

## CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION .....	1-1
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT .....	1-1
THE SITE.....	1-1
Site Location.....	1-1
Site Description .....	1-1
Site Access .....	1-2
Surrounding Land-Use .....	1-3
LAND OWNERSHIP .....	1-3
THE APPLICANT.....	1-3
PLANNING HISTORY.....	1-3
PLANNING CONTEXT.....	1-4
Fingal County Development Plan (2005 – 2011) .....	1-4
Dublin Waste Management Plan (2005-2010) .....	1-6
CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES.....	1-6
DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED WITH EIS COMPILATION.....	1-7
ENVIRONMENTAL GAIN .....	1-7
CONTRIBUTORS .....	1-7
CONSULTATIONS .....	1-8

## TABLES

Table 1-1	List of Contributors
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## FIGURES

Figure 1-1	Site Location Map
Figure 1-2	Site Location & Site Notice Map
Figure 1-3	Surrounding Landuse Map
Figure 1-4	Site Folios Map



## INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) provides supporting information to accompany a Waste Licence Application (WLA) to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by Roadstone Wood Limited in respect of a proposed inert soil recovery facility at a worked out quarry void at the North Quarry in the Huntstown Quarry Complex at North Road, Finglas, Dublin 11 using imported and site-won soil and stone.
- 1.2 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.

## PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 1.3 The waste licence application provides for the placement, compaction and capping of approximately 3,840,000m<sup>3</sup> of inert soil and rock. Of this, only a relatively minor quantity, approximately 50,000m<sup>3</sup>, will be sourced from existing mounds and stockpiles on site, leaving a net import requirement of approximately 3,790,000m<sup>3</sup>.
- 1.4 The inert soil and rock to be re-used and 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.
- 1.5 It is likely that minor quantities of other inert materials, principally oversize or recovered (i.e. 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 an adjoining construction and demolition waste recovery facility which is operated by the Applicant within the existing Huntstown Quarry Complex.

## THE SITE

### Site Location

- 1.6 The site to which this Waste Licence Application refers is located entirely within the townlands of Huntstown and Kilshane, Co. Dublin, approximately 2.5km north-west of the Dublin suburb of Finglas and 2km north-west of the interchange between the N2 Dual Carriageway and the M50 Motorway. The plan extent of the lands owned by Roadstone Wood Ltd. are outlined in blue on a 1:500 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.

### Site Description

- 1.7 The application area covers an area of approximately 35.9 hectares (86.5 acres) and comprises a limestone quarry with perimeter screening / overburden mounds and some existing ancillary site infrastructure (offices,

# INTRODUCTION 1

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sheds, hardstand areas, water settlement ponds etc.) shared with existing quarrying and concrete and asphalt production businesses at the Huntstown Quarry Complex.

- 1.8 Ground levels across the application site have been significantly disturbed by previous quarrying activities. The original ground levels around the worked-out quarry vary between approximately 62mOD and 66mOD (Malin) along the eastern face and between 80mOD and 85mOD along the western face. Existing ground levels immediately behind the quarry faces are locally 5m to 10m higher than surrounding ground due to the presence of perimeter screening mounds. The existing quarry void covers an area of approximately 11.2 hectares (27.0 acres) within the application site.
- 1.9 The existing floor level in the quarry lies at approximately 38mOD to 39mOD and its depth from the original (surrounding) ground level therefore varies from 24m to 28m along its eastern face and 42m to 47m along its western face.
- 1.10 Some restoration work was undertaken at the northern end of the application site in the period from late 2002 to the end of 2003. At that time, a large volume of inert excavation spoil arising from construction of the Dublin Port Tunnel was imported to site and used to backfill the quarry void in that area. Since that time there has been only minor progress in the site restoration works. It is envisaged that future restoration and backfilling work in this area will proceed in accordance with the terms of a waste licence issued by the Agency.

