SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

This Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) provides supporting information to accompany a Waste Licence Application (WLA) to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by Roadstone Dublin Limited in respect of a proposed inert soil recovery facility at a worked out quarry void at Milverton, Skerries, Co. Dublin using imported and site-won soil and stone.

The location of the application site is indicated on an extract from the 1:50,000 scale Ordnance Survey Discovery series map of the area, reproduced as Figure 1.1.

The waste licence application provides for the placement, compaction and capping of approximately 1,300,000m^3 of inert soil and rock. Of this approximately 300,000m^3 will be sourced from existing overburden stockpiles on site, leaving a net import requirement of approximately 1,000,000m^3.

The inert soil and rock to be placed or recycled at this facility will be sourced from construction and demolition sites where inspection and/or testing have indicated that no contamination is present. The inert materials will be imported by permitted waste contractors.

It is likely that minor quantities of other inert materials, principally oversize or recovered (ie. crushed and screened) concrete and bricks will be imported to the application site and used to construct temporary haul roads as and when required. These materials could be imported directly to site or sourced from construction and demolition waste recovery facilities operated by the Applicant, principally that at Huntstown Quarry.

1.2 THE SITE

1.2.1 Site Location

The site to which this Waste Licence Application refers is located entirely within the townland of Milverton, Co. Dublin, approximately 1.5km south-west of the town of Skerries. The plan extent of the lands owned by Roadstone Dublin Ltd. is outlined in blue on a 1:5,000 scale map of the area, reproduced as Figure 1.2. The plan extent of the application site is also outlined in red on the same figure.

1.2.2 Site Description

The application area covers an area of approximately 7.9hectares (19.0acres) and comprises a limestone quarry with perimeter screening / overburden mounds and some ancillary site infrastructure (offices, sheds, hardstand areas etc.)

Ground levels across the site follow the (original) surrounding ground, falling west, north and north-eastwards from locally higher ground between approximately 42mOD and 30mOD (Malin) along the western boundary to 20mOD on the northern and north-eastern boundaries. The existing quarry void covers an area of approximately 3.9 hectares (9.4 acres). The existing floor level in the quarry lies at approximately -12mOD and its depth from existing ground level typically varies from 38m to 42m along its northern and western faces to over 50m along its southern and eastern faces.

No restoration works have been undertaken since rock extraction activities and associated added value activities (principally concrete production) were suspended at the quarry in late summer 2008.

1.2.3 Site Access

Traffic access to the application site is primarily obtained via the M1 Motorway and the Lissenhall Interchange. Traffic turning off the M1 runs northwards along the R132 Regional Road (the former N1 National Primary Road) before turning right onto the R127 Regional Road at Blake's Cross. Traffic continues north along the R127 and diverts along the recently opened ring road around Lusk village before arriving at the site after a distance of approximately 10km.

Only a relatively minor proportion of traffic to the site runs southwards along the R127 Regional Road through Balbriggan and Skerries village.

Traffic movement within Roadstone Dublin's landholding is initially over a short section of paved road between the existing site entrance and the former concrete production area. Thereafter traffic crossing the landholding runs over a network of unpaved haul roads.

1.2.4 Surrounding Land Use

The application site is located on the periphery of an expanding suburban town. The surrounding lands have a variety of land uses. The lands immediately surrounding the site to the east, south and west are agricultural fields, used predominantly for tillage. A residential farmhouse and a cluster of farm buildings occur approximately 40m immediately west of the site, along the R127 Regional Road. The main Dublin to Belfast rail line runs approximately 80m-100m east of the application site at its closest point.

There is a narrow area of poorly drained scrubland on sloping ground on the northern side of the R127 Regional Road, opposite the existing site entrance. The lands further north and upslope comprise an agricultural field and a cluster of one-off residential houses.

At a greater distance from the application site, the lands on all sides typically comprise agricultural grassland or tilled fields interspersed with one-off private residential development. Approximately 200m beyond the north-eastern corner of the site, there are a number of residential housing estates on the outskirts of Skerries village. Skerries Golf Club is located approximately 60m (at its closest point) beyond the southern site boundary, on the southern side of the existing local road.

Existing land-use in the vicinity of the application site, including residential development, is shown on the land-use map in Figure 1.3.

