

SECTION 10: LANDSCAPE

10.1 INTRODUCTION

10.1.1 Background

This Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) provides supporting information to accompany a Waste Licence Application (WLA) to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by Roadstone Limited for a proposed inert soil recovery facility at Milverton, Skerries, Co. Dublin. The proposed waste activity comprises backfilling a quarry void using imported and site-won inert soil.

The site to which this Waste Licence Application refers is located entirely within the townland of Milverton, Skerries, Co. Dublin approximately 1.5km south-west of Skerries town.

The waste licence application provides for the placement and capping of approximately 1,300,000m³ of inert soil and rock. Up to 1,000,000m³ (1.9 million tonnes) of inert materials to be backfilled and recovered at this facility will be sourced from construction and demolition sites where inspection and/or testing has indicated that no contamination is present. The remaining 300,000m³ (570,000 tonnes) will be sourced from existing soil and subsoil stockpiles and mounds within the application site.

Inert materials will be imported by permitted waste contractors. In addition, some inert or recycled construction and demolition waste will be imported to site for construction of temporary haul roads within and across the backfilled area.

This section of the EIS addresses the potential landscape and visual impacts which may arise as a result of the proposed development.

10.1.2 Methodology

Landscape and visual effects are independent but related issues; landscape effects are changes in the landscape, its character and quality, while visual effects relate to the appearance of these changes and the resulting effect on visual amenity.

The landscape and visual impact assessment was undertaken in accordance with the **Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment** (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, Third Edition, 2013). The assessment is structured as follows:

- **Baseline Study** – a description of the legislative framework / relevant planning policies, as well as the landscape and visual baseline.
- **Impact Assessment** – a description of the likely landscape and visual effects, due to the proposed development, as well as judgements about the sensitivity of landscape and visual receptors (summarised as high, medium, low or negligible) and the magnitude of the likely effects (summarised as substantial, moderate, slight or negligible, refer to Table 10.1 below). In order to arrive at conclusions about the importance of landscape / visual effects, the judgements about sensitivity and magnitude are linked as illustrated in Table 10.2 below.

- **Mitigation Measures** – a description of any mitigation measures recommended to reduce the landscape and visual impacts.

Table 10.1
Definitions of Magnitude

MAGNITUDE	DEFINITION
Substantial	Total loss or major alteration of key elements / features / characteristics of the baseline conditions such that post development, landscape character or view composition attributes of the baseline will be fundamentally changed.
Moderate	Partial loss or alteration to one or more key elements / features / characteristics of the baseline conditions such that post development, landscape character or view composition attributes will be partially changed.
Slight	Minor loss or alteration to one or more key elements / features / characteristics of the baseline conditions. Change arising from the loss/alteration will be discernible, but the underlying landscape character or view composition attributes will be similar to the baseline.
Negligible	Very minor loss or alteration to one or more key elements / features / characteristics of the baseline conditions. Change will be barely distinguishable, approximating to 'no change'.

Table 10.2
Importance of Landscape and Visual Effects

	Magnitude Substantial	Magnitude Moderate	Magnitude Slight	Magnitude Negligible
Sensitivity High	Major	Major / Moderate	Moderate	Moderate / Minor
Sensitivity Medium	Major / Moderate	Moderate	Moderate/Minor	Minor
Sensitivity Low	Moderate	Moderate/Minor	Minor	Minor/None
Sensitivity Negligible	Moderate / Minor	Minor	Minor / None	None

Note that the above matrix is not used as a prescriptive tool and the methodology and analysis of potential effects at any particular location must allow for the exercise of professional judgement. Thus in some instances a particular parameter may be considered as having a determining effect on the analysis.

The report is illustrated by a Landscape Designations Map (including Viewpoint locations), and three Viewpoint Sheets, showing nine Viewpoints (refer to Figures 10.1-10.4).

10.2 BASELINE STUDY

10.2.1 Legislative Framework / Planning Policies

The adopted Fingal Development Plan (FDP) 2011-2017 is the statutory plan detailing the development objectives / policies of the Planning Authority, covering the waste licence application area. The plan includes objectives and policies, relevant to this assessment, with regard to land use zoning, the extractive industry and landscape character.

