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## Existing Development

- 2.1 The planning application area includes a newly proposed extension area, which comprises c. 4.2 hectares of an area of former woodland plantation within an overall planning application area of c. 5.8 hectares. The general site layout is shown on **Figure 2-1**.

## Existing Sand and Gravel Pit Landholding

### Sand and Gravel Extraction

- 2.2 The existing sand and gravel site at the Murrens has been in operation since 1962 and prior to the implementation of the Planning and Development Act (1963). In June 1978 planning permission was granted under planning permission P. Ref. 78/547 for the erection of a crushing and washing plant.
- 2.3 Planning permission (P. Ref. KA/802993) was granted in July 2009 for an extension of the permitted sand & gravel pit by c. 4.4 hectares, subject to 20 no. conditions. The proposed development was never commenced.
- 2.4 A planning application (P. Ref. KA/141129) was submitted in December 2014 for development consisting of an extension of the existing sand & gravel pit to include: an extraction area of c. 23.9 hectares; perimeter landscaped screening berms; all other associated site works/ancillary activities; and restoration to a beneficial agricultural & ecological after-use within an overall planning application area of c.28.5 hectares. The development was granted planning permission in December 2016 following an appeal to An Bord Pleanála (Ref. PL.17.245257) subject to 13 no. conditions.
- 2.5 The pit extension is accessed from the same entrance to the established works on the L68181 and benefits from the existing ancillary site services and infrastructure. The permitted annual extraction rate from the extension lands were in line with the previous output levels from the site of c.500,000 tonnes. P. Ref. KA14/1129 is the extant planning permission and is due to expire in December 2036.

### Section 261 (2004 Quarry Registration)

- 2.6 The pit was registered, under Section 261 of the Planning and Development Act (2000), with Meath County Council (Ref. No. QY24), and 19 no. conditions were imposed on the operation of the site.

### Section 261A (2012 Quarry Review)

- 2.7 In the review of quarries following the amended Planning & Development Act 2010, Meath County Council (MCC) determined that BD Flood Ltd. should apply to An Bord Pleanála for substitute consent in respect of the existing sand & gravel site at the Murrens, Baltrasna and Annagh townlands, Oldcastle, Co. Meath (Quarry Ref. QY24), and that the application should be accompanied by a remedial Environmental Impact Statement (rEIS) and a remedial Natura Impact Statement (rNIS).
- 2.8 The consequent substitute consent granted by An Bord Pleanála on 11 December 2014.

## Precast Factory

- 2.9 Planning permission for the existing factory (P. Ref. **KA/101227**) was granted in October 2010 for a new precast manufacturing facility on c. 5.5 ha. of land within an existing area of the exhausted sand & gravel workings. Permission was granted in May 2017 to extend the duration of this planning permission for a period of five years under plan reg. ref. **KA/151329**. Retention permission was granted in April 2022 under plan reg. ref. **2279** for elements of the

existing development which were constructed on site and which did not form part of the original KA/101227 permission.

- 2.10 Further to this, a subsequent grant of planning permission (P. Ref. 22/708) was issued in September 2022 for an extension to the existing precast factory facility.
- 2.11 There is a portion (c. 4 hectares) of the existing permitted development of P. Ref. KA/141129, located to the southwest area of the site which will now not be extracted due to the poor quality of the materials.

### Extension Lands

- 2.12 There is a portion (c. 4 hectares) of the existing permitted development of P. Ref. KA/141129, located to the southwest area of the site which will now not be extracted due to the poor quality of the materials (see Area 1 on **Figure 2-1**).
- 2.13 The application site includes a new proposed extraction extension area of c. 4.2 hectares (see Area 2 on **Figure 2-1**), which will effectively be a replacement source of sand and gravel materials within the poorly productive Area 1.
- 2.14 The proposed replacement extension operation is intended to gradually advance in a southeast direction from the existing pit.
- 2.15 The application area includes an extensive deposit of sand and gravel which is proposed to be extracted using mechanical excavators, with no requirement for blasting. The existing fixed field conveyor system will be utilised to transport the extracted materials in Area 2 to the existing central site processing area.
- 2.16 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.
- 2.17 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.

## Proposed Development

### Development Overview

- 2.18 The proposed development being applied for under this planning application is shown in plan on **Figure 2-2**, and in cross section on **Figure 2-3**, and 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.

### Construction Phase (Extension of Conveyor System, Screening Berms, Fencing & Topsoil Stripping)

- 2.19 The overall extraction development plan is shown in **Figure 2-2**. It is anticipated that the construction stage works as outlined below would be carried out within a 3-6 month period.
- Extension of fixed field conveyor system using standard construction techniques;
  - Construction of perimeter fencing;
  - Topsoil and overburden will be stripped to obtain access to the underlying sand and gravel resource and will be either placed in landscaped screening berms or stored for final restoration of the extraction area.

### Operational Phase (Sand & Gravel Extraction / Processing – Phased Extraction)

- 2.20 The proposed operational phase will see sand and gravel extraction carried out within an overall extraction area of c. 4.2 hectares. The final extraction scheme is shown in plan on **Figure 2-3** and in cross section on **Figure 2-4**. It is proposed that extraction would be carried out over the remaining time period permitted by planning permission KA/141129 (ABP PL17.245257).
- 2.21 Extraction within the existing pit is carried out as a dry extraction operation above the groundwater table. It is proposed that extraction within the extension area will also be carried out above the groundwater table, with the proposed pit floor over the extension lands of between 123m AOD and 120mAOD. It is proposed to extract the sand and gravel on a gradual basis with the extraction face advancing southeast from the existing pit as shown on **Figure 2-2**.
- 2.22 A mechanical excavator will take material from the working pit face to be placed into a mobile crusher to crush any oversized boulders. The extracted sand & gravel from the working face and mobile crusher will be transported for processing via the efficient and environmentally friendly field conveyor system using the existing crushing, screening, and washing plant located within the existing central processing area / registered pit area (P. Ref. No. 78-547 / S261 Ref. QY24 / ABP PL17.SU0079).
- 2.23 The lack of requirement to locate any fixed plant within the proposed extension lands will minimise any impact of the development on the local residences from dust, noise and visual intrusion. The conveyor system will also eliminate the requirement for dump trucks to transport the material internally within the site, thereby reducing fuel costs, emissions and potential disturbance from noise and dust.

### Restoration Phase (Reinstatement to Agricultural Lands and Ecological Habitat)

- 2.24 Upon the cessation of extraction operations, it is proposed to return the worked lands to agricultural grazing lands on the pit floor with some dedicated peripheral areas for natural habitat after-uses included – refer to **Figure 2-5**.
- 2.25 Restoration activities will be carried out after extraction operations have ceased and all plant and machinery has been removed from the site. Re-grading to a gradient of 1:3 or less of the sand and gravel pit side slopes to achieve a relatively uniform profile. The re-graded areas will be spread with topsoil and seeded.
- 2.26 The only material requirements in respect of the planned restoration scheme are those topsoils and subsoils already present on site and which will remain on site for restoration purposes.
- 2.27 **Please note** it is not proposed to import material onto the site for operational or restoration purposes.

- 2.28 The restoration works will be carried out in accordance with the EPA Guidelines (2006). Ecological advice will also be incorporated into the restoration process to facilitate future habitat value in the area for flora and fauna, refer to **EIAR Chapter 5**.
- 2.29 All existing boundary fences and hedgerows will be retained to ensure that the site is secure.

### Aggregate Reserve Assessment

- 2.30 A detailed topographical survey of the site was commissioned by BD Flood (refer to **Figure 2-1**). The survey data was used to produce a 3D digital terrain model using a quarry design software package called LSS. In preparing the design, standard criteria were adopted with regard to face heights and bench widths, stand-offs to the site boundaries etc. with the sand and gravel pit extension design provided in plan on **Figures 2-2** and in cross section on **Figure 2-3**).
- 2.31 The total recoverable reserve of sand and gravel from within Area 2 of the proposed development extension is estimated to be c. 875,000 tonnes.

**Table 2-1:** Estimated Material Volumes

Materials	Estimated Quantity
Topsoil & Overburden (stripped and stored separately on site for restoration works)	25,000 tonnes
Sand & Gravel (to be extracted and conveyed to existing processing area)	875,000 tonnes

### Duration of Extraction

- 2.32 The duration of quarrying activities at the application site will largely be dictated by the rate at which the sand and gravel is extracted from the site. There are many factors which will influence this, including, but not limited to the prevailing economic climate and related construction industry demand and distance of construction projects from the facility (and scale of activity). The sand and gravel will be used to primarily supply the onsite concrete plant, concrete block making and precast concrete facilities.
- 2.33 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. For the purposes of this EIAR and a robust assessment, the average annual extraction rate is assumed to be in the order of 500,000 tonnes per year, which is the currently permitted maximum output permitted under P. Ref. KA/1129 (ABP PL.17.245257).

### Site Screening and Boundary Treatment

- 2.34 To date, extraction has been carried out in a general north to south direction, with the intervening higher ground between the advancing face and the nearest residences in the southwest acting as a screening buffer in term of noise, dust and visual impacts. The closest residence to the proposed Area 2 extension is 235m (south), as opposed to the closest property being 150m southwest of previous Area 1.
- 2.35 Perimeter screening berms will be erected around the periphery of the extraction area using the stripped topsoil/overburden materials. This along with the intervening mature forestry plantations, will provide additional acoustic and dust screening to the nearest residences to the south (R1-R4).

### Removal of Topsoil & Overburden Soils

- 2.36 Topsoil and overburden stripped to obtain access to the underlying sand and gravel resource will be either utilised directly for construction of the perimeter screening berms, landscaping works or stored in stockpiles on the pit floor until it can be used in the final restoration.
- 2.37 There is no requirement to remove topsoil or overburden off site.
- 2.38 All berms will have slope angles not greater than 1:1.5 and will be re-vegetated at the earliest opportunity to avoid soil erosion by air and water.

### Hedgerows / Trees (Removal / Reinstatement)

- 2.39 Refer to **Figure 2-1** for an indication of the hedgerow and remaining failed ash trees and scrub areas to be removed, to facilitate the proposed extraction of sand and gravel from the extension area.
- 2.40 It is proposed to remove c. 133m of hedgerow along the northwest boundary between the existing pit and the proposed extension area. It is further proposed to remove some 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 within the southeastern portion of the site as shown on **Figure 2-1**.
- 2.41 The proposed landscaping / restoration plan is shown on **Figure 2-4**. In mitigation, c. 375m of diverse native hedge will be planted as part of the restoration proposal.
- 2.42 All hedges and trees planted as part of the proposed landscaping and restoration plans will be comprised of native and typically occurring species present in the local vegetation and/or hedgerows in Co. Meath.

