

SECTION 3: HUMAN BEINGS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This section of the Environmental Impact Statement addresses the impact of the proposed waste recovery facility at the limestone quarry at Milverton, Skerries, Co. Dublin on the surrounding human environment. The Environmental Impact Statement is being prepared in support of an application by Roadstone Ltd. for a waste licence to provide for backfilling and restoration of the quarry using imported inert soils and stones.

In undertaking this study, regard has been had to the requirements of the EPA publication 'Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Statements' for waste facilities, and includes, but is not limited to consideration of the economic activities, existing amenities and sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the site.

3.2 RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

3.2.1 Outline of Baseline Study and Methodology

The baseline study of the area, with regard to Human Beings, involved study of the Census Report (1996, 2002, 2006 and 2011) information for Skerries and the Greater Dublin Area; Live Register Statistics from the Irish National Organization of the Unemployed and other local information sources.

The townland of Milverton, in which the proposed inert soil recovery facility is located within the District Electoral Division (DED) of Skerries-Holmpatrick in north County Dublin, within the administrative area of Fingal County Council. However, as Milverton lies 1.5 km southwest of Skerries, this study will largely focus on Skerries and its immediate environs. It is considered that the future growth and development of Skerries will have the strongest influence on the lives of those currently living and working in and around the Milverton area.

A survey of existing residential housing in the Milverton area was undertaken as part of this study. Ordnance Survey maps and aerial photography were also examined. Local knowledge of recent and potential future housing development in the area was also used to establish the local housing pattern.

3.2.2 Site Context

The limestone quarry at Milverton operated by Roadstone Ltd. is located in the south-eastern corner of Milverton townland, in north County Dublin. Milverton is located approximately 1.5 km southwest of Skerries and 5 km north-east of Lusk, Co. Dublin. The site is currently accessed from the R127 Regional Road running between Lusk and Skerries.

A small number of existing residences are located in close proximity to the proposed waste recovery facility. The nearest residential property is a rented house owned by Roadstone which lies immediately north of the quarry, within its landholding. Other residential properties are located immediately to the west and east of the site, along the R127 Regional Road and along the local road leading to Skerries Golf Course which lies beyond the south-western corner of the site. At a greater distance (>0.5km) to the north-east of the application site, beyond the Dublin to Belfast rail line, there is well established suburban development on the western fringes of Skerries (Hillside). The existing housing pattern in the vicinity of the site is shown on Figure 3.1.

The Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2004-2016 identifies Skerries within the 'Hinterland' area. Given its location along a designated Transportation Corridor, specifically the main Dublin to Belfast rail line, the town of Skerries is designated an appropriate location for future residential development within the Greater Dublin Area. However, the current Fingal County Development Plan for 2005-2011 does not identify Skerries as a major development centre over the life of the plan.

The zoning objective for the application site and the surrounding lands identified by the Fingal County Development Plan 20011-2017 is to protect and provide for the development of agriculture and rural amenity. Lands immediately east of the site and the nearby railway line are zoned for

new residential development under the Hacketstown Skerries Local Area Plan adopted in 2007. The plan allows for the construction of approximately 600 residential units. The original plan was for the period 2009-2015 which has now been extended by a period of five years from the 10th February 2014 up to the 9th February 2019 in accordance with Section 12 of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010.

The Local Area Plan also makes provision for the future construction of a southern relief road linking the R127 Regional Road (to Lusk) west of Milverton Quarry, to the R128 Regional Road to Rush. The proposed link road, which runs south of the quarry, will relieve restrictions on access to Skerries imposed by the existing narrow rail bridge on the R127 Regional Road east of Milverton Quarry. The proposed zoning of lands in the vicinity of the application site is shown on the extract from the Fingal County Development Plan in Figure 3.2.

3.2.3 Demography

The proposed waste recovery facility is located within the limestone quarry operated by Roadstone Ltd. in the townland of Milverton. The site lies in the District Electoral Division (DED) of Skerries - Holmpatrick, in which some 1,360 people reside. This DED is relatively rural in nature and demographic trends in the area generally mirror those in Skerries town, Fingal and north County Dublin generally. The current population of Skerries is 9,535.

Demographic trends for Skerries - Holmpatrick, Skerries and Fingal over the past ten years, are shown in Table 3.1a and 3.1b below. These indicate that, over this period, there has been a marked decrease in the population of Skerries-Holmpatrick and a moderate increase in the population of Skerries itself.