10.2.1.1 Land Use Zoning

Chapter 9 of the current FDP describes the land use objectives for all of County Fingal. The application site is located entirely within 'Zoning Objective RU' (RU = Rural), which is described as: "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".

The vision for 'Zoning Objective RU' is described, as follows: "This zoning objective seeks to protect and promote the value of the rural area of the County. This rural value is based on:

- Agricultural and rural economic resources
- Visual remoteness from significant and distinctive urban influences,
- A high level of natural features.

Agriculture and rural related resources will be employed for the benefit of the local and wider population. Building upon the rural value will require a balanced approach involving the protection and promotion of rural biodiversity, promotion of the integrity of the landscape, and enhancement of the built and cultural heritage." 'Extractive Industry – Extraction Quarrying' is listed as permitted in principle under this zoning objective.

To the north of the site, across the R127, the land-use Zoning Objective is 'HA – High Amenity'. To the south, across the Golf Links Road, the Zoning Objective is 'OS – Open Space' and to the east, across the Dublin-Belfast railway line, the Objective is 'RA – Residential Area'.

10.2.1.2 Extraction and Aggregates

Objective EE 35 (Chapter 2 – Enterprise & Employment; 2.5 Quarrying and Aggregate Extraction) of the current FDP sets out the following: 'Consider proposals for aggregate extraction only where the Council is satisfied through an environmental assessment that environmental quality and amenity will be protected and appropriate provisions for the restoration of the landscape and habitat is being made'

10.2.1.3 Views and Prospects

Objective VP01 (Chapter 5 – Natural Heritage; 5.4 Landscape) of the current FDP sets out the following: 'Protect views and prospects that contribute to the character of the landscape, particularly those identified in the Development Plan, from inappropriate development.'

The views and prospects for protection are identified on the Green Infrastructure and zoning maps, which accompany the FDP. A number of such views and prospects are

located along the roads within and surrounding Skerries. This includes an approximately 600m long stretch along the Golf Links Road and an approximately 300m long stretch along Baldongan Close to the southwest of the site, from which parts of the existing quarry face are currently visible (refer to Figure 10.1).

10.2.1.4 Nature Conservation Designations

There are no nature conservation sites in the immediate vicinity of the application site. The closest such sites are the Skerries Islands Natural Heritage Area and Special Protection Area (NHA, site code 001218; SPA, site code 004122) and the Loughshinny Coast proposed NHA (pNHA, site code 002000), located 1.6km to the northeast and 1.9km to the southeast respectively – refer to Figure 10.1.

10.2.2 Landscape Baseline

10.2.2.1 Landscape Character Assessment for Fingal

The current FDP 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."*

The listed 'Principles for Development' for the highly sensitive character types include:

- *"Skylines, horizon and ridgelines should be protected from development.*
- *Sites with natural boundaries should be chosen, rather than elevated or open parts of fields. The form of new developments should be kept simple and they should be sited within existing shelter planting or within the contours of the land to minimise visual impact. ...*
- *Field and roadside hedgerows should be retained. Proposals necessitating the removal of extensive field and roadside hedgerows should not be permitted.*
- *The retention and active management of trees and woodland blocks should be promoted.*

- *The use of trees and woodlands to contain new development should be encouraged. Strong planting schemes using native species, to integrate development into these sensitive landscapes, will be required. New planting needs to be carefully located and selected. ...”*

The application site is located within one of the Highly Sensitive Landscapes identified as part of the Landscape Character Assessment.

10.2.2.2 Site Specific Landscape Baseline

The waste licence application area is located in the townland of Milverton within the site of the existing Milverton Quarry, approximately 1.5km southwest of the centre of the town of Skerries. The R127 Regional Road passes the site immediately to the north and the Dublin-Belfast railway line within 100m to the east.

The landscape to the northwest, southwest and southeast of the application site is characterised by agricultural fields, most of which are cultivated for crops. Most of these fields are enclosed by in often tree-lined hedgerows. Skerries Golf Club, approximately 200m to the south of the site and Milverton Demesne, approximately 900m to the northwest of the site contain a number of stands of mature trees and small woodlands. To the northeast of the site, across the Dublin-Belfast railway line, the landscape character becomes more urban, due to the many residential estates within Skerries.