### Site Drainage

- 2.43 A small stream along the northern boundary of the land ownership, see **EIAR Chapter 7**, connects a complex series of small lakes and wetlands within the Lough Naneagh, a proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA), and discharges into Lough Naneagh approximately 1.5 km to the northwest of the site.
- 2.44 There is also a system of drains/ streams/ ponds located to the south and southeast of the site drains into the Ben Loughs, Lough Doo complex and White Lough.
- 2.45 Within the application site itself, there are no water courses or ponds. There is no surface water discharge from the proposed extraction area off site.
- 2.46 The existing extraction operations have been in successful operation for over sixty years. Much of the existing pit has been worked down to a main floor level which is above the groundwater table and in some locations it has been previously worked below the water table in various low level lagoons at the western end of the overall site.
- 2.47 There has been no need for dewatering at the existing pit in the past. There is little surface water runoff over the existing site owing to the relatively high permeability of the sand & gravel materials, therefore there has been no requirement for surface water drainage infrastructure within the site.
- 2.48 The material to be extracted from the proposed extension area will be processed at the existing central processing facility at the site. Therefore, there are no water requirements within the proposed extension area for any processing activities.
- 2.49 The management of water in the proposed extraction area will be relatively straightforward; it is not anticipated that there will be any surface water across the proposed extension area

and precipitation will infiltrate naturally to the ground. No oils or fuels will be stored in the proposed extension area.

- 2.50 A hydrological / hydrogeological assessment has been carried out to confirm what the requirements are for the proposed development, regarding a water regime. It addresses mitigation measures to eliminate and/or minimise the potential impacts, if any, on surface water and groundwater. These measures will be incorporated into the pit design and operation, (refer to **EIAR Chapter 7 – Water**).

### Stability of the Pit

- 2.51 Industry standard slope angles, bench heights, and bench widths will be used for extraction operations at the site.

### Extraction and Blasting

- 2.52 There will be no blasting associated with the proposed development.

### Method of Extraction

- 2.53 The proposed pit is to be worked to a final floor level of c.123 - c.120 metres AOD above the water table.
- 2.54 The proposed development layout is shown on **Figure 2-2**. Cross-sections of the existing and proposed site are also provided in **Figure 2-3**. Extraction operations will be confined to the proposed extension area, while the existing pit area will continue to be used for processing operations; and storage / stockpiling of processed aggregate products.
- 2.55 The proposed extraction area will be worked in a similar fashion to the existing sand and gravel pit. Sand and gravel extraction will be carried out using industry standard mechanical excavation techniques - front end loader and track excavator, with processing being carried out by mobile processing plant (mobile jaw crusher onto field conveyor and then transported to the central processing plant located within the existing pit site). Extraction will be carried out from the existing pit floor using the pit face as an acoustic and dust screen. Extraction will be gradual with the pit face advancing in a southeast direction. Typically, a section of the extension area will be stripped of the topsoil/overburden followed by the extraction of the underlying sand and gravel, with this process repeated until extraction operations are completed.
- 2.56 All materials excavated from the extension lands will be processed on the Murrens Pit site and the finished products include a range of sand and gravel aggregates for use in concrete production, site development, and for road construction.

### Sand and Gravel Processing Method

- 2.57 Any oversized boulders will be placed into a mobile crusher at the working pit face. Extracted materials (including the crushed boulders) will then be transported to the processing plant via the dedicated conveyor system. The processing plant includes a sand and gravel washing / screening unit with primary and secondary crushing units.
- 2.58 A concrete batching plant, concrete block plant and block yard, banded fuel storage, conveyor system, site offices, workshop, weighbridge & office, wheelwash and settlement lagoons are also situated within the central processing area of the existing pit site, while a precast concrete facility is located to the west of the central processing area.
- 2.59 All water used in the washing process is treated within the existing site washing plant system with c. 90% recycled back to the washing plant (i.e. it is a closed system with no discharges to surface water).

- 2.60 Once processed, the finished products will include a range of sand and gravel aggregates for use in concrete production, concrete blocks and precast manufactured products.

### Pit Working Hours

- 2.61 The proposed hours for operations (extraction, processing and haulage) at the site will be 06.00 hours to 20.00 hours Monday to Friday inclusive and 06.00 hours to 14.00 hours on Saturdays. No operations will be carried out on Sundays or Public Holidays. These are the same as currently permitted under P. Ref. KA/141129 (ABP PL.17.245257) and the original Section 47 agreement – Condition 4.

### Employment

- 2.62 The sand and gravel extraction operations provide employment directly for c. 40 people. The wider Flood Group of companies provides considerable employment for c. 450 personnel directly and indirectly throughout all site locations. The extension of the sand and gravel pit into an area with proven mineral reserves will secure the life of the existing established aggregate and concrete manufacturing business for the duration of the current planning permission due to expire in 2036 and therefore provide continued employment at the site. This will in turn provide sustained revenue in the rural area surrounding the site. The development will also provide employment indirectly in the form of hauliers, maintenance, contractors, material suppliers, etc.

### Site Infrastructure

#### Site Access and Security

- 2.63 The proposed development is an extension to an existing operational site and will continue to use the existing established access to the existing sand and gravel pit. This access is located on the local road L68181 to the northwest of the application site. The access gate will be locked outside operational hours. There is no other vehicular access proposed to the application site.

#### Parking & Hardstanding Areas

- 2.64 There is adequate provision for HGV parking and manoeuvring at the established entrance to the existing pit. HGVs will not require access to the application site as the finished aggregate products will be collected for dispatch from the central processing area.
- 2.65 Adequate car parking provision for employees, contractors and visitors is provided in a dedicated area on a hardcore surface adjacent to the site offices / workshop at the site entrance.
- 2.66 A hardstanding area is provided at the bunded fuel storage area.

#### Wheelwash

- 2.67 An existing wheel wash facility is provided adjacent to the site entrance and adjacent to the refuelling facility. It will be utilised throughout the life of the development, with due maintenance as required. This will eliminate the risk of mud and dust being carried from the development onto the public road. All aggregate haulage vehicles will be required to pass through the wheelwash prior to leaving the site.

### Weighbridge

- 2.68 In order to track and record the amount of material exiting the site, all HGV traffic will be directed across the existing weighbridge. The access road from the site entrance to the weighbridge is constructed of a concrete paved surface.

### Processing Facilities

- 2.69 Existing concrete batching plant, concrete block plant and block yard, crushing, screening and washing facility are all provided within the central processing area.

### Water Management System

- 2.70 There is no discharge from the site and there are no surface water courses on the site. The existing water management system at the overall landholding site for processed water to be recycled/used for washing, is relatively simple and consists of:
- rainfall infiltrates to ground across the majority of the overall site. Rainfall from roadways, hard standing and roof areas is allowed to infiltrate to ground.
  - groundwater is present in a clear water sump on the floor of the eastern pit void at the lowest point, and is kept separate from surface water runoff by berms on the floor of the pit;
  - water used for processing aggregates, readymix and concrete block production plant and dust suppression is sourced onsite. The wash water is recycled through the settlement lagoons / tanks and is reused in the batching process; this water is topped up as required from the onsite clear water pond on the site floor;
  - an existing proprietary treatment system, comprising treatment unit with percolation area, treats foul water from the site;
  - there is bunded fuel storage at the site with hardstand refuelling area and a mobile tanker is used for refuelling the mobile crusher and plant on the pit floor. Runoff from the paved hard stand area in front of the workshop is managed and treated through a hydrocarbon separator before percolation to the ground;
  - water for welfare use in the office / canteen / toilet facilities is sourced from a deep well (borehole) located beside the workshop;
  - bottled water is used in the site canteen for personal use including the preparation of hot drinks etc.

### Offices and Ancillary Facilities

- 2.71 An office with canteen and toilet facilities, a garage/workshop and storage shed are already in existence at the main Murrens Pit site.
- 2.72 Servicing of plant and machinery is carried out on site at the existing site workshop.

### Utilities and Services

- 2.73 There is an existing ESB connection at the central processing area in the wider landholding. There are 2 ESB substations on site and an underground 38KV or higher electricity cable underlies the application site just inside its southwestern boundary. Extraction works in this area will be undertaken in close consultation with ESB Networks.
- 2.74 There is an existing water supply well on site which is used only to supply the office, canteen and toilet facilities. Drinking water will continue to be supplied by means of bottled water.

- 2.75 Site based staff at the application site will be contactable by mobile phone, landline and email and broadband connections to the site office will be provided via a mobile network.
- 2.76 There is an existing waste water treatment system on site with associated percolation area. The system consists of a Kingspan P12 high efficiency sewage treatment system, details of which are provided in **EIAR Chapter 7 - Water**.
- 2.77 Given the lack of combustible waste materials at this site, it is considered highly unlikely that a fire will break out during quarry operations. A range of fire extinguishers (water, foam and CO<sub>2</sub>) are kept at the site office to deal with any localised small scale fires which might occur. Additional fire-fighting capacity can be provided by storing water in a mobile bowser.

### Lighting

- 2.78 Sufficient lighting is provided at the existing entrance and the ancillary processing and plant area to ensure safe operations during winter periods.
- 2.79 Where necessary, in wintertime operations, when darkness has fallen within the proposed site operating hours of 06.00 hours until 20.00 hours Monday to Friday and until 14.00 hours on Saturdays there may be a period where mobile lighting on the machinery used within the pit void would be required for up to 2 hours in the morning and up to 4 hours in the evening. Any night-time light pollution caused by the proposed development will therefore be of brief duration during winter months and is not considered significant.

### Fuel and Oil Storage

- 2.80 There is an existing refuelling facility located adjacent to the existing wheelwash and site entrance. Plant and machinery is re-fuelled using a mobile 'bunded' double-skinned tanker. Servicing of plant and machinery is carried out on site at the existing site workshop.
- 2.81 Runoff from the paved hard stand area in front of the workshop is managed and treated through a hydrocarbon separator before percolation to the ground.
- 2.82 There is a further hydrocarbon interceptor located adjacent to the truck wash area. The interceptors are checked regularly and are emptied once per year.
- 2.83 The only chemicals stored on site are lubricating oils and hydraulic oils. Drums containing chemicals/ lubricants are stored on spill pallets. These are placed in bunded fuel tanks, which will be covered and enclosed to prevent the build-up of potentially contaminated water within the bund arising from rainfall. A build-up of rainwater in the bund could also reduce the holding capacity of the bund. The bund capacity is in excess of 110% of the combined volume of the tank(s).
- 2.84 Spill kits are provided on all mobile machinery and periodic spill kit training is provided to staff.

