

PART II

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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5.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

INTRODUCTION

- 5.1 This chapter provides a brief description of the history of the proposed site. More detailed descriptions of various aspects of the site are included in the respective technical assessment reports.

Existing Site

- 5.2 The site is located in an area of recently felled coniferous forest owned by Coillte Teoranta, on the northwestern flank of Meenaboll Hill in the remote townlands of Meenaboll, Co. Donegal. The site is accessed by a county road which extends some 1.2km off the R250 Letterkenny to Glenties road at a junction situated approximately 17km to the southwest of as shown in Figure 5.1. The proposed landfill will occupy an area of approximately 14.5 hectares with study area for the geotechnical site investigation covering an area of 43 hectares as shown on Figure 5.2. A number of forestry tracks also cross the site internally. It is proposed to provide Coillte access around the landfill boundary by the provision of new forest roads. It is also proposed that Coillte will be given a right of way at the site entrance off the adjacent county road to allow access to the north of the site. Access beyond the site weighbridge for Coillte operations will not be permitted.
- 5.3 The nearest residential property to the site is located approximately 2Km from the proposed development as shown on Figure 5.3.

Proposed Landfill

- 5.4 The proposed facility covers an area of 14.5 hectares with the landfill footprint covering approximately 4.5 hectares, which will provide a capacity of approximately 500,000m³ of landfill void space over an estimated lifespan of 20 years. It is envisaged the landfill operations, i.e. the deposition of waste at the facility, will commence during 2006 and cease by the end of 2025.

Site Topography

- 5.5 The area is drained by the Sruhanpollandoo tributary of the Cummirk River catchment and adjoins the watershed divide with the Owenbeg River that is marked by a subtle break of the slope contours.

- 5.6 The site lies between the 255m and 220m topographic contour interval, where the slope is generally inclined to the southwest under a relatively uniform gradient of around 1 in 15. The ground surface comprises of bracken and heath vegetation overlying a superficial layer of peaty topsoils, which are exposed in linear drainage ditches dissecting the sites.

OUTLINE OF THE PROPOSAL

- 5.7 The site will accept a maximum annual tonnage of 24,000 tonnes of non hazardous waste.
- 5.8 The landfill will be developed in five distinct phases over its lifetime and each lifespan will vary dependant on the rate of waste deposition and the capacity of each phase. Clear felling of trees on the footprint of the site will be carried out in advance of the development of each phase. Additional clear felling of trees will be required for the provision of the necessary site infrastructure including site office, weighbridge, site roads, waste acceptance facilities, recycling area, leachate storage tanks and the plant shed. A buffer zone, with the currently planted trees, of approximately 30m wide will be maintained around the perimeter of the site to provide screening of the operations from the view along the adjacent county road. A specialist contractor will be employed to ensure proper maintenance of this buffer zone throughout the period operation and aftercare.
- 5.9 The landfill site will be developed on a containment basis to meet the requirements of the EU Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC). It will be lined with a composite lining system to prevent the migration of leachate and landfill gas off-site. Phases 1 and 2 will comprise one cell while Phases 3, 4 and 5 each will encompass two cells. The site will be operated to standards set out by the Environmental Protection Agency. The cells will be capped, after being filled to the final permitted levels, with a low permeability capping layer thereby minimising the generation of leachate in the existing waste body.
- 5.10 It is planned to install a leachate collection system in each of the cells and subsequently to transport the collected leachate off site to an appropriate Waste Water Treatment Works.
- 5.11 Landfill gas is generated as the putrescible fractions within the landfill degrade and can cause odour as well as being a fire risk and contributor to greenhouse gas. It is therefore planned to install a landfill gas collection and flaring system, which will collect gas from the waste body. Landfill gas will be collected and safely vented and/or flared during operation as well as after the cessation of landfilling as gas production can continue for some years post closure.

