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EIAR Non-Technical Summary: Cam Quarry, Brideswell, Co. Roscommon

**Continued Use of the Existing Permitted Quarry
Development**

Roadstone Limited

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SLR Project No.: 501.00180.065512

November 2025

Revision: Final

Revision Record

Revision	Date	Prepared By	Checked By	Authorised By
0	24 July 2025	LH		
1	22 September 2025	EG	LH	
Final	11 November 2025	KR	SMcD	SMcD

Basis of Report

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1.0 Introduction

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA) has been prepared in support of a planning application for the continued use of an existing limestone quarry at Curry and Cloonacaltry townlands, Brideswell, Co. Roscommon. This document provides a non-technical summary (NTS) of the EIA.

An Appropriate Assessment Screening and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has also been prepared in support of the planning application and is provided as a separate document.

1.1 The Applicant

The planning application and accompanying supporting documentation has been prepared by SLR Consulting Ireland (SLR) on behalf of Roadstone Limited.

Roadstone Limited is an operating company within CRH plc and is Ireland's leading supplier of aggregates, construction and road building materials. The company currently employs several hundred people at 65 locations throughout the country.

Roadstone Limited originally developed from aggregate supply companies founded by the Roche Brothers in the 1930s. After steady growth through the 1930s and 1940s, it was floated on the Irish Stock Exchange in 1949. After further significant growth through the 1960s, Roadstone merged with Cement Ltd. in 1970 to become Cement Roadstone Holdings (CRH) plc. Today, CRH plc is one of the leading suppliers of construction materials in the world, operating from over 3,500 locations and employing over 76,000 people in 35 countries.

Roadstone has been associated with this site at Cam for the past two decades, when it was first granted planning permission at the site in October 2006, P. Ref. 04/1479 (ABP PL PL20.215417). Extraction and processing operations have been ongoing since then.

Although Roadstone's principal business interest in Ireland is aggregate extraction and manufacture of building materials and products, it is also currently restoring a small number of its former pits and quarries under EPA licence using imported inert soil and stone waste.

In addition to these facilities, Roadstone also operates construction and demolition (C&D) waste recycling facilities at several of its locations across the State. These recovery facilities are principally engaged in the recycling / re-use of concrete and bituminous wastes and are regulated by way of Local Authority waste facility permits.

Operations at all Roadstone's locations adhere to the environmental guidelines of the Irish Concrete Federation (ICF) and current best practice for the quarrying industry, as set out in the publication Guidelines on Environmental Management in the Extractive Industries published by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA, 2006).

Roadstone is committed to achieving and maintaining industry leading environmental standards. To this end, the company has established, and actively implements, an in-house Environmental Management System (EMS) at all its locations. The EMS for previous extractive operations at Kilglass is accredited to ISO 14001 standard and has been subject to periodic audit. It is envisaged that, if planning permission is secured for the proposed development activities at Kilglass, the existing EMS will be reviewed and updated where necessary.

1.2 Site Location

The application site is located approximately 3.5 km west of Brideswell and c. 12 km west of Athlone. It is approximately 5.5 km from the Roscommon-Galway border, which is marked by the River Suck to the southwest of the site. Please refer to **Figure NTS-1**.



1.3 Site Description

The overall planning application area covers approximately 66.3 hectares (c. 163.8 acres) and comprises the existing operational quarry over the northern half of the site and unimproved pasture, scrub and boulder strewn lands over the southern half over which the current planning permission allows for overburden storage and rock extraction. The general site layout is shown on **Figure NTS-4**.

Within the application area (c. 66.3 hectares) the northeastern portion of the site contains the existing entrance onto the R363 regional road.

The entrance itself is splayed with stone wing walls and pillars with the gates set back c. 20m from the edge of the carriageway. The access road has sweeping curves to prevent any visibility of the site facilities from the site entrance or public road. The access is hard paved from the entrance for a distance of c. 175m into the site to where the weighbridge and office are located. Adjacent to the weighbridge and office, are the wheelwash and bunded fuel storage / refuelling areas.

The existing quarry extraction area occupies the central part of the site and currently consists of a 2 no. working faces typically 10-15m in height. Current ground levels over the quarry floor range from c. 70-85m AOD. The extraction area is currently c. 8.4 hectares within an overall permitted extraction area of c. 23.7 hectares.

Over the southern portion of the site, an area of c. 2.9 hectares is currently covered with stripped overburden from the site with the remainder of the area still in its natural state of unmanaged grasslands, scrub and gorse

1.4 Surrounding Land-Use

The lands surrounding and within the application site are predominantly comprised of improved agricultural fields interspersed with unimproved pasture, scrub and boulder strewn fields similar to the application site.

There are few residences in the immediate vicinity of the site. There are c. 8 residences within a 500m radius and c. 44 within a 1km radius. Most residences comprise isolated farm dwellings and of owner-occupied bungalow/residences. There are no large residential settlements close to the site. Access to the site is directly onto the regional R363 Athlone to Tuam Road.

The application site is not subject to any statutory or non-statutory nature conservation designations. The closest such site is Feacle Turlough pNHA [001634], c. 550m south of the site. The closest Natura site is Ballynamona Bog and Corkip Lough SAC [002339], c. 2km southeast of the site.

1.5 Site Access

The existing quarry entrance is located on the regional road (R363) to the north of the application site and has good, splayed visibility in both directions. There is a low stone wall with pillars on either side of the entrance.

1.6 Consideration of Alternatives

The existing site is located in an area favourable to extraction activities, due to, *inter alia*:

- previous history of rock extraction at this site and in the general geographic location;
- application site is a proven source of high-quality limestone;



- ongoing and continued increases in the level of construction and development activity in the midland's region is generating ever increasing demand for construction materials;
- within an appropriate topographic setting i.e. well screened from surrounding areas;
- remote location, but with direct access to the regional road network and subsequent ease of access to the primary road and motorway networks;
- best practice industry standard extraction methods can be used; and
- the proposed development will continue to be carried out by a long established and experienced operator in the extractive and ancillary concrete / asphalt manufacturing industry with a proven track record in planning and environmental compliance within their overall pit/quarry portfolio.

1.6.1 Do Nothing Alternative

If the proposed development does not take place, the existing quarry would remain in operation until the current planning permission expires. There would be a loss of a proven and valuable aggregate supply to the region going forward.

1.6.2 Alternative Sources of Aggregates

For the foreseeable future there are no real alternatives to primary naturally won aggregates such as those currently extracted at Cam Quarry.

At present, the use of secondary (recycled) aggregates in Ireland is at an early stage in development. The volume of C&D waste suitable for recycling into secondary aggregates is low in comparison to the overall demand for aggregates. The demographic spread of the population results in only the large urban centres potentially being capable of generating sufficient volumes of construction and demolition (C&D) waste to justify a commercial operation producing secondary aggregates going forward.

In the longer term (>25 years), there may be some scope for extraction of minerals from marine sources.

In the absence of significant volumes of aggregates from recycled / secondary and marine sources, it is clear that land-based deposits (such as the proven reserves at Cam Quarry) will continue to be the main source of construction aggregates in Ireland, including Roscommon and the wider midlands and western regions.

1.6.3 Alternative Locations

This development is not comparable to a factory or other commercial enterprise that can be located at many potential locations. It is a resource-based development and therefore the aggregates can only be worked (extracted) where they are present in-situ, as acknowledged in Section 6.5 of the RCDP 2022-2028.

It is further recognised within paragraph 4.13 of the *Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment* prepared by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in August 2018:

“For example, some projects may be site specific so the consideration of alternative sites may not be relevant.”¹

¹ Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out EIA, August 2018



Aggregates can only be worked where they exist and where the environmental effects of working them can be minimised. However, this is not the only prerequisite which determines a suitable location for an aggregates site. Others include a willing vendor, distance from market, required quality and quantity to justify capital investments, etc. It is usually the case that a number of these prerequisites are not met, and the alternative is discounted.

The provision of aggregates is essential to meet the needs of society. As reserves of sand and gravel and rock are finite resources and eventually become exhausted at their location, it is therefore necessary for quarry operators to continually seek out new greenfield sites in tandem with maximising or extending extraction at existing established sites. Both options are essential and required to replace existing supplies that are being worked out and to provide a security of supply of aggregates and building materials to the construction sector.

The existing site is an established quarry in a remote location and has direct access to the regional road network providing access to and from it that has proven to be suitable for this type of development previously.

This planning application is solely related to the continued use of the existing quarry to extract rock that is currently permitted by P. Ref. 04/1479 and ABP PL20.215417. There is no lateral extension or quarry deepening proposed beyond what is already permitted.

The site is deemed appropriate for the following reasons:

- suitability of the economic limestone rock reserve;
- extent of the lands over which the applicant has an interest in, and which are available for development;
- access and road infrastructure with proximity to the national road network and key transport corridors, namely the R363 / R362 regional roads; the N61 / N62 / N63 / N55 and N6/M6 national primary routes;
- low environmental impact: topography assists with screening of the development (no significant visual intrusion), no recorded monuments within the application or landholding area; and not within a designated ecological or landscape area;
- detailed water and ecology studies indicate the development can proceed without impacts on the surrounding hydrogeological and ecological regimes.