Year	Skerries ED	Skerries Holmpatrick ED	Total	Fingal
1996	5,704	1,635	7,339	167,683
2002	7,612	1,537	9,149	196,413
Change 1996-2002	33.5%	-6.0%	24.7	17.1%

Source: Census of Population 1996, 2002, C.S.O.

Year	Skerries ED	Skerries Holmpatrick ED	Total	Fingal
2002	7,612	1,537	9,149	196,413
2006	8,175	1,360	9,535	239,992
Change 2002-2006	7.4%	-11.5	4.2%	22.2%

Source: Census of Population 2002, 2006, C.S.O.

Year	Skerries ED	Skerries Holmpatrick ED	Total	Fingal
2006	8,175	1,360	9,535	239,992
2011	8,333	3,224	11,557	273,991
Change 2006-2011	1.9%	137%	21.2%	14.2%

Source: Census of Population 2006, 2011, C.S.O.

Tables 3.1a, 3.1b & 3.1c: Recent Population Trends

The population of Skerries Town recorded in the 2011 Census was 1.9% higher than that recorded at the time of the 2006 Census, while that within the Fingal County Council area increased by 14.2% over the same period. At the time of the 2006 Census, population projections estimated that the population of Fingal would rise to at least 260,000 by 2010. Other estimates put this higher, up to 280,900 by 2011. As outlined in Table 3.1c above, the actual population of the Fingal area in 2011 was 273,991.

Population projections for the coming decade estimate that the population of Fingal will rise to c.287,000 by 2016 and to c.309,000 by 2022¹. In conjunction with this continued local and regional trend in population growth, there will be an associated increase in demand for housing as Skerries falls within the Dublin “commuter belt”.

The current age profile at local and national level is indicated in Table 3.2 below.

	Total	0-12	12-24	25-44	45-65	65+
Skerries Town	9,671	2,053	1,503	2,653	2,446	1,016
		21.2%	15.5%	27.4%	25.3%	10.5%
State	4,588,252	860,596	699,244	1,450,140	1,042,879	535,393
		18.8%	15.2%	31.6%	22.7%	11.7%

Source: Census 2011

Table 3.2 : Age Profile

All age groups in Skerries are similar, or in slight variance with State averages. A high proportion of the local population (27.4%) comprises adults in the traditional household formation age category, in the 25-44 age group. This group is made up mostly with young people working or studying or working-age parents. The second highest proportion of the population comprises people in the 45-65 age group (25%), which comprises mostly older adults, including working parents. A higher proportion of adults in the younger and older age groups relative to the national average are often characteristic of populations in urban areas.

Combining the 0-12 and 65 plus age groups gives an indication of the level of dependency within an area. The result is that the Skerries has a level of dependency of 31.7% compared to the State average of 30.5%. The implication of the dependency ratio is that there is an increased requirement for support services in the community such as schools, healthcare etc.

Recent population increases in the Skerries area suggest that the area is favoured by young adults of household formation age and young family units. This is most likely to reflect its proximity to an expanding urban centre in Greater Dublin and its proximity to an established, well serviced public transport corridor.

3.2.4 Employment

Census data indicates that a significant proportion of the working population of Skerries do not work in the town itself. Travel times to work figures from Census 2011 indicates that over 62% of the school and working population in Skerries Town travels in excess of 15 minutes to school and work.

Given that Skerries is a dormitory town within the Greater Dublin Area, many of the jobs are located and affected by the employment conditions within the Greater Dublin Area. According to the April 2013 Live Register statistics provided by the Irish National Organization of the Unemployed (INOU), there were 100,633 persons in County Dublin and 417,593 in the State on the register.

A breakdown of the industry in which those at work are employed is provided below in Table 3.3 below. Employment by Industry in Skerries follows a national pattern with the highest participation in the commerce & trade and professional sectors reflecting the generally urbanised nature of this

¹ Source: Demographic Trends in Dublin: Office of International Relations & Research Report 2012

area. The level of participations in other sectors of employment is either in line with the national average or slightly lower.