## Waste Management

### Extractive Waste Management

- 2.85 Waste produced from the development is minimised. Almost all products and by-products arising from processing will have commercial value. Fines from the washing process are used and will continue to be used in site restoration works.
- 2.86 In Ireland, the management of extractive waste is regulated by the Waste Management (Management of Waste from the Extractive Industries) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 566 of 2009). Under these Regulations, quarry operators are required to prepare an Extractive Waste Management Plan (EWMP) which outline the plans and procedures for minimisation,

treatment, recovery and disposal of extractive wastes, having regard to the principle of sustainable development.

### Description of the Waste Generating Operation

- 2.87 There is no intention on behalf of BD Flood to discard, where possible, any material extracted from the sand and gravel pit extension. The principal aim of the extractive waste management plan for the site is to prevent waste production which is in accordance with Section 5(2)(a) of the 2009 Regulations.
- 2.88 Extracted material will fall into the following categories:

#### Soil and Sub-soil (Overburden) Stripping

- 2.89 This material will be excavated to expose the underlying sand and gravel resource.
- 2.90 Topsoil – all topsoil stripped will be used to construct perimeter visual/noise screening mounds for later use as part of the final restoration scheme. Any additional stripping of topsoils will be stockpiled on site, again for reuse in final restoration operations.
- 2.91 Sub-soil (Overburden) – this material will be dealt with in a similar manner to the Topsoil listed above.

### General Waste Management

- 2.92 Any waste materials are stored, collected, recycled and/or disposed of in accordance with the requirements of Meath County Council. A record of volumes of waste oils, used batteries, used tyres, disused plant and machinery and scrap metal arising within the site is kept on site and made available to Meath County Council, in compliance with Condition no. 12 imposed of the Section 47 Agreement.
- 2.93 Potential waste produced and the proposed measures used to control it are described as follows:
- **Scrap metal/disused plant and machinery** – these materials are chiefly produced from the maintenance of the processing plants and can cause a nuisance if allowed to build up in an uncontrolled manner. A designated scrap metal area will be demarcated on site and the build-up of scrap will be controlled by the regular removal by licensed scrap metal contractors.
  - **Used Oil and Oil Filters** – any waste oil/oil filters that may arise from servicing of fixed or mobile plant will be removed from the site by a licensed waste contractor.
  - **Used Batteries** – similarly all used batteries will be removed from site for collection and recycling by a licensed waste contractor in accordance with the Waste Management Regulations.
  - **Used Tyres** – similarly all used tyres will be removed from site for collection and recycling by a licensed waste contractor in accordance with the Waste Management Regulations.
  - **Domestic Waste (Canteen Waste)** – domestic waste generated at the offices and employee's facility will be collected by a licensed waste collection contractor.

### Environmental Controls

#### General

- 2.94 Extraction, processing and ultimately restoration activities at the application site will require a number of environmental controls to eliminate or minimise the potential disturbance to the

public arising from the extraction and processing operations. The environmental control measures to be put in place at the pit are outlined in the relevant EIAR Chapters.

- 2.95 The existing pit operations are regulated by conditions attached to the Section 261 Quarry Registration process, Ref. QY/24 and the extant planning permission P. Ref. KA/141129 (ABP PL.17.245257).
- 2.96 Any additional control measures, over and above those outlined below, which may be instructed on foot of this planning application, will also be implemented.

### Bird Control

- 2.97 As the process of sand and gravel extraction is free of putrescible (food / kitchen) waste, site activities are not anticipated to attract scavenging birds such as gulls and crows for the duration of works. Accordingly, it is not intended to implement any specific bird control measures at the site as is the case at present.

### Traffic Control

- 2.98 As the planning application relates to extension of the existing sand and gravel pit operation, the proposed development will utilise the existing site entrance.

### Litter Control

- 2.99 As the proposed development will be largely free of litter, the daily operational activities are unlikely to give rise to problems with windblown litter. Accordingly, there is no requirement to implement any specific litter control measures at the site.
- 2.100 In the unlikely event that any litter waste is identified, it will be immediately removed off-site to an authorised waste disposal or recovery site.

### Odour Control

- 2.101 As the sand and gravel extraction activities at the site are not biodegradable and do not therefore emit odorous gases, site activities will not give rise to odour nuisance. No odour control has been required for the existing pit or will be required for the proposed development.

### Vermin Control

- 2.102 As the proposed development is free of putrescible (food / kitchen) waste, on-site activities will not attract vermin for the duration of the extraction or subsequent restoration operations. Accordingly, no specific vermin control measures are required.

### Fire Control

- 2.103 In the unlikely event that a fire does occur, the local fire station will be contacted and emergency response procedures will be implemented. A range of fire extinguishers (water, foam and CO<sub>2</sub>) will be kept at the site office to deal with any localised small scale fires which might occur. Additional fire-fighting capacity can be provided by storing water in a mobile bowser.
- 2.104 The office / workshop / store facilities have a fire alarm system installed.

### Dust Generation and Control

- 2.105 In dry, windy weather conditions, site activities may give rise to dust blows across and beyond the existing or planned development site areas.

- 2.106 The incidence of fugitive dust outside of the operation will be reduced by the proposal to locate mobile crushing and screening plant within the pit void. Generation of fugitive dust is generally limited to periods of very low rainfall (refer to Chapter 8 – Air Quality). Dust generation occurs from three main sources:
- point sources – such as operating plant and machinery;
  - line sources – such as roads and conveyors; and
  - dispersed sources – such as pit floors and stockpiles.
- 2.107 In order to control dust emissions, the following measures will be implemented:-
- water will be sprayed from a tractor drawn bowser on dry exposed surfaces and stockpiles (paved roads, unsealed haul roads and hardstand areas) as required;
  - areas of bare or exposed soils will, insofar as practicable, be kept to a minimum through the phased/ gradual topsoil stripping and extraction proposals;
  - all HGV's exiting the site will be routed through the proposed wheelwash. This will minimise the transport of fines by HGVs over the access / egress road and the public road network;
  - periodic sweeping of the internal paved site access road and surrounding public roads will be carried out as required by a mechanical road sweeper.
- 2.108 These dust mitigation and management measures are in accordance with the DoEHLG (2004) and EPA (2006) guidelines for the sector.

### Noise Generation and Control

- 2.109 The sources of noise located within the planning application area will primarily be related to machinery / plant operation.
- 2.110 The potential for noise generation from the application area will be reduced by transporting the extracted materials from the pit floor extension area by fixed conveyor system to the existing central processing area. This means that the potential for noise generation from activities associated with the operation of the plant such as movement of vehicles and maintenance will be reduced – refer to **EIAR Chapter 10** – Noise & Vibration.
- 2.111 In addition to the above the following good house-keeping measures will be put in place in order to reduce noise emitted from plant and machinery as much as possible:
- all machinery used will be CE certified for compliance with EU noise control limits;
  - the machinery will be regularly maintained, with regular checking of any muffler systems and servicing or replacing as required. It will also ensure any loose or damaged panels or covers that suppress noise are fixed or replaced immediately;
  - if there are further noise-reducing modifications available for any machinery, they will be fitted wherever practical (e.g. rubber-decked screens, rubber chute linings etc.);
  - haul road grades will be kept as low as possible ( $\leq 1:10$ ) to reduce engine / brake noise from heavy vehicles.
- 2.112 These noise mitigation and management measures are provided in accordance with the DoEHLG (2004) and EPA (2006) guidelines for the sector.

## Environmental Monitoring

### Environmental Management System (EMS)

- 2.113 BD Flood is part of the Flood Group who has implemented an environmental management system (EMS) at the existing site - refer to **Appendix 2-A**. A copy of the Flood Group ISO14001 accreditation is also provided in **Appendix 1-B**.
- 2.114 Should planning permission be granted for the extension site, the EMS will be updated (if required) to incorporate the requirements set out in any relevant conditions attached to the permission such as limit values for environmental emissions arising from the site activities. Environmental sampling, monitoring and testing will generally be undertaken by external consultants as and when required. Records of environmental monitoring and testing will be held by BD Flood and submitted to the Local Authority as required.
- 2.115 Environmental noise, dust and water monitoring are already carried out at the existing pit on a regular basis to demonstrate that the sand and gravel pit is not having any significant adverse effects on the surrounding environment.

### Dust Monitoring

- 2.116 Dust monitoring is carried out monthly between March and September at the 8 no. dust monitoring station locations, around the overall landholding site, and shown on EIAR **Figure 8-1**).
- 2.117 Additional dust monitoring gauges will be located close to emission sources or potentially sensitive receptors in close proximity to the proposed extension area. It is proposed that the dust monitoring stations will remain in place for the duration of extraction and processing operations at the site. Monitoring will be undertaken on a monthly basis during March and September using the industry standard Bergerhoff method of monitoring.
- 2.118 Baseline monitoring and experience from similar types of development indicate that, subject to implementation of appropriate mitigation measures (as described in Chapter 8 of the EIAR), the development can comply with the DoEHLG (2004) / EPA (2006) recommended total dust deposition threshold of 350 milligrams per day (averaged over a 30 day period).

### Noise Monitoring

- 2.119 Noise monitoring is carried out annually at the existing site at 6 no. noise monitoring stations, at noise sensitive receptors, with the locations shown on EIAR **Figure 10-1**).
- 2.120 Additional noise monitoring locations will be sited close to potentially sensitive receptors in close proximity to the proposed extension area. It is proposed that the noise monitoring survey will be carried out for the duration of extraction and processing operations at the site on an annual basis.
- 2.121 Baseline monitoring and experience from similar types of development indicate that, subject to implementation of appropriate mitigation measures (as described in Chapter 10 of the EIAR), the development can comply with the noise threshold limit of 55 dB(A) recommended in the EPA (2006) environmental management guidelines for the sector. The mitigation measures are in accordance with the 'best practice / mitigation' measures described in Section 3.2 of the DoEHLG (2004) guidelines.

### Water Monitoring (Groundwater / Surface Water)

- 2.122 The following monitoring activities are being carried out to demonstrate that the existing pit development is not having an adverse impact on the surrounding environment and to document any improvements in water quality:

- Surface water quality monitoring is undertaken on a quarterly basis, with a sample being taken from a stream along the site boundary.
  - Groundwater levels in all boreholes are monitored bi-annually (summer and winter).
- 2.123 Additional monitoring will be undertaken as recommended in EIAR Chapter 7 – Water should planning permission be granted for the proposed extension.

## Proposed Landscape Management & Final Restoration

### Proposed Landscape Management Measures

- 2.124 The principal landscaping aims are:
- the physical and visual integration of the existing site and associated features into the surrounding landscape;
  - screening to minimise visual intrusion and to reduce any significant negative aspects regarding the visual impact of the proposed development on adjacent sensitive receptors;
  - retention of boundary planting to reduce/eliminate visual prominence of the proposed extension area to the closest receptors.