On the basis of the above, it is considered that the proposed continued use of the existing quarry, subject to implementation of best environmental management practice and compliance with appropriate planning controls (i.e. planning conditions and standard emission limit values for the sector) can be carried out without any significant environmental impacts on the surrounding area.

1.6.4 Alternative Designs / Layouts

Alternative designs were assessed during the original planning application and EIA process as part of the grant of permission under P. Ref. 04/1479 and ABP PL20.215417 including alternative layouts within the site were considered with particular attention being paid to the location of the processing plant and ancillary facilities in general being located away from the public road and nearest residences where possible, along with the direction of working within the extraction area.

1.6.5 Alternative Processes

Roadstone Limited are a company with expertise and experience in the field of quarrying, aggregates production and the manufacture of value-added products.



As the proposed development comprises the continued use of an existing quarry with standard extraction and processing methods implemented, alternative processes are not considered relevant in this instance.

2.0 Description of the Proposed Development

2.1 Development Overview

This new planning application will be based on the previous application description and as such will be an application for continuance of use of all previously permitted development – including the concrete batching / block making plant and workshop not constructed to date.

There will be no requirement for any changes to other facilities, supporting infrastructure, or operational arrangements such as hours of working, extraction volumes or processing methods.

The current permitted extraction area is c. 23.7 hectares. The proposed extraction area (as part of this planning application) will reduce to 17.1 hectares. The area shaded red (c. 4.8 hectares) on **NTS Figure 5**, will now be omitted from the extraction area as part of this planning application due to the observation of Marsh Fritillary butterfly and suitable habitat, Devil's Bit Scabious, within this area during ecological surveys carried out in 2024.

The proposed development period sought (extraction operations and restoration) is for a period of 25 years.

2.2 Proposed Development

The proposed development will consist of:

- Permission for continued use of the existing quarry development currently permitted by P. Ref. 04/1479 and ABP PL20.215417 for a further period of 25 years, within an application area of c. 66.3 hectares, with an extraction area of c. 17.1 hectares and permanent overburden storage area of c. 3.9 hectares;
- Permission for continued use of the permitted facilities consisting of: ESB substation (26m²), portacabin office facilities including canteen and washroom facilities (91m²), bunded fuel storage, vehicle circulation/access including wheelwash and weighbridge, settlement tanks/hydrocarbon interceptors for treatment of water, construction of overburden and screening mounds, all other associated site works and ancillary activities;
- Permission for continued extraction of limestone using conventional blasting techniques and processing of rock using crushing and screening plant;
- Upgrade of the existing WWTS and percolation area to new Secondary WWTS and constructed soil polishing filter area;
- Provision of the permitted concrete block making facility and concrete batching plant, truck washdown facility with wash water recycled via a closed settlement tank system, the storage of aggregates; and workshop including storage room, canteen and washroom facilities (485m²); and
- Restoration of the overall application site to a natural habitat including a permanent waterbody.



2.2.1 Construction Phase & Operational Phase

As this application primarily relates to continued use of the existing permitted development, the construction and operational phases are effectively considered the same. The quarry will be further developed laterally and at depth over the proposed development life of 25 years. The existing extraction and processing operations currently carried out at the site will be maintained and continued over the operational phase of the development.

The permitted quarry extraction area under P. Ref. 04/1479 (ABP PL20.215417) is 23.7 hectares. As noted above, this will reduce to 17.1 hectares. The area shaded red (c. 4.8 hectares) as shown on **Figure NTS-5**, will now be omitted from the extraction area as part of this planning application as Marsh Fritillary butterfly and suitable habitat, Devil's Bit Scabious were observed within this area during ecological surveys carried out in 2024.

The permitted quarry extraction depth under P. Ref. 04/1479 (ABP PL20.215417) is c. 40m AOD. It is proposed to maintain this existing permitted depth as part of this planning application. The existing extraction and processing operations currently carried out at the site will be maintained and continued over the operational phase of the development.

There are some elements of the existing permitted development that have not been constructed or carried out to-date that will be required at a future date during the life of the development. These items include:

- There is c. 6.5 hectares of in-situ soil and overburden that will require removal from the extraction area to complete stripping operations within the revised extraction footprint of c. 17.1 hectares. This area is located to the south of the existing quarry void as shown on **Figure NTS-4**. The stripped materials will be within the site, either stored within the dedicated overburden storage area or further used in site screening berms.
- The concrete batching plant, concrete block making facility and truck washdown facility which have not been constructed to date, as shown in plan on **Figure NTS-5** and detailed in Drawings 10 & 11. The batching plant is permitted to produce 50,000m³/annum and 5 million concrete blocks.
- The permitted workshop (485m²) as shown in plan on **Figure NTS-5** and detail in Drawing 12 has also not been constructed to date.

The application also provides for discharge of waters from the quarry void via a pipe along the R363 regional road to the Ballyglass river c. 1.4km west of the site. There is currently no discharge from the site. As the quarry is deepened and operations require the discharge of the treated waters off-site to maintain a dry working area, the water management system associated with the discharge as shown along the northern boundary on **Figure NTS-5** will be constructed and a discharge licence will be sought from Roscommon County Council and will need to be granted prior to discharge of treated water offsite.

2.2.2 Restoration Phase

Most restoration works will be carried out on permanent completion of extraction works. As the majority of the site is used for extraction and processing purposes it is not feasible to restore any significant parts of the rock quarry void at an earlier stage. However, it is proposed that all existing grass and scrub areas which have established along the site boundaries will be protected and retained, as much as possible.

Upon the cessation of extraction operations, it is proposed to return the worked-out areas to a beneficial ecological after-use. Following extraction, vegetation through natural colonisation on the redundant quarry benches will occur.



The only material requirements in respect of the planned restoration scheme are those topsoils and subsoils already present on site and which are either still in-situ over the permitted extraction area or which were previously stripped and stockpiled within the existing operational site area awaiting re-use in the restoration operations.

2.3 Hedgerows/Treelines (Phased Removal / Reinstatement)

The lands comprise unimproved pasture, scrub and boulder strewn land with field walls and sporadic boundary hedgerows / trees.

The existing stonewalls, trees and hedgerows on the site perimeter were retained as part of the original development and will continue to be permanently retained as part of this planning application, and if necessary reinforced, for the duration of the workings. Any gaps in the existing boundary which would provide uncontrolled access to the quarry will be blocked by a suitable means and reinforced with further planting as necessary and / or fenced.

Any 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. Roscommon.

2.4 Aggregate Reserve Assessment

The total recoverable reserve of rock from within the proposed revised design development to the final existing permitted quarry floor level is estimated to be c. 15,000,000 tonnes.

2.5 Duration of Extraction

The duration of quarrying activities at the application site will largely be dictated by the rate at which the rock 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 extracted rock will be used to primarily supply concrete and asphalt plants at other Roadstone locations, with the remainder supplied directly to the market.

The site is currently permitted to extract up to 500,000 tonnes of rock per annum. At this rate of extraction, the projected life of the quarry would be c. 30 years.

It is considered that planning permission for the proposed quarry development should be commensurate with the life of the reserves. An adequate quarry life is required to secure an acceptable return on investment, when the costs of continued investment in the site development, mobile crushing / screening plant and the on-going operational costs are considered

A planning permission duration of 25 years is considered reasonable and is sought for the development; rock extraction, processing and restoration works.

2.6 Removal of Topsoil & Overburden Soils

Previously stripped overburden and topsoil material has been used for the construction of the existing perimeter screening berms and placed within the overburden storage area.

Within the proposed extraction area there is an area of (c. 5.5 hectares) where topsoil / overburden is required to be stripped, over and above that which has already been stripped. It is estimated that there is approximately 66,000 m³ of overburden material to be stripped from the proposed extraction area which will be either stored within the dedicated overburden storage area or further used in site screening berms.



The excavation of overburden will be carried out using an excavator, loading dump trucks from where it will be transported to the proposed storage area. There is no requirement to remove any soils or overburden materials off site.

2.7 Site Drainage

There are no streams or surface water drainage channels within the immediate vicinity of the site.

Site drainage from the overall quarry is currently managed within the site by Roadstone. The quarry is currently worked without the need to discharge water off-site. Any rainfall or water ingress within the current quarry void is managed within the void where water accumulates in the lowest level of the quarry floor allowing the remainder of the quarry to remain dry for extraction operations.

As the quarry develops and deepens, and as need arises, a water management system associated with discharge of treated clean water off-site will be installed and implemented. This water management system was granted permission under planning reference no. P. Ref. 04/1479 (ABP PL20.215417).

The off-site discharge surface water management system will consist of a sump to be provided on the floor of the quarry that will cater for increasing volumes of water which will require attenuation and treatment as the quarry deepening progresses.

A hydrological / hydrogeological assessment has been carried out taking into consideration the existing water regime at the quarry site and to determine what the requirements are for the proposed development.

2.8 Method of Extraction

It is proposed that the existing method of extraction will continue to be implemented at the site as follows:

- where required, overburden will be stripped in advance of rock blasting in accordance with the quarry development plan.
- rock material will be extracted using conventional blasting techniques.
- the fragmented rock will be processed using mobile crushing and screening plant located at the blasted quarry face within the quarry void area; and
- the aggregate products will be stored in stockpiles located within the quarry site, as is the current practice.

