

2.26 CANALS

It is the policy of the Council, in association with the Duchas- Waterways, to encourage the protection and development of the amenity and recreational value of canals in the county. The Council will facilitate the development of boat centres and other infrastructural developments, as indicated in the OPW Management Strategy for the Canal system within the county, including the Barrow Navigation.

The Council is convinced of the substantial tourism resource represented by the canal system, particularly as this system runs through many of the more disadvantaged areas of the county, and feels that the development of the system for sustainable tourism is long overdue. The Council will therefore support the objectives of Duchas-Waterways as expressed in the Royal and Grand Canal Corridor studies, and will support the Canal Action Plans which have been prepared by the development agencies for the canal system within the county.

It is Council policy to protect items of architectural or industrial archaeological interest associated with the canals, such as bridges, navigation aids, locks, etc., and to develop the towpath system for walking routes. Any maintenance repairs and/or improvements should be carried out in a sympathetic manner.

It is the policy of the Council to co-operate with the Duchas - Waterways and other relevant statutory bodies in efforts to establish linear Parks along the canal system in the county, except in so far as such policy would interfere with the Council policy on rural housing.

It is the policy of the Council to preserve the quality and quantity of the water in the Milltown Feeder, in co-operation with the Duchas - Waterways and other relevant statutory bodies.

2.27 RACECOURSES

The Curragh, Punchestown and Naas Racecourses are located in the county. It is the Council's policy to protect them from any development which would interfere with their amenity qualities. While Naas Racecourse is located in the area of Naas Urban District Council, it is Council policy to co-operate with Naas U.D.C. in its protection.

2.28 HILL OF ALLEN, CHAIR OF KILDARE AND NEWTOWN HILLS, DUNMURRY HILL, BOSTON HILL

It is the policy of the Council to protect the scientific and amenity value of these hills. The Council will investigate the provision of areas which provide views over the plains.

The Hill of Allen has been subjected to extensive rock quarrying for some time. It is the Council's policy to monitor the development of the area and to investigate how the extraction might be controlled in order to safeguard the prominence of the hill which, in addition to its mythological associations, forms an important feature on the skyline of the plains and boglands. It is also Council policy to protect the Aylmer monument situated on the summit.

2.29 EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

2.29.1 Sand and Gravel and Rock Quarrying

It is recognised that the gravel resources are important to the general economy and that the sand and gravel extraction industry is a valuable source of employment in some areas of the county. However,

the industry can have seriously detrimental effects on the landscape, on the operation of bloodstock, and on residential amenities. The impact on the county road network has been substantial.

It is the policy of the Council that a survey and examination of both existing pit areas and potential sand and gravel deposits in the county be undertaken and to assess the interactions between the development of these resources and future land uses. To assist in the survey, it is intended that an aerial survey of all sand and gravel workings in the county will be made. This will establish the current extent of existing workings and will pinpoint areas where rehabilitation is needed. The survey results could be used as evidence against any future unauthorised sand and gravel developments. It is intended that this survey would be continually updated.

No sand and gravel extraction will be permitted under Class A soils, in areas of high amenity (as defined in this Plan) and their environs, or where conflict with the bloodstock industry might arise. Apart from these exclusions, sand and gravel extraction will be considered on its merits elsewhere within the county, having regard to the policies of this Plan. Within the East Kildare Uplands Area, sand and gravel extraction will be permitted only in areas zoned for that purpose.

It is the policy of the Council to ensure that all existing workings shall be rehabilitated to suitable land uses and that all future extraction activities will allow for the rehabilitation of pits and proper land use management. The use of landfilling with waste, other than topsoil, subsoil and builder's rubble, is not considered to be an acceptable method of rehabilitation of pits.

It is the policy of the Council to ensure that the full cost of road improvements which are necessitated for this industry, shall be borne by the industry itself.

It is Council policy to ensure that rock quarry workings should not detract from the visual quality of the landscape. It is Council policy that all such workings should be subjected to landscaping requirements, similar to those for sand and gravel workings, and that worked out quarries should be rehabilitated.

Detailed objectives and standards for the development and regulation of sand and gravel extraction are set out in Part 4, Section 4.22.

2.29.2 Minerals

In the event of major mineral finds being made in County Kildare, it is the policy of the Council to encourage their development where compatible with the protection of the landscape, the continued operation of agriculture and the bloodstock industry, and the preservation of amenities generally. In any such cases, it will be necessary to demonstrate that the rehabilitation of these areas to proper land uses can take place. In areas of high amenity, as defined in this Plan, the preservation of the relevant amenity, which constitutes an ecological, landscape or heritage resource, will take precedence over the need to extract the mineral resource.

2.30 HERITAGE ITEMS

It is the policy of the Council to preserve and protect items of artistic, historical, architectural, archaeological and scientific interest in the county. These items are listed in Part 3 of this Plan. The Council will continue to investigate such items.