### Proposed Restoration Scheme

- 2.125 As noted previously, the principal activity which will be undertaken at the application site is the extraction and processing of the in-situ sand and gravel with ultimate restoration of lands returned to an agricultural afteruse and ecological habitat.
- 2.126 The final restoration scheme and detail is shown on the restoration plan and cross sections in **Figures 2-** and **2-5**. A one year period following completion of extraction is required in order to carry out final restoration of the site.
- 2.127 The restoration works will start when all the accessible sand and gravel deposits have been exhausted. All plant associated solely with extraction and processing activities will be removed from site. The pit slopes and material used in the construction of screening berms will be regraded and the general area will be returned to a beneficial agricultural use over the pit floor.
- 2.128 The stored subsoil and topsoil will be spread on the contoured area and seeded with a mix of suitable grasses to create pasture and when this operation is completed the site will have fully reverted back to agricultural land and will blend in with the surrounding topography.
- 2.129 A layer of overburden/silt material will be spread over the worked out pit floor as a sub-base. Topsoil will be spread over the entire treated area; stone picked and promptly grass seeded under expert supervision.
- 2.130 On completion of the extraction works the sand and gravel pit floor will be restored to an agricultural use, and pit slopes will be partly retained and regraded and allowed to naturally regenerate to provide a more diverse biodiversity habitat area, both of which are beneficial after uses listed in the EPA Guidelines: 'Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry' (2006). This will be achieved by the following measures:
- on completion of all extraction works, all of the plant and machinery within the site will be removed;
  - re-grading to a gradient of 1:3 or less of the lower sand and gravel pit side slopes. The re-graded areas will be left for natural regeneration;

- all existing boundary fences and hedgerows will be retained to ensure that the site is secure. The existing gates at the site entrance will be retained and kept locked at all times, except for maintenance access;
- all existing grass and scrub areas which have established along the site boundaries will be protected and retained, as much as possible; and
- it is proposed to replace the hedgerow which will be removed during the extraction phase. This will require the planting of native hedgerows over a length of c. 375m within the restored pit floor area to create enclosed fields. The hedgerow will be planted in 2 staggered rows, with the rows 50cm apart and plants within each row 50cm apart (i.e. 4 plants per m). Transplants and container grown shrubs will be planted in random groups of 3-5. One feathered tree will be planted every 10-15m.

### Site Management and Supervision

- 2.131 BD Flood will clearly define the management responsibility for the site restoration work and will ensure that this person has the necessary information (from the planning application) and authority to manage the whole restoration process. Relevant staff will be briefed on the scheme and will be adequately supervised / controlled. A system of record keeping for the key restoration activities will be put in place.

### Long Term Safety and Security

- 2.132 The existing overall landholding boundary fences, walls and hedgerows will be maintained in a stock proof state of repair.
- 2.133 All components of the barrier system of the site protection outlined above will remain in place after extractive/processing operations have ceased. This, combined with the secure and locked entrance gates to the development will prevent unauthorised third party access.

### Long Term Surface Water and Groundwater

- 2.134 The surface water will percolate to ground. There is no requirement for any active long term surface water or groundwater management at the site.

### Decommissioning of Plant and Machinery

- 2.135 Redundant structures, plant equipment and stockpiles will be removed from site on permanent cessation of extraction activity. Machinery and buildings will either be utilised by the applicant on other sites or be sold as working machinery or scrap.
- 2.136 As part of the overall decommissioning process, all fuel and oil storage tanks within the existing site will be removed from the site by a licensed waste contractor. Therefore there will be no potential for fuel, oil or sewage to cause long-term water pollution following completion of extraction activities.

### Aftercare and Monitoring

- 2.137 There will be no on-going requirement for monitoring noise or dust after extraction and processing and manufacturing operations have ceased.
- 2.138 With regard to the hedge planting, establishment maintenance will be carried out for 2 years following the planting works (minimum 3 maintenance visits per year; i.e. spring, summer and autumn). This will include weed control, replacement planting, watering (if required) and the adjustment/removal of tree ties and spiral guards.

## Figures

Figure 2-1: Existing Site Layout

Figure 2-2: Proposed Site Layout

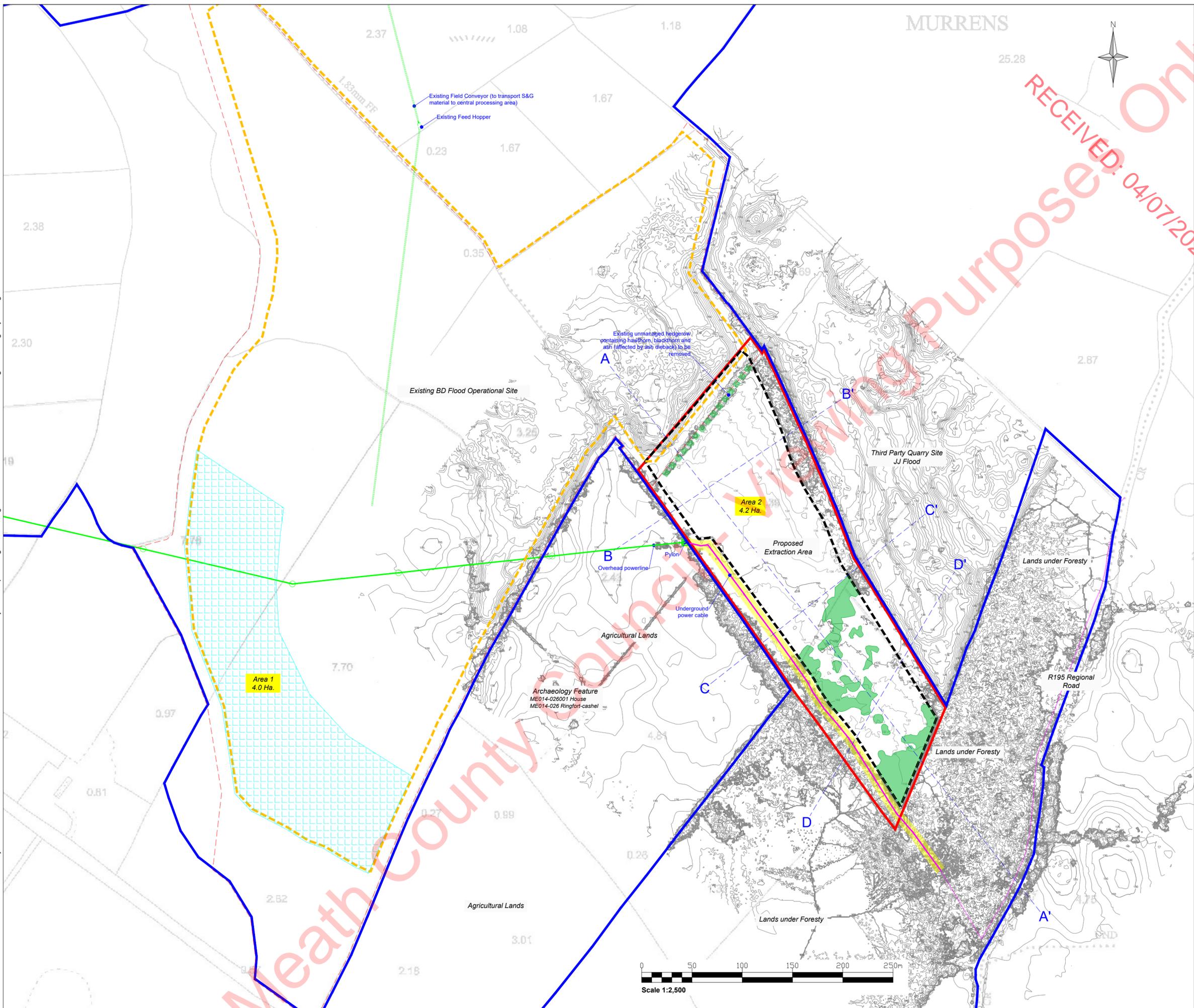
Figure 2-3: Existing & Proposed Cross Sections

Figure 2-4: Proposed Restoration Plan

Figure 2-5: Proposed Restoration Sections

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\\sr.local\eu\offices\IE\Dublin\SLR DATA\SLR Projects\0023 BD Flood\065670 Murrens Extension EIA\PA NIS3 EIA\02 Project Description\DWG\CAD\Wking\00023.065670 Murrens Extension EIA\Fig2-1 Existing Layout.dwg



MURRENS



**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)
  - Overhead powerline
  - Underground power cable route (with 5m exclusion zone either side)
  - Areas of vegetation/trees to be removed (primarily consisted of Ash trees infected with ash dieback disease)