1.3 LAND OWNERSHIP

Roadstone Dublin Ltd. is the holder of the freehold title to the lands around the quarry at Milverton. Its total landholding extends to approximately 8.6hectares (20.7acres). The extent of its land ownership is shown on Figure 1.1.

1.4 THE APPLICANT

Roadstone was founded by the Roche Brothers in the 1930's and became part of Cement Roadstone Holdings (CRH) plc in 1970, following the merger of Roadstone and Cement Ltd.

The company is Ireland's leading supplier of aggregates, construction and road building materials and employs several hundred people at 65 locations throughout the country.

It is understood that excavation and blasting of limestone at this site has been undertaken at this site for several decades. A company within the CRH group acquired the quarry in 1986 and it has been operated by Roadstone Dublin since the early 1990's. Quarrying and related added value production activity (most notably concrete production) was suspended at the site in summer 2008.

1.5 PLANNING HISTORY

No planning permission was ever issued in respect of quarrying activities at the application site as it was established and operating prior to the introduction of planning controls under the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act of 1963.

This current proposal to backfill the worked out quarry with in-situ and imported inert soil and stones is part of the quarry restoration works which were previously notified and agreed with Fingal County Council as part of the quarry registration process undertaken in accordance with Section 261 of the Planning and Development Act of 2000 (Condition No. 13 of Planning Ref. Q/05/003)

1.6 PLANNING CONTEXT

1.6.1 Fingal County Development Plan (2005-2011)

The planning and development controls pertaining to the application site are those outlined in the current Fingal County Development Plan (2005-2011).

Section 5 of the County Development Plan deals with development in rural areas. Section 5.4 discusses development of extractive industry and identifies a requirement for worked out quarries, pits and spoil heaps to be rehabilitated to suitable land use. The plan also states that the '*landfilling of quarries with waste other than topsoil, subsoil and builders rubble is not considered to be an acceptable method of rehabilitation'*. The proposal for a soil recovery facility at Milverton is therefore fully consistent with the stated policy objective in the existing county development plan in that it provides for backfilling and restoration of the existing quarry using only imported inert soil and stone.

Section 6 of the County Development Plan addresses infrastructure and utilities. Section 6.3 deals specifically with waste management and identifies the objective to increase the proportion of construction and demolition waste recycled to 85% by 2013 in accordance with national policy guidance. Policy UTP 36 states that a Waste Management Plans should be prepared in respect of most development sites and that such plans should make provision for '*recovery or disposal of construction and demolition waste to authorised facilities by authorised collectors*'. The policy further requires that '*where appropriate, the use of excavated material from development sites is to be re-used for ……landscaping, land restoration or preparation for development*'.

The proposal for a soil recovery facility at Milverton is fully consistent with the stated policy and objective in that it provides for

(i) re-use / recovery of inert soils for site restoration purposes
(ii) future development of the site in the long-term and
(iii) establishment of an inert waste recovery facility in close proximity to a major centre of economic activity in North County Dublin.

The lands immediately west, south and east of the application site are all zoned 'RU', the zoning objective of which is to '*protect and provide for the development of agriculture and rural amenity*'. The lands immediately north of the site, on the northern side of the R127 Regional Road are zoned 'HA', the zoning objective of which is to '*provide for the protection of high amenity areas*'.

There are no designated or proposed Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) or proposed Natural Heritage Areas (NHA's) within or contiguous to Roadstone Dublin's landholding at Milverton. The nearest nature conservation sites to the application site are the offshore SPA's at the Skerries Islands and the proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) at Knock Lake, the Bog of the Ring and Loughshinny Coast approximately 5.5km west northwest, 6km west and 2.5km east southeast of the site respectively. Of the three proposed NHA sites, those at Knock Lake and the Bog of the Ring are designated on ecological grounds while that at Loughshinny is a geological heritage site. There are no tree protection orders in place for any trees or woodlands in the vicinity of the site.

Records held by the National Monuments Service of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government indicate that there is a cist (a Bronze / Iron Age burial structure) located immediately beyond the eastern boundary of the application site. There are no other national monuments located within 1km of the site.

A stone building described as an 'engine room' at the front of Milverton Quarry is included on the Record of Protected Structures in the Fingal County Development Plan (Appendix A, No. 232). This structure is deemed to be of industrial architectural interest and the effect of its protected status is that any works or material alteration, either external or internal, requires planning permission.