	State		Skerries Town		Fingal		Dublin Regional Authority	
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	91,526	5.1%	25	0.8%	1,212	0.2%	2003	0.4%
Manufacturing Industries	209,803	11.6%	235	7.4%	9,465	7.9%	39,522	7.3%
Building and Construction	87,371	4.8%	124	3.9%	4,643	3.9%	18,544	3.4%
Clerical / Govt Workers	113,860	6.3%	237	7.4%	8,298	7%	35,343	6.5%
Communication and Transport	146,530	8.1%	406	12.7%	16,572	13.9%	64,802	12%
Commerce & Trade	456,289	25.2%	930	29.2%	34,847	29.2%	164,565	30.4%
Professional	425,349	23.5%	800	25.1%	27,139	22.8%	130,320	24.1%
Other	276,632	15.3%	433	13.5%	17,100	14.3%	85,630	15.8%

Source: Census 2011

Table 3.3 : Employment by Industry

3.2.5 Economic Activities

There are three principle types of economic activity prevalent in the Milverton area:

1. Agriculture
2. Industry
3. Leisure Industry

1. **Agriculture**

The lands located immediately around the application site are used for agricultural purposes, typically tillage and grazing. With the exception of the application site and isolated residential housing, almost the entire extent of Milverton townland is used for agricultural purposes, with only a small proportion of forestry.

2. **Industry**

There has been active extraction of limestone at Milverton Quarry dating back many years, with a quarry indicated at this site on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of the area, dating from around the 1830's. It is a long established activity and has provided employment in the area up to the middle of 2008 when quarrying and concrete batching activities were suspended at the application site in response to a downturn in economic activity. The retail stone paving outlet at the site which traded as Roadstone Retail also closed at the same time.

The only other quarry in the surrounding area is an abandoned limestone quarry in Ballykea townland approximately 1.5kilometres from Skerries on the R128 Regional Road to Rush. There are old disused copper mines located in Loughshinny, approximately 3 kilometres south-east of the application site.

The wider area beyond the proposed waste recovery site includes Skerries town, which functions as a retail and service centre and has a thriving business community. Skerries originally grew out of a busy fishing port. Skerries Harbour continues to service a small fishing community and is known as a landing port for Dublin Bay prawns. The manufacturing of lace was also important to

the local economy in the past. More recently, a shirt factory operated in the town for several decades before closing in 1987. At present, there is no significant medium to large scale industrial activity in the Skerries Area.

3 Leisure Industry

Skerries Golf Club is located at Hacketstown, approximately 0.5 km south of the application site. It was founded in 1905 and attracts golfers from across Ireland. Given its proximity to Dublin Airport, it is also an attraction for tourists travelling to the Dublin area from overseas. The 18-hole, 6107m, par 73 parkland course has undulating fairways and mature trees and on good days offers golfers views extending from the Mourne Mountains to Howth and the Wicklow Mountains.

Skerries is a picturesque, long-established coastal village and as such, is a local tourist attraction which typically attracts day trippers out of Dublin. Attractions include the Skerries Mills heritage park (with preserved / restored watermill and windmills), the islands lying immediately offshore, a long sandy beach, a grass promenade which runs the length of the beach, Red Island Scenic Park and a children's playground. Several restaurants and pubs are located in and around the harbour area, as is the sailing club. A colony of grey seals also resides around the harbour area and attracts visitors. There are a small number of existing guesthouses, hotels and other related tourist facilities located in and around Skerries.

3.2.6 Existing Amenities

As previously noted, the Milverton area is predominantly rural in nature. It has no churches, schools, retail outlets (apart from Roadstone's recently closed paving shop) or service industry.

There are a wide variety of recreational, social, community and sport facilities in Skerries, which are available to local residents in Milverton. Apart from the golf course, these include an indoor sports arena (for badminton, basketball, volleyball, table tennis etc.), an outdoor all weather football pitch, gym and tennis courts located at Skerries Community Centre. There is a rugby club and sailing club in the town, as well as riding stables and a pitch and putt course.

The current Fingal County Development Plan (2011-2017) includes a landscape character assessment (chapter 5.4). This divides Fingal into 6 Landscape Character Types (LCT) and each LCT is given a value (exceptional to low) and rating for its sensitivity to change (high to low).