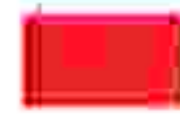
- 5.12 Potential nuisances such as odours, dust, noise, litter, vermin etc. will be addressed with the implementation of the Environmental Management Plan whereby landfilling will be carried out in a controlled manner thereby minimising the possibility of these nuisances.
- 5.13 Detailed descriptions of the site development, operation and restoration of the site are contained in Chapters 6, 7 and 8 of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

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FIGURES

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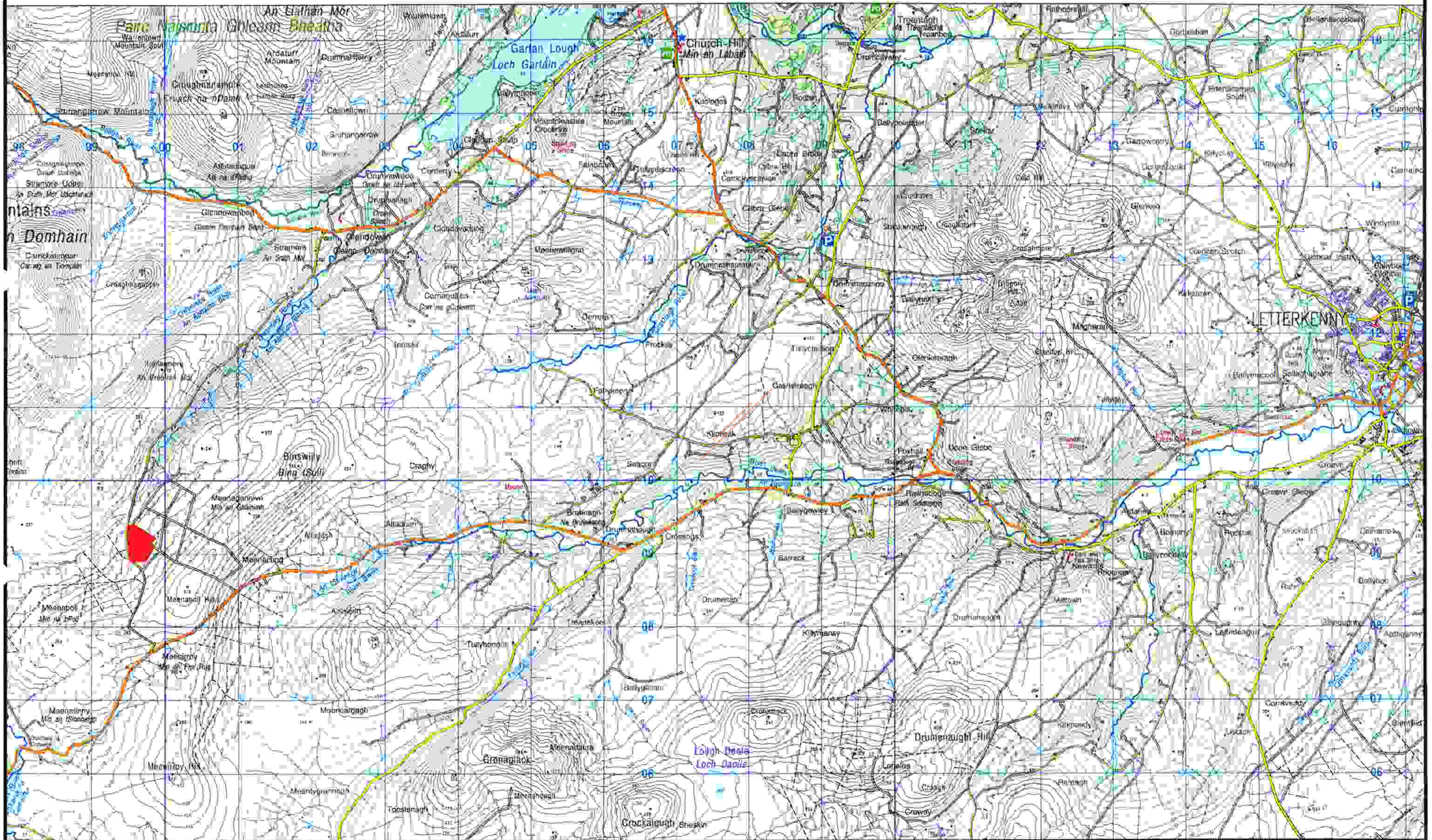
KEY

 SITE AREA

ORDNANCE SURVEY IRELAND / GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND

