request Reference No: 20250107-031 Feedback Sought Please

RECEIVED: 04/07/2025
Meath County Council - Viewing Purposes Only!

CAUTION:This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, Do NOT Click any links or Open any attachments if you were not expecting them.

ESB Networks
Head Office
Three Gateway
East Wall Road
Dublin 3
D03 R583

Good morning and thanks again for providing the information requested. On review of the infrastructure map you provided, we noted a high voltage underground power cable in an area where we are assessing for a potential quarry extension.



Please find attached a pre-planning consultation document on behalf of BD Flood who intend to apply for planning permission (with EIAR / AA) for a proposed sand and gravel pit extension at their existing permitted site at the Murrens, Oldcastle, Co. Meath.

Should you wish to provide any feedback, could we ask you please do so before **28 February 2025** where possible, by return email or by post to myself or:

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

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

Kind regards,

Lynn Hassett
Associate-Environmental & Social Impact Assessment

O +353 1 296 4667
M +353 87 4296525
E lhassett@slrconsulting.com



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Any advice or opinion is provided on the basis that it has been prepared by SLR with reasonable skill, care and diligence, taking account of the manpower, time and resources devoted to it by agreement with its Client. It is subject to the terms and conditions of any appointment to which it relates. Parties with whom SLR has a contractual relationship in relation to the subject of the message should not use or place reliance on any information, advice, recommendations and opinions in this message and any attachment(s) for any purpose.

SLR is committed to the responsible and ethical use of relevant technologies including artificial intelligence (AI). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us directly.

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From: DialBeforeYouDig (ESB Networks)
Sent: 07 January 2025 12:54
To: Lynn Hassett
Subject: Electrical Network Information Request Reference No: 20250107-031

ESB Networks Reference: [20250107-031](#)

To Whom it May Concern,

Thank you for your recent enquiry regarding the location of ESB electrical network. Please find notice below of documentation which must be reviewed carefully in advance of site works at the requested location.

- Attached PDF map(s) of requested location.
- ESB Networks “Code of Practice for Avoiding Danger From Overhead Electricity Lines”.
 - o [ESB Networks Code of Practice for Avoiding Danger from Overhead Electricity Lines](#)
- H.S.A. Code of Practice for Avoiding Danger from Underground Services
 - [https://www.hsa.ie/eng/publications_and_forms/publications/construction/cop_avoiding_danger_from_underground_services .pdf](https://www.hsa.ie/eng/publications_and_forms/publications/construction/cop_avoiding_danger_from_underground_services.pdf)
- ESB Networks ‘Safe Construction and the Electricity Network’.
 - o [safe-construction-with-electricity-new.pdf \(esbnetworks.ie\)](#)
- ESB Networks ‘How You Can Avoid Hitting Electrical Cables When Digging and Drilling’
[how-you-can-avoid-hitting-electrical-cables-when-digging-and-drilling-v2.0.pdf \(esbnetworks.ie\)](#)

Please fully read the contents of this e-mail and all attached or referenced Documentation carefully before you proceed.

The attached PDF map(s) indicate the approximate location of ESB Networks underground (UG) cables and overhead (OH) lines. ESB Networks makes no representation that the maps accurately show the location of ESB Networks cables and lines.

ESB Networks has issued this map as a PDF document. If printing a paper version of this map and to maintain a clear and correct representation of the electrical network information, it must be ensured that

- (1) It has been printed in colour to fit the page size that has been indicated within each PDF document (The PDF document indicates if the map should be printed on either of A4, A3, A2, A1, A0).
- (2) Each of the colours indicated on the colour code legend (incorporated in the PDF document) are clear and distinct from each other.

Please note that there are High Voltage Overhead Lines and Underground Cables in the area concerned. If you intend working or undertaking development within an 80 meter corridor of the overhead lines or in the direct vicinity of the underground cables you must immediately contact 1800 372 757 to agree safe working procedures and necessary clearances between the lines and the development in advance of any excavation.