## Site Access

- 1.11 Traffic access to the application site is primarily obtained via the existing North Road (the former N2 National Primary Road). Traffic coming from Dublin City Centre or the M50 Motorway turns onto the N2 Dual Carriageway and travels a short distance north, before turning (west) off a dedicated slip road onto the North Road. Thereafter traffic continues south for a short distance along the North Road before turning right (west) via a dedicated right-turn junction onto the access road leading into the Huntstown Quarry Complex. This access road also serves the Huntstown Power generating plant operated by Viridian.
- 1.12 Traffic travelling south from Ashbourne to the quarry and application site exits the N2 Dual Carriageway at the Cherryhound Interchange and continues south along the North Road, through Kilshane Cross, to the right-turn junction with the access road leading into the Huntstown Quarry Complex.
- 1.13 Access to the quarry and application site is also provided from the Ballycoolin and Finglas suburbs of north-west Dublin via an existing site access road leading off the Kilshane Road (also known as the Cappagh Road).
- 1.14 Traffic movement within Roadstone Wood's landholding is initially over paved road, up to the existing aggregate processing, concrete production and central infrastructure area. Thereafter, traffic crossing the application site generally runs over a network of unpaved haul roads.

## Surrounding Land-Use

- 1.15 The application site is located entirely within an existing quarry complex. The land immediately south-east of the backfill and restoration area is used for the processing of aggregates and manufacture of concrete and asphalt products. The lands immediately to the south of the application area are currently used, or intended to be used, for aggregate extraction, while the lands to the immediate west, north and north-east of the application site are primarily used for agricultural grassland.
- 1.16 At a greater distance, the Huntstown Power station (operated by Viridian), North Road and recently constructed N2 Dual Carriageway all lie to the east of the application site. The M50 motorway and the proposed alignment for the Metro West light rail line both lie to the south, while the lands to the south west and west have been developed as light industry and science and technology parks (Ballycoolin Business Park, Rosemount Business Park, Millennium Business Park and Northwest Business Park). The lands to the north are still used predominantly as agricultural grassland.
- 1.17 Existing land-use in the vicinity of the application site, including residential and industrial development, is shown on the land-use map in Figure 1-3.

## LAND OWNERSHIP

- 1.18 Roadstone Wood Ltd. is the holder of the freehold title to the lands around the quarry at Huntstown. Its total landholding extends to approximately 201.8 hectares (486 acres). The extent of its land ownership is shown on Figure 1-2. Details of land folios and ownership are provided in Figure 1-4.

## THE APPLICANT

- 1.19 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.
- 1.20 Roadstone Wood was formed in 2009 by the amalgamation of the three aggregate businesses operated by CRH in Ireland, Roadstone Dublin Ltd., Roadstone Provinces Ltd. and J.A. Wood 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.

## PLANNING HISTORY

- 1.21 The excavation and blasting of limestone has been undertaken at the Huntstown Quarry Complex for the past four decades, following grant of an outline permission in or around 1969. It is understood that quarrying at the northern and central areas was commenced at some time in the early-to-mid 1980's, on foot of a planning permission granted in 1982.

# INTRODUCTION 1

- 1.22 A 10 year planning permission (Ref. No. 93A/1134 and P06F.092622) was granted in 1994 to continue quarrying and for production of related concrete materials. Planning permission for the existing construction and demolition waste recycling facility in the centre of the quarry complex was granted in 2002 (Ref. No. F02A/0602 and PL06F.200623). Planning permission was granted in 2004 for continuation of quarrying for a further 10 year period (Ref. No. F03A/1430 and PL06F.206789).
- 1.23 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 in 2002 in accordance with Condition No. 17 of 1994 planning permission. These works were commenced in the 2002-2003 period, but have progressed only intermittently since that time. Quarry backfilling works have previously been controlled by a series of waste permits issued by Fingal County Council.
- 1.24 Roadstone Wood discharges groundwater from quarry dewatering and process water from aggregate washing and concrete production activities via a series of existing settlement ponds to tributary streams of the Ward and Tolka Rivers. Discharges are controlled by way of a licence issued by Dublin County Council in January 1987 (Ref. WPW/1/87).