The application site is fully located within the 'Coastal Character Type'. This LCT "forms the eastern boundary of the County and contains a number of important beaches, islands and headlands that together create a landscape of high amenity and landscape value. A number of important settlements are located within this area, including Balbriggan, Skerries, Rush, Malahide, Portmarnock and Howth. The land is generally low lying, with the exception of some prominent headlands and hills in the northern part of the area, Howth and the offshore islands. ... There are a number of important demesne or estate landscapes containing important woodlands in or adjoining this area at Ardgillan, Hampton, Milverton and Portrane. Horticulture (around Rush), golf courses and individual dwellings are prevalent land uses in the area also. Views along the coast are generally contained within headlands, ridgelines and harbours, creating a number of visual compartments."

The Coastal Character Type is categorised as having an exceptional landscape value and high sensitivity to development. The exceptional value "is arrived at due to the combination of visual, ecological, recreational and historical attributes." It is stated that "it is a challenge to locate new development in these areas without it becoming unduly obtrusive."

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.

The Skerries area is rich in historic amenities. These include:

- The Skerries Mills industrial and heritage centre and town park comprises a watermill, a 5-sail windmill and 4-sail windmill with associated mill races, mill pond and wetlands.

- The Martello Tower on Red Island, just east of the harbour, is one of a series built in the 1800's as a defence against a possible Napoleonic invasion.
- Milverton Demesne dominates the Skerries hinterland and commands extensive views of the surrounding area.
- Ardgillan Demesne, approximately 2km north-west of Skerries is a large country house with castellated embellishments standing on an elevated site with extensive sea-views. The demesne consists of 82 hectares of rolling pastureland, mixed woodland and gardens.
- The ruins of a large church and castle at Baldongan, approximately 2km south-west of Skerries
- St Patrick's Island, where legend holds that St. Patrick first landed in Ireland in 432AD

The Skerries Islands, a group of three small uninhabited islands located between 0.5km and 1.5km off the coast, are designated Special Protection Areas (SPA's) for wild birds. Shenick Island and St. Patrick's are of similar size, while Colt Island is smaller. The islands are of high ornithological importance for both breeding seabirds and wintering waterfowl, with six species having populations of National Importance. In addition, there is also an Internationally Important population of Brent Goose.

An area between Loughshinny and Skerries is designated a Proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA) on the grounds of its dry grassland habitat. This coastal area is also of notable geological interest, comprising a variety of rock types, typically conglomerates, limestones and shales.

3.2.7 Sensitive Receptors

At the present time, the principal sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the application site comprise approximately 23 private properties immediately beyond the application site and within 250m of the site boundary. These properties are identified on Figure 3.1. A larger number of residential properties are located at a greater distance beyond the application site (up to 500m) and are also identified on Figure 3.1

3.3 IMPACT OF THE SCHEME

The proposed waste recovery facility at Milverton will require importation of inert soil and stones from construction sites across North County Dublin, Meath and Louth. The imported soil and stones will be used to backfill the quarry void. Some inert concrete and brick and/or recovered construction and demolition waste (secondary aggregate) will be imported occasionally to construct temporary internal haul roads across the Milverton site as and when required.

The duration of the quarry backfilling works is expected to be of the order of 7.5 years, but is ultimately dependent on the rate of infilling. The location and intensity of associated environmental impacts will vary only very slightly according as the active backfilling area moves across the site over time.

Ultimately, all of the effects of a development on the environment impinge upon human beings. Direct effects relate to matters such as water and air quality, noise, and changes to landscape character. Indirect effects relate to such matters as flora and fauna.

The impact of the proposed waste recovery facility on human beings is addressed in the following sub-sections by means of an appraisal of the effects of the development on the environment in general, of which human beings are an integral part.

3.3.1 Short-Term Impacts

The impacts on human beings will arise mainly through environmental factors that are detailed in other sections of this EIS, most notably noise, air quality (including dust) and traffic. While there will be negligible or no impact on much of the local residential housing identified on Figure 3.1,

there may be some very minor, limited impact at the residences closest to the application site (most notably those fronting onto the R127 Regional Road) when the active backfilling and restoration works are being undertaken at the northern end of the facility.

The noise and dust impacts which are likely to arise at these residential properties are associated with operational activities, specifically backfilling with soil and stones. These impacts are likely to be only marginal and are classified as temporary, minor and negative.

The potential and/or predicted impacts are detailed elsewhere in this EIS (Section 6 - Water, Section 7 – Air, Section 8 – Noise, Section 10 – Landscape and Section 11 – Material Assets).