It is essential before excavating in the vicinity of ESB Networks cables that you fully understand and comply with the requirements of the H.S.A. Code of Practice for Avoiding Danger from Underground Services and that you contact ESB Networks. If works don't commence before or continue beyond 6 weeks following the date of issue, then you must obtain an updated map. Each new job requires a new map. It is imperative that before any works commence you first locate and trace the routes of all electricity cables by using appropriate locator equipment (in both power and radio modes). Before using a mechanical excavator, ONLY MANUAL means should be employed to prove the location of ESB Networks cables. Even where manual excavation is used, extreme caution must always be exercised, as failure to do so could result in serious injury or electrocution. Under no circumstances should iron bars be used during manual excavation. Careful hand digging of trial holes should be carried out for accurate cable location and prior to using a mechanical excavator in the vicinity of electricity cables.

As outlined in the H.S.A. Code of Practice for Avoiding Danger from Underground Services, if an electricity cable suffers any impact or any damage, however slight, the incident must be reported to ESB Networks at 1800 372 999 without any undue delay. Please note that, if during excavation, damage or interference occurs to our cables, causing damage to any property, injury or death to any person or loss of supply to any customers, ESB Networks may at its discretion serve a Notification to Stop Work, and notify the Health and Safety Authority immediately. The user will also be liable to reimburse ESB Networks on a full indemnity basis, the full costs, expenses and damages arising (directly or indirectly) as a result.

ESB Networks will extend every reasonable assistance in indicating the route of the cables and arrangements can be made by contacting ESB Networks at 1800 372 757. ESB Networks cannot, however, accept responsibility for the absence or incorrect position of any particular cable on ESB Networks records and drawings supplied. Please note that a charge may be made where a movement of networks is required, and/or where ESB Networks provide staff outside of normal working hours.

Please ensure that all contractors and their personnel involved in excavations have been furnished with this map.

In the event that you have any issues of concern please do not hesitate to contact dig@esb.ie

Kind regards,

Dial Before You Dig Service

From: Lynn Hassett <lhassett@slrconsulting.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 10:37 AM

To: DialBeforeYouDig (ESB Networks) <dig@esb.ie>; Shane McDermott <smcdermott@slrconsulting.com>

Subject: ESB Infrastructure Information Request: Murrens Quarry, Co. Meath (Annagh Townland)

CAUTION: This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, Do NOT Click any links or Open any attachments if you were not expecting them.