## PLANNING CONTEXT

### Fingal County Development Plan (2005 – 2011)

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

# INTRODUCTION 1

- 1.28 A local area objective (No. 258) is identified in the County Development Plan for development of a waste recycling park in the Kilshane area. The objective provides for construction and demolition waste recovery facilities as part of the overall development.
- 1.29 The proposal for a soil recovery facility at Huntstown is fully consistent with the stated policy and objective in that it provides for
- re-use / recovery of inert soils for site restoration purposes
  - future development of the site in the long-term and
  - establishment of an inert waste recovery facility in close proximity to a major centre of economic activity in North County Dublin.
- 1.30 The application site, the quarry complex which surrounds it and the lands immediately north and east of Roadstone Wood's landholding are all currently zoned 'RU', the zoning objective of which is to *'protect and provide for the development of agriculture and rural amenity'*. The lands immediately west and south of Roadstone Wood's landholding are either zoned for general enterprise and employment or for science and technology related enterprise in a campus style environment.
- 1.31 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 Wood's landholding at Huntstown. It is understood that a geological exposure of the contact between the Tober Colleen and Waulsortian formations at the Central Quarry (outside of the application area) has been identified as a possible geological / geomorphological heritage feature by the Geological Survey of Ireland although, to date, no formal designation as an NHA has occurred.
- 1.32 Records held by the National Monuments Service of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government indicate that there are a number of national monuments within and in the immediate vicinity of Roadstone Wood's landholding. At the northern end of the application site, the ruins of Kilshane Church, a graveyard and holy well (Ref. DU014-012) are identified as part of an extended archaeological site. These features are also included in the list of protected structures in the Fingal County Development Plan. There are no visible remains of these monuments remaining in situ.
- 1.33 Immediately east of Roadstone Wood's landholding, the National Monuments Record (NMR) indicates that there is an enclosure (Ref. DU014-015) and ring fort (Ref DU014-016) located in Coldwinter townland, on the opposite side of the North Road. These features are also included in the list of protected structures in the County Development Plan. A castle, motte (earthen mound) and bailey (courtyard) (Ref. DU014-013) is located north-east of the landholding in Newtown townland, while a fulacht fia (Ref. DU014-050), a Bronze Age cooking site, is located west of the landholding in Grange townland.
- 1.34 The Fingal County Development Plan indicates that the Huntstown and Kilshane townlands lie within a landscape area which is characterised as low lying agricultural land. There are no protected views or prospects into or out of the application site identified in the Development Plan.

## Dublin Waste Management Plan (2005-2010)

- 1.35 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.
- 1.36 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 e.g. in old quarries*'.
- 1.37 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.
- 1.38 The Applicant asserts that the development of an inert soil recovery facility at Huntstown Quarry is consistent with the provisions of the Dublin Waste Management Plan identified above.

## CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

- 1.39 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 (northern fringe of Dublin City and north County Dublin) and is readily accessible using the existing, recently upgraded, national and regional road network.

# INTRODUCTION 1

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## DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED WITH EIS COMPILATION

- 1.40 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.

## ENVIRONMENTAL GAIN

- 1.41 The proposed backfilling at the former north quarry at Huntstown will, when complete, substantially restore the existing site to its former ground level. The lands will ultimately also be restored to agricultural use, most likely as grassland.
- 1.42 Backfilling the existing quarry void will also provide for better protection of the underlying groundwater resource, which is currently vulnerable due to the absence of any protective soil cover.

## CONTRIBUTORS

- 1.43 Roadstone Wood Limited appointed SLR Consulting Ireland to prepare this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in support of its Waste Licence Application for the proposed backfilling of the quarry void at Huntstown Quarry, North Road, Finglas, Dublin 11.
- 1.44 Section 1 of this Environmental Impact Statement comprises an introduction while Section 2 provides a detailed description of the proposed development and has been prepared by SLR Consulting Ireland in consultation with Roadstone Wood Limited. Sections 3 to 11 of the EIS provide details of the 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.
- 1.45 The contributors who have assisted in the preparation of this EIS are identified in Table 1-1 overleaf.