The Fingal County Development Plan indicates that the townland of Milverton lies within the designated coastal landscape area. There are no protected views or prospects into or out of the application site listed in the Plan. Appendix B of the Plan identifies and characterises a number of landscape groups within Fingal. Milverton is included within the Skerries hinterland (LG5). This

area, in contrast with flatter areas along the coast, is considered to be more pronounced from a landscape perspective, with a ridge of higher ground running some distance inland, to the west. The elevated nature of the ground and its enhanced visibility means that it is deemed to be sensitive to the effects of development.

A local area plan has been recently published (2007) for the Hacketstown area to the south west of Skerries, immediately east of the main Dublin to Belfast rail line, and approximately 60m east of the application site at its closest point. The proposed area plan principally provides for residential and amenity development of the area. It also envisages that Skerries Southern Relief Road will be constructed between the R127 and R128 Regional Roads in order to open up access to the proposed development lands. The proposed ring road runs immediately beyond the southern boundary of the application site, as indicated in Figure 1.3.

1.6.2 Dublin Waste Management Plan (2005-2010)

The most recent annual progress report on the Dublin Waste Management Plan (2005-2010) indicates that in 2008, approximately 7,000,000 tonnes of construction and demolition (C+D) waste was collected within the four local authorities within the Dublin region, of which by far the largest proportion (over 82%, or 5,800,000 tonnes) comprised soil and stones. Of the total tonnage of soil and stones, only 11.3% was recovered within permit sites in the Dublin region. The remaining 88.7% was recovered in surrounding counties.

Section 10.3.3 of the Dublin Waste Management Plan (2005-2010) identifies that a large proportion of C&D waste in the Dublin region is deposited on land and that this activity is viewed as a 'recovery' activity inasmuch as the soil is nominally being used for beneficial agricultural use. The plan states however that '*a better approach (and more sustainable land use) would be to have a smaller number of waste management points for example situated in old quarries*', where amongst other activities the *soil could be used to reinstate and restore the quarry*'. The plan further states that it is necessary to consult with stakeholders in the construction industry '*to encourage the establishment of a number of additional large scale waste processing facilities eg. in old quarries*'.

Section 19.2 of the Waste Management Plan outlines a number of objectives in respect of C&D waste recovery infrastructure. These include

- provision of additional facilities in the Greater Dublin Region to cater for C&D waste at existing quarries and other suitable locations – these should include front-end removal and recycling of recoverable waste and limited to disposal of non-recoverable waste (soil) only
- use of soil material for beneficial use where possible. Examples of beneficial use identified by the plan include quarry re-instatement
- placement of restrictions on placing of C+D waste on agricultural land. Only soil will be considered for placement on land and then only where larger, alternative authorised waste facilities are not already in place.

The Applicant asserts that the development of an inert soil recovery facility at Milverton quarry is consistent with the provisions of the Dublin Waste Management Plan identified above.

1.7 CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

In view of the policy objectives outlined in the Dublin Waste Management Plan 2005-2010, the development of waste recovery activities for inert soils and/or inert construction and demolition waste at worked out quarries is restricted to locations where such sites occur. The Applicant asserts that the application site offers clear environmental and economic advantages inasmuch as it is located close to a large economic centre (north County Dublin) and is readily accessible using the existing national and regional road network.

1.8 DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN EIS COMPILATION

This Environmental Impact Assessment was compiled on the basis of published regional and local data and site-specific field surveys. No difficulties were encountered in compiling the required information.

1.9 ENVIRONMENTAL GAIN

The proposed backfilling at the former quarry at Milverton will, when complete, substantially restore the existing site to its original ground level. The lands will also eventually be restored to agricultural use, most likely as grassland.

Backfilling the existing quarry void will also provide for better protection of the underlying groundwater resource, which is currently extremely vulnerable due to the absence of any protective soil cover.

1.10 CONTRIBUTORS

Roadstone Dublin Limited appointed SLR Consulting Ireland (formerly John Barnett and Associates) to prepare this Environmental Impact Statement in support of its Waste Licence Application for the proposed backfilling of the quarry void at Milverton, Skerries, Co. Dublin.

Sections 1 and 2 of this EIS comprises an introduction and detailed description of the proposed development and has been prepared by SLR Consulting Ireland in consultation with Roadstone Dublin Limited. Sections 3 to 11 of the EIS provide details of existing environmental receptors, and for each receptor, provides an assessment of the potential environmental impact of the proposed development and details of mitigation measures, where these are considered necessary.