The importation of inert materials via the existing local road network may have adverse implications for existing traffic levels or the safety of traffic movements along the R127 Regional Road, principally south of the site, as HGV traffic travels to and from the Dublin area, and to a lesser extent to the north of the site as it moves to and from Balbriggan via Skerries. This impact is considered separately in Section 12 of this EIS.

The movement of HGV traffic along the R127 Regional Road may also have a temporary minor to moderate negative impact on existing noise and dust levels, depending on the intensity of traffic movements.

The proposed restoration of the quarry will have a very minor positive impact as regards employment levels. It is envisaged that the number of dedicated staff permanently employed at the facility will be one and possibly two, depending on the rate of backfilling. Qualified contractors will be brought on site to carry out any necessary infrastructure construction works. Environmental monitoring will generally be undertaken by Roadstone's in-house staff.

3.3.2 Long-Term Impacts

The principal long-term impact of infilling of the existing void and backfilling to former ground level (with the exception of part of the upper quarry face to be left exposed for beneficial ecological purposes) will be the removal of the quarry void feature in the landscape and reinstatement of the site to its pre-extraction landform. This impact is classified as permanent, minor and positive.

At the end of the quarry backfilling operations, there will be a long-term, permanent reduction in HGV traffic movements over the local road network leading to and from the site, with consequent improvement of the human environment.

3.3.3 Interaction with other Environmental Receptors

As mentioned above, all environmental factors ultimately impact upon, and interact with human beings. These impacts are discussed in detail in the relevant sections of this EIS.

3.4 MITIGATION MEASURES

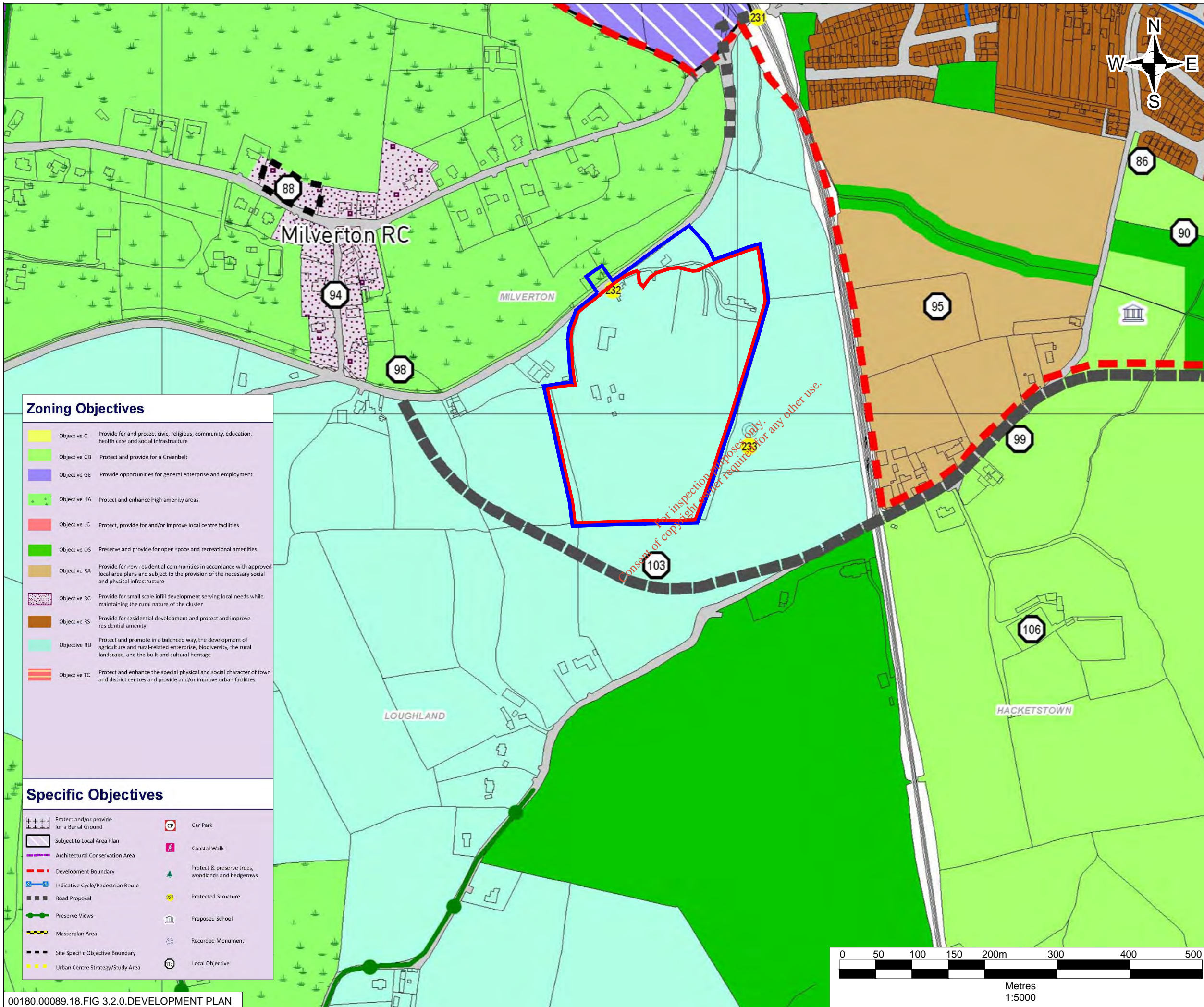
Mitigation measures to be adopted during the quarry backfilling will relate primarily to minimising any impacts of the project on surrounding sensitive receptors. These measures are discussed elsewhere in this EIS, in the sections to which they relate.