# INTRODUCTION 1

**Table 1-1  
List of Contributors**

Topic	Contributor	Company
Description of Development	Derek Luby BE MSc MIEI	SLR Consulting Ireland
Human Beings	Shane McDermott BSc. (Hons)	SLR Consulting Ireland
Flora and Fauna	Steve Judge BSc (Hons)	Consultant
Soils and Geology	Dr. John Kelly BSc. PhD, PGeo	SLR Consulting Ireland
Surface Water & Groundwater	Oliver Higgins BSc. (Hons) MSc.	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	Anne Merkle Dipl. Ing (FH) MILI	SLR Consulting Ireland
Cultural Heritage	Dr. Charles Mount MA	Consultant
Material Assets	Shane McDermott BSc. (Hons)	SLR Consulting Ireland
Traffic	Derek Luby BE MSc MIEI	SLR Consulting Ireland
Co-ordination of EIS	Derek Luby BE MSc MIEI	SLR Consulting Ireland
Non-Technical Summary		SLR Consulting Ireland

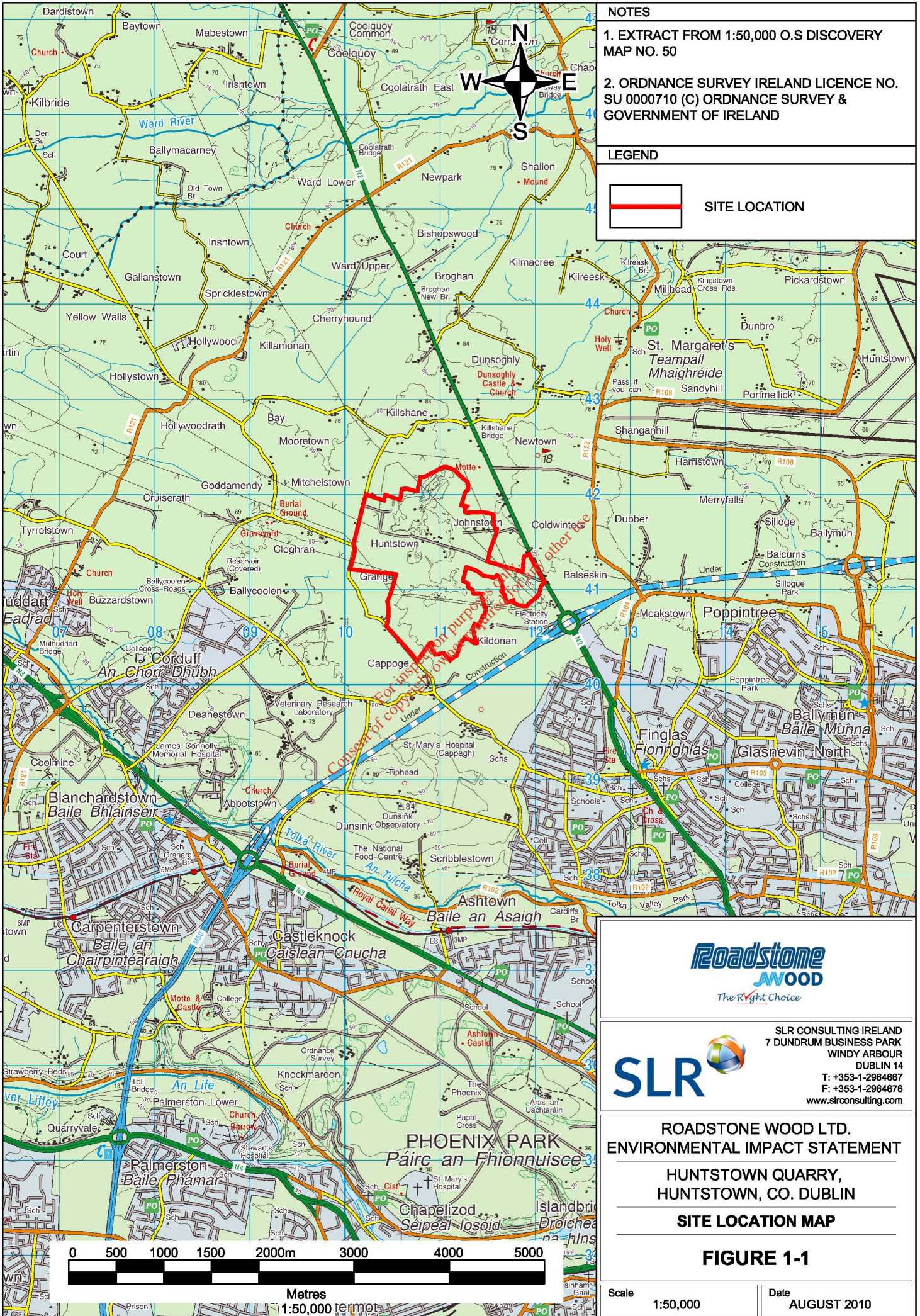
- 1.46 Each contributor has been fully briefed about the proposal and the background to it. They have also visited the site and are familiar with the local environment.