The topography surrounding the site is gently undulating, due to the presence of a number of local highpoints. Levels surrounding the site range from 0m AOD along the Irish coast, just over 1km east of the site, to around 80-100m AOD, within 4km west of the site. All of the local highpoints have broad rounded shapes, so that none of them dominate the views or form distinct focal points. However, scenic views of the Irish Sea open up in a number of locations along public roads, where these pass over locally elevated land.

The application site itself is located on the western slopes of one the local highpoints which reaches 44m AOD, just east of the application site. The levels along the site boundary range from 42m AOD along the eastern boundary to 30m along the south-western boundary and 20m AOD at the site entrance. The quarry floor was taken to a level of -12m, however, the void is currently flooded to a level of -2m AOD. Two large grassed overburden/soil mounds up to a height of 40m AOD are located in the north-eastern corner of the application site. All site boundaries are marked by dense hedgerows.

10.2.2.3 Outdoor Recreational Facilities within the Study Area

The beaches within and nearby Skerries, the Skerries Mills and Ardgillan Castle are popular tourist destinations in the vicinity of the application site. The vast majority of tourist related traffic is not guided along the R127 past the site entrance. This is due to the low bridge under the Dublin-Belfast railway line, just northeast of the site, as well as the more scenic approach to Skerries along the coastal roads from Rush (R128) and Balbriggan (R127). The vast majority of tourists visiting the area therefore do not experience views of the application site.

Skerries Golf Course is located along Golf Links Road, approximately 200m to the south of the site. The approach to the golf course does not lead past the entrance of the application site.

10.2.3 Visual Baseline

10.2.3.1 Study area and Site Survey

Following a desktop study of the available OSI Mapping and aerial images, a study area of up to 2km surrounding the application site was defined. Due to the undulating landscape surrounding the site and existing vegetation within the area it was found unlikely that the site would be visible from any locations outside this radius.

The site survey, which was carried out on 5th June 2014, confirmed that the application site is fully screened in the vast majority of views from within the 2km radius study area, due to topography, as well as intervening vegetation (refer to Viewpoints 6 and 7 on Figures 10.3 & 10.4). This includes all views from locations beyond 500m to the northwest, northeast and southeast and beyond 1km to the southwest.

Small parts of the existing eastern and southern quarry face can be glimpsed from a number of locations along the roads within 500m to the northwest and west and 1km to the southwest of the site (refer to Viewpoints 2, 3, 5 & 9 on Figures 10.2-10.4). A number of private dwellings located along these roads potentially experience similar views, depending on the vegetation cover surrounding these properties.

The most open view into the existing quarry can be gained from a short stretch along the local road at Loughland; approximately 570m west of the site, where the roadside hedgerow was removed (refer to Viewpoint 4 on Figure 10.3). Again, a small number of properties along this part of the road potentially experience similar views.

In a small number of views from locations to the north and east of the site, the overburden mounds in the north-eastern corner of the site are partially visible, however, the existing extraction void is fully screened (refer to Viewpoints 1 & 8 on Figures 10.2 & 10.4).

10.3 MITIGATION MEASURES

10.3.1 Operational Mitigation Measures

The following mitigation measures will be put in place to eliminate and/or minimise any potential landscape/visual impacts associated with the proposed waste recovery activities (also refer to Figure 2.5 - Restoration Plan):

- Phasing of the working scheme, so that the early stages of the backfilling works will be fully screened by the topography of the site;
- Positioning of the site infrastructure, so that it is screened in views from the surrounding landscape;
- Retention of all hedgerows along the application site boundaries;
- Off-site removal, re-use and/or recovery of all plant, infrastructure and paved surfaces on completion of quarry backfilling activities;
- Grading of final restored landform at a shallow angle so as to merge in with the surrounding neighbouring land;

- Restoration of the application site to agricultural land, in line with the surrounding agricultural fields.

10.3.2 Site Decommissioning and Restoration Proposals

Upon cessation of recovery activity, all plant and machinery will be removed from site. All hardcore surfaces will be ripped up and topsoil and subsoil (from on-site storage areas) re-spread over the operational area. Restoration grass mix will be sown over the area and maintained as required until such time as it has taken hold. Thereafter the grass will be grazed by farm animals or cut.