It is the policy of the Council to make use of its special powers of preservation and conservation as may be necessary to safeguard such items. The Council will not hesitate to invoke its powers if the need for action should arise in particular areas. In order to further awareness of heritage items among the general public, it is Council policy to publish explanatory booklets and maps on heritage items for circulation to schools in the county, as well as for tourism.

2.30.1. Areas of Scientific Interest

liquid and solid wastes will have to be made. In addition, the size and form of buildings and the extent to which they can be integrated into the landscape will be governing factors in the acceptability or otherwise of such development.

As indicated in Section 2.9.2, the Council will permit the use of redundant farm buildings for micro-enterprise, which may not be agriculturally-related, but which can be demonstrated will contribute to increased income for existing agricultural enterprises, and/or will supplement existing farm income.

4.21 DRAINAGE AND INDIVIDUAL HOUSES

Sites for houses in rural areas without mains drainage shall in general be at least half an acre in extent. In all cases, the provision of septic tanks and their associated percolation systems must comply in full with the standards set out in SR6:1991, as published by EOLAS under the title '*Septic Tank Systems - Recommendations for Domestic Effluent Treatment and Disposal for a Single Dwelling House*'. The Council may permit the use of proprietary treatment systems such as "Puraflo" or "Biocycle", where the site conditions warrant. In all cases, site suitability tests results will be required to be submitted as part of the planning application for such developments.

4.22 SAND AND GRAVEL EXTRACTION

In assessing planning applications for permission for sand or gravel deposits, the following will be the development control considerations:-

1. Duration of Permissions

The Council will require that all such permissions be for a temporary period, so that the impact of the development may be assessed over time, and so as to ensure that rehabilitation takes place in an orderly and phased manner. This period will generally be of five year's duration, but may be for a shorter or longer duration. No permission will be given for a period in excess of ten years.

2. Rehabilitation

The Council will require that all extractive sites shall be rehabilitated and landscaped, in phase with the extraction. The after-use following rehabilitation, shall be stated, and the rehabilitation materials and layout shall be such as to permit of such after-use.

The Council will not generally permit the after-use of the site for the processing of materials which have to be imported to the site.

3. Bonding

The Council will generally require that operators of extractive sites submit bonds, in an appropriate form acceptable to the Council, to secure the proper rehabilitation of the sites. In assessing the amount of the bond, the past record of an operator will be taken into account.

4. Submission Details

Applications for permission for sand or gravel extraction should provide the following details:-

a) Site Layout

1. Full details of the type of sand and/or gravel to be extracted.
2. full details of the location and layout of the plant, including plans, elevations and sections.

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3. Full details of forecourt planning, including entrances and exits.
4. Full details for provision on site for parking of cars and trucks
5. Accurate boundaries of the proposed area of extraction.

b) Work Programme

A comprehensive programme for work will have to be presented by operators covering:-

1. the intended phasing of the operation of the pit in terms of excavation and rehabilitation. An operational plan with maps should be submitted.
2. The water supply available on site and details of minimum flow.
3. if there is to be washing of aggregates on site, proportions of silt present, and proposals to deal with silt (e.g. location and size of silt beds), and protection of adjoining watercourses.
4. arrangements for the washing of trucks before leaving the site.

c) Landscape

1. details of existing landscape features such as contours, trees, hedgerows, boundary walls, buildings and other items, existing on site, and within 0.5 kilometres of the outer boundaries of the site.
2. details of all items of archaeological, historical and scientific interest present on the site or which would be affected by the proposed development.
3. details of overground and underground services existing on the site.
4. details of the proposed screening of the site during extraction and prior to rehabilitation.

d) Working of the Site

1. the estimated maximum final excavation depth and its relationship to the water table on the site.
2. details of the produce to be processed on site.
3. details of the daily and hourly throughput of the plant.

e) Transport

If materials are to be transported by road, the following details will be required:-

1. the roads to be used for the transport of materials from the plant and for trucks returning light. A map showing such routes should be submitted.
2. details of the daily average number of trucks.
3. details of the types of trucks to be used in the final rehabilitation and a specification detailing how the work is to be carried out.

If materials are to be transported by other methods, details of such will be required.

f) Rehabilitation

1. details of the proposed storage of top soil, subsoil and overburden.
2. details of proposals for rehabilitation and details of land use suitability after rehabilitation. details should include:-
 - (i) report on the existing and finished landform, both of each phase and the overall excavation.
 - (ii) detailed report on quality and condition of topsoil, subsoil and the overburden
 - (iii) plans and section through the workings showing proposed finished gradients and their landscape treatment.
 - (iv) plans showing all plants and materials to be used in the final rehabilitation and a specification detailing how the work is to be carried out.

4.23 CLONAGH AREA

Rural Detail Map No. 1.6 shows the area containing the "Irish Industrial Explosives" factory and explosives storage magazines at Clonagh. It should be noted that a licence under the 1875 Explosives Act prevents the construction of a wide variety of buildings and uses, including residential dwellings within the area shown on the map, subject to the exemption procedure specified in the licence.