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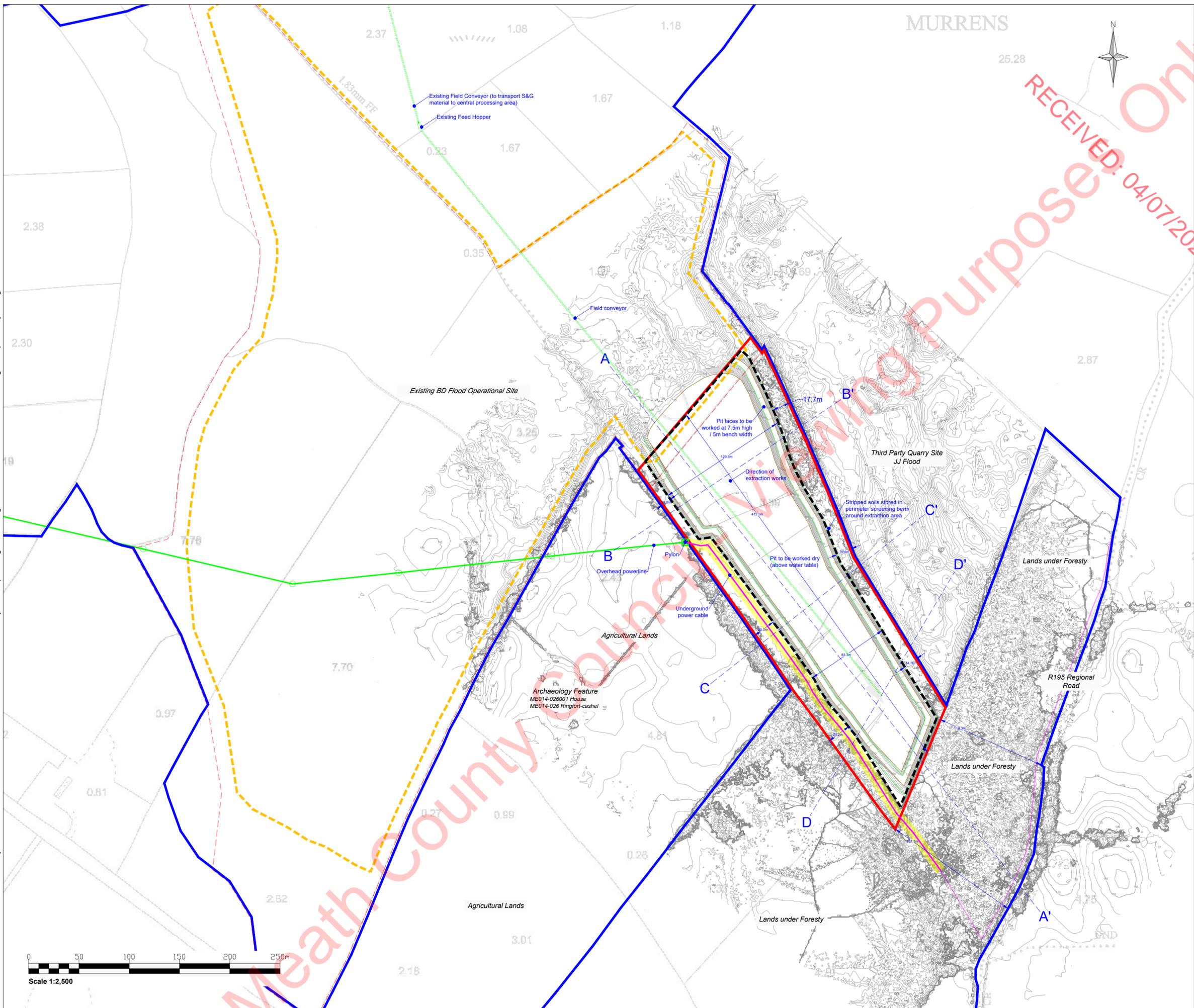
Project  
Sand & Gravel Pit Extension  
The Murrens, Oldcastle, Co. Meath

Figure Title  
Existing Site Layout

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 2-1**

30/06/2025  
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MURRENS



**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)
  - Overhead powerline
  - Underground power cable route (with 5m exclusion zone either side)

Rev	Amendments	Date	By	Chk	Auth



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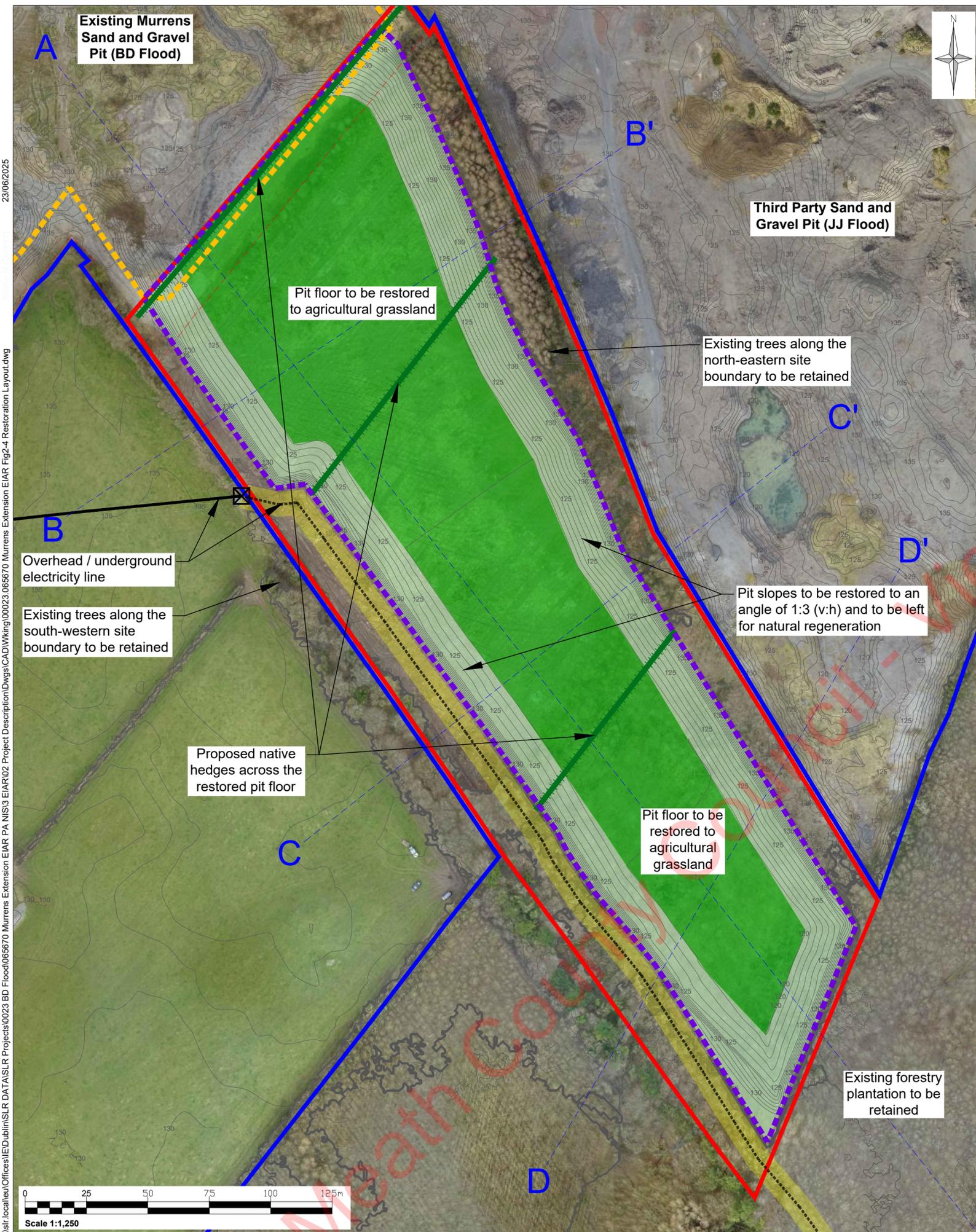
Project  
**Sand & Gravel Pit Extension  
The Murrens, Oldcastle, Co. Meath**

Figure Title  
**Proposed Site Layout**

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

**Figure 2-2**





**RESTORATION PROPOSALS**

It is proposed to restore the majority of the proposed extension area of the sand and gravel pit at the Murrens to a beneficial agricultural afteruse, i.e. the pit floor, with some areas of natural habitat, i.e. the pit slopes.

Both are afteruses recommended in the EPA Guidelines: 'Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry' (2006).

This will be achieved by returning the pit floor to agricultural grassland. The pit slopes will be re-graded to 1:3 (v:h) or less and left for natural regeneration. Native hedges will be planted in line with existing hedgerows in the neighbouring fields to the south-west, to compensate the loss of any trees along the north-western site boundary and to break up the large agricultural area. The proposed hedge mix is species rich and made up from species present in the local area, which will augment the biodiversity of the site. The restoration will be carried out on completion of all extraction works. The treelines along the north-eastern and south-western site boundaries, will be retained for the duration and on completion of the proposed development.

**Restoration Proposals**

The following restoration activities will be carried out to achieve the successful restoration of the site:

- 1. Site Clearance:** All stock material and processing facilities will be cleared from the areas to be restored.
- 2. Re-grading:** Those areas of the site to be restored to agriculture will be re-graded, utilising the overburden material stripped from the extension area and temporarily stored within the existing site (note: the aim is to level out any local unevenness, as well as stabilising any of the steeper pit slopes throughout the site, by lowering their gradient (1:3 v:h or less). Please refer to the contours shown on the plan for an indication of the proposed topography of the site. The final step of the re-grading works will be the spreading of the topsoil stripped from the extension area and temporarily stored within the existing site. All soil handling operations will follow current best practice guidelines.
- 3. Grass sowing:** All areas to be restored to agriculture will be seeded with a suitable agricultural seed mix in the first available season following the completion of the re-grading works and placing of topsoil. Site preparation and sowing specifications to be as per manufacturer's instructions.
- 4. Hedge planting:** Native hedge planting (refer to the Native Hedge Mix below) will be carried out in a number of locations as indicated on the plan. The hedge planting will be carried out into the re-graded and topsoiled ground. The planting mix consists of locally occurring native species that will be locally sourced, as far as possible. All plant handling, planting and establishment works are to be carried out in line with current best practice and by a suitably qualified contractor.

**General Planting Notes**

All plant handling, planting and establishment works are to be carried out in line with current best practice and to take place in the appropriate planting season (e.g. bare-root planting: November to March only) and in favourable weather conditions. All works to be carried out by a suitably qualified landscape contractor.

**Aftercare**

It is assumed that the establishment of the grass sward will be managed appropriately by the farmer who will be appointed with the management of the site. With regard to the hedge planting, establishment maintenance will be carried out for 2 years following the planting works (minimum 3 maintenance visits per year; i.e. spring, summer and autumn). This will include weed control, replacement planting, watering (if required) and the adjustment/removal of tree ties and spiral guards.

**Water management**

Surface water within the site (which will be worked above the water table) will either run-off into the pond areas or infiltrate naturally into the underlying ground. Long-term water management will therefore not be necessary.

**Site Access and Security**

For the duration of the proposed development and as part of the restoration activities, it will be ensured that all boundaries of the existing sand and gravel pit, as well as the proposed extension area are secured by either dense vegetation and/or post & wire/rail fencing.

**Native Hedge Mix**

Hedges to be planted in two staggered rows, with plants within each row 50cm apart (i.e. 4 plants per m) and rows 50cm apart. Total length to be planted is 375 lin.m. = 1500 plants. Transplants to be planted randomly in same species groups of 5-20 (at least 6 different species per 30m section). All plants to be supplied with spiral guards or alternatively hedges to be protected with rabbit proof fencing.

No	Plant Name	Common Name	Height (cm)	Age/Pot Size	%
<i>Transplants</i>					
225	Corylus avellana	Hazel	60-90	1+0	15
225	Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	60-90	1+1	15
150	Eonymus europaeus	Spindle	60-90	1+1	10
150	Ilex aquifolium	Holly	60-80	2L	10
150	Malus sylvestris	Crab Apple	40-90	1+1	10
225	Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn	60-90	1+0	15
75	Quercus robur	Pedunculata Oak	40-60	1+1	05
150	Rosa canina	Dog rose	40-60	1+1	10
150	Sorbus aucuparia	Rowan	60-90	1+1	10

**Notes:**  
Orthomosaic produced from Aerial Photography flown March 2025 by SLR Consulting Ireland. Orthomosaic produced using Ground Control Points; Related to Irish Transverse Mercator Coordinate System and OS Malin Head Level Datum. Copyright Reserved.