Based on an ecological assessment carried out at the site, as well as a request from the NPWS, it is proposed to retain the upper section of part of the eastern quarry face in order to provide a continued nesting habitat for the peregrine falcon observed by the ecologist at this site. The retention of the rock face means that there will be a localised depression within an otherwise uniformly undulating landscape. The exposed quarry face should be allowed to re-colonise naturally to encourage higher levels of biodiversity (refer to EIS Section 4).

10.4 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.4.1 Landscape Impact

10.4.1.1 Landscape Effects

The main effect on the landscape would be a change to the landform, which will return the site almost completely to its original ground levels (i.e. the ground levels prior to any extraction works taking place). While all vegetation along the site boundaries will be retained, some scrub vegetation, which has naturally re-colonised the quarry benches, will have to be removed to facilitate the filling works.

10.4.1.2 Landscape Sensitivity

The Fingal Landscape Character Assessment describes the Coastal Landscape Type within which the site is located as being of exceptional value and high sensitivity, i.e. an area within which *"it is a challenge to locate new development ... without it becoming unduly obtrusive"*. Due to the proximity to the coast, available scenic views of the coastline and general rural agricultural landscape character surrounding the site, as well as the presence of a number of nature conservation sites in the vicinity, the **sensitivity of the landscape surrounding the site is assessed as high.**

10.4.1.3 Magnitude of Landscape Effects

The proposed backfilling of the existing quarry site, will result in the reinstatement of a landform very similar to that present prior to any extraction works taking place. Further to that the land will be restored to agriculture, similar to the surrounding fields and all boundary hedgerows will be retained. Therefore, while an area of 7.9ha will be affected by the proposed works the ultimate outcome will be the reinstatement of the original landform and landscape elements (i.e. agricultural fields), with the exception of a part of the eastern quarry face, which will be retained for ecological gains.

Overall **the magnitude of change will be slight**, i.e. the change arising from the extraction works will be discernible, but the underlying landscape character will be similar to the baseline (refer to Table 10.1 above). It should be noted that the effect will be positive in nature.

10.4.1.4 Importance of Landscape Effects

The sensitivity of the landscape was assessed as high. This combined with the slight magnitude of change results in a **moderate landscape impact** (refer to Table 10.2 above), which will be positive in nature.

10.4.2 Visual Impact

10.4.2.1 Visual Effects

The main visual effects arising from the proposed waste licence activities will be the temporary visibility of the back-filling works and associated HGV movements along the road. On completion of the backfilling works and restoration to agricultural land, the site will merge with the surrounding landscape, both in topography and land-use. Apart from the section of the eastern quarry face, which is to be retained, it will be not be discernible that a quarry was located within the site.

10.4.2.2 Visual Sensitivity

The main visual receptors affected by the proposed waste licence activities are the users of the R127 and of the local roads at Milverton and Loughland to the immediate northwest and west of the site. There are also a number of properties along these roads, which would experience similar views.

There are a number of protected views (and prospects) located along the local roads surrounding the application site, including along the southern end of the road at Loughland to the west of the site and a section of Golf Links road. For this reason, as well as the presence of a number of residential receptors, **the sensitivity of the visual receptors** experiencing views of the waste application site **is assessed as high**.

10.4.2.3 Magnitude of Visual Effects

In the small number of views, where parts of the existing eastern and southern quarry faces are visible (as illustrated by Viewpoints 2, 3, 5 & 9), the majority of the filling activity will not be visible, as the first stages of the works will take place at low elevations within the site. Only towards the end of Phase 3, as it reaches the highest levels along the eastern boundary, will the works become temporarily visible. On completion of all works, including the restoration of the site to agricultural land, the site will look similar to the neighbouring fields and the retained section of the eastern quarry face will be the only reminder that a quarry was previously located within this site.

Considering that only small parts of the application site are visible and the temporary visibility of the works, **the magnitude of the visual effects on views from locations to the northwest, west and southwest, during the operational phase of the development is assessed as slight. This will reduce to negligible/none, on completion of the restoration works**, as the site will be indiscernible at this stage.