2.9 Processing Methods

The processing methods currently used at the quarry constitute size reduction through crushing and sizing by screening using mobile plant. An excavator is used to directly feed a mobile crushing / screening plant at the working face. The mobile plant will be relocated after every blast during the life of the quarry development as operational requirements dictate. Once screened, the aggregate is stored in various stockpiles on the quarry floor and at surface level to await transported off site. It is proposed that the same processing methods will be utilised going forward. There is no requirement for any additional processing plant as part of this planning application.

The batching plant is permitted to produce 50,000m³/annum and 5 million concrete blocks. When operational, the following processes will be carried out; A combination of sand & gravels, crushed chips and cement will be utilised in the concrete manufacturing process. A dust control system will be used to control any fugitive emissions from the cement silos (2 x



80 tonne capacity). The batching unit will be clad to further eliminate fugitive dust. The silos will be filled from ground level, under pressure, through a cement fill pipe. Concrete lorries will reverse into a partially enclosed loading bay at the base of the batch house (mixer), wherein batched concrete will be discharged from the base of the mixer via a chute into the lorry mixer drums.

Pit Working Hours

The permitted working hours at the quarry are and will continue to be 07:00 hours to 20:00 hours Monday to Friday and 07:00 hours to 14.00 hours on Saturdays. No operations will be carried out on Sundays or Public Holidays .

2.10 Employment

The existing development provides full time employment for a current work force of c. 30 personnel including direct employees, sub-contractors, contract hauliers, maintenance contractors, material suppliers, etc.

2.11 Site Access and Security

The existing quarry entrance is located on the regional road (R363) to the north of the application site and has good, splayed visibility in both directions. There is a low stone wall with pillars on either side of the entrance. The entrance consists of two metal gates which are recessed back (c. 20m) from the road verge to allow vehicles to pull in off the road when the gates are locked. The quarry entrance and internal access road are hard surfaced for a distance of c. 175m to where the weighbridge is located.

In the unlikely event of material being spilled on the public road the operator will ensure that spilled material is removed from the road surface in a safe and timely manner, as soon as they notice or are notified that a spillage has arisen.

2.12 Parking

All HGVs utilising the existing site are confined within the application area. There is adequate provision for HGV parking to ensure that there is no queueing of HGV's on the public road outside the quarry.

Adequate car parking provision for employees, contractors and visitors is provided. in a dedicated area on a hardcore surface adjacent to the weighbridge office. Additional parking with a pedestrian access walkway is provided to the east of the weighbridge office. A hardstanding area and hydrocarbon interceptor is provided around the bunded fuel storage tank.

2.13 Wheelwash

All heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) existing the site are required to pass through the existing Wheelwash which is located adjacent to the site office. The section of internal road between the wheelwash and the site entrance is hard surfaced. It is proposed that the weighbridge will be utilised and maintained for the life of the proposed development.

2.14 Weighbridge

All heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) accessing the site are required to pass over the existing weighbridge which is located adjacent to the site office. The weighbridge is utilised to establish a weight for each truck used for hauling stone. It is proposed that the weighbridge will be utilised and maintained for the life of the proposed development.



2.15 Offices and Ancillary Facilities

An existing prefabricated portacabin structure acts as site offices, and canteen / cloakroom / toilet for staff use.

A garage / workshop is permitted under planning permission ABP PL20.215417 (P. Ref. 04/1479), but has also not been constructed to date. It is proposed to construct the workshop during the life of any new planning permission being granted.

2.16 Utilities and Services

The site is served by on-site water supply and mains electricity. An ESB power line feeds directly into the quarry site to service the offices and weighbridge. Site based staff at the application site are contactable by mobile phone, landline and email and broadband connections to the site office as provided via a mobile network. Water for drinking and to service the toilet facilities (located within the site office) is supplied from the mains water supply.

Effluent from toilet facilities is treated using an existing Wastewater Treatment System (WwTS) and percolation area.

As part of this planning application, it is proposed to upgrade the overall effluent treatment system by decommissioning the existing WwTS and replacing it with a Secondary Wastewater Treatment System with a constructed soil polishing filter area for final treatment. The existing WwTS will be decommissioned and the contents of the tank will be taken off site for appropriate treatment by a licenced contractor.

As part of documentation submitted with this planning application, a site characterisation assessment was undertaken in September 2025 for the new waste water treatment system by Dr. Eugene Bolton. The site characterisation form and details of the Secondary WwTS (Molloy Tanks: Chieftain SBR sewage treatment system) and polishing filter area (90m²) are included in EIA Chapter 7, Appendix 7-A.

2.17 Lighting

Lighting is provided at the site as necessary, which includes fixed downlights outside the office / welfare facilities and processing plant; and mobile lighting on the machinery used within the quarry void. All lighting is only in use for wintertime operations, when darkness has fallen, within the proposed site operating hours of 07.00 hours until 20.00 hours Monday to Friday and until 14.00 hours on Saturdays. There are therefore periods where such lighting is required for up to 1 hour in the morning and up to 2.5 hours in the evening, during periods in winter. As most quarry activity is below surrounding ground level light pollution from site activity is considered to be minimal and not significant.

2.18 Fuel and Oil Storage

Bunded fuel storage tanks are located at the site. Oil and lubricants for plant and machinery are stored on spill pallets in designated storage areas.

There is a hard stand refuelling area with hydrocarbon separator at the refuelling station area. All runoff from the hard stand refuelling pad goes to the hydrocarbon separator before the treated runoff percolates to the ground.

Spill Kits and spill training has been provided. All new employees are given an induction which includes spill kit training and how to respond to a fuel spill.



2.19 Waste Management

Roadstone as a member of the Irish Concrete Federation (ICF) commits themselves to the principles of the Federations Environmental Code. The code states:-

"ICF members will minimise production of waste and where appropriate consider its beneficial use including recycling. They will deal with all waste in accordance with the relevant legislation and other controls in place, including using waste contractors with valid Waste Collection Permits"

Potential waste produced and the proposed measures used to control it are described as follows:

- Scrap metal – these materials are chiefly produced from the maintenance of the processing plant and equipment 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 processing 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.
- Domestic Waste (Canteen Waste) – domestic waste generated at the offices and employee's facility will be collected by a licensed waste collection contractor.

2.19.1 Environmental Control, Management & Monitoring

Extraction, processing and ultimately restoration activities at the application site require a number of environmental controls to eliminate or minimise the potential nuisance to the public arising from the extraction and processing operations. The environmental control measures in place at the existing site are outlined in the following sections.

The existing operations at the site are currently regulated by conditions attached to the current planning permission: ABP PL20.215417 (P. Ref. 04/1479).

Any additional control measures, over and above those outlined below, which may be instructed on foot of this planning application, will also be implemented.

2.19.2 Site Management and Supervision

The applicant 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.

2.19.3 Long Term Safety and Security

All components of the barrier system of the site consisting of existing mature boundary hedgerows, fences and walls will remain in place after extractive/ processing operations have ceased.

As the lands will be restored in part to natural habitat use with a body of open water, secure fencing will be provided around the perimeter of the extraction area. Details of the proposed fencing can be submitted to and agreed with the Planning Authority.



Existing hedges surrounding the development will be gapped up and thickened where required. These combined with the secure and locked entrance gates to the development will prevent unauthorised third party access.

2.19.4 Long Term Surface Water and Groundwater

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

2.19.5 Decommissioning of Plant and Machinery

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. 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.

2.19.6 Aftercare and Monitoring

There will be no on-going requirement for monitoring noise or dust after extraction and processing and manufacturing operations have ceased. A final site inspection 6 months after formal site closure will be carried out to confirm the final site restoration as implemented is functioning.

3.0 Existing Environment, Effects and Mitigation

3.1 Population & Human Health

The review of population is based on the combined 3 electoral divisions which intersect the application site. The change in population from 2016 to 2022, as per Census 2022 for the electoral division, the county and the state are outlined in EIAR **Table 4-2**. Ordnance Survey maps and aerial photography were also examined.

The census results indicate that the population has increased overall in the Electoral Divisions, albeit at a lower rate than that observed at the county and national level. On detailed analysis, however, it is observed that the population of the Dysart ED declined by 5.8% between 2016 and 2022, which is contrary to trends. A high increase of 16.2% in the Taghmaconnell ED was observed, which brings the three EDs overall more in line with the national growth rate.

Roadstone has provided secure long-term employment at Cam Quarry since operations commenced in 2006, with employment typically c. 30 staff on a full time basis.

The proposed development has potential for a positive influence on the local economy through the enabling of the application site to continue to provide a source of direct and indirect employment. This has potential knock-on effects in terms of contributing to the overall wellbeing of the local population.

The baseline information presented in the preceding sections does not suggest any particular sensitivities in relation to human health

Mitigation measures to be adopted during the extraction and restoration activities will aim to minimise any impacts of the project on surrounding sensitive receptors (primarily those associated with noise, dust and traffic). These are described under the relevant topic headings in this summary document. The specialist environmental assessments that are reported in the EIAR and this NTS were undertaken using the Receptor Map set out in EIAR **Figure 4-2** of the EIAR, which was produced as part of the population and human health assessment.