## CONSULTATIONS

- 1.47 In preparing this Environmental Impact Statement, consultations were had with a number of organisations and agencies including
- Environmental Protection Agency (Office of Licensing and Guidance)
  - Geological Survey of Ireland (to discuss geological heritage and aquifer classification)
- 1.48 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

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**NOTES**

1. EXTRACT FROM 1:50,000 O.S DISCOVERY MAP NO. 50
2. ORDNANCE SURVEY IRELAND LICENCE NO. SU 000710 (C) ORDNANCE SURVEY & GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND

**LEGEND**

 **SITE LOCATION**

O:\180.00011.18.1-1.R0.SITE LOCATION MAP.dwg

**Roadstone WOOD**  
The Right Choice

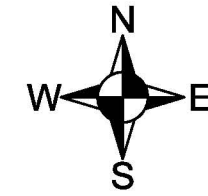
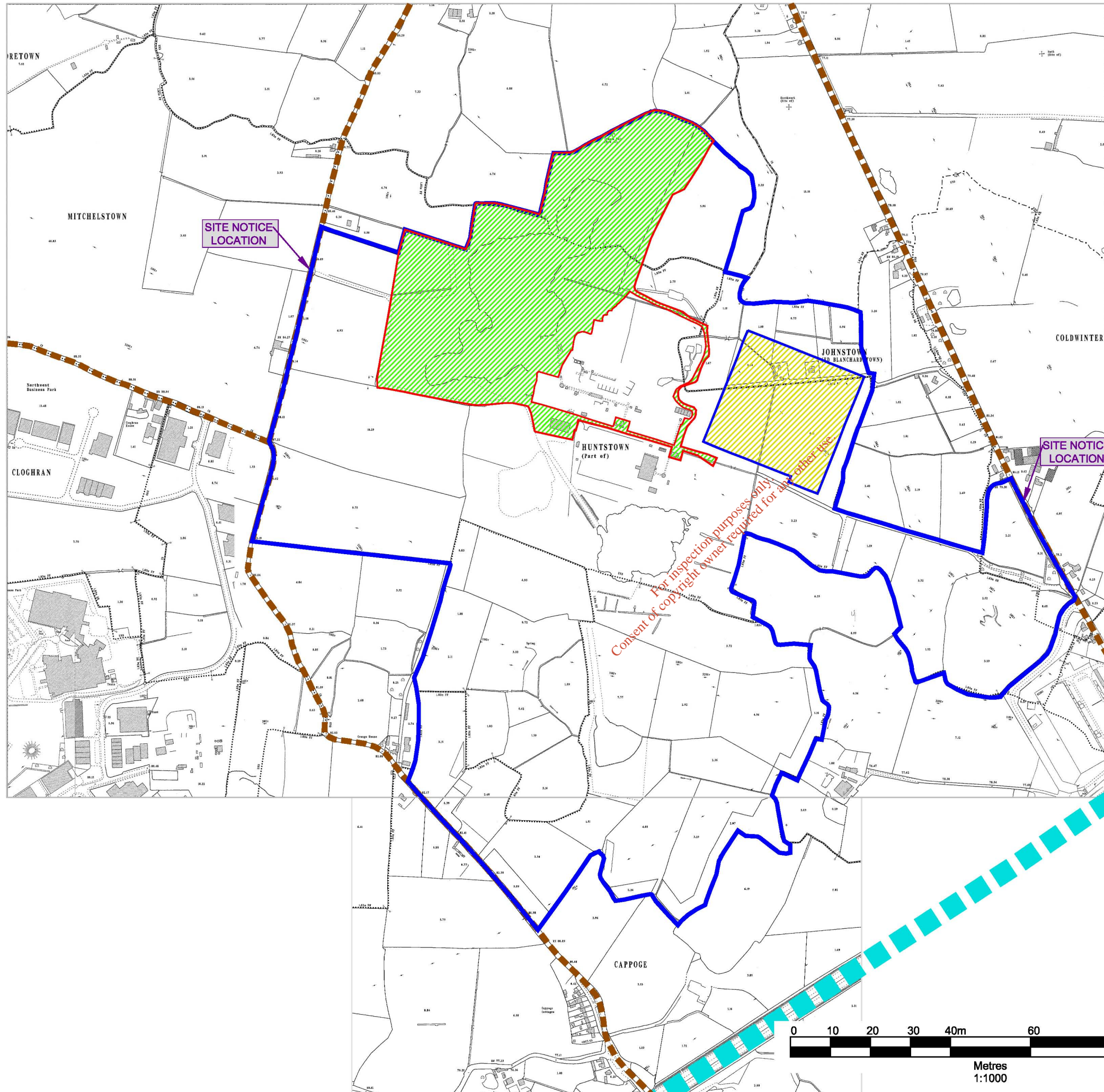
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**ROADSTONE WOOD LTD.**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**  
**HUNTSTOWN QUARRY,**  
**HUNTSTOWN, CO. DUBLIN**  
**SITE LOCATION MAP**