The magnitude of change will be the same for the more open view of the existing quarry from the local road to the west of the site (illustrated by Viewpoint 4). While

the filling works will become visible at a slightly earlier stage, they are seen in the context of a wide panoramic view and only take up a small section in the middle ground of this view. Also, the machinery used for the filling works will appear similar to the farm machinery used to cultivate the surrounding fields. On completion of all works, the positive impact of the filling work on the view will be quite prominent, as the site will be seen as the continuation of the neighbouring agricultural land, rather than a large void.

In the views, where parts of the overburden mounds are visible, the activities within the application area will only become visible towards the end of the works, when the stored overburden and soil is removed and used in the restoration of the site. The works will only be visible for a relatively short period of time and the area within which the mounds are located will be returned to their original ground levels, prior to any overburden being stored in this area. Once completed, all that will remain visible is the boundary hedgerows, which will be retained. There will be no reminder that a quarry was located in this area and the site will fully integrate with the surrounding land.

Considering that only the north-eastern corner of the application site is visible and the temporary visibility of the works, **the magnitude of the visual effects on views from locations to the north and east, during the operational phase of the development is assessed as slight. This will reduce to none, on completion of the restoration works.**

10.4.2.4 Importance of Visual Effects

The sensitivity of the visual receptors was assessed as high. This combined with the slight magnitude of visual effects on the available views during the **operational phase for all receptors** results in a **temporary overall moderate visual impact** (refer to Table 10.2 above).

On completion of the restoration works, the visual impact will reduce to none for the vast majority of available views, as the restored site will be indistinguishable from the surrounding area. In those views where the retained part of the existing eastern quarry face will be visible the visual impact will be moderate/minor. However, it should be noted that the quarry face is a long established element within the Milverton landscape and that overall the proposed waste licence activities will result in a positive impact on views. The visibility of the existing quarry will be almost eliminated, as the majority of the site will be returned to its original levels and landuse.

10.4.3 Impacts on Planning Designations

10.4.3.1 Extraction and Aggregates

The proposed development will ultimately improve the landscape quality and visual amenity of the application site, which is in line with Objective EE 35 of the current FDP.

10.4.3.2 Views and Prospects

Only a small section of the application site is visible within a very small number of the protected views identified by the current FDP (refer to Viewpoint 5). Ultimately these views will be improved, as the site is restored to its original landform and landuse. The proposed development is therefore not regarded as inappropriate, as required Objective VP01 of the current FDP.

10.5 SUMMARY

The above landscape and visual impact assessment has found that the landscape and visual impacts, due to the proposed waste licence application are ultimately positive in nature, as the site will be restored to its original landform and landuse and will integrate into the surrounding agricultural land.

The waste licence activities will be temporarily visible from a small number of locations along the roads surrounding the application site, resulting in temporary moderate visual impact.