3.2 Biodiversity

All designated sites for biodiversity within 15 km and with ecological and/or hydrological connectivity have also been considered as part of this assessment, which comprised of both desk and field studies. The desk study analysed published ecological data covering the site and the field work comprised of numerous site visits between June 2024 and May 2025, full details of which are provided in Chapter 5 – Biodiversity.

A preliminary ecological appraisal (PEA) of the Site was undertaken in June 2024 to identify initial ecological constraints to the Site and scope for the need for further (Phase 2) surveys. An updated preliminary ecological appraisal was undertaken in May 2025. 5.31 All habitats within the Site were mapped following the guidance set out in A guide to habitats in Ireland (Fossitt, 2000). The dominant plant species present in each habitat type were recorded. A continued habitat survey was conducted in July 2024 to map and assess potential Annex I habitat on-site in further detail.

It is proposed that the majority of the grassland habitat on-site, including the grassland with high value to biodiversity in the southern area of the Site will be retained during the proposed development.

As the quarry develops and deepens, and as need arises, a water management system associated with discharge of treated clean water off-site will be installed and implemented. The discharge of the treated clean water from the site will be carried out and subject to a Discharge Licence consent by Roscommon County Council.

It is assessed that with the recommended mitigation measures outlined, the proposed development will not have a significant impact on the biodiversity, designated sites, and habitats on the Site. Provided that the proposed works are undertaken in accordance with the proposed design and best practice that is described within this report, significant effects on ecology are not anticipated. As such, the proposed works are in line with environmental and biodiversity planning policy.

It is proposed that all existing grassland and scrub habitat which have established within the Site boundary will be retained as much as possible. Upon completion of the extraction works the extraction void will be left to naturally fill with water to create a wetland habitat. The existing grassland and scrub habitat surrounding the quarry will be allowed to recolonise the lake boundaries.

3.3 Land, Soils & Geology

The IGI guidelines state that the minimum distance of 5 km should be reviewed in the context of the geological environment as well as the scale of development and increased to reflect the sensitivity of the subsurface karst environment.

The proposed development will result in a temporary, short to medium-term loss of soil use across the site, which will occur in phases during the extraction and restoration process.

Within the EIA EU Directive (2014/52/EU) Land is recognised as a 'natural resource' and the Directive also refers to the importance of the sustainable use of soil and the need to address the unsustainable increase in settlement areas over time ('land take'). Therefore, the issues of land as both a natural resource and land take must be considered in an assessment.

During the site preparation stage, the topsoil will be stripped off and will be stockpiled on site ready for use in the site restoration. The soils will be stripped and stored in accordance with best practice guidance as set out in The Institute of Quarrying guidelines.

The soil association is classified as the Rathowen Association (1030RA) over the majority of the Roadstone landholding, composed of fine loamy drift with limestones. There are currently Luvisols and Brown Earths in the proposed development area, both of which are considered



to be well drained. The Rathowen and Baggotstown soil associations are not considered unique to this site.

The subsoils across Ireland have been mapped on a national basis by Teagasc as part of the EPA Soil and Subsoil Mapping Project for the Irish Forestry Soils (IFS) project. The subsoil mapping was undertaken using existing Quaternary Geology maps, publications, remote sensing, field mapping and sampling.

From the Teagasc subsoil mapping the following subsoil types are located in the study area:

- Limestone glacial till is the main type of subsoil present in the area around the site.
- Cutover peat at Cuilleenirwan Lough, located c. 1.6 km north/northwest of the site and also to c. 1.9km to the west of the site;
- Karstified limestone bedrock is recorded close to or at the surface, indicating thin or the absence of subsoils, at the surface c. 1.2km northeast of the site; and
- Marl (Silt/Clay) subsoils c.1.9 km southeast of site at Feacle Lough.

The subsoils within the existing overall quarry area have been removed in the past as part of the quarry operations. As the proposed development comprises continuance of use of the existing quarry, no further subsoil stripping / removal of subsoils is required.

It is indicated that the quarry area is underlain mainly by undifferentiated, bedded Visian Limestone and calcareous shale. Bedrock is exposed within the existing quarry area. The proposed development comprises continuance of use of the existing quarry. The quarry is permitted for extraction to a depth of c. 40m AOD and currently, the quarry floor levels are c. 70-85m AOD so further extraction of bedrock at depth will be carried out.

The Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) has been consulted in relation to the proposed development. In the consultation response the GSI has requested that the quarry operator assist with their geological heritage goals by:

- Allowing access to quarry faces by appropriate scientists during quarrying to check for scientifically significant new stratigraphies / relationships as they might become exposed and to establish if the quarry site is worthy of recognition post extraction and through aftercare/restoration planning.
- If deemed appropriate based on the above, leaving a representative section of the quarry face at the end of the quarry life or inclusion of information panels to promote the geology to the public or develop tourism or educational resources if appropriate depending on the future use of the site.

Soils will be managed on site in line with best practice. A specific Soil Management Plan will be developed for the proposed concrete batching plant, a concrete block making facility and truck wheel wash for the stripping, storage and reuse of the soils in restoration at the site.

The stripped soils at the proposed development will be used in the restoration of the site. With this mitigation measure in place, it is considered that the residual impact on soils will be low to imperceptible.

As the majority of the site is used for extraction and processing purposes it is not feasible to restore any significant parts of the rock quarry void at an earlier stage. The extraction void will be left to naturally fill with water to create a valuable wetland habitat.

Quarry operations will adhere to the Health and Safety Authority Safe Quarry Guidelines in relation to the Safety Health and Welfare at Work (Quarries) Regulations 2008 and this will limit the potential for unplanned events such as instability of quarry faces or instability in adjacent lands.



3.4 Water (Hydrology and Hydrogeology)

This provides a description of the water, including surface water (hydrology) and groundwater (hydrogeology) conditions in the application area within the context of the site and regional setting, and assesses the potential impacts that the proposed development will have on surface water and groundwater. The study area comprises the application site and the surrounding area c. 5 km from the site, reflecting the sensitivity of the hydrology and hydrogeology; this is in line with the Institute of Geologists of Ireland's (IGI) guidelines (2013).

In addition to the above desk study of publicly available data, extensive data gathering has been undertaken at the site as follows:

- Drilling of four groundwater monitoring boreholes (MW3 - MW6) was undertaken in June 2023 by Petersen Drilling Services Ltd and supervised by SLR Consulting Ltd. The boreholes were drilled to between 35m and 67m depth below ground level;
- There are a number of pre-existing boreholes on-site, located around the processing areas in the quarry, which have been drilled at different times. All of the boreholes were found to be inadequate for monitoring;
- Groundwater level data loggers (Van Walt Rugged Troll 100) were installed on the 5th August 2023 in boreholes MW3 - MW6 by SLR Consulting Ltd and were set to take water level readings every hour;
- Quarterly manual dipping of groundwater wells and groundwater level logger downloads since August 2023;
- Three groundwater quality monitoring results at MW3 - MW6 from August 2023 to October 2024;
- The comprehensive Water Chapter from the Cam EIS report (2004) prepared by O'Neill Ground Water Engineering (OGE); and
- Hydrogeology report and calculations by OGE in support of 2004 EIS.

There are three surface water systems at the proposed development area. The Ballyglass system which features Coolagarry Lough, Cuilleenirwan Lough (turlough) and Ballyglass River (BALLYGLASS_010) which flows into the River Suck (SUCK_0130). The Cross River System which features the Corkip Lough and the Cross River (CROSS (ROSCOMMON)_010), which is located c. 2.2km north of the quarry. It flows into the River Shannon (located c. 13.7km southeast of the site).

There are no streams or surface water drainage channels within the immediate vicinity of the site.

The GSI online map viewer shows the site is underlain by a regionally important karstic aquifer (Rkc). This aquifer is defined as being an aquifer capable of sustaining significant yields and supplying regionally important supplies. The aquifer has an area of 1,099 km².

The Office of Public Works (OPW) is the government agency with statutory responsibility for flooding in Ireland. The OPW produced two national datasets for flooding, the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) maps and National Indicative Flood Mapping (NIFM) maps for the preliminary assessment of flood risk. The CFRAM maps are more detailed, and cover areas identified as being at significant risk of flooding, which are mainly urban areas. The NIFM maps cover predominantly rural areas where the catchment area to the stream is greater than 5 km² and not covered by CFRAM.

According to the GSI well database there are a number of wells within a 2 km radius of the site. The wells abstract from the regionally important Rkc karstified bedrock aquifer.



The quarry is currently worked without the need to discharge water off-site. Any rainfall or water ingress within the current quarry void is managed within the void where water accumulates in the lowest level of the quarry floor allowing the remainder of the quarry to remain dry for extraction operations.

There are no streams or surface water drainage channels within the immediate vicinity of the site.

Site drainage from the overall quarry is currently managed within the site by Roadstone. The quarry is currently worked without the need to discharge water off-site. Any rainfall or water ingress within the current quarry void is managed within the void where water accumulates in the lowest level of the quarry floor allowing the remainder of the quarry to remain dry for extraction operations.