The contributors who have assisted in the preparation of this EIS are identified by topic overleaf :

TOPIC	*CONTRIBUTOR*	*COMPANY*
Description of Development	Derek Luby BE MSc MIEI	SLR Consulting Ireland
Human Beings	Aldona Binchy MSc. (Eng)	SLR Consulting Ireland
Flora and Fauna	Dr Patrick Ashe BSc	Consultant
Soils and Geology	Dr. Peter Glanville BA PhD.	SLR Consulting Ireland
Surface Water and Groundwater	Dr. Leslie Brown BSc. MSc. PhD	SLR Consulting Ireland
Air Quality and Climate	Aldona Binchy MSc. (Eng)	SLR Consulting Ireland
Noise and Vibration	Aldona Binchy MSc. (Eng)	SLR Consulting Ireland
Landscape	Paula McCarthy BSc MSc	SLR Consulting Ireland
Cultural Heritage	Dr. Charles Mount MA	Irish Concrete Federation
Material Assets	Aldona Binchy MSc. (Eng)	SLR Consulting Ireland
Traffic	Matt Foy	WSP Consulting Engineers
Non-Technical Summary		SLR Consulting Ireland
Co-ordination of EIS		SLR Consulting Ireland

Table 1.1 Contributors to Environmental Impact Statement

Each contributor has been fully briefed about the proposal and the background to it. They have also visited the site and are familiar with the local environment.

1.11 CONSULTATIONS

In preparing this Environmental Impact Statement, consultations were had with a number of organisations and agencies including

- Fingal County Council (Planning and Environment Sections)
- Environmental Protection Agency (Office of Licensing and Guidance)
- Geological Survey of Ireland (to discuss geological heritage and aquifer classification)

Other consultations and informal discussion held by contributors in undertaking their environmental impact assessments are detailed in the specialist environmental sections of the EIS, together with details of relevant archives and documentation held by state agencies and organisations

FIGURES

LEGEND

Applicant's Land Interest (c.8.6 ha)

NOTES

1. Extract from Ordnance Survey Discovery Map No. 43

2. Ordnance Survey Ireland Licence No. SU 0000709 (c)
Ordnance Survey Ireland / Government of Ireland

0 500 1000 1500 2000m 3000 4000 5000

Metres
1:50,000

0059.00015.18.FIG 1.1.0.SITE LOC PLAN

SLR CONSULTING IRELAND
7 DUNDRUM BUSINESS PARK
WINDY ARBOUR
DUBLIN 14
T: +353-1-2964667
F: +353-1-2964676
www.slrconsulting.com