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FIGURES

Figure 10.1
Landscape Designations & Viewpoint Locations

Figure 10.2
Viewpoints 1, 2 & 3

Figure 10.3
Viewpoints 4, 5 & 6

Figure 10.4
Viewpoints 7, 8 & 9

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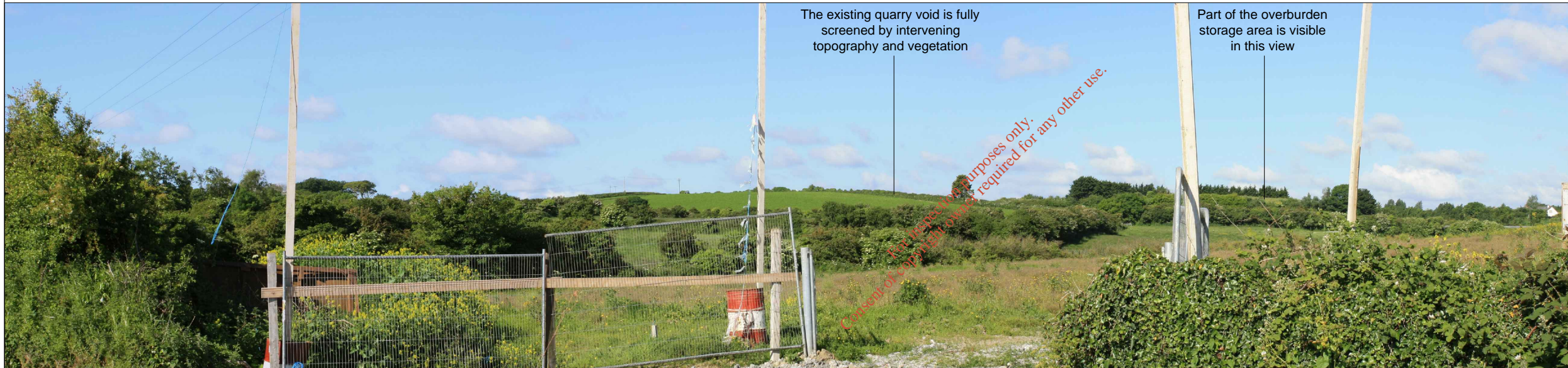
VIEWPOINT 7: View northwest from Golf Links Road, c. 210m southeast of the application site
 Description: The application site is fully screened in views from the majority of Golf Links road, due to intervening topography and vegetation.

NOTES

1. EXTRACT FROM 1:50,000 O.S DISCOVERY MAP NO. 43
2. ORDNANCE SURVEY IRELAND LICENCE NO. SU 0000714 (C) ORDNANCE SURVEY & GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND

LEGEND

- ROADSTONE LTD LAND INTEREST (c. 8.6 ha)
- WASTE LICENCE APPLICATION AREA (c. 7.9 ha)
- VIEWPOINT LOCATIONS
- APPROXIMATE DISTANCE FROM CENTRE OF APPLICATION SITE



VIEWPOINT 8: View west from Golf Links Road, at the location of one the future entrances into the Hacketstown Residential Development, c. 420m east of the application site
 Description: The existing quarry void is fully screened in views from this part of Golf Links road, due to intervening topography and vegetation. Part of the overburden storage area in the northeastern corner of the waste licence application area is visible in this view. The stored overburden will be used in the final restoration of the application site. This corner of the site will be returned to its original ground levels and restored to agriculture. The earthworks will be temporarily visible. However, the boundary vegetation will be retained, and will screen the majority of the works. On completion of all works, none of the application site will be visible, as the ground levels will have been lowered below the level of the boundary hedgerow.



VIEWPOINT 9: View south from the R127 at the site entrance to the existing quarry
 Description: A small section of the eastern quarry face is visible at the site entrance, however the vast majority of the existing quarry is screened by intervening vegetation and topography. The last stage of the in-filling works, as well as the restoration works will be temporarily visible in this view. Once all works are completed only a small section of the quarry face will remain visible (retention of part of the quarry face as habitat for peregrine falcons, as requested by the NPWS). The remainder of the site will be sloped and restored to agriculture to merge with the surrounding land. Any HGVs entering and exiting the site will also be visible for the duration of the waste licence.

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 VIEWPOINTS 7, 8 & 9**

FIGURE 10.4

Scale NTS Date JUNE 2014

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This part of the quarry face will be retained as peregrine falcon habitat

This part of the void will be filled to match the ground levels of the neighbouring land

NOTES

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VIEWPOINT 4: View east from the local road at Loughland, c. 570m west of the application site

Description: This is the most open view available of the existing quarry at Milverton, from the surrounding public roads. However it should be noted that it is only available, as a section of the roadside hedgerow has been removed. A number of private properties to the south of this location experience similar views, however mainly from upstairs windows, due to intervening vegetation. The final phase of the in-filling and the restoration works will be temporarily visible in these views. Once all works are completed only a small section of the upper quarry face will remain visible (retention of part of the quarry face as habitat for peregrine falcons, as requested by the NPWS) . The remainder of the site will have a similar landform to and will therefore merge with the neighbouring land.