As the quarry develops and deepens, and as need arises, a water management system associated with discharge of treated clean water off-site will be installed and implemented. This water management system was granted permission under planning reference no. P. Ref. 04/1479 (ABP PL20.215417). The discharge of the treated clean water from the site will be carried out and subject to a Discharge Licence consent by Roscommon County Council.

The off-site discharge surface water management system will consist of a sump to be provided on the floor of the quarry that will cater for increasing volumes of water which will require attenuation and treatment as the quarry deepening progresses.

Any surface water falling over the site will be directed to the sump along the northern quarry face. From here, the water will be pumped up to ground level to a water settlement pond. The water will pass through the settlement pond (c. 54m x 15m). From the settlement pond, the water will flow through a hydrocarbon interceptor before being discharged off site via a gravity fed buried pipe along the verge of the R363 road before discharge to the Ballyglass river.

Based on the findings from the WFD screening, scoping and assessment, it is considered that the proposed development, with the embedded mitigation measures in place, will not result in a deterioration of the existing status of the identified WFD receptors and it will not be a factor in the receptors failing to achieve their status objectives.

Livestock were located in the field beside the sampling location on the day of sampling but there was evidence of cows drinking from and walking through this river previously. The southern banks of the river were visibly damaged as a result of livestock entering in and out of the river.

A series of standard management / mitigation measures are identified for implementation to minimise potential for these impacts so that there will be no significant effect.

There are four groundwater monitoring well locations on site. These wells are monitored for groundwater levels, groundwater quality and for data loggers.

3.5 Air Quality

The continued use of the existing quarry development will have the potential to generate fugitive dust emissions and particulates (PM10), which may result in impacts on local air quality. Combustion emissions (primary PM10, and oxides of nitrogen) from vehicle emissions associated with the transportation of materials also have the potential to impact on local air pollution.

The main elements of the the proposed development with respect to air quality are:

- Continued use of the existing quarry development for a further period of 25 years, within an application area of c. 66.3 hectares and an extraction area of c. 17.1 hectares;



- Continued use of permitted facilities including vehicle circulation / access, and construction of overburden and screening mounds;
- Continued extraction of limestone to a depth of c. 40m AOD using conventional blasting techniques and processing of rock using crushing and screening plant; and
- Provision of the permitted concrete block making facility and concrete batching plant.

The air quality assessment predicts the scale of potential emissions that might arise, based on a review of the dispersal of local residences, the prevailing weather conditions and the most representative existing air quality data held by the EPA. The national Air Quality Standards set by Government were also reviewed to ensure that relevant emissions limits are not already being approached in the local area. Measures to reduce and monitor potential for air quality impacts are identified to ensure these are minimised as far as possible.

The overall effects from the proposed development are considered to be 'not significant' with the embedded mitigation measures taken into account. Notwithstanding this, a series of industry good practise operational controls have been recommended for implementation during the proposed development. Designed in mitigation measures include for example; maintaining a 100m minimum stand-off distance from the site boundary for all dust-generating activities; using water suppression on site; and enforcing a site speed limit of 15kph for all vehicles. Recommended mitigation measures include: the preparation of a Dust Management and Monitoring Plan; minimizing handling and drop heights of materials to reduce dust; and restricting vehicular access to restored areas. In addition, all onsite haulage routes will be regularly inspected, and the wheel wash facility will be operated and maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions

Dust deposition monitoring should continue to be undertaken at the site for the duration of the proposed development (in accordance with conditions attached to any future planning permission and in line with the EPA and DoEHLG guidelines).

With the range of mitigation measures to be implemented and design measures to be incorporated into the working scheme, it is considered that the risk of air quality and dust related impacts at receptors generated by the proposed development will be 'negligible'

3.6 Climate

Observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising sea level are unequivocal evidence of warming of the climate system globally. Global mean temperature has increased compared with pre-industrial times for land and oceans. Most of the observed increase in global average temperatures is very likely due to human activity.

Ireland has a typical maritime climate with relatively mild and moist winters and cool, cloudy summers. The prevailing winds are south westerly in direction. The climate is influenced by warm maritime air associated with the Gulf Stream, which has the effect of moderating the climate, and results in high average annual humidity across the country. The area of least precipitation is along the eastern seaboard of the country in the rain shadow of the Leinster uplands.

Despite the different methods and scenario combinations used, there is agreement in projected changes in temperature for Ireland. However, there are more disparities in the magnitude and sign (i.e. +/-) for the precipitation changes projected for the island.

The midland weather stations at Mullingar (c. 52km east), Birr (c. 42km south), Gurteen (c. 47km south) and mount Dillon (c. 30km north) are all considered representative of conditions experienced at the application site.



GHG emissions have been calculated for the proposed development based on annual energy used at the existing development at Cam Quarry in future years. It has been assumed that the projected traffic movements associated with the extraction and site activities will generate 12 to 13 HGV trips per hour based on a maximum annual total output of 500,000 tonnes per year, 48-week year, 5.5 day week, 13-hour day and 23 tonne (aggregate) HGV loads. It has also been assumed that the average distance travelled for each delivery will be 50 km each way (or 100 km in total). The total number of trips per year will be approximately 43,825. It is estimated that up to c. 8,645 litres of diesel will be consumed each week (for 48 weeks per year) to power on-site mobile plant & equipment, and back-up generator. It is also assumed that the processing plant, weighbridge, wheelwash, pumps and lighting and heating for site offices, welfare facilities and other buildings will collectively consume up to 3,125 kWh of electrical power per week.

3.7 Noise & Vibration

The prevailing noise levels at noise sensitive locations in the vicinity of the site and haulage routes was determined through review of historical compliance monitoring data and prediction. Empirical source data for expected activities during the construction and operational phases was then used to calculate potential noise impacts arising at the same noise sensitive locations.

The proposed development will include a number of activities and processes that have the potential to generate noise impacts. Continued generation of vehicular traffic associated with the export of processed quarry materials. There is potential for increase in road traffic noise during the construction and operation of the previously permitted concrete block and batching plant. Continued intermittent rock blasting at the site has the potential to generate elevated noise levels offsite. Continued processing of fragmented rock include noise generating plant items such as crushers, screens and loaders. The construction of the concrete batching and concrete block plant will require use of heavy plant and machinery. During operation, in addition to noise from concrete batching plant and block forming machine, the handling of concrete blocks and materials will require use of heavy plant and machinery.

The standards include guidance on several aspects of construction site mitigation measures, including, but not limited to: Selection of quiet and or low vibration emitting plant; Control of noise sources; Screening; Hours of work; Liaison with the public; and Monitoring.

Ongoing Independent Environmental Monitoring shall be carried out to the satisfaction of Roscommon County Council and if systematic increases are detected at noise sensitive locations, the operation causing it shall cease. The Applicant also intends to implement best practice noise and vibration management techniques throughout the operational phase of the proposed development to control, and where possible, further reduce the noise impact to nearby noise sensitive receptors.

The adoption and implementation of best practice Construction Noise Management practices should ensure residual impacts are minimised to the extent that construction noise should give rise to slight negative temporary impacts for the most part and moderate brief impacts on limited occasions.

The nature of onsite operations and the distance to the nearest noise sensitive locations is such that the risk of vibration impacts occurring during either the construction or operational phases is negligible.

3.8 Material Assets

The material assets impact assessment comprises the consideration of existing resources pertinent to the proposed development and the application site that are not addressed elsewhere in this EIAR and the likely development impacts on those resources. On this basis,



this Chapter addresses built services and waste management. Built services are understood to refer to electricity, telecommunications, gas, water supply infrastructure and sewerage.

Feedback of most relevance to the assessment of material assets was received from Uisce Éireann (formerly Irish Water), which stipulated required measures to ensure the protection of supply and protection of public water supplies. The means by which these measures have been incorporated into the proposed development are described in Chapter 7 of this EIA.

The proposed development is not predicted to have any negative impacts on any other services / utilities.

The ancillary site infrastructure will continue to be powered by mains electricity from the ESB's national grid via existing on site connection to the existing power lines in the area.

Standard construction safety practices for working close to the existing overhead power lines at the site will be implemented for all site-based operations in order to safeguard the uninterrupted supply to local service users and to ensure the health and safety of employees, hauliers and visitors. This will be done in line with statutory obligations under health and safety legislation. ESB Networks will be consulted in relation to works close to their infrastructure and the requisite protection buffers will be observed.

According to Gas Networks Ireland (GNI) mapping, there is no gas infrastructure close to the application site. The closest infrastructure is a high transmission gas pipeline, which runs in an east-west direction c. 6 km south of the quarry. OpenEir Civil Engineering mapping indicates that there is telecommunications infrastructure running along the local road network and into the quarry along the internal access road. Site based staff at the application site are contactable by mobile phone, landline and email and broadband connections to the site office as provided via a mobile network.

As the quarry is operational there is a waste minimisation and recycling system already in place. Waste and recycling arisings are collected by authorised waste contactors.