**Legend:**

- Land Interest Boundary
- Planning Application Area
- Permitted Extraction Area KA14/1129 (c. 23.9 hectares)
- Proposed Extraction Area (c. 4.2 hectares)
- Underground electricity line and associated buffer area

**Restoration Proposals**

- Pit floor to be restored to agricultural grassland
- Pit slopes to be left for natural regeneration
- Proposed native hedges

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Project  
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The Murrens, Oldcastle, Co. Meath

Figure Title  
Proposed Restoration Plan

Scale 1:1,250	@ A2	SLR Project No. 501.065670.00001
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Date 04/25	Date 04/25	Date 05/25
Figure Number Figure 2-4	Authorised AM	Rev.

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**Appendices**

**Appendix 2-A: Environmental Management System (EMS)**

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BD Flood Ltd.  
The Murrens, Hilltown, Oldcastle, Co. Meath

Rev(2) 31/01/2025

## Environmental Management System - Contents

Index	Rev	Description
Section 1	0	Environmental Policy
Section 2	0	Management Organisation & Responsibilities (including site location map)
Section 3	0	Environmental Legislation & Technical Reference Documents
Section 4	0	Environmental Guidelines
Section 5	0	Environmental Emergency Response (i) Emergency Response Procedure (ii) Emergency Telephone Numbers
Section 6	0	Harmful Substances (i) Guidelines (ii) Material Safety Data Sheets
Section 7	0	Environmental Inspection (i) External Audits by ICF (ii) Monitoring Reports- Dust/Noise/Water (iii) Environmental Management Plans
Section 8	0	Training Record Sheet
Section 9	0	Permits, Plant Layout, site maps
Section 10	0	Community Relations
Section 11	0	Waste Management Records
Section 12	0	Archaeological Assessment Report Murrens
Section 13	0	pNHA Restoration Work, NPWS Report and Dr. Turbidy's report, Photo's of work done.
Section 14	0	Environmental Information & Standards

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**MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION & RESPONSIBILITIES.**

John Flood Managing Director

Vincent Flanagan Operations Manager

Sean Monaghan Environmental Manager

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Section 3

Rev (1) 31.01.2025

**LIST OF RELEVANT IRISH PLANNING  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION.**

**Table of Statutes**

The Forestry Act 1946

Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 1963

Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 1976

Local Government (Water Pollution) (Amendment) Act 1976

Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977

Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 1982

Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 1983

Air Pollution Act 1987

Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 1989

Derelict Sites Act 1990

Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1990

Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 1990

Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 1991

Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 1992

Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992

Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 1993

Waste Management Act 1996 & Amendments

Planning & Development Act 2000

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Section 3

Rev (1) 31.01.2025

**Table of Statutory Instruments**

Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 1964.  
Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 1977 (SI. No.65)  
The EC (Waste) Regulations 1979  
The EC (Toxic and Dangerous Waste) Regulations 1982  
Air Pollution 1987 (Air Quality Standards) Regulations 1987 (SI No.244)  
Local Government (Water Pollution) Regulations 1987 (SI No.108)  
Air Pollution 1987 (Licensing of Industrial Plant) Regulations 1988 (SI No.266)  
European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1989 (SI No.349)  
The EC (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1990  
The EC (Asbestos Waste) Regulations 1990  
Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 1990 (SI. No.25)  
The EC (Waste oil) Regulations 1992  
Local Government (Water Pollution) Regulations 1992 (SI No.271)  
Access to information on the Environment Regulations 1996  
The EC (Waste) Regulations 1994  
Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 (Commencement) Order 1994 (SI No.82)  
Environmental Protection Agency (Licensing) Regulations 1994  
European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 1994  
(SI No.84)  
Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 1994 (SI No.86)  
Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001 (SI No.600)

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**List of Technical Reference Documents**

1. Sand and Gravel Association (SAGA) Code of Practice, August 1991.
2. BACMI The British Aggregate Construction Materials Industries, Environmental Code, March 1992.
3. The Extractive Industry and the Environment in Ireland, Britain and the rest of the EC. Irish Mining and Quarrying Society Conference 1993.
4. Environmental Practices and Audit Checklist for the Ready Mixed Concrete Industry. ERMCO 1996.
5. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Guidance Notes on Noise in Relation to Scheduled Activities 1996.
6. Secretary of State's Guidance - Blending, packing, loading and use of bulk cement. Department of the Environment, London, February 1991.
7. (a) Secretary of State's Guidance - Quarry Processes  
PG3/9 (96) Department of the Environment, London.  
(b) Secretary of State's Guidance - Mineral Drying and Roadstone Coating Processes, PG3/15 (96) Department of the Environment, London.  
(c) Secretary of State's Guidance - Mobile Crushing and Screening Processes, PG3/16 (96) Department of the Environment, London.
8. Minerals Planning Guidance: The control of noise at surface mineral workings (MPG 11), Department of Environment, London, April 1993.
9. Quarries and Ancillary Activities, Guidelines for Planning Authorities, Dept. of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government, April 2004
10. Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry, EPA, 2005

## **SECTION 4 - ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDELINES**

### **Introduction**

These Guidelines provide advice on possible Environmental Standards and Emission Limit Values to be adopted in accordance with the BATNEEC principle (Best Available Technology Not Entailing Excessive Cost).

**Note: The Irish Concrete Federation Environmental Code shall apply where no particular environmental standards have been set for the Location in applicable Planning Permissions, Air Pollution Licences, Water Discharge Licences, etc.**

#### **Areas of Environmental Concern**

- **Noise Control**
- **Control of Air Emissions**
- **Water Management**
- **Waste Management**
- **Visual Amenity & Housekeeping**
- **Archaeology, Ecology & Reinstatement**
- **Energy and Transport**
- **Security & Public Safety**

## **Section 4.1 - Environmental Guidelines** **on Noise Control**

### **Introduction**

The guideline provides advice on possible actions to improve environmental performance and to minimise impacts in accordance with the BATNEEC the principle (Best Available Technology Not Entailing Excessive Costs).

This guidance refers to general quarry operations including overburden removal, drilling & blasting, crushing & screening, materials handling & loading and to the production of concrete and blocks.

<b>Emissions Limit Values:</b>		
<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Emissions Standard</b>	<b>Basis of Standard</b>
Noise-day (08.00-20.00 hours)	<55 dB (A)	ICF Environmental Code
Noise-night (20.00-08.00 hours)	<45 dB (A)	ICF Environmental Code

### **Monitoring of Emissions:**

#### Night work noise emissions

- Measure noise at property boundary at least twice a year
- Noise measurement to be monitored for a period of 60 minutes

### **Guideline Basis/Useful References:**

- "Guidance note for noise in Relation to Scheduled Activities" EPA, Wexford 1995
- "Environmental Code", ICF, Dublin, 2005 Revised Edition

### **Some possible Actions to Control Noise (-refer BATNEEC principle):**

- Where practical, operate within day hours
- Close door of buildings
- Repair damaged cladding of buildings
- Regular maintenance of noisy plant & equipment
- Use rubber or polyurethane cloths in screens
- Enclose noisy equipment such as, crushers, screens, burners, compressors, etc
- Fit silencers or attenuators
- Fit anti-vibration mountings
- Place screening berms
- In relation to control of noise, maintain plant & equipment, deal promptly with malfunctions and train staff.

## **Section 4.2 - Environmental Guidelines** **on Control of Air Emissions**

### **Introduction**

The guideline provides general advice on possible actions to improve environmental performance and to minimise impacts in accordance with the BATNEEC the principle (Best available Technology Not Entailing Excessive Cost)

This guidance refers to operations including loading materials & blocks. Not that processing of wet Sand & Gravel is not normally likely to result in release of dust to air.

<b>Emissions Limit Value:</b>		
<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Emission Standard</b>	<b>Basis of Standard</b>
Measured total solids deposition rate	<350 mg/m <sup>2</sup> /day (Total=Soluble+ Insoluble)	T.A. Luft
Visibility of dust emission	Aim for no visible dust emissions	ICF

### **Monitoring of Emissions to Air:**

- Visually check emissions at least once per day—aim to minimise visible dust/smoke/fume emissions
- Measure fugitive dust deposition levels monthly (using T.A. Luft Bergerhoff Gauges as the property perimeter)

### **Guideline Basis/Useful References:**

- “*Environmental Code*”, ICF, Dublin, 2005 Revised Edition
- *Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry*, EPA, 2005

### **Some Possible Actions to Control Emissions to Air(-refer BATNEEC principle):**

- Hard surface internal roadways with compacted stone generally and with macadam or concrete to exit
- Keep roadways clean or wet with adequate drains to avoid ponding
- Install a wheel-wash – ensure use, keep clean & filled with water
- Ensure all vehicle exhausts are vertical & modify dumptruck radiator fans to minimise dust rising
- Use deep trough conveyors at ground level to minimise wind whipping
- Enclose conveyors to minimise wind whipping (check strength of structure for increased wind loading) & fit belt scrapers
- Fit last meter of stockpile conveyors & first 0.5 metre of the fall with a full hood, and use water suppression
- Fit a properly sized filters on top of bulk powder silos and control filling/blowing rate
- Condition material containing 0-5mm fines with water before handling
- Place stockpiles in sheltered areas; construct & profile stockpiles to minimise wind-entrainment
- Load to & from stockpiles and load trucks so as to minimise the generation of airborne dust
- Sheet or dampen trucks loaded with material containing 0-3mm fines – as soon as possible after loading
- Avoid the generation of smoke – do not burn rubbish
- In relation to control of emissions, maintain plant & equipment, deal promptly with malfunctions and train staff

### **Section 4.3 - Environmental Guidelines on Water Management**

#### **Introduction**

The guideline provides general advice on possible actions to improve environmental performance and to minimise impacts in accordance with the BATNEEC the principle (Best available Technology Not Entailing Excessive Cost)

<b>Emissions Limit Value:</b>		
<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Emission Standard</b>	<b>Basis of Standard</b>
Total suspended solids	<= 35 mg/litre	ICF
Biological Oxygen Demand	<= 25 mg/ litre	ICF
pH	<= 9	ICF

#### **Monitoring of Water Discharges (where appropriate):**

- Check quality of discharge quarterly or as conditioned in planning permission/discharge licence
- Visually check discharges at least once per month
- Visually check settlement lagoons at least once per month for efficiency

#### **Guideline Basis/Useful References:**

- *“Environmental Code”, ICF, Dublin, 2005 Revised Edition*
- *Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry, EPA, 2005*