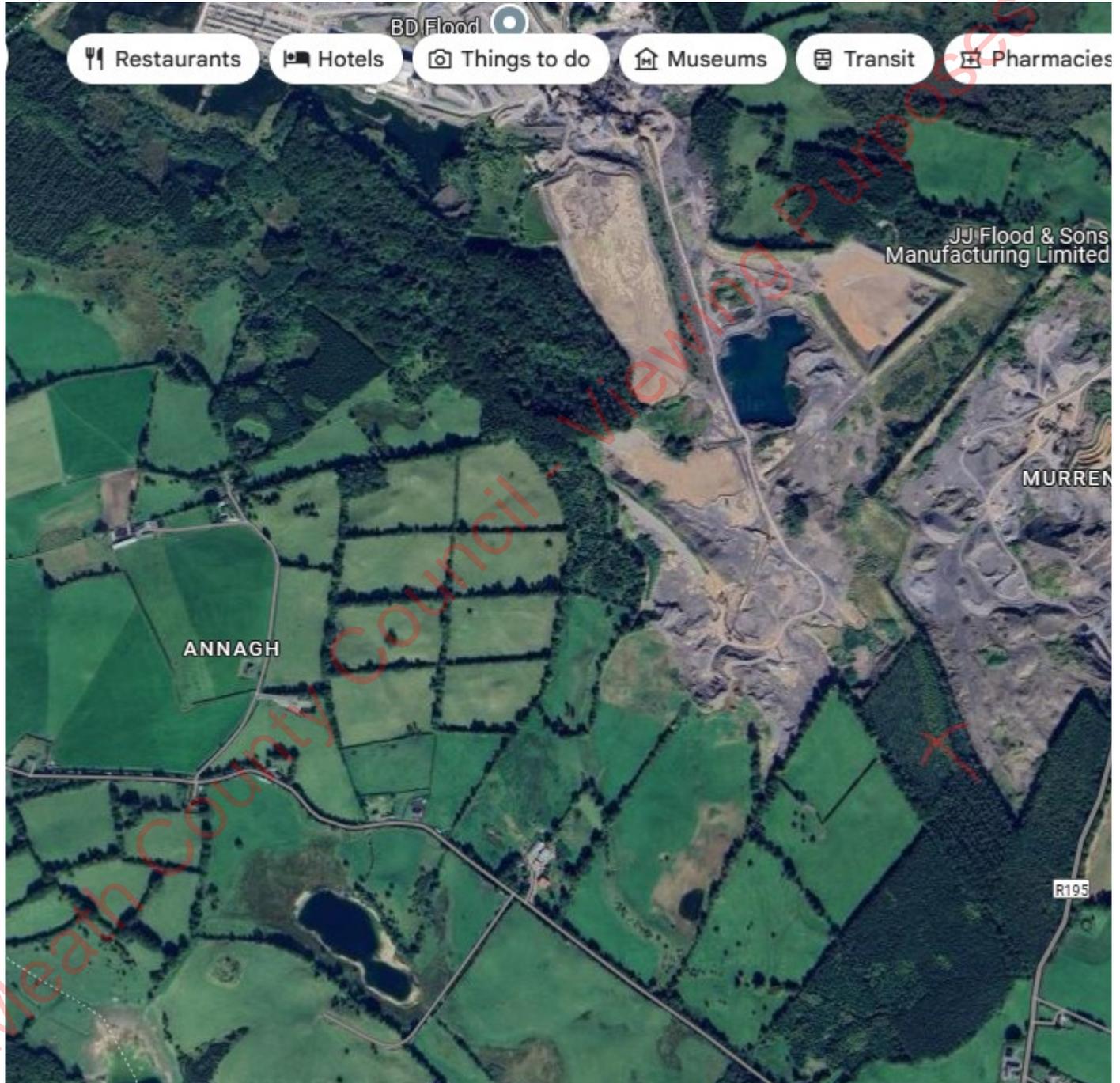
Dear Sirs

Please may I request mapping in relation to a potential area of dig at Murrens Quarry, Murrens, Oldcastle, Kells, Co. Meath, A82R6A0

Geographic co-ordinates of central area of interest 53°42'56.5"N 7°12'28.5"W

Information will be most gratefully received by Lynn Hassett (Environmental Impact Assessment Co-ordinator at SLR Consulting (Ireland) Ltd) at email address lhassett@slrconsulting.com

Map of area below



Thank you
Lynn

Lynn Hassett

Associate-Environmental & Social Impact Assessment

O +353 1 296 4667

M +353 87 4296525

E lhassett@slrconsulting.com

SLR Consulting Ireland

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



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SLR is committed to the responsible and ethical use of relevant technologies including artificial intelligence (AI). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us directly.

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From: DialBeforeYouDig (ESB Networks) <dig@esb.ie>
Sent: 03 January 2025 14:26
To: Lynn Hassett <lhassett@slrconsulting.com>
Subject: RE: ESB Infrastructure near Murrrens Quarry, Co. Meath (Annagh Townland)

Dear Lynn Hassett,

Thank you for your email.

The requirements for requesting a Dial Before You Dig map are available online at [ESB Networks - Homepage](#)

Additionally, you can find the relevant information at the following link:

[Digging and Excavation Work \(esbnetworks.ie\)](#)

For those planning excavation work, it is essential to obtain a Dial Before You Dig Map. This map can be requested by emailing the following details to dig@esb.ie

- Full address of site location including Eircode
- Geographic coordinates of site location

- Map of area (this can be a screenshot on Google Maps)
- Name and email address that we can respond to with the requested map

All requests must conform to the size specifications of A3 or A0 sized maps, with the magnification not exceeding 1:2,500 for rural areas and 1:1,000 for high density urban areas. The route or work site must be clearly marked on the map. Our Dial Before You Dig service has to be able to correctly identify requested locations on our system with a Geographic Map.

Please provide a Geographic Map (Google screenshot, OSi map, etc...) of the requested location with the work site clearly outlined or marked in a .pdf, .jpeg or .png format. This should be in 'SATELITTE VIEW' perspective. We cannot accept 'STREET VIEW' map attachments or web map links for legal and security purposes as links expire.

Upon submission of your request, you will receive your map within ten working days.