3.9 Cultural Heritage

The baseline study involved detailed investigation of the archaeological and historical background of the development site, the landholding and the surrounding area extending 1km from the development boundary. This area was examined using information from the Record of Monuments and Places of County Roscommon, the Sites and Monuments Record, the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, Roscommon County Development Plan, lists of excavations and cartographic and documentary sources. A field inspection and test excavation was previously carried out in 2004 during preparation of the original planning application, to identify and assess any known archaeological sites and previously unrecorded features and possible finds within the area of the landholding. As the footprint of the proposed development has already been archaeologically assessed no further assessment is required.

The site is situated in the townlands of Curry and Cloonacaltry, in the parishes of Cam and Taghmaconnell and Barony of Athlone South. The review established that there are no Protected Structures situated within the application area or within the study area.

Examination of the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) which is maintained by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on 18 June 2025 indicated that there are no SMRs included within the application area. External to the application area the closest is a RO048-196---- a Barrow – mound in Cloonacaltry townland. This monument is located 0.53 km south of the application area and will not be impacted by the proposal.



3.10 Landscape & Visual

A landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) of the proposed development associated with the proposed continued use of the site was completed in accordance with accepted best practice guidance. The application site is located immediately south of the R363 - regional road, c. 3.5 km west of Brideswell village, c. 4 km east of the Dysart village, and c. 12 km north-west of Athlone.

The application area, comprises the existing extraction area, stockpile storage areas, the access road and other site infrastructure, such as an office, weighbridge and wheelwash, which cover much of the northern half of the site. The proposed development includes the reduction of the previously permitted extraction area from 23.7 ha to 17.1 ha and the associated reduction of the overburden storage area required.

There will be no significant landscape or visual effects, with landscape effects assessed as moderate/minor or less and effects for all sensitive visual receptors, including local residents, minor or less. A landscape and restoration scheme is provided, which will result in the restoration of the quarried lands for ecological benefit.

A study area of approximately 3km surrounding the application area was identified during the desktop study, based on the Zone of Theoretical Visibility Map (refer **Figure 13-2**). While the ZTV indicates limited / no visibility beyond 1 km to the east and 2 km to the south-west of the site, the 3km study area is maintained for the purposes of providing landscape context. Photography and visual representations have been prepared in accordance with industry standards to enable an understanding of the landscape and visual impacts of the proposals.

The application area is fully located within LCA 34 – Lough Funshinagh, Stone Wall Grasslands and Esker Ridges, which has been afforded moderate value.

The existing quarry is, and the proposed development will continue to be largely screened in views from the surrounding area, by existing topography, as well as vegetation to some extent. The pockets of native tree and shrub planting along parts of the northern and western boundary, as well as on the overburden storage area, as soon as this is completed, will contribute to the screening of the site and its integration into the local landscape. This will be further achieved by the final restoration of the site to a natural habitat. These elements comprise the main mitigating features integrated into the development design, ensuring that the landscape and visual effects are kept to a minimum.

As no additional mitigation measures are proposed during this stage, the residual levels of landscape and visual impact would be as per the assessment above. In summary, the assessment has found that the proposed development would have moderate/minor or minor landscape effects on the landscape receptors identified (i.e. levels of impact not considered to be significant), during the operational stage. There would be no visual effects on views from the majority of locations within the study area the study area. Some residential receptors within 1 km to the south and west and 2.5km to the north-west will experience minor visual effects. The visual effects for road users within a similar area range from minor/negligible to negligible (i.e. all impacts not regarded as significant).

Following the completion of all extraction and restoration works the predicted landscape and visual effects would reduce to minor/negligible for all receptors identified. The final landform of the quarry void, with its steep faces, the tallest of which will continue to be visible in some views; the appearance of this face will soften in time, as the rock weathers and grass and scrub species begin to colonise the quarry benches and crevasses in the rock faces;

The areas left for natural regeneration, which will take some time to be fully covered with vegetation but will eventually have a similar appearance to the scrub areas present in the surrounding landscape.

No further mitigation measures are deemed required.



3.11 Traffic

PMCE Ltd were commissioned by SLR Consulting Ireland to undertake a review of the potential traffic impacts associated with the proposed continued use of the Quarry on roads including R363 Regional Road, R357 and R362.

The proposed development will benefit from existing access roads and a well-defined access on the R363, which has benefited from significant upgrades in association with the previous planning permission. Existing development traffic volumes will not increase as a result of the proposed continuance.

The proposed development is estimated to export up to 500,000 tonnes of material from the site annually. In determining the daily traffic volumes associated with the development an average of 83 loads per day from the site has been calculated.

Link capacity analysis was carried out on the R363, and it was determined that it will continue to operate within capacity for each of the assessment years: 2025, 2030, and 2040.

Junction Capacity Analysis was undertaken at the junctions of the Site Access and the R363. The results of the junction capacity analysis indicates that the junction assessed will operate within capacity for each of the assessment years: 2030, and 2040.

Following the link, and junction capacity assessments, the trips associated with the operation of the proposed development were found to have an imperceptible impact on the link capacity of the R363 Regional Road, and the junction capacity of the site access junction and the R362 Junction.

That adequate visibility splays are available at the quarry access on the R363 Regional Road

There is sufficient parking provision within the site to accommodate parking for all staff, and site operation.

3.12 Interactions

A matrix and associated commentary is provided in Chapter 15 of the EIA, which acts as a checking mechanism to ensure that there are no potential additional impacts from the interactions of impacts that are dealt with within the individual assessment chapters of the EIA.

3.13 Mitigation and Monitoring

Chapter 16 of the EIA provides a summary of mitigation and monitoring commitments set out within the technical chapters. This is intended to assist Roscommon County Council in determining the planning application and identifying any planning conditions that it may wish to impose on any future planning permission.

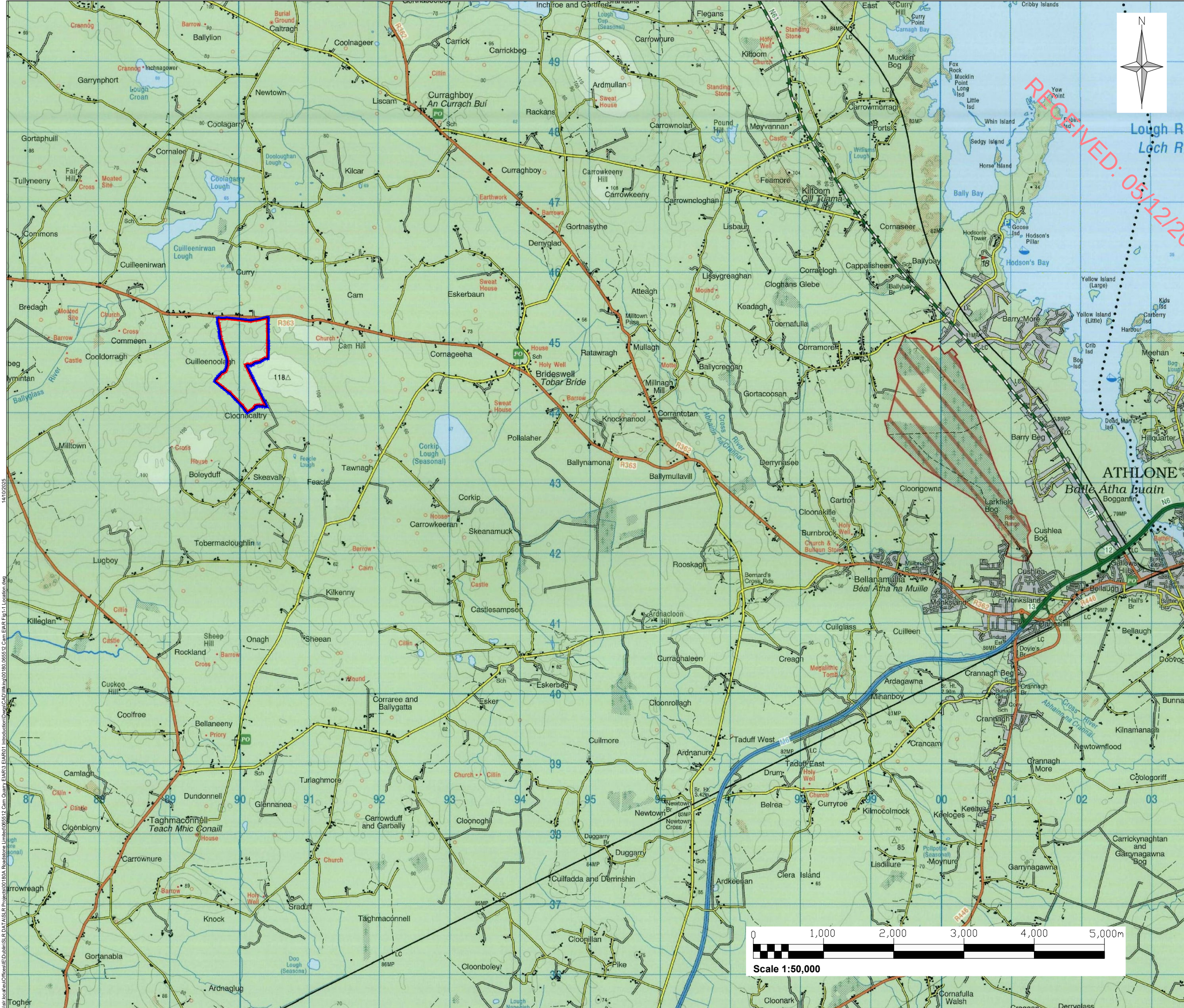


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Figures

Figure NTS-1	Site Location Map
Figure NTS-2	Site Location & Site Notice Map
Figure NTS-3	Site Location & Site Notice Map
Figure NTS-4	Existing Site Layout
Figure NTS-5	Proposed Site Layout
Figure NTS-6	Proposed Restoration Layout





Notes:

1. Based on 1:50,000 scale Tailte Eireann Discovery series map 47

Legend:

Landholding (c. 66.3 hectares)

Planning Application Area (c. 66.3 hectares)

Rev

Amendments

Date

By

Chk

Auth

SLR

www.slrconsulting.com

Client

Roadstone Limited

Project

Continued Use of Existing Cam Quarry at Curry & Cloonacaltry townlands, Co. Roscommon

Figure Title

Site Location Map

Scale

1:50,000 @ A3

SLR Project No.