VIEWPOINT LOCATION MAP (1:25,000 @ A3)



Part of the eastern face currently visible

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VIEWPOINT 5: View northeast from the local road at Loughland, c. 760m southwest of the application site

Description: As one travels south along this road, more and more of the existing quarry at Milverton is screened by intervening topography . Only a small section of the northeastern quarry face is visible in this view. The last stage of the in-filling works, as well as the restoration works will be temporarily visible in this view. Once all works are completed only part of the quarry face will remain visible (retention of part of the quarry face as habitat for peregrine falcons, as requested by the NPWS). The remainder of the site will be sloped and restored to agriculture to merge with the surrounding land. This photo represents one of the Views & Prospects protected within the current Fingal Development Plan (2011-2017).



The application site is fully screened by intervening topography and vegetation

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WASTE RECOVERY FACILITY,
MILVERTON, SKERRIES, CO. DUBLIN
VIEWPOINTS 4, 5 & 6

FIGURE 10.3

Scale NTS Date JUNE 2014

VIEWPOINT 6: View northeast from Golf Links Road, c. 730m southwest of the application site

Description: The application site is fully screened in views from the majority of Golf Links road, due to intervening topography and vegetation . This photo represents one of the Views & Prospects protected within the current Fingal Development Plan (2011-2017).

00180.00089.18.Fig 10.1-4_LVIA.dwg



This overburden mound will be removed and the land returned to its original ground level and restored to agriculture

VIEWPOINT 1: View south along the R127, c. 230m northeast of the application site

Description: The existing quarry void at Milverton is screened in views from locations along the R127 to the east of the entrance by intervening topography and vegetation. The overburden storage mound in the northeastern corner of the application site is visible in this view. The stored overburden will be used in the final restoration of the application site. This corner of the site will be returned to its original ground levels and restored to agriculture. The earthworks will be temporarily visible. However, the boundary vegetation will be retained, and will screen the majority of the works. On completion of all works the changes will be barely noticeable, as there will be a seamless transition between the application site and the neighbouring land.



The top of the eastern quarry face is visible through a gap in the roadside hedgerow

VIEWPOINT 2: View southeast from the local road at Milverton, c. 330m northwest of the application site

Description: The existing quarry at Milverton is fully screened in most views from this road, due to intervening vegetation and topography. The upper section of the eastern quarry face is visible, where there are gaps in the roadside vegetation and from a number of private properties along the southern side of this road. The last stage of the in-filling works, as well as the restoration works will be temporarily visible in these views. Once all works are completed only part of the quarry face will remain visible (retention of part of the quarry face as habitat for peregrine falcons, as requested by the NPWS). The remainder of the site will be sloped and restored to agriculture to merge with the surrounding land.



Part of the eastern face currently visible

VIEWPOINT 3: View east along the R127, c. 340m west of the application site

Description: Parts of the upper section of the eastern quarry face can be glimpsed, as one approaches the application site from a western direction along the R127. Similar to Viewpoint 2, the last stage of the in-filling, as well as the restoration works will be temporarily visible in views from this section of the road. Once all works are completed only part of the quarry face will remain visible (retention of part of the quarry face as habitat for peregrine falcons, as requested by the NPWS). The remainder of the site will be sloped and restored to agriculture to merge with the surrounding land.

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VIEWPOINT LOCATION MAP (1:25,000 @ A3)