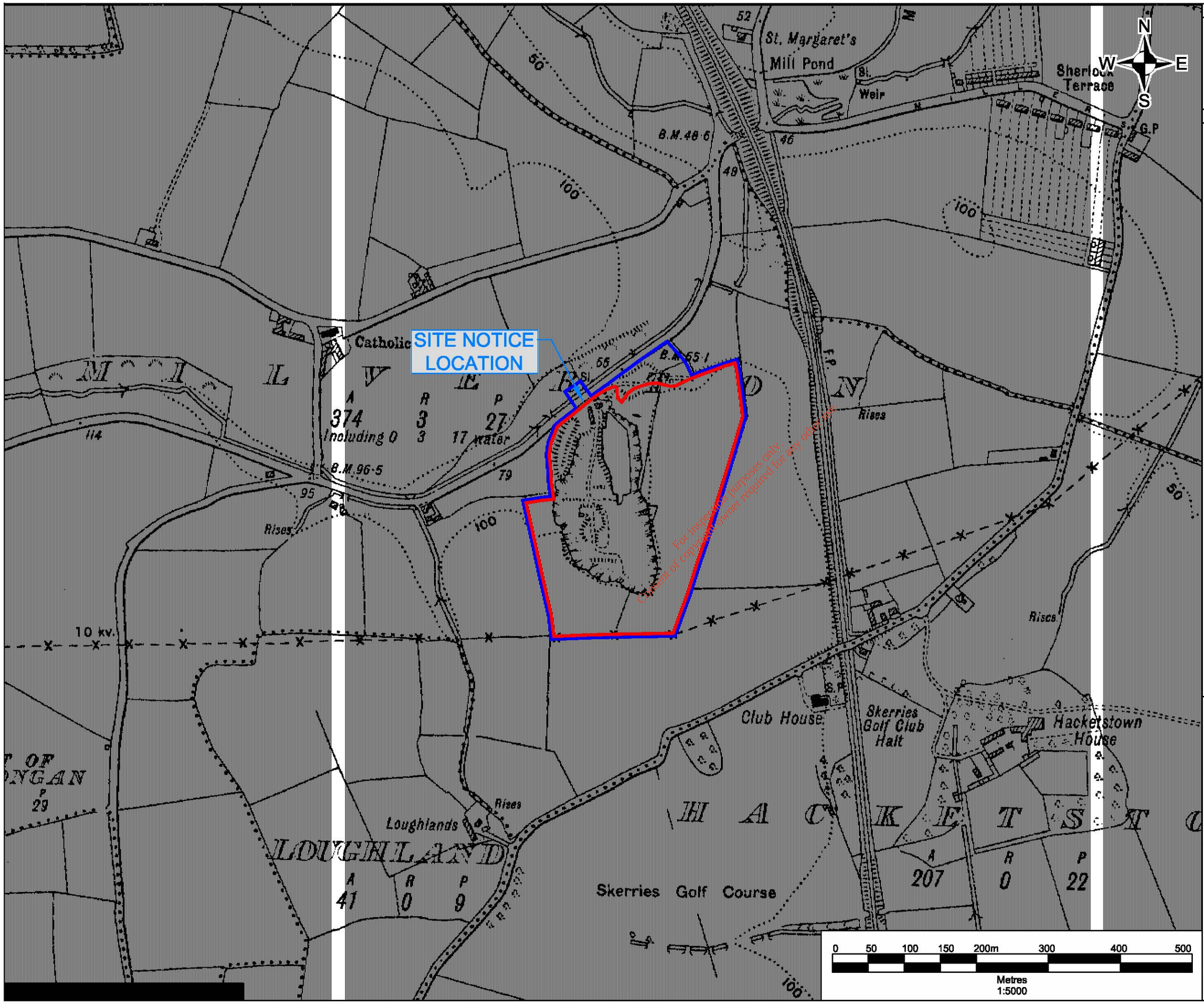
ROADSTONE DUBLIN LTD.
WASTE LICENCE APPLICATION

WASTE RECOVERY FACILITY,
MILVERTON, SKERRIES, CO. DUBLIN

SITE LOCATION PLAN

FIGURE 1.1

Scale	Date
1:50,000 @ A4	AUGUST 2009



NOTES

1. Based on OSi 25inch Dublin Sheet No. 5 & 5a

2. Ordnance Survey of Ireland Licence No. SU 0000709 (c) Ordnance Survey of Ireland & Government of Ireland

LEGEND

- Original Landholding (c. 8.6ha)
- Waste Licence Application Area (c. 7.9ha)

0 50 100 150 200m 300 400 500

Metres
1:5000

ROADSTONE DUBLIN LTD.
FORTUNESTOWN
TALLAGHT
DUBLIN 24

SLR CONSULTING IRELAND
7 DUNDRUM BUSINESS PARK
WINDY ARBOUR
DUBLIN 14
T: +353-1-2864667
F: +353-1-2864678
www.slrconsulting.com