#### **Some Possible Actions to Manage and Protect Water Quality (-refer BATNEEC principle):**

- **Eliminate discharges if possible**
- Minimise use of water generally
- Maximise catchment and recycling of process water and storm water (as appropriate)
- Recycle water from washouts and wheel wash by use of suitable settlement tanks
- Ensure sewage treatment facilities are fully functional and comply with good practice
- Ensure fuel oils are properly banded, attachments and pumps inside the bund
- Install an oil class interceptor to receive surface water in the area of banded fuel tanks or as appropriate
- Minimise use of drummed products, see also Section 4.4 Waste Management
- **Refer also to Section 5 on Emergency Response Procedures**

## **Section 4.4 - Environmental Guidelines on Waste Management**

### **Introduction**

The guideline provides general advice on possible actions to improve environmental performance and to minimise impacts in accordance with the BATNEEC the principle (Best available Technology Not Entailing Excessive Cost)

### **Monitoring:**

- Check property regularly for waste generation

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### **Guideline Basis/Useful References:**

- *“Environmental Code”*, ICF, Dublin, 2005 Revised Edition
- *Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry*, EPA, 2005

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### **Some Possible Actions to Manage Waste(-refer BATNEEC principle):**

- Minimise production of waste generally
- Maximise recycling through careful separation of waste streams
- Maintain designated areas for different streams such as metal, timber, tyres, batteries, oils/filters etc.
- Install suitable arrangements for storing old batteries, oil filters etc
- Appoint specialist contractors for the collection and disposal of wastes as appropriate
- If appropriate, specify that suppliers remove the old component when supplying new ones
- Discontinue use of drums or IBCs by installing tanks for bulk deliveries
- Use Just In Time purchasing techniques, if possible, where drum supplies must continue
- **Ensure staff are aware of need for diligence where waste is concerned by ongoing training**
- **Where applicable, ensure returned concrete is reused immediately or recycled regularly to avoid being contaminated and becoming a waste product**
- **Refer also to Section 4.5 on Visual Amenity & Housekeeping**

## **Section 4.5 - Environmental Guidelines on Visual Amenity & Housekeeping**

### **Introduction**

The guideline provides advice on possible actions to improve visual amenity & housekeeping.

### **Monitoring:**

- Check property regularly

### **Guideline Basis/Useful References:**

- “**Environmental Code**”, ICF, Dublin, 2005 Revision
- Down, C.G. “Amenity Banks and Quarry Landscaping”, *Quarry Management and Products*, September 1997

### **Some Possible Actions to Improve Visual Amenity (-refer BATNEEC principle):**

- Keep entrance tidy
- Tidy up litter and remove unsightly features
- Clean up spillages
- Keep scrap in designated areas
- Maintain buildings in good condition and renew paintwork regularly
- Repair damaged cladding on buildings
- Maintain signs in good condition
- Maintain lighting and roadways and entrances
- Place screening berms to minimise visual impact
- Profile overburden mounds with regard to visual amenity avoiding long, uniform banks
- Seed newly constructed overburden mounds
- Where necessary, plant hawthorn hedging along the property boundary to provide a tough, hardy, fast growing and inexpensive dense barrier
- Where applicable, minimise and monitor dust & smoke emissions
- Where applicable, ensure discharged water is clear of silt & free of oil traces
- Where applicable, phase the final restoration of the site

## **Section 4.6 - Environmental Guidelines on Archaeology, Ecology & Reinstatement**

### **Introduction**

The guideline provides advice on possible actions to improve protection of Archaeology & Ecology

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### **Monitoring:**

- Check property regularly
  - Check water discharges regularly
- 

### **Guideline Basis/Useful References**

- “*Environmental Code*”, ICF, Dublin, 2005 Revised Edition
  - “*Irish Field Monuments*”, Edition, 1991, Stationery Office, Dublin
  - “*Code of Practice between the ICF & the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands*, Dublin, 2002
- 

### **Some Possible Actions to Improve Archaeology & Ecology Management (-refer BATNEEC principle):**

- Refer to the Record of Monuments and Places for your county before carrying out soil stripping operations (copies may be obtained from the ICF Archaeology Manager). Give two months notice to the Monuments Section, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government of your intention to carry out works within an archaeological zone defined within the record.
- Report discoveries of archaeological features or artifacts to the Chief Archaeologist, Monuments Section, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, or the ICF Archaeology Manager can report them on your behalf.
- If you require any advice regarding archaeology contact the ICF Archaeology manager.
- Protect habitats, including hedgerows, which have had to be removed
- Plant new hawthorn hedging along the property boundary to provide a trough, hardy fast growing and inexpensive barrier which will protect colonising vegetation & will provide visual amenity.
- Give at least 21 days notice to Gardai of intention to fell trees using a Felling Notice to be obtained at any Gardai station
- Plant new native trees to replace trees, which have had to be removed
- Contain dust emissions
- Ensure discharged water is clear of silt & free of oil traces
- Progress after use plans

## **Section 4.7 - Environmental Guidelines on Energy and Transport Management**

### **Introduction**

The guideline provides general advice on possible actions to improve environmental performance and to minimise impacts in accordance with the BATNEEC the principle (Best available Technology Not Entailing Excessive Cost)

### **Monitoring:**

- Check property regularly for waste generation

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### **Guideline Basis/Useful References:**

- *“Environmental Code”*, ICF, Dublin, 2005 Revised Edition
- *Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry*, EPA, 2005

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### **Some Possible Actions to Manage Waste(-refer BATNEEC principle):**

- Minimise production of waste generally
- Maximise recycling through careful separation of waste streams
- Maintain designated areas for different streams such as metal, timber, tyres, batteries, oils/filters etc.
- Install suitable arrangements for storing old batteries, oil filters etc
- Appoint specialist contractors for the collection and disposal of wastes as appropriate
- If appropriate, specify that suppliers remove the old component when supplying new ones
- Discontinue use of drums or IBCs by installing tanks for bulk deliveries
- Use Just In Time purchasing techniques, if possible, where drum supplies must continue
- **Ensure staff are aware of need for diligence where waste is concerned by ongoing training**
- **Where applicable, ensure returned concrete is reused immediately or recycled regularly to avoid being contaminated and becoming a waste product**
- **Refer also to Section 4.5 on Visual Amenity & Housekeeping**

## **Section 4.8 - Environmental Guidelines** **on Security & Public Safety**

### **Introduction**

The guideline provides advice on possible actions to improve locations security and public safety.

#### **Monitoring of Security & Public Safety:-**

- Check that lifebelts are in place at ponds – at least each month
- Check that fencing is in place at ponds – at least each month
- Check perimeter fencing & signs – at least each quarter
- At a minimum, fences should be designed to keep out farm animals & toddlers and to prevent easy access by adults.
- Signs should read **DANGER/HAZARD IDENTIFICATION/DO NOT ENTER**

#### **Guideline Basis/Useful References:**

- Occupier's Liability Act, 1995
- Specification for Chain Link Fences up to 1.8 high BS 1722:part 1:1986
- Down, C.G. "Amenity Banks and quarry Landscaping", *Quarry Management and Products*, November 1997
- Local Government (Planning & Development) Regulations, 1994, S.1. No.86 of 1994
- "Environmental Code", ICF, Dublin 2005 Revised Edition

#### **Some Possible Actions to Improve Security (-refer BATNEEC principle):**

- Post **DANGER//HAZARD IDENTIFICATION/DO NOT ENTER** signs along property boundary
- Post **DANGER/HAZARD IDENTIFICATION/DO NOT ENTER** signs at ponds & water bodies
- Safety warning notices should be clearly visible from all along the length of the fence, give clear warning of the danger, prohibit entry, be of black text on yellow background and should include an appropriate pictorial symbol of the danger to warn children or those who cannot read
- Erect fence along property boundary and around ponds
- Place large boulders along side of roads over high fences
- Fences should be designed to keep out farm animals & toddlers and to prevent casual access by adults.
- 1.4m general purpose chain link with 1 row of barbed wire to keep out farm animals & toddlers and to prevent casual access by adults – refer BS 1722; Part 1:1986
- Barbed wire should be fixed so as to be clearly apparent and not be a hidden hazard. Any dangers from the fence must be obvious to the trespasser and it is necessary to ensure that the trespasser can only be harmed by his own decision to risk the danger.
- Fences under 2m in height are classed as "exempt development" not requiring planning permission
- Advise Gardai of trespassers
- Promptly clear material spills on public roads
- Fences, gates, signs & hedgerows need to be regularly inspected and needs to be maintained (Assign Person for this task)

**Environmental Guidelines on Security (Contd.)**

The following are examples of possible **Warning Signs**:-

**DANGER**  
**High Quarry Faces**  
**DO NOT ENTER**

**DANGER**  
**Deep Water**  
**NO SWIMMING – NO FISHING**  
**DO NOT ENTER**

**DANGER**  
**Quarry Traffic**  
**HAULIERS MUST STOP AT WEIGHBRIDGE**

**DANGER**  
**Quarry Machinery**  
**ALL VISITORS MUST REPORT TO OFFICE**

## **SECTION 5 - ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROCEDURE**

To ensure that environmental accidents and potential emergency situations relating to oil and chemical spills are dealt with in an appropriate manner, it is necessary to identify the potential occurrence and appropriate response to such incidents and to prevent and mitigate any associated harm to human health and the environment.

Oil and chemical spills present a great environmental risk to this business, and as such, spill response is a key competency requirement for the Environment Manager. However, in the event of spillage, it is imperative that all staff are aware of the need for immediate implementation of containment measures and communication with Environment Manager.

The Environment Manager, or his nominee, is responsible for carrying out this procedure in the event of a spillage. It is the responsibility of the individual who discovers the spill to:

1. Immediately contain the spill ONLY IF IT IS POSSIBLE AND SAFE TO DO SO.
2. Report it immediately to the Environment Manager.

If a spill occurs out of hours, the Manager or his nominee shall be contacted for advice. The Environment Manager shall identify the substances involved, direct the response accordingly and contact the appropriate personnel and external emergency services as necessary. Where the spill is of a high risk nature, the Environment Manager shall inform the Managing Director and, if appropriate, the Regulatory Authorities.

It is the responsibility of the Environment Manager concerned to ensure that all personnel are trained and are aware of this procedure and that it is periodically tested.

The Environment Manager concerned will ensure all sources of ignition are extinguished. In the event of a fire the Fire Safety Procedure shall be followed. Keep the area well ventilated if the spill is in a confined space. Ensure that all unnecessary untrained personnel are kept well away from the scene. The main risk associated with oil or chemical spills is the potential for the spill to enter drains watercourses, soils and the ground water system, causing contamination and/or fire or explosion risk. Site drainage is detailed on individual site plans, copy held by the Environment Manager.

