

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION	PAGE
9.0 HUMAN BEINGS AND TRAFFIC	9-1
9.1 Introduction	9-1
9.2 Methodology	9-1
9.3 Existing Environment	9-1
9.3.1 Population & Traffic	9-2
9.3.2 Local Economic Activity and Employment.....	9-3
9.3.3 Tourism and Recreation	9-4
9.3.4 Health & Safety.....	9-4
9.4 Assessment	9-5
9.4.1 Economic Activity	9-5
9.4.2 Tourism and Recreation	9-5
9.4.3 Cumulative Impacts	9-5
9.5 Mitigation.....	9-6
9.6 Residual/ Likely Significant Effects	9-6
9.7 References.....	9-6

LIST OF TABLES

Table 9.1	Population Statistics for Killashee
Table 9.2	Employment Structure Classified by Broad Occupational Group for the Killashee DED

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 9.1	Residences Within 500m & 1000m of the Application Site
Figure 9.2	Tourism & Amenity Features Within 2km of the Application Site

9.0 HUMAN BEINGS AND TRAFFIC

Section 1.0 (Introduction), Section 6.0 (Site Setting) and Section 8.0 (Description of the Proposed Development) of the EIS should be referred to before reading this section.

9.1 Introduction

Human beings are a key element for consideration in the EIS process. This section of the EIS describes the existing human environment, and identifies and assesses any potential impacts from the continued restoration activities at the Application Site. The human environment is discussed under the following headings:

- Population & Traffic;
- Local Economic Activity and Employment;
- Tourism and Recreation; and
- Health and Safety.

9.2 Methodology

Information for the assessment of potential impacts on human beings was obtained by means of a desk-based review and field survey, and included the following sources:

- Examination of census returns (CSO 1996, 2002 and 2006);
- Examination of the Kildare County Development Plan (2005 - 2011);
- Field surveys of the Application Site and other local knowledge;
- Site visits and drive by surveys of residences and local facilities; and
- Aerial and ordnance survey maps of the area.

The existing environment is described, the impacts from the Application Site are identified and assessed, and where possible mitigation measures are proposed in the following subsections.

9.3 Existing Environment

The Application Site is ca. 68.0 ha. in size and is located in the townlands of Walshestown, Tipperkevin, Bawnogue and Blackhall (Figure 1.2). The Site comprises lands that were

formerly used for the extraction and processing of sand and gravel between the 1960s and the present. Figure 1.3 depicts the worked out nature of the pit in its current state. As a result of extraction a quarry void and associated lagoons/ponds exist, and these require restoration as stated in the current Kildare County Development Plan (Pit No. 9, Pg215). Part of the Application Site has undergone natural re-vegetation which is grazed by livestock throughout the year. However, much of the Site consists of stockpiles, open lagoons, and equipment which was formerly used during the extraction process.

The Application Site is located within a largely agricultural area (Figure 1.3). A number of residences are located in close proximity to the Site, as depicted in Figure 9.1, which highlights 22 no. residences (including farmsteads) within 500 m of the Application Site. One business (Behan's Land Restoration Ltd.) is also located with the 500 m radius offset from the Application Site.

A number of former sand and gravel extraction sites exist in the area immediately surrounding the existing Facility. The site belonging to Behan's Land Restoration Ltd., located in Blackhall townland, is now being restored. CPI Ltd. currently operate a gravel quarry and washing facility at Newtown Great approximately 1 km east of the Application Site. This is the subject of a planning application, lodged in January 2008, for continued use of the Site for extraction activities.

Punchestown Racecourse is located to the west of the Application Site.

9.3.1 Population & Traffic

The census reports for 1996, 2002 and 2006 produced by the Central Statistics Office details population figures in terms of district electoral divisions and their respective populations. The Applicant Site is located in the District Electoral Division (DED) of Killashee Co. Kildare.

Population statistics for Killashee are depicted in Table 9.1. The figures indicate Killashee DED has seen an increase in population in the last ten years. In 2006 the Killashee DED had a population of 295 persons, an increase of 14.3% on the 2002 population.

Table 9.1 Population Statistics for Killashee

Killashee DED	No. Persons	Actual Increase	Percentage Increase
1996	256	-	-
2002	258	2	0.8
2006	295	37	14.3

Traffic

A detailed Traffic and Transportation Assessment (TTA) has been undertaken for the continuation of restoration activities at the Application Site; this is included in Appendix 4.

9.3.2 Local Economic Activity and Employment

The towns of Naas and Blessington are the nearest centres of economic activity to the Application Site with other towns such as Newbridge, Kildare and Dublin City also acting as employment centres (Figure 1.1 for locations). The 2006 census statistics show that the top five sectors which contribute to the local workforce are Services (19%), Professional (15%), Sales (13%), Other (13%), and Building and Construction sectors (10%) (Table 9.2). It is likely that the majority of these workers travel to the population centres stated previously.

The Application Site would employ 5 people full time. The activities associated with developing the restoration works may also contribute to employment in the construction sector which, as indicated, is one of the primary means of employment in the area.