**FIGURE 1-1**

Scale **1:50,000** Date **AUGUST 2010**



**NOTES**

- EXTRACT FROM 1:2,500 ORDNANCE SURVEY DIGITAL SHEET NO'S. 3062-A, 3062-B, 3062-C, 3062-D, 3063-A, 3063-C, 3130-A, 3130-B,
- ORDNANCE SURVEY IRELAND LICENCE NO. SU 0000710 (C) ORDNANCE SURVEY & GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND

**LEGEND**

	ROADSTONE WOOD LTD. LANDHOLDING (c. 211 ha)
	WASTE LICENCE APPLICATION AREA (c. 33.8 ha)
	HUNTSTOWN POWER STATION (NOT OWNED BY RWL)
	M50
	LOCAL ACCESS ROAD

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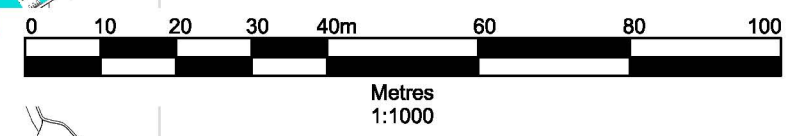


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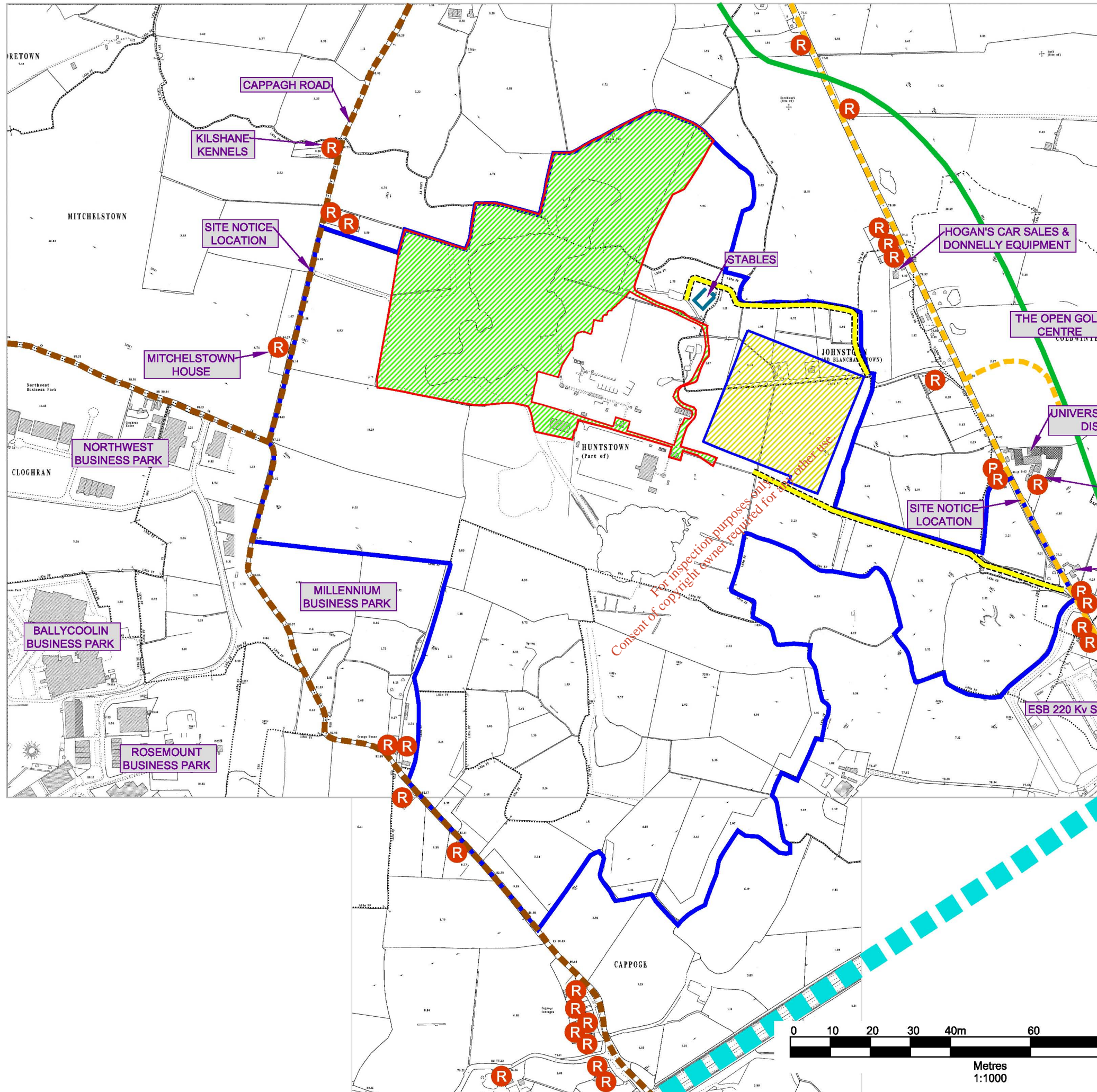
**ROADSTONE WOOD LTD.  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**  
  
HUNTSTOWN QUARRY,  
HUNTSTOWN, CO. DUBLIN  
**SITE LOCATION / SITE NOTICE MAP**

**FIGURE 1-2**

Scale 1:1,000 Date AUGUST 2010



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**NOTES**

- EXTRACT FROM 1:2,500 ORDNANCE SURVEY DIGITAL SHEET NO'S. 3062-A, 3062-B, 3062-C, 3062-D, 3063-A, 3063-C, 3130-A, 3130-B,
- ORDNANCE SURVEY IRELAND LICENCE NO. SU 0000710 (C) ORDNANCE SURVEY & GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND

**LEGEND**

	ROADSTONE WOOD LTD. LANDHOLDING (c. 211 ha)
	WASTE LICENCE APPLICATION AREA (c. 33.8 ha)
	HUNTSTOWN POWER STATION (NOT OWNED BY RWL)
	M50
	N2
	LOCAL ACCESS ROAD
	NORTH ROAD (R135)
	RIGHT OF WAY
	RESIDENTIAL LOCATIONS