Please note that the Dial Before You Dig service only provides maps for excavation works requests. This service is offered to homeowners and contractors who are in the process of breaking ground for construction or excavation with a specific geographic location or job site.

We do not provide maps of the network for planning permission, work assessments, studies, surveys, or college study assignments as the network maps are only valid for six weeks. If works don't commence before or continue beyond six weeks following the date of issue, then you must obtain an updated map. Each new job requires a new map. A screen shot or PDF of a Google Map will suffice to ensure we provide the most detailed and accurate map available.

For high volume Dial Before You Dig requests we provide a digital disk GoAnywhere service online.

This network data is updated every six weeks. The GoAnywhere Digital Disc Service is intended for use by customers who wish to embed ESB Networks electrical data within their own mapping and GIS solutions and have their own OSI mapping licence and data.

If you have an OSI licence you can request the network data by sending the following details to dig@esb.ie

1. Company Registered Name
2. Company Registration Number
3. Company Registration Address
4. Contact Person/Contact Address
5. Contact Phone Number
6. Contact Email address

Upon receipt of these details, a copyright licence and confidentiality agreement will be dispatched to the relevant contact person for signatures.

For any further queries please contact **ESB Customer Service at 1800 372 757**. They will be happy to assist you or arrange a customer referral to the local office for follow up.

Kind Regards
Dial Before You Dig

From: Lynn Hassett <lhassett@slrconsulting.com>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2025 2:04 PM
To: DialBeforeYouDig (ESB Networks) <dig@esb.ie>
Cc: Shane McDermott <smcdermott@slrconsulting.com>
Subject: ESB Infrastructure near Murrens Quarry, Co. Meath (Annagh Townland)

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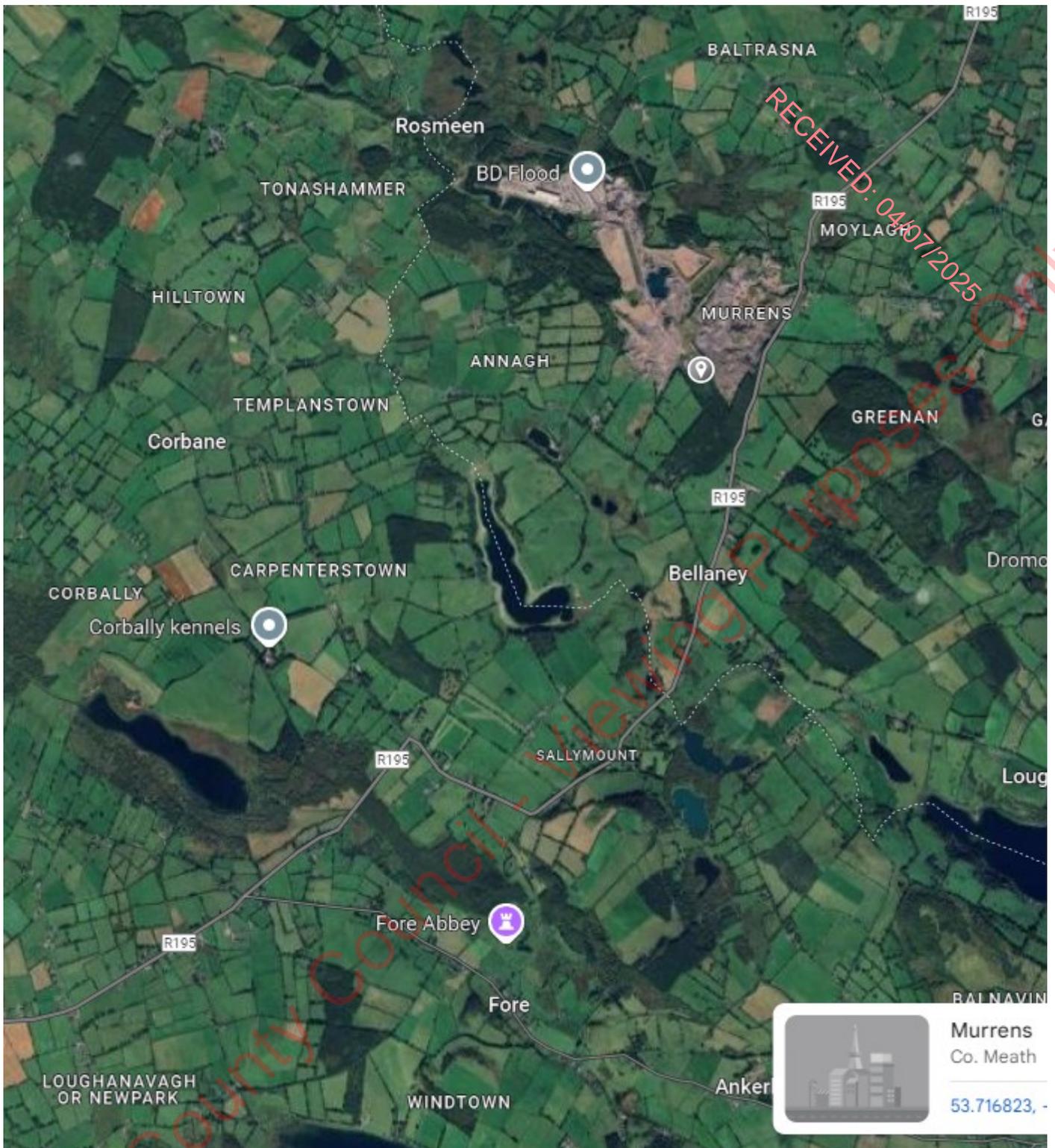
Good afternoon

