

Cathy Carleton

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Derek

**From:** Rory Finnegan <roryfinnegan162@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 17 June 2025 19:32  
**To:** Appeals2  
**Subject:** Ref: ABP 322432 Substitute Consent Application Bison Quarries  
**Attachments:** ABP.docx

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Rory Finnegan  
Tel. No. 087-7965737



**Ref: ABP 322432 Substitute Consent Application Bison Quarries**

To Whom It May Concern,

I am resident of Monastervin, Quinnsboro/Coolsickin and I am writing to you to formally object to the Substitute Consent Application by Bison Quarries Ltd. Now disused previously illegal quarry at Ballykelly/Coolsickin or Quinnsboro. My concerns are as follows;

1. Risk of private well water contamination
2. Risk of water table contamination
3. Potential pollution of the Grand Canal pNHA
4. Potential pollution of the Figile river and Barrow SAC
5. Negative impacts to the users of the Barrow Blueway
6. The industrialisation of a rural, biodiverse, heritage rich tourist orientated area

Regarding concern 1 - many wells ran dry and new wells had to be dug because of previous illegal works in this quarry. If consent is granted and quarrying is developed over the full site, the implications for private wells over a larger area could be dire.

Regarding concern 2 – the water presently in the void – approximately 9 million gallons is blue/green in colour and does not support any life there is no insect activity whatsoever and there is no bird life in situ which one would expect to see in a water body with an island after having 18 years to regenerate. This would suggest strongly that the water quality is extremely poor if not polluted. If the consent is approved and this water is not tanked off site it has the potential to seriously contaminate the water table.

Regarding concern 3 – this water corridor is of immense value both for amenity and biodiversity. Canoeing, fishing, paddleboarding and narrow boating among the pleasure activities. This linear water course along with its marginal plants associated hedgerows and trees are important habitats for mammals, birds and insects. There is a population of Marsh Fritillary Butterflies legally protected under Annex 2 of the EU Habitats and Species Directive on lands adjacent to the Grand Canal. Previous discharges associated with the quarry caused significant environmental damage before being eventually stopped by local authority.

Regarding concern 4 – the river Figile flows into the Barrow which is an SAC, the floodplain of the River Figile and its environs is extremely important habitat for nature conservation. Species recorded by Birdwatch Ireland and on NBDC citizen science portal include the following red listed bird species – Curlew, Lapwing, Snipe, Golden Plover, Red Wing, Yellow Hammer, Grey Wagtail, Meadow Pipit, Whinchat, Kestrel, Barn Owl and Swift. There are 25 species on the Amber list also. Red Squirrel, hedgehog, badger and fox have all been recorded in the Coolsickin/Quinnsboro area.

Regarding concern 5 – Barrow Blueway is major amenity infrastructure in Monasterevin its value also as a wildlife corridor and its passive use would be severely impacted by dust, noise and possible blasting activities in the future.

Regarding concern 6 – in 2019 the Dail announced a climate and biodiversity emergency in Ireland and instructed all public bodies to fulfil their biodiversity duties; “All public bodies must have regard to the objectives and targets of the National Biodiversity Action Plan 4 in the performance of their duties”. Our community is seeking your support as mandated by Government to recognise that the soft tourism currently developing in Quinnsboro/Coolsickin is based on biodiversity and passive amenity uses. Initiative such as The Just Transition of Umeras Bog and future planned developments, the Barrow Blueway and Church of Oak distillery all contribute towards that end. To allow this application to succeed would fly in the face of everything our community has worked so hard to achieve.

I respectfully request that ABP reject this application in the interest of water quality and rights, biodiversity conservation and the threats to public health and community wellbeing.

Kind regards,

Rory Finnegan Dip Amenity Hort National Botanic Gardens  
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