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Drawn

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Date

01/25

Authorised

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Date

10/25

Figure Number

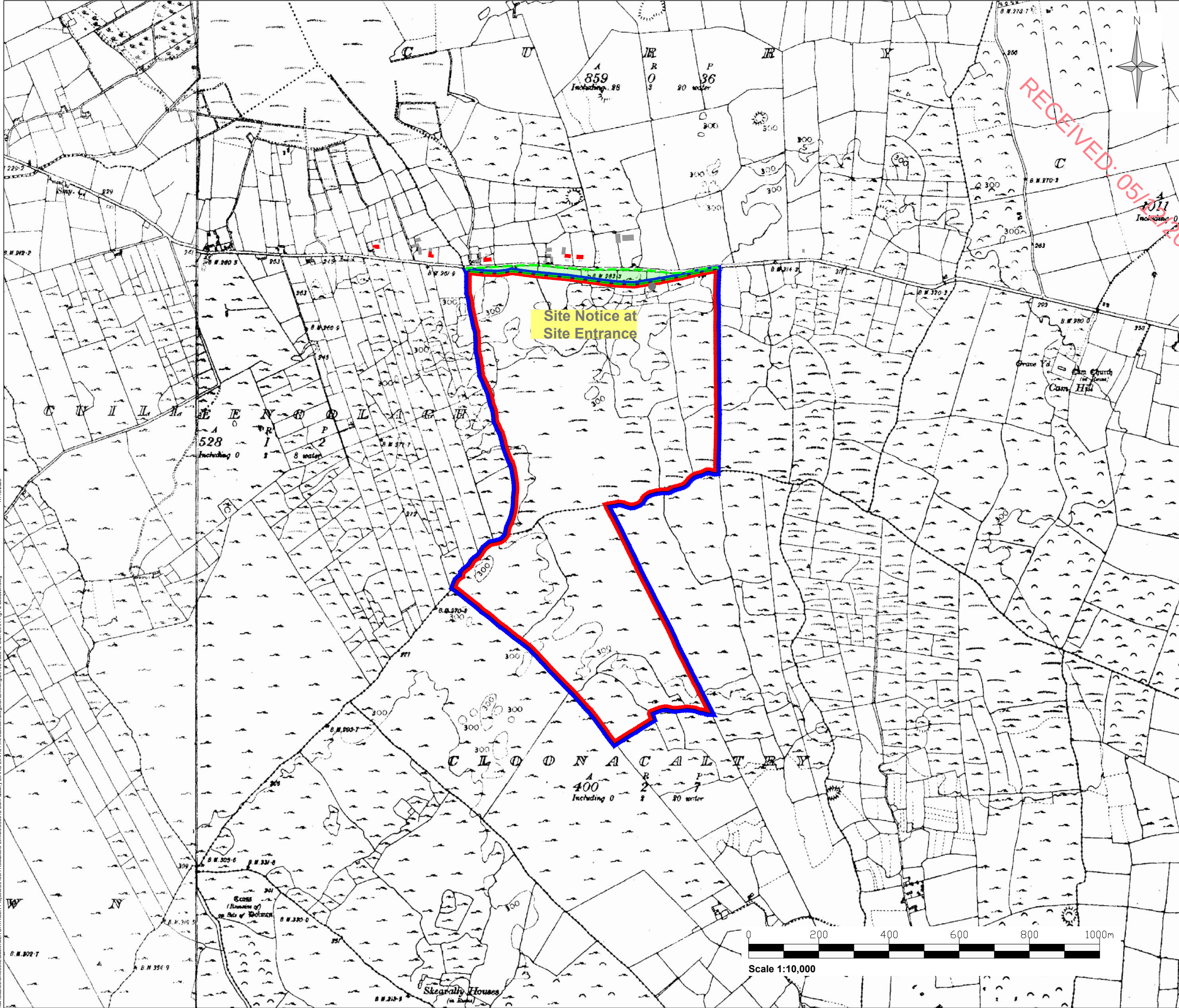
Figure NTS-1

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Notes:

1. Based on 6 inch scale Tailte Eireann Discovery raster maping RN047, RN048, RN050, RN051

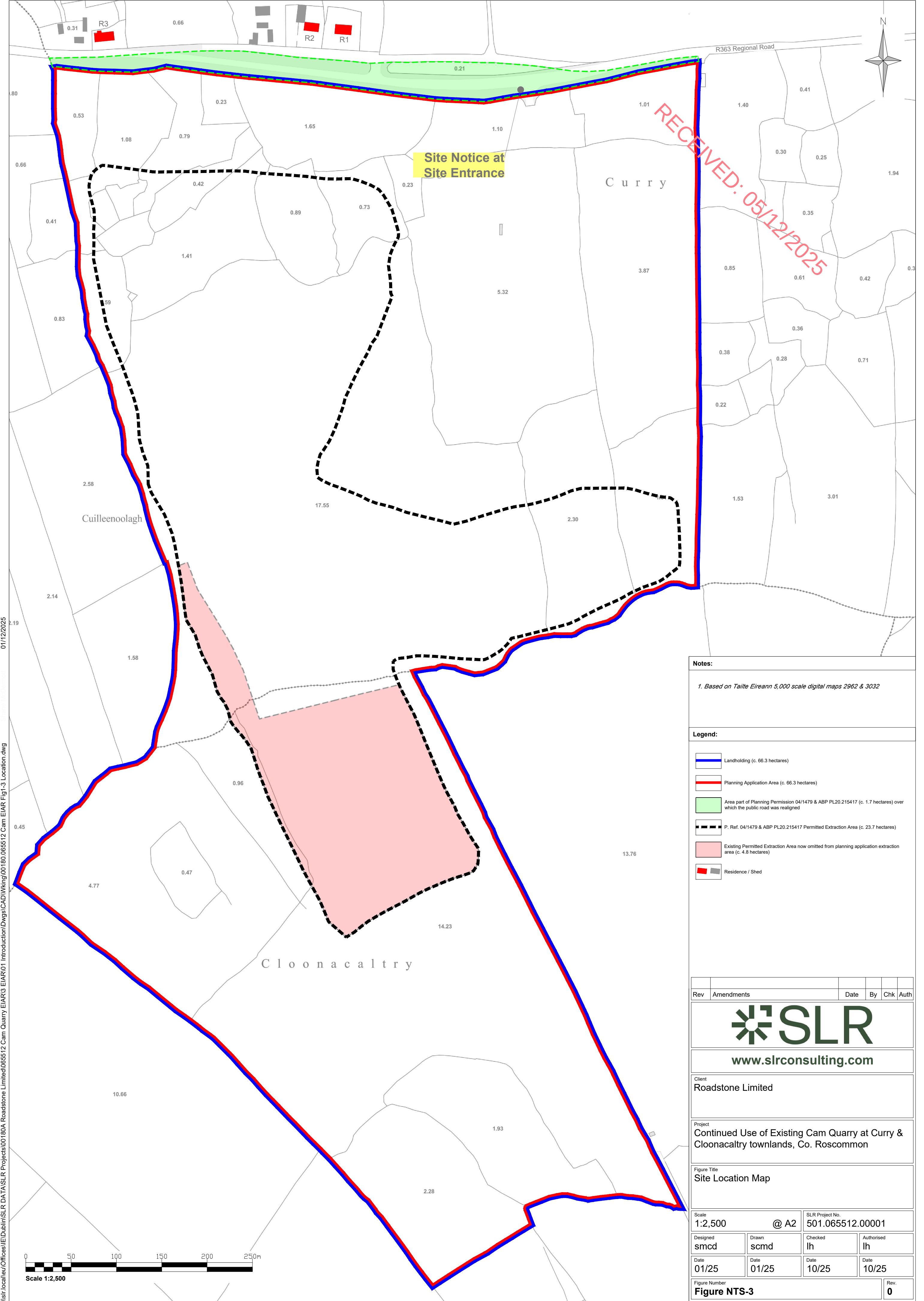
Legend:

