



The full area of Area 6 was not infilled during the deposition of peat from the Bellanaboy Bridge Terminal Site. Due to delays in the peat excavation and haulage operation, the peat was partially drained, which reduced the natural moisture content of the peat. This drainage increased the density of the peat and therefore a smaller storage area was required for the 448,000m³ of peat.

8.3.3 Subsoil Geology/Superficial deposits

8.3.3.1 Subsoil Geology

During site investigations within the Srahmore Peat Deposition site, 14 No. trial pits which were excavated within the site continued to sufficient depth so that at all locations the mineral subsoil was encountered. This allowed the nature and composition of the subsoil material to be examined. The location of the trial pits are shown on Figure 8.1.

The trial pits were excavated to depths varying from 1.65m to 3.45m below ground level (bgl). Mineral subsoil was encountered at depths ranging from 0.1m bgl (TP10) to 2.4m bgl (TP1). The uneven elevation of the interface between the peat and the mineral subsoil is a function of the uneven elevation of the topography prior to the formation of the blanket peat and the uneven elevation of the current topography due to extraction of peat.

The mineral subsoil encountered in each trial pit was recorded and logged. All trial pit logs are included in Appendix 8.1, Book 3 with the locations where the trial pits were excavated shown on Figure 8.1. The dominant subsoil is described as a predominantly light grey, clayey/silty, fine grained SAND with angular to rounded cobbles and boulders of quartzite, schist, sandstone and gneiss.

A sample of the mineral subsoil encountered in each trial pit was obtained for laboratory testing. The particle size distribution (PSD) of each sample was examined to determine the exact composition of the subsoil. The PSD curves for each subsoil sample are contained in Appendix 8.2, Book 3. The PSD curves confirm the field description of the subsoil. The laboratory description of the dominant subsoil is a pale grey, silty SAND with gravel. In general the percentage of fine material (fine sane, silt and clay) of each sample is high, and the percentage of gravel is high.

Further to the excavation of the 14 No. trial pits, 7 No. boreholes were drilled within the site. The material encountered during drilling was recorded and logged. The borehole logs are provided in Appendix 8.3, Book 3 with the location of the boreholes shown on Figure 8.1. The drilling programme provided information on the thickness of unconsolidated material (mineral subsoil and weathered rock) overlying bedrock.