

APPLICATION TO AN BORD PLEANÁLA FOR PERMISSION FOR A QUARRY UNDER SECTION 37L OF THE ACT

We, Hudson Brothers Limited, intend to apply for permission under section 37L of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, for development at this site at New Paddocks, Blessington, Co Wicklow W91 CH68 within the townlands of Athgarrett, Philipstown and Redbog, Co Kildare.

The development consists of further development of a quarry over an area of 64.0ha that largely coincides within a fully operational quarry void currently at a maximum depth and floor level of 188 mAOD. It is proposed continue extraction activities in the existing quarry void above the watertable, and to laterally extend the existing quarry void to the north by approximately 17.7ha over a total area of 21.2ha to accommodate screening berms, and also to the west by approximately 9.4 ha over a total area of 10.2ha to accommodate screening berms. The proposed duration of excavation is 15 years to reflect anticipated extraction of remaining reserves and depending on market conditions and a further 3 years for restoration.

The existing quarrying is accessed from a single location on the N81. The reserve consists of sandstone (greywacke) and is currently extracted by mechanical means. The excavated material will comprise sand and gravel which will be extracted by mechanical means and sand, gravel and rock which will be extracted by both mechanical means and blasting. Extracted rock material will be crushed at the working face by mobile plant, and extracted sand and gravel material will be transported to a central plant area for washing, grading and processing. The further development of the quarry relates to further extraction only and utilises the existing plant area and quarry access that are included in a concurrent application for substitute consent.

The application site is contained within a quarry area registered in 2005 under S.261 (Ref No. QR/42 by Kildare County Council and QY/43 by Wicklow County Council). The S.261A notice was reviewed under An Board Pleanála ref. 311622 resulting in a Board Order requiring an application for substitute consent accompanied by remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report (r EIAR). This S37L application is made concurrent with an application for substitute consent for quarrying at this location, also part of that Order.

The application is accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS). The EIAR is for an EIA project unit over 64.0 ha. that encompasses the area of the further development of the quarry application under S.37L, the concurrent substitute consent application and the quarry as registered under S.261.

Submissions or observations may be made on the application, to An Bord Pleanála, Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, free of charge. Submissions or observations must be in writing and made within the period of 8 weeks beginning on the date of receipt of the application by An Bord Pleanála and such submissions and observations will be considered by An Bord Pleanála in making a decision on the application. An Bord Pleanála may grant the consent subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant it.

The application for permission may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, or Kildare County Council, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare, W91 X77F during their public opening hours.

Any enquiries relating to the application process should be directed to An Bord Pleanála (Tel. 01-8588100).