Identify the material spilled and obtain the MSDS to ensure that handling and PPE requirements are clearly understood and that those tackling the spill are wearing the appropriate PPE. Stop the spill and contain it as best as possible, use the materials provided in the Environmental Spill Kits and ensure that the drains in the surrounding areas are sealed. Spill kits shall be maintained in the garage and chemical storage areas.

Remediation depends on the impact the contaminant has on the receptor. Remediation may involve aeration, addition of biological surfactants and restocking of fish reserves. Contact the appropriate government or concerned body to discuss, as and when required. Any waste or contaminated materials generated during the clean up of a spill shall be disposed of as per the Waste Management Guidelines.

A report form shall be completed by the Environmental Manager and reviewed after each incident by the whole management team.

This emergency Response Procedure shall be tested at least once annually under the direction of the Environmental Manager. These drills cover both key personnel and operatives whose work involves a significant degree of environmental risk. These drills will either comprise of items 1 and/or 2 below:

1. A "desktop" exercise conducted where the Manager or personnel concerned is questioned closely on how he/she/they would respond to various environmental incidents. Responses are compared to the procedure. Immediately on completing the desktop exercise, a follow-up check is carried out to verify the actual availability of any spill kit etc. that would have been used.
2. A drill involving the practical demonstration of spill kit materials –(booms, pads, granules etc.) and how they would be used/deployed in various environmental accidents.

Such drills shall be followed by a review of the response conducted by the Environment Manager and changes made to training and/or the procedure as appropriate. Names of drill attendees and a brief description of the drill content will be recorded by the Environment Manager after each drill has been completed.

**EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

**CONTACT NUMBERS**

**049 8541477 or 049 8542420**

**FIRST AIDERS**

**First Aid Box in main office**

<b>EMERGENCY NUMBERS</b>		
<b>EMERGENCY</b>	All Services	999 or 112
<b>AMBULANCE</b>	North East Regional	999 or 112
<b>DOCTOR</b>	Coole Surgery	044 9661104
<b>GARDAI</b>	Kells Oldcastle	046 9280820 046
<b>CATHOLIC PRIEST</b>	Parish Priest, Oldcastle	
<b>CHURCH OF IRELAND</b>		
<b>E.S.B.</b>		1850 372 999
<b>TELECOM</b>	Repairs Service	1902
<b>MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL</b>	Navan	046 9021581
<b>POISONS INFORMATION</b>		01 8379964 01 8379966
<b>OIL SPILLAGE RECOVERY</b>	Atlas Oil	050 222411
<b>Boyne Waste Oil Separators</b>	Co.Meath	046 9024860

## **SECTION 6 – HARMFUL SUBSTANCES**

### **OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES**

- Guidelines for Fuel & Fuel Tanks
- Receiving Oil, Fuel & Chemical Deliveries
- Operation & Maintenance of Oil Interceptors
- Septic Tanks
- MSDS for Diesel / Gas Oil
- MSDS for Oils, Lubricants etc.

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## Guidelines for Fuels and Fuel Tanks

### Introduction

Fuels, (hydrocarbons, liquid chemicals, lubricating oils, greases and waste oils) should be kept at a waterproof bunded area, and treated with extreme caution. In the case of hydrocarbons and waste oils the capacity of the bund should be 110% of the largest tank volume or 25% of the total volume of tanks bunded, whichever is the greater. All valves and pumps on the tank should be contained within the bunded area. The bunded area should be fitted with a locking valve that should only be opened to discharge storm water to the interceptor. Alternatively, a sump should be provided in the floor of the bunded area to allow for a suction pipe to be inserted when discharging storm water.

### Environmental Instructions

Environmental Instructions should be posted or distributed to anybody working with or in the general area of fuels. These instructions should include steps on how to deal with an oil/fuel spill. All staff should be aware of the need for immediate implementation of containment measures in the likelihood of a spillage.

#### **Guidelines when working with fuels / lubricants:**

The following guidelines should be followed when working with fuels and handling lubricants:

- There should be no smoking in and around the substances
- Ignition sources should be kept at a distance
- The Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) should be checked on or should be easily accessed
- PPE should be worn at all times
- When handling drums, the proper loading equipment should be used
- Stands and bunded trays should be provided
- Drums should be stored under cover and the surrounding area kept clean
- A spill kit should be present

In the event of spillage the Environment Manager is notified and he must record the details on a nonconformity notice, and the Emergency Response Procedure implemented.

## **RECEIVING OIL, FUEL AND CHEMICAL DELIVERIES**

### **1.0 Scope**

1.1 Receiving bulk and containerised oil, fuel and chemical deliveries should be carried out in a controlled and environmentally responsible manner to minimise the risk of spills and their environmentally harmful effects.

### **2.0 Bulk oil and fuel deliveries to site**

2.1 Delivery requests – deliveries of oils and fuels are ordered by the Purchasing Manager, who will advise the supplier of the grade and quantity to be delivered.

2.2 All delivery drivers shall report to the weighbridge office on arrival. The weighbridge operator shall contact the Quarry Manager or his nominee who shall direct the driver to the appropriate fill or delivery point and supervise the delivery. He shall check that there is sufficient ullage to receive the complete load, monitor the delivery and ensure that after delivery all valves are properly closed and locked. The delivery driver should remain at the vehicle shut-off valve while the discharge is taking place. The Quarry Manager or his nominee shall sign the delivery note to confirm the product quantity received and that the delivery has been made correctly and safely.

2.3 Fuelling company vehicles, bowsers, generators and mobile plant – The driver shall check the ullage in the tank to receive the load, and remain at the delivery point at all times to monitor the delivery. After delivery he shall check that all valves are properly closed and locked. Drivers of lorries, vans and cars, not using the electronic key system, record the date, the vehicle registration and volume received in the office fuel log.

### **3.0 Spills**

3.1 Any spillages occurring during delivery should be immediately dealt with as from the Emergency Response Procedure. Any waste materials generated as a result of this should be disposed of as waste.

## **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF OIL INTERCEPTORS**

(Where appropriate)

Oil interceptors must be inspected and maintained to ensure their effective operation, All interceptors shall be checked visually by the designated person for the presence of oil on an annual basis or after a recorded environmental spillage.

### **3.0 If oil is present**

- 3.1 Three chambered interceptors – if any depth of oil is present in any of the interceptor chambers, it should be cleaned out ASAP by an approved special waste contractor using a vacuum tanker.
- 3.2 In the event of an interceptor failing and oil being released to the drain system, the Emergency Response Procedure should be followed.

### **4.0 Maintenance of oil interceptors**

- 4.1 On a yearly basis, or as and when required, interceptors shall be cleaned by an approved and licensed waste contractor using a vacuum tanker as follows;
  1. Remove manhole cover(s)
  2. Remove surface oil or scum, being careful not to draw up uncontaminated water.
  3. Lower the vacuum tanker hose carefully to the base of the chamber and move around to draw off settled sediment or grit.
  4. At no time shall any personnel attempt to gain entry to the interceptor.
  5. At no time shall the level of water in the interceptor be lower than 50%.
  6. The unit shall be filled with clean water up to the invert level of the outlet pipe before recommencing interceptor operation after cleaning.
  7. Replace access shaft manhole cover(s) on completion of cleaning.

### **5.0 Disposal of wastes from interceptors**

- 5.1 Any waste liquids or materials shall be disposed of as per the Waste Disposal Procedure.

## **Guidelines on Harmful Substances**

### **a) Diesel, Gas Oil, Other Oils & Lubricants**

Ref – Supplier Material Safety Data Sheet

### **b) Septic Tank**

Introduction:

The septic tank should be located in an area where minimal activity occurs on the ground. The distribution box must be designed and constructed to ensure equal distribution among the various distribution pipes. Access manholes should be located at ground surface and covers should be visible and not allow the entry of surface water. Trees and plants are limited to a 3m distance from the tank and heavy machinery should not circulate over the percolation area

#### **Useful References:**

“Wastewater Treatment Manuals, Treatment Systems for single houses”, EPA, Wexford.

#### **Advantages of a Septic Tank:**

- Septic tanks are a cost effective treatment system
- There is no need for external power requirements
- No noise emissions
- It is a natural treatment process
- It produces a high quality effluent

#### **Maintenance**

In order to gain maximum performance from the septic tank regular maintenance is essential. The tank should be de-sludged at least once a year.

Maintenance is required when:

1. Scum is noticeable in the second chamber of the tank
2. Also when the depth of the sludge in the second chamber is greater than 400mm.

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## **SECTION 7 – ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTION**

- (i) Audits**
- (ii) Monitoring Reports**
- (iii) Environmental Action Plan**

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Section 9

Rev (1) 31.01.2025

**SECTION 9 – PERMITS, PLANT LAYOUT etc.**

This section contains records of Planning Permissions, Permits, Plant Layouts, Site Layout Maps etc as applicable to this site.

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## **SECTION 10 – COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

The Aggregate Industry provides essential building materials for the social and economic development of the Country. Without aggregates, the built environment could not be enhanced with safe, structurally sound buildings for homes, schools, offices, shops and hospitals. In terms of protection of the environment, no water or wastewater treatment systems could be constructed. The Industry recognises that each activity and product it provides has a potential impact on the environment and the overall objective of ICF members is to minimise the environmental impacts and maximise the environmental enhancements at their sites. The ICF Environmental Award Competition is held on an annual basis for the membership to promote and showcase positive and proactive on-site environmental measures that have been taken.

This company will aim at all times to be a good neighbour and play its part in the community, for example giving presentations on their work to local groups, allowing schools and other local parties interested in their activity to visit the quarry pit or plant on conducted tours or local open days or by supporting local events.

Concerns in relation to new developments at this site will be examined and designed for, where practicable and reasonable, by consulting with the public at an early stage in the development process.

To ensure good environmental practice is achieved on-site, This company is committed to maintaining an on-site Environmental Management System (EMS). As part of this EMS, this company will maintain written records of all complaints and incidents, including the company's actions to investigate the problem, the causes and necessary mitigation measures required, as applicable. The following complaints record sheet shall be used for this purpose.

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**Complaint Record**

1.0 Date of Complaint: \_\_\_\_\_ 2.0 Time: \_\_\_\_\_

3.0 Complaint Method: \_\_\_\_\_

4.0 Taken by: \_\_\_\_\_

5.0 Name & Address of Complainant:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6.0 Nature of Complaint: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7.0 Detail Investigative Action Taken & Identify the Investigating Person  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8.0 Detail Weather Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

9.0 Detail Results of Investigation  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10.0 Detail any corrective & preventative action taken  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11.0 Detail whether complainant was contacted  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Appendix 2-A**

**Environmental Management System (EMS) Table of Contents**

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