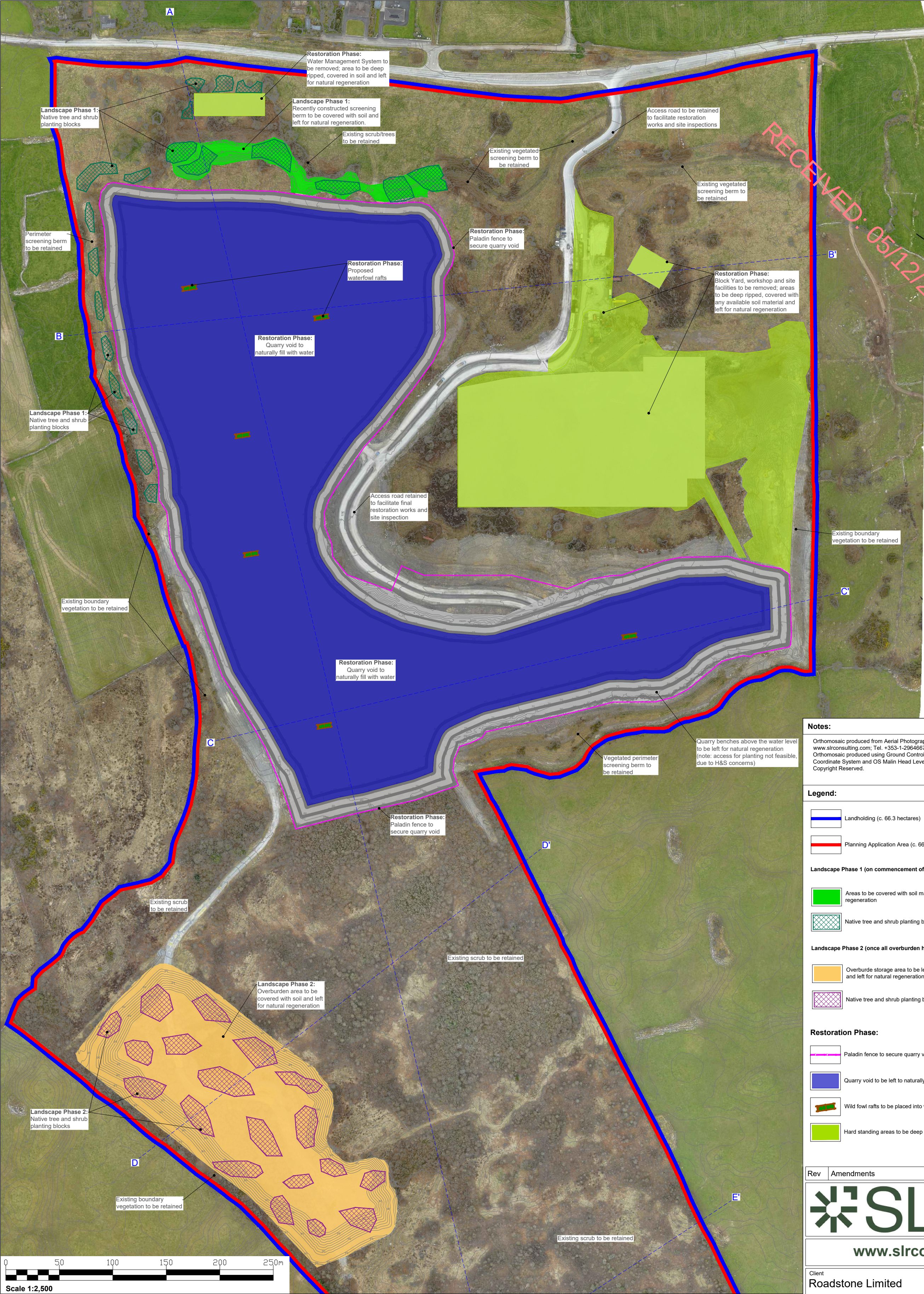
Landholding (c. 66.3 hectares)

Planning Application Area (c. 66.3 hectares)

Area part of Planning Permission 04/1479 & ABP PL20.215417 (c. 1.7 hectares) over which the public road was realigned

Rev	Amendments	Date	By	Chk	Auth
SLR www.slrconsulting.com					
Client Roadstone Limited					
Project Continued Use of Existing Cam Quarry at Curry & Cloonacaltry townlands, Co. Roscommon					
Figure Title Site Location Map					
Scale 1:10,000 @ A3		SLR Project No. 501.065512.00001			
Designed smcd	Drawn smcd	Checked lh	Authorised lh		
Date 01/25	Date 01/25	Date 10/25	Date 10/25		
Figure Number Figure NTS-2					Rev. 0





Landscape and Restoration Scheme

The aim of the landscape and restoration scheme is to screen views of the quarry activities, as far as is possible, as well as restore the site to a beneficial natural habitat and wetland habitat. Both are recommended afteruses in the EPA Guidelines: 'Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry' (2006).

Landscape / Restoration Phasing and Activities

Landscape Phase 1:
On commencement of the proposed development, the following works will be carried out:

- All existing grass, trees and scrub vegetation, not located within the proposed extraction area, will be retained.
- The existing scrub areas in the southern half of the site will be retained.
- The screening berm which was recently constructed parallel to the northern boundary (west of the access road) and any bare sections of the screening berm along the western boundary to be covered with topsoil, from existing stockpiles on site.
- Blocks of a native tree and shrub mix (as indicated on the plan) to be planted on top of the screening berms along the western and northern boundary and around the proposed water management system, to soften

the appearance of these elements and augment the screening from existing vegetation.

Landscape Phase 2:
As soon as all overburden from the remaining areas to be stripped has been placed into the designated storage area in the southern part of the site, the following works will be carried out:

- The overburden area will be leveled to achieve a smooth surface.
- Any topsoil from the area to be stripped, which will have been stored separately will be used to cover the overburden area.
- Blocks of a native tree and shrub mix (as indicated on the plan) will be planted on the overburden area to soften its appearance and promote the natural regeneration of the remainder of the area.

Restoration Phase:
On completion of all extraction works, the following restoration activities will be carried out:

- All plant, structures, machinery and stockpiles will be removed from the site.
- Any hardstanding areas will be deep ripped, levelled, covered with any available overburden / topsoil and left for natural regeneration.
- The quarry void will be left to naturally fill with water.

When the final water level is reached, a number of 'waterfowl rafts', in line with current best practice at the time, will be placed into the water body, in order to create potential nesting sites for water birds.

- To ensure site safety and restrict access to the water body, a paladin fence will be erected around the perimeter of the quarry void, following the top of the quarry faces. Paladin fencing was chosen, as is less visually intrusive than other types of secure fencing. This measure will also help to protect the developing aquatic and terrestrial habitats from disturbance during the critical establishment period.

General planting notes
All plant handling, planting and establishment works to be carried out in accordance 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.
Establishment maintenance to be carried out for 2 years following the completion of each planting stage (minimum 3 maintenance visits per year; i.e. spring, summer and autumn). Works to include weed control, replacement planting (where required) and the adjustment/removal of tree ties and spiral guards.

Native tree and shrub planting mix
To be planted at 2m centres (i.e. 1 plant/4m²).

Landscape phase 1: c. 5,700m² = c. 1,425 plants
Landscape phase 2: c. 9,300m² = c. 2,325 plants
Total planting area: c. 15,000m² = c. 3,750 plants
Transplants to be planted randomly with no more than 4-6 plants of the same species in one group and to be supplied with spiral guards.

No.	Plant Name	Common Name	Height (cm)	Age	%
<i>Transplants</i>					
560	Corylus avellana	Hazel	60-90	1+0	15
940	Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	60-90	1+1	25
940	Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn	60-90	1+0	25
560	Salix caprea	Willow	60-120	0+1	15
750	Sorbus aucuparia	Rowan	60-90	1+1	20

Notes:
Orthomosaic produced from Aerial Photography flown March 2025 by SLR Consulting Ireland; www.slrconsulting.com; Tel. +353-1-2964667.
Orthomosaic produced using Ground Control Points; Related to Irish Transverse Mercator Coordinate System and OS Malin Head Level Datum.
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Legend:

- Landholding (c. 66.3 hectares)
- Planning Application Area (c. 66.3 hectares)

Landscape Phase 1 (on commencement of the proposed development):

- Areas to be covered with soil material from stockpiles on site and left for natural regeneration
- Native tree and shrub planting blocks

Landscape Phase 2 (once all overburden has been placed into the designated storage area):

- Overburden storage area to be leveled, covered with soil from the areas to be stripped and left for natural regeneration
- Native tree and shrub planting blocks

Restoration Phase:

- Paladin fence to secure quarry void
- Quarry void to be left to naturally fill with water
- Wild fowl rafts to be placed into water body
- Hard standing areas to be deep ripped and left for natural regeneration

Rev	Amendments	Date	By	Chk	Auth
		SLR Consulting Ireland 7 Dundrum Business Park, Windy Arbour, Dublin, Ireland, D14 N2Y7			
www.slrconsulting.com					

Client
Roadstone Limited

Project
Continued Use of Existing Cam Quarry at Curry & Cloonacally townlands, Co. Roscommon

Figure Title
Proposed Landscape and Restoration Plan

Scale 1:2,500	SLR Project No. 501.065512.00001		
Designed sh	Drawn sh	Checked am	Authorised am
Date 05/25	Date 05/25	Date 10/25	Date 10/25
Figure Number Figure NTS-6			Rev. 0

RECEIVED: 05/12/2025