Noise and dust impacts will be mitigated to a considerable degree, as they were during the previous quarrying operation, by screening berms constructed along the northern and western boundaries. In the unlikely event that emissions exceed permit threshold concentrations or adjoining residents complain of nuisance, the existing screening berms can be raised or further planted in order to suppress emission levels further.

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FIGURES

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Zoning Objectives

- Objective CI Provide for and protect civic, religious, community, education, health care and social infrastructure
- Objective G3 Protect and provide for a Greenbelt
- Objective GE Provide opportunities for general enterprise and employment
- Objective HA Protect and enhance high amenity areas
- Objective LC Protect, provide for and/or improve local centre facilities
- Objective OS Preserve and provide for open space and recreational amenities
- Objective RA Provide for new residential communities in accordance with approved local area plans and subject to the provision of the necessary social and physical infrastructure
- Objective RC Provide for small scale infill development serving local needs while maintaining the rural nature of the cluster
- Objective RS Provide for residential development and protect and improve residential amenity
- Objective RU Protect and promote in a balanced way, the development of agriculture and rural-related enterprise, biodiversity, the rural landscape, and the built and cultural heritage
- Objective TC Protect and enhance the special physical and social character of town and district centres and provide and/or improve urban facilities

Specific Objectives

- Protect and/or provide for a Burial Ground
- Car Park
- Subject to Local Area Plan
- Coastal Walk
- Architectural Conservation Area
- Protect & preserve trees, woodlands and hedgerows
- Development Boundary
- Protected Structure
- Indicative Cycle/Pedestrian Route
- Proposed School
- Road Proposal
- Recorded Monument
- Preserve Views
- Local Objective
- Masterplan Area
- Site Specific Objective Boundary
- Urban Centre Strategy/Study Area

NOTES

- Based on OSi 25inch Dublin Sheet No. 5 & 5a
- Ordnance Survey of Ireland Licence No. SU 0000714 (c) Ordnance Survey of Ireland & Government of Ireland

- LEGEND**
- Applicant's Land Interest (c. 8.6ha)
 - Waste Licence Application Area (c.7.9ha)
 - Proposed Southern Relief Road