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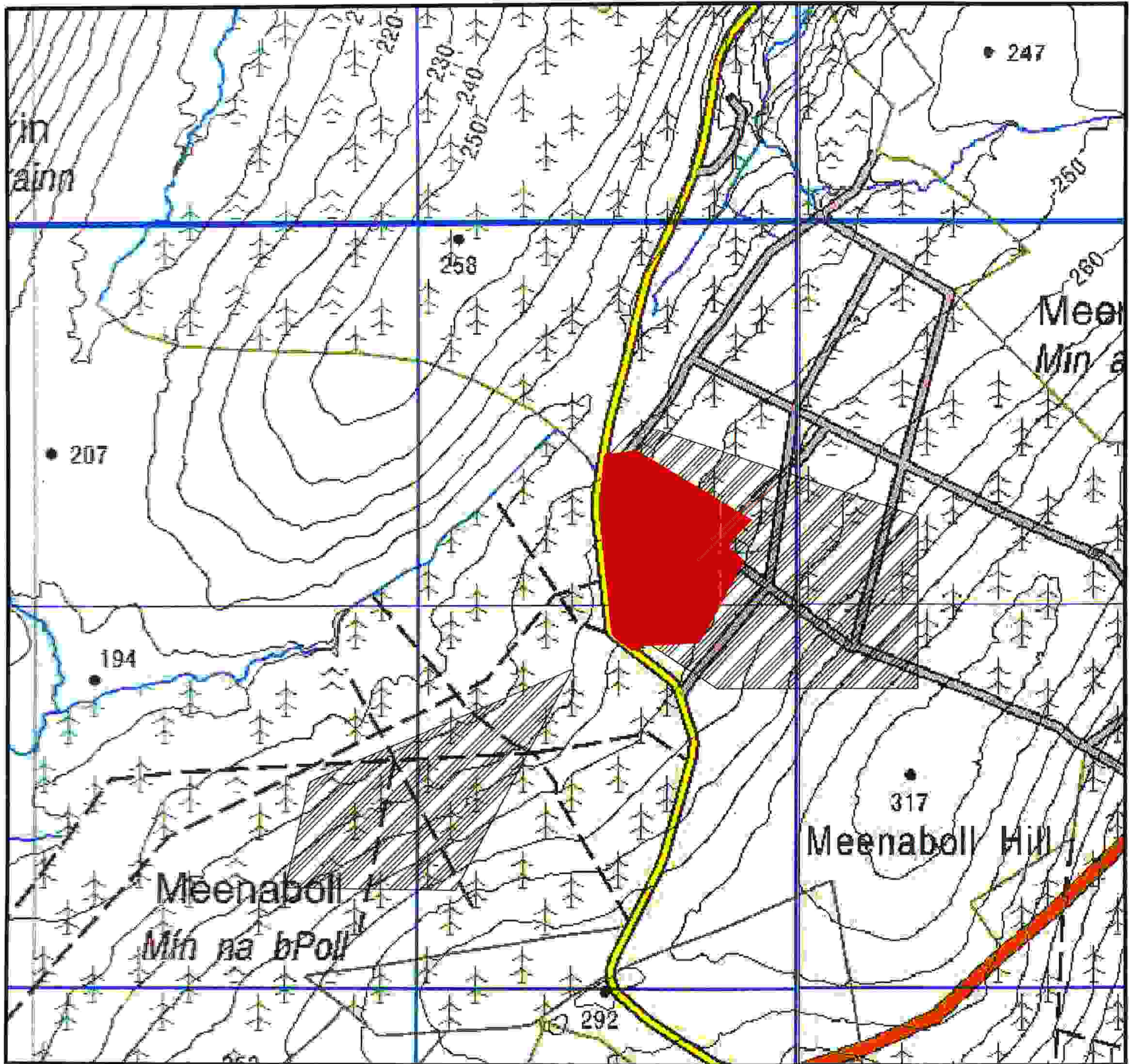
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PROJECT
MEENABOLL LANDFILL PROJECT

