

Deneh

Lisa Quinn

From: communications
Sent: Friday, July 4, 2025 9:00 AM
To: Appeals2
Subject: FW: Ref: 322722
Attachments: 20250702-ACP-322722.pdf

From: Sean O'Callaghan <socallaghan@antaisce.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 3, 2025 5:27 PM
To: Bord <bord@pleanala.ie>
Subject: Ref: 322722

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A Chara,

Please find enclosed An Taisce's submission on ref: 322722.

Is mise le meas,

Seán O'Callaghan
Planning and Environmental Policy Officer
An Taisce – The National Trust for Ireland
Email: socallaghan@antaisce.org
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An Taisce

The National Trust for Ireland

5 Foster Place

Dublin 2, Ireland

D02 V0P9

20250702-ACP-322722

An Coimisiún Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Rotunda,
Dublin 1,
D01 V902.

Sent by email to bord@pleanala.ie:

3rd July 2025

Ref: 322722

App: Bison Quarries Ltd

For: Development of land pursuant to Section 37L of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). restoration of lands through the import of soil and stone to infill disused historical quarry. An EIAR accompanies the application.

Site: Coolsickin or Quinsborough, Co. Kildare.

A Chara,

An Taisce has the following observations on the above proposal.

1. Biosecurity

We would recommend close consideration of the applicant's biosecurity measures, due to the potential for unintended invasive species introduction when importing the inert soil and stone material. These would bring significant ecological pressures to the existing vegetation contained within the dense riparian area of the river and would be extremely difficult to control once established in the area surrounding the subject site. We bring the Council's attention to a guidance document

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Directors: Stuart McCaul (Chair), Terri Morrissey (Vice Chair), John Conroy (Treasurer), Laura Segura Gutierrez (Secretary),
Trish O'Connell, Olivia Rogers, Rónán O'Brien, Finbarr Murray, Helen Shaw, Phil Doyle, Tony Holohan

regarding the reduction of invasive species transport through soil and stone, compiled by the NPWS and DHLGH¹:

*"Since the 1960's the number of invasive alien species in Ireland has steadily increased with a variety of species now widespread in Ireland with **continued risk of spread** including terrestrial invasive alien species such as American skunk cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*), Chilean rhubarb (*Gunnera tinctoria*), Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), New Zealand flatworm (*Arthurdendyus triangulatus*) and **Japanese Knotweed** (*Fallopia japonica*; synonyms *Reynoutria japonica* and *Polygonum cuspidatum*), as well as aquatic invasive alien species such as Zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*), Quagga mussel (*Dreissena rostriformis bugensis*), Crayfish plague (*Aphanomyces astaci*), Nuttall's waterweed (*Elodea nuttallii*) and African curly waterweed (*Lagarosiphon major*). As more invasive alien species are poised to be introduced to Ireland from Great Britain and continental Europe, **good awareness and implementation of biosecurity measures by all relevant stakeholders are required.**"* [An Taisce emphasis added].

In addition to the invasive floral species mentioned in the previous paragraph, we would also highlight Cherry Laurel and Rhododendron as highly damaging in the Irish context due to their rapid spread across the Irish landscape and ability to outcompete native species. All invasive non-native plant species listed on the Third Schedule of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended, should also be targeted within an invasive species management plan.

The Council should ensure that the applicant adheres to the listed biosecurity measures contained within this document:

1. Site risk assessment: Check for the presence of invasive species and risk of introducing them prior to commencing works.
2. Managing risk: Put in place a plan for site biosecurity.
3. Check: Have visual inspection checklists for machinery/equipment.
4. Clean: Removal of heavy debris adhering to machinery with a brush or trowel prior to leaving a worksite, wash down if possible.
5. Responsible disposal: Dispose of soil and stone containing invasive species following regulations and best practice guidance.
6. Depot cleaning station: Use self-contained cleaning stations for incoming machinery or equipment at central depots.
7. Stay informed: Keep up to date with compliance and reporting procedures.

Adherence to these measures are imperative to ensure a rigorous biosecurity management procedure and to tackle the growing issue of invasive species spread throughout Ireland. We would also highlight that invasive species biosecurity measures require adherence to the European Union (Invasive Alien Species) Regulations 2024 (S.I. No. 374 of 2024).

Please acknowledge our submission and advise us of any decision made.

Is mise le meas,

¹ https://invasives.ie/app/uploads/2023/06/IrelandsInvasiveAlienSpecies-SoilAndStone-PathwayActionPlan-2023-2027_FINAL.pdf

Seán O'Callaghan

Planning and Environmental Policy Officer

An Taisce – [The National Trust for Ireland](#)



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