roadstone

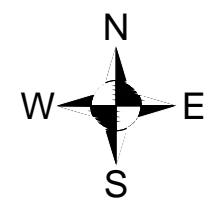
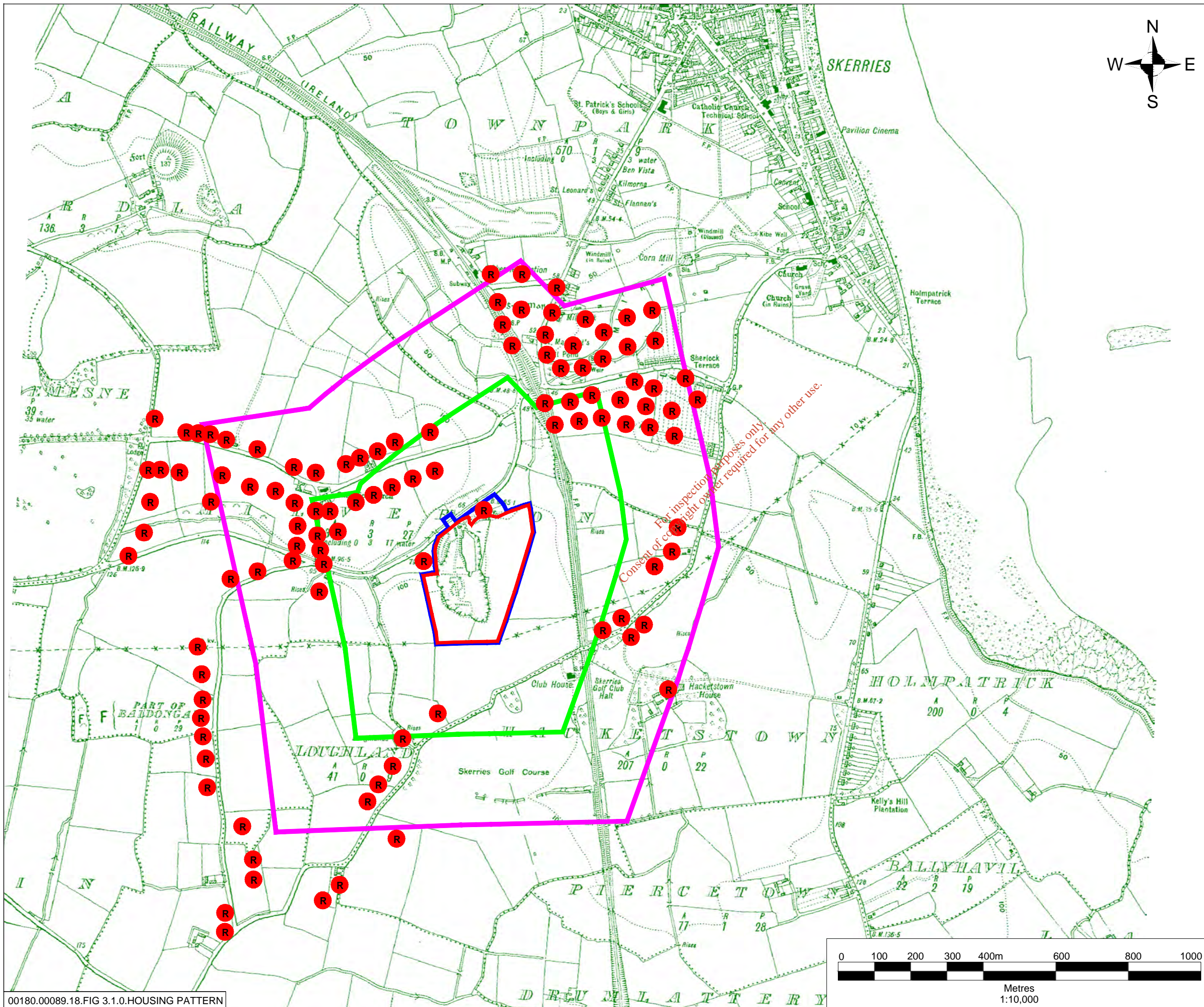
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**ROADSTONE LTD.
WASTE LICENCE APPLICATION
WASTE RECOVERY FACILITY,
MILVERTON, SKERRIES, CO. DUBLIN
EXTRACT FROM FINGAL COUNTY
DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

FIGURE 3.2

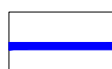
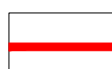

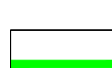
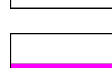
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NOTES

1. Based on OSi 25inch Dublin Sheet No. 5 & 5a
2. Ordnance Survey of Ireland Licence No. SU 0000714 (c) Ordnance Survey of Ireland & Government of Ireland

LEGEND

-  Applicant's Land Interest (c. 8.6ha)
-  Waste Licence Application Area (c. 7.9ha)
-  Residence Location
-  250m offset from Application Area
-  500m offset from Application Area

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HOUSING PATTERN

FIGURE 3.1