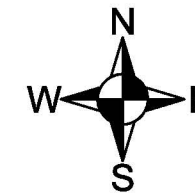
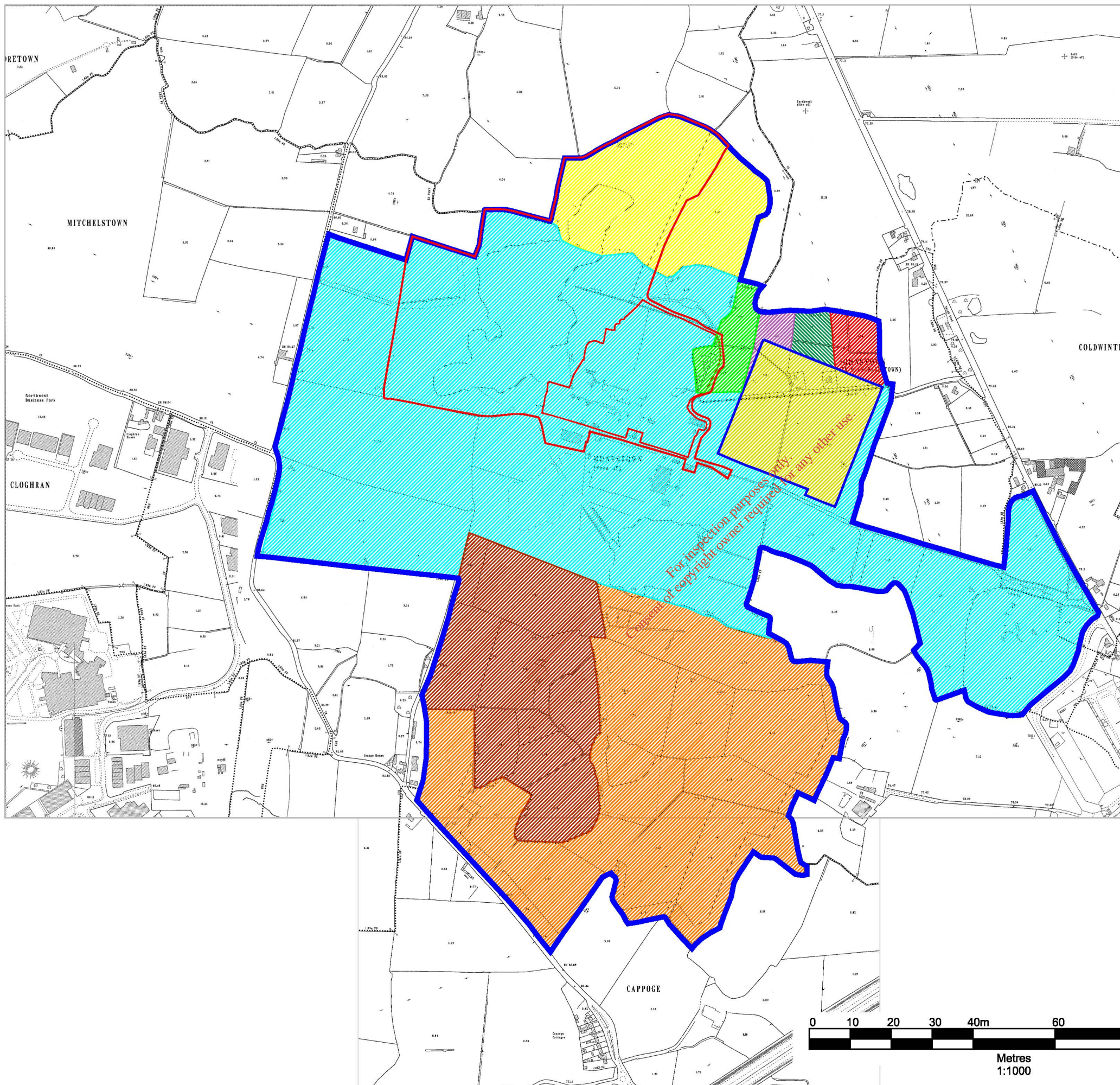
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**ROADSTONE WOOD LTD.  
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 SURROUNDING LAND USE**

**FIGURE 1-3**

Scale 1:1,000 Date AUGUST 2010

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**NOTES**

1. EXTRACT FROM 1:2,500 ORDNANCE SURVEY DIGITAL SHEET NO'S. 3062-A, 3062-B, 3062-C, 3062-D, 3063-A, 3063-C, 3130-A, 3130-B,

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**LEGEND**

	ROADSTONE WOOD LTD. LANDHOLDING (c. 211 ha)
	WASTE LICENCE APPLICATION AREA (c. 33.8 ha)
	HUNTSTOWN POWER STATION (NOT OWNED BY RWL)
	FOLIO DN2889
	FOLIO DN18240
	FOLIO DN3291
	FOLIO DN132971F
	FOLIO DN18734
	FOLIO DN8115
	FOLIO DN19138
	FOLIO DN8118
	FOLIO DN8999

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 SITE FOLIOS  
 FIGURE 1-4

Scale 1:1,000 Date AUGUST 2010

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