I am emailing to request ESB infrastructure held data in relation to the area covered in the screengrab image below which is a quarry site near the Meath/Westmeath border.

https://www.google.ie/maps/@53.7151702,-7.2204498,5383m/data=!3m1!1e3?entry=tту&g_ep=EgoyMDI1MDEwMS4wIKXMDSoASAFQAw%3D%3D

I am interested in roughly the area on screenshot below and rough co-ordinates from google maps highlighted.

We need to understand the ESB infrastructure in the area to enable us to undertake our Environmental Impact Assessment work. I do not have access to CAD software so would very much appreciate pdf mapping if available.



Please let me know if you require any clarification.

Many thanks for your help.

Lynn

Lynn Hassett

Associate-Environmental & Social Impact Assessment

O +353 1 296 4667

M +353 87 4296525

E lhassett@slrconsulting.com



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SLR is committed to the responsible and ethical use of relevant technologies including artificial intelligence (AI). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us directly.

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An t-impeallacht? - Smaoinigh air sula bpriontáileann tú an r-phost seo.
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Tá an t-eolas sa ríomhphost seo agus in aon chomhad a ghabhann leis rúnda agus ceaptha le haghaidh úsáide an té nó an aonáin ar seoladh chuige iad agus na húsáide sin amháin. Is tuairimí nó dearcthaí an údair amháin aon tuairimí nó dearcthaí ann, agus ní gá gurb ionann iad agus tuairimí nó dearcthaí ESB. Má bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid, ar mhiste leat é sin a chur in iúl don seoltóir. Scanann ESB ríomhphoist agus ceangaltáin le haghaidh víreas, ach ní ráthaíonn sé go bhfuil ceachtar díobh saor ó víreas agus ní glacann dliteanas ar bith as aon damáiste de dhroim víreas.

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Tá an t-eolas sa ríomhphost seo agus in aon chomhad a ghabhann leis rúnda agus ceaptha le

haghaidh úsáide an té nó an aonáin ar seoladh chuige iad agus na húsáide sin amháin. Is tuairimí nó dearcthaí an údair amháin aon tuairimí nó dearcthaí ann, agus ní gá gurb ionann iad agus tuairimí nó dearcthaí ESB.

Má bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid, ar mhiste leat é sin a chur in iúl don seoltóir. Scanann ESB ríomhphoist agus ceangaltáin le haghaidh víreas, ach ní ráthaíonn sé go bhfuil ceachtar díobh saor ó víreas agus ní glacann dliteanas ar bith as aon damáiste de dhroim víreas.

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Scanann ESB ríomhphoist agus ceangaltáin le haghaidh víreas, ach ní ráthaíonn sé go bhfuil ceachtar díobh saor ó víreas agus ní glacann dliteanas ar bith as aon damáiste de dhroim víreas.

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