Roadstone

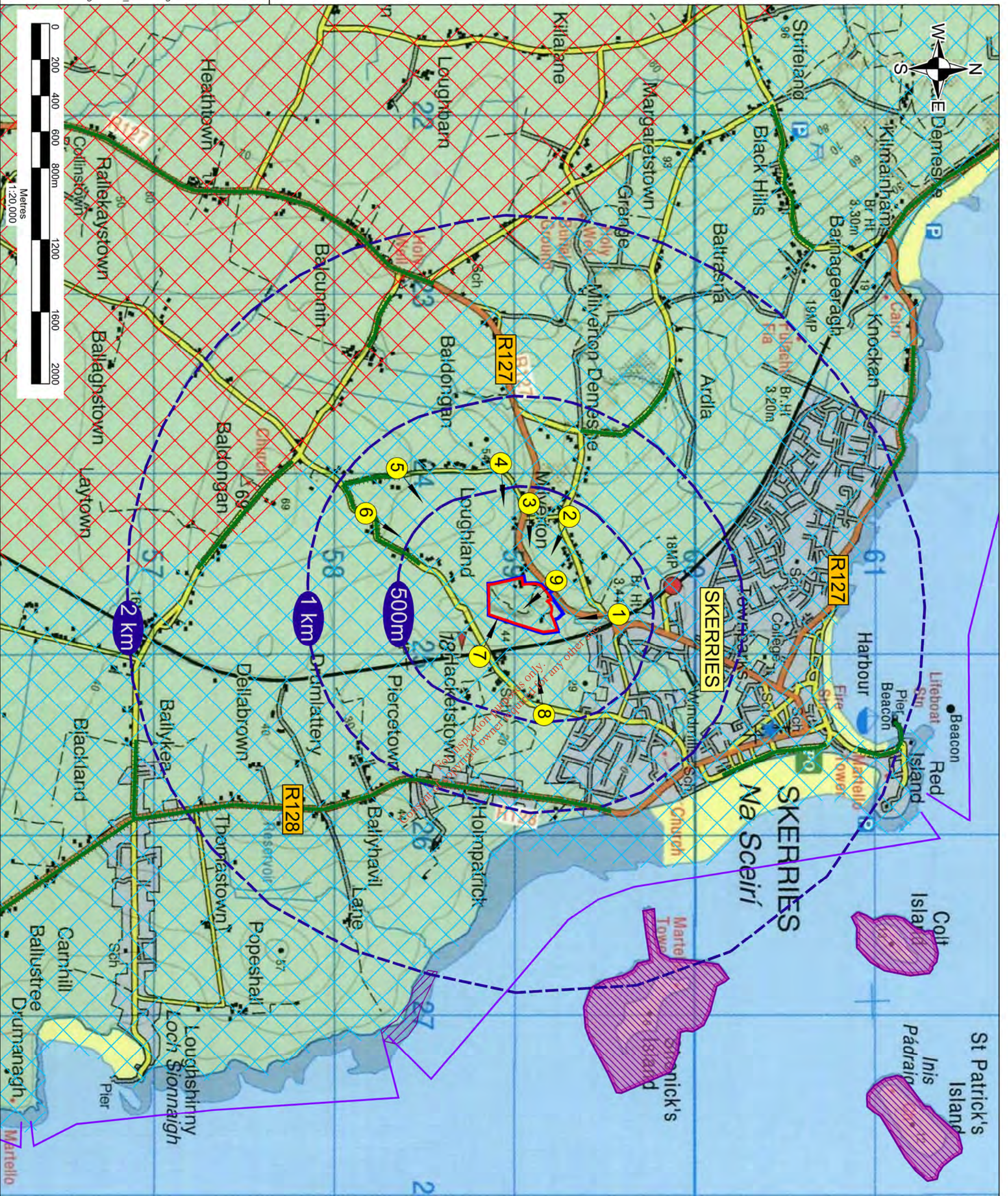
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**ROADSTONE LTD.
WASTE LICENCE APPLICATION
WASTE RECOVERY FACILITY,
MILVERTON, SKERRIES, CO. DUBLIN
VIEWPOINTS 1, 2 & 3**

FIGURE 10.2

Scale	NTS	Date	JUNE 2014
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NOTES

1. EXTRACT FROM 1:50,000 O.S DISCOVERY MAP NO. 43
2. ORDNANCE SURVEY IRELAND LICENCE NO. SU 0000714 (C). ORDNANCE SURVEY & GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND

LEGEND

	ROADSTONE LTD LAND INTEREST (c. 8.6 ha)
	WASTE LICENCE APPLICATION AREA (c. 7.9 ha)
	VIEWPOINT LOCATIONS
	APPROXIMATE DISTANCE FROM CENTRE OF APPLICATION SITE
LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS:	
	PRESERVED VIEWS AND PROSPECTS
	SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS (SPAs)
	NATURAL HERITAGE AREAS (NHAs)
	PROPOSED NATURAL HERITAGE AREAS (pNHAs)
	COASTAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE
	HIGH LYING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE
	COASTAL VISUAL COMPARTMENTS

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VIEWPOINT LOCATIONS

FIGURE 10.1

Scale 1:20,000 @ A3 Date JUNE 2014