

Derek Kelly

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Sent: Wednesday 30 July 2025 12:30
To: Appeals2
Subject: Objection to Section 37L of Bison Quarries application for of Substitute Consent FD09 322722
Attachments: Quarry supporting document.pdf

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Objection to section 37L of Bison Quarries application of Substitute Consent FD09322722

We are objecting to this planning application for the following reasons;

1. The EIAR submitted by WSP Consultants states "The surface water is of good quality and not connected to any ongoing sources of pollution". Samples taken by Friends of Barrow Blueway CLG from the quarry on the 8/7/2025 and analysed by ALS labs from Portlaoise show very high levels of coliforms copy attached.
2. WSP Consultants have failed to adequately address that the previous quarrying went 10 meters below the water table exposing a spring leading to the loss of water in local wells see attached photograph. This scenario would repeat if water is removed with the possibility of more widespread loss of wells.
3. WSP Consultants allude to discharging the void water into a culvert running parallel to the Grand Canal which feeds into the Figile river and ultimately the Barrow SAC. This was illegally done by previous quarry owners until court ordered to desist. How can this be allowed again.
Kildare County Council gave very clear instructions regarding this surface water on September 3rd 2008. "Surface waters arising onsite shall be contained onsite and shall not be discharged to any drain or water course".
4. WSP Consultants have failed to recognise or mitigate for noise, dust, blasting etc. in such close proximity to the Barrow Blueway which is a major environmentally friendly infrastructure promoting passive leisure use and which is being funded by Kildare County Council and the tax payer to the tune of 5 million Euros.
5. We respectfully ask that this application be assessed also in the light of the European Court of Justice ruling in case C-215/06, Commission v's Ireland.
6. Potential pollution of Grand Canal pNHA 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.

7. Potential pollution of Figile and Barrow SAC. The 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.

We 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.

Yours sincerely,

Marie Hamilton & Rory Finnegan

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