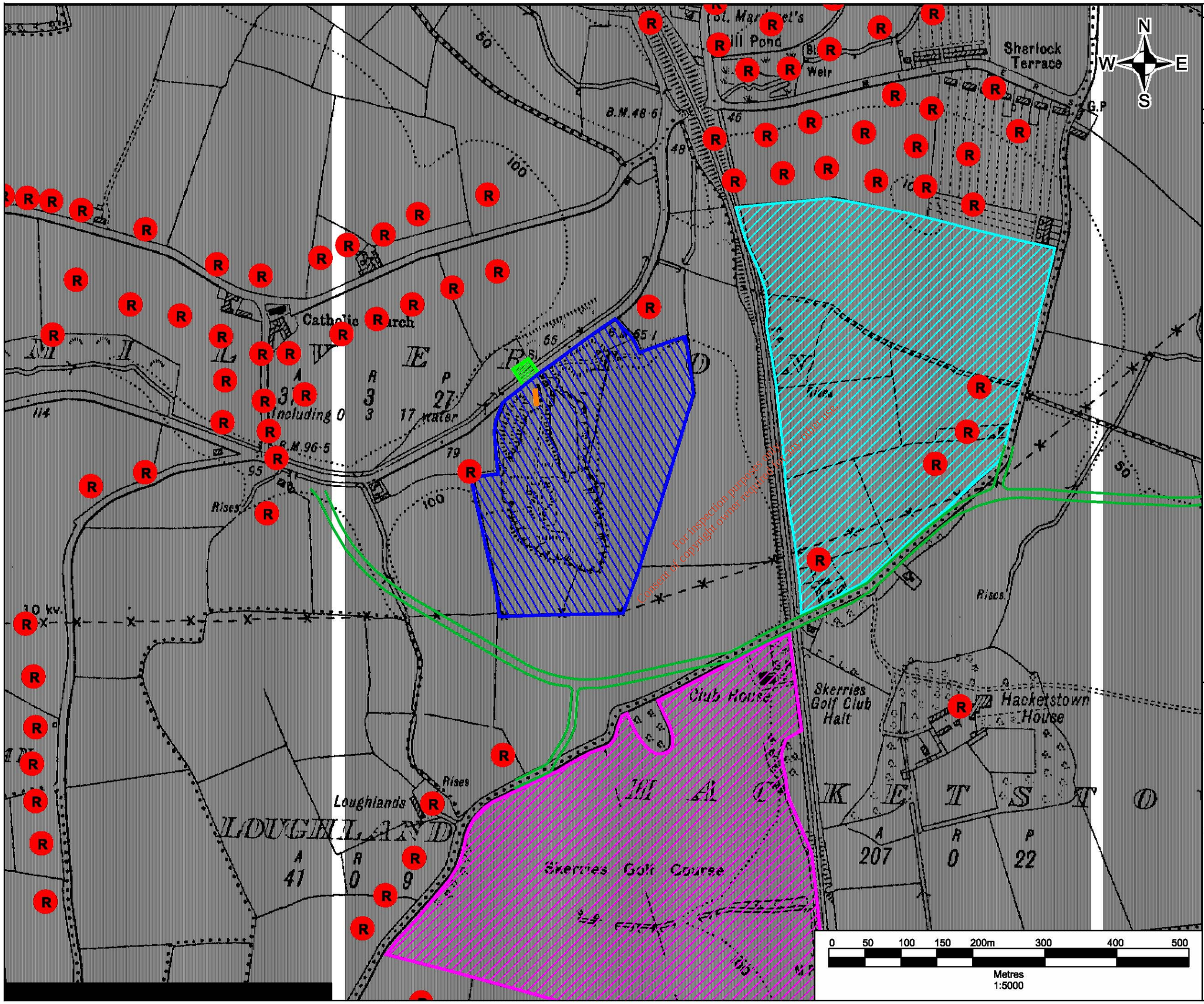
ROADSTONE DUBLIN LTD.
WASTE LICENCE APPLICATION

WASTE RECOVERY FACILITY,
MILVERTON, SKERRIES, CO. DUBLIN

SITE LOCATION / SITE NOTICE

FIGURE 1.2

Scale	Date
1:5,000 @ A3	AUGUST 2009



NOTES

1. Based on OSi 25inch Dublin Sheet No. 5 & 5a

2. Ordnance Survey of Ireland Licence No. SU 0000709 (c) Ordnance Survey of Ireland & Government of Ireland

LEGEND

- Unregistered Land Held By Deed (c. 8.6ha)
- Folio 4097 (c. 0.06ha)
- Skerries Golf Club
- Quarry
- Proposed Southern Relief Road
- Engine Room
- Outline of LAP Lands
- R Residence Locations

0 50 100 150 200m 300 400 500

Metres
1:5000

ROADSTONE DUBLIN LTD.
FORTUNESTOWN
TALLAGHT
DUBLIN 24

SLR CONSULTING IRELAND
7 DUNDRUM BUSINESS PARK
WINDY ARBOUR
DUBLIN 14
T: +353-1-2964667
F: +353-1-2964676
www.slrconsulting.com

ROADSTONE DUBLIN LTD.
WASTE LICENCE APPLICATION

WASTE RECOVERY FACILITY,
MILVERTON, SKERRIES, CO. DUBLIN

SITE FOLIOS AND SURROUNDING LAND USE

FIGURE 1.3

Scale	Date
1:5,000 @ A3	AUGUST 2009