TITLE
SITE LOCATION

FIGURE
5.1



KEY

SITE AREA

ORIGINAL AREA FOR SITE INVESTIGATION

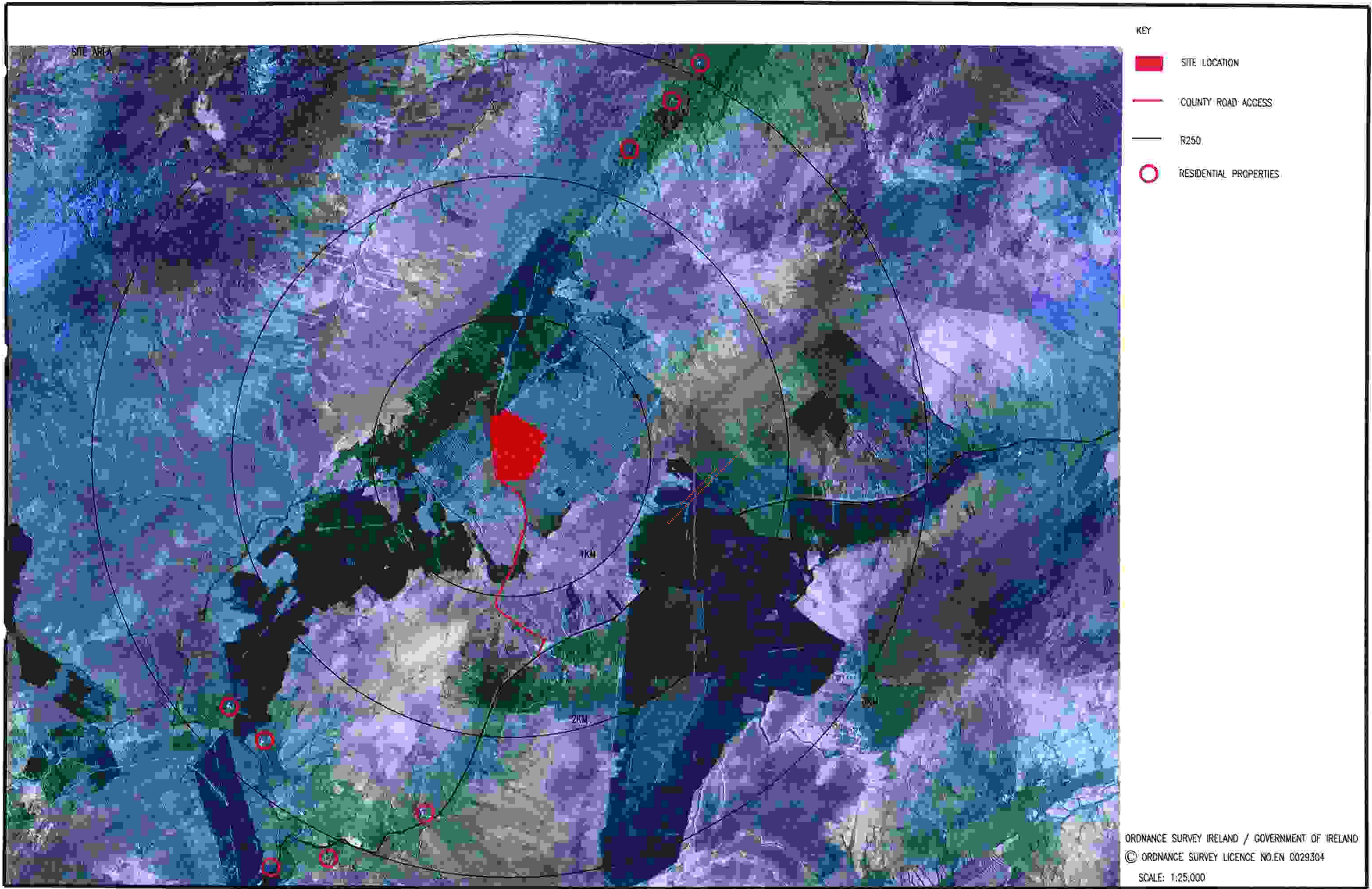
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 KIRK McCLURE MORTON CONSULTING ENGINEERS	 Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall Dún na nGall County Council
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PROJECT
 MEENABOLL LANDFILL PROJECT

TITLE
 SITE INVESTIGATION AREA

FIGURE
 5.2




KIRK McCLURE MORTON
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 Donegal County Council

PROJECT
 MEENABOLL LANDFILL PROJECT

TITLE
 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

FIGURE
 5.3