Table 9.2 Employment Structure Classified by Broad Occupational Group for the Killashee DED

Occupational Group	No. of Persons Employed	% Of Total
Farming, fishing and forestry managers	7	3.8
Other agricultural workers	1	0.5
Manufacturing workers	17	9.3
Building and construction workers	18	9.8
Clerical and office workers	8	4.4
Administrative and Government workers	15	8.2
Transport workers	8	4.4
Sales workers	23	12.6
Professional workers	28	15.3
Services workers	35	19.1
Other workers	23	12.6
Total in Labour Force	183	100

9.3.3 Tourism and Recreation

As depicted in Figure 9.2, the following tourism and amenity/recreation features are located within a ca. 2km radius of the Application Site:

- Punchestown Racecourse
- Punchestown Standing Stones
- Tipperkevin Church
- St. Kevin's Holy Well
- St. Kevin's Pilgrimage Route

Punchestown Racecourse acts as a major recreation facility and attracts significant numbers of people several times a year. Some of their major events include:

- Farm Machinery Show – Feb (Annual);
- Irish National Hunt Festival – April/May (Annual);
- Oxygen Music Festival – July (Annual);
- Self Build Show – September (Annual); and
- Other race meetings throughout the year.

The nearest population centres Naas and Blessington provide a variety of restaurants, pubs, hotels and B&Bs which support these events.

Significant stakeholder engagement was undertaken with Punchestown Management as part of this EIS. Details of this process are provided in Section 5.0.

Other amenities in the wider context in Naas and Blessington include equestrian centres, golf clubs and a cinema.

9.3.4 Health & Safety

The Site Manager will be responsible for safety management on-Site. The Applicant's Health and Safety policy will apply to the proposed restoration activities at the Site. Required Health and Safety standards will be maintained by training and sign posting of safety information on-Site throughout the development.

9.4 Assessment

9.4.1 Economic Activity

The Application Site will provide direct employment to 5 people on a full-time basis. Furthermore, activities associated with developing the restoration works may provide employment to the construction industry. It is therefore considered that the operation of the Application Site will have a positive impact on economic activity in the area.

9.4.2 Tourism and Recreation

The nearest tourism feature to the Application Site are the Punchestown Racecourse and Punchestown Standing Stones, which are located within 1.0 km from the western boundary of the Application Site. Figure 9.1 depicts the various tourism and amenity features in proximity to the Application Site. Due to their proximity, potential impacts regarding the tourism and recreation potential of these features include noise, landscape and visual impacts. Refer to Sections 15.0 and 16.0, respectively, for detailed information regarding any noise and landscape and visual impacts associated with the proposed Application Site activities.

Consequently, it is concluded that the development will have little or no impact on the general tourism and recreation in the area and in fact is likely to enhance the tourism potential of the area due to the improvements of the visual environment.

The proposed restoration plan also includes extending an existing historical walk located in the vicinity of the Application Site (Pilgrims Walk), planting of hedgerows and creating new habitats to increase diversity in the area. Ultimately, it is the vision of the restoration plan to improve the tourism and amenity value of the lands in the surrounding area. The proposed restoration plan will also meet the specific objectives set out in the County Development Plan (Pit No. 9 Walshestown Pits, Page 215).

9.4.3 Cumulative Impacts

It is considered that “cumulative” refers to the “growth in amount or strength” – in this case the impact of restoration activities at the Application Site for a defined period (i.e. 15 years total), on the surrounding environs. The restoration activities at the Application Site are not considered to be a significant growth in amount or strength as it is the restoration of a previous activity, using similar traffic movements to previous activities (i.e. 95 loads/day as highlighted in P.P.R. No. 96/100).

Furthermore, as this development is a restoration plan, designed to improve the existing environmental conditions (including landscape, air quality, and future amenity value), it is expected that the cumulative impacts will be positive in the long term. By restoring the Site, in accordance with the Strategic Objective of the KCC Development Plan (pg 215, Pit No. 9),

the environmental setting will improve with time. It is noted that certain impacts will be present for the short to medium term e.g. traffic, however the long term cumulative impacts will be positive.

Two developments adjacent to the proposed quarry restoration operation have been identified: 1) Behan's Land Restoration Ltd and 2) CPI Ltd. These businesses generate considerable HGV traffic movements in the vicinity of the proposed development and are also serviced by the L6042 County Road. The cumulative impacts of all three developments have been identified and assessed as part of the Traffic and Transport Assessment report which is included in Appendix 4.

9.5 Mitigation

Measures are required to mitigate potential impacts to tourism and recreation opportunities associated with Punchestown Racecourse and Punchestown Standing Stones in relation to noise and visual impacts as a result of the proposed activities. Mitigation measures, which are intended to reduce the anticipated impacts, are described in detail in Section 15 (Noise) and Section 16 (Landscape).

9.6 Residual/ Likely Significant Effects

If the appropriate measures are implemented, as described in Section 9.5, it is envisaged that no significant effects on the socio-economic and human being environment in the vicinity of the Application Site will occur.

Regarding Health and Safety, the Application Site will adhere to standard health and safety policies as set out in standard Cemex Health & Safety Protocols. Potential emissions which relate to dust, water and noise are dealt with in the relevant sections of the EIS. The applicant will comply with the relevant regulations in each case to ensure that activities will have reduced impacts on health and safety of the local population during the operational and rehabilitation stages of the Application Site.

9.7 References

Discover Ireland website: www.discoverireland.com

Kildare County Development Plan 2005 – 2011.

Record of Monuments and Places Map for County Kildare, Sheet No. 26.