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**N&C Enterprises Ltd.** 

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the Pit, Kilmeage,

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4th September 2003

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# **NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

# PROPOSED RESTORATION OF 'THE PIT', KILMEAGE, CO. KILDARE

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#### **NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

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# PROPOSED RESTORATION OF 'THE PIT', KILMEAGE, CO. KILDARE

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Master Plan for the Company's Landholdings

N&C Enterprises Ltd. (N&C) operates a sand and gravel extraction and processing business at 'The Pit', Kilmeage, Co. Kildare. The location of the Kilmeage Pit is shown on Figure 1 (attached). The lands have been used for sand and gravel extraction for greater than 60 years. These lands comprise deep excavations with steep walls.

The current site area under the ownership of N&C is estimated at 6.5 hectares in total, and is depicted on Figure 2 (attached). As the life of the pit is nearing completion, N&C propose to restore the lands to form a rounded hill that would tie into the ground levels of the surrounding lands.

The current Master Plan for the landholding is to backfill the pit with inert materials imported onto the site. Following complete of the backfill operations, the site would be eturned to agricultural use and/or utilised for further development for the local community, subject to a planning permission.

#### 1.2 Overview of Restoration Plan

The site requires restoration work as it represents both a possible bealth and safety hazard, and a scar in the landscape immediately adjacent to the centre of the village of Kilmeage. N&C propose to backfill the void with imported inert materials, sourced from various locations and will include existing clients of N&C.

#### 1.3 Source of Materials

Materials to fill the void will come mainly from existing clients of N&C, who operate mainly in the building trade. Collection of the materials will be fully managed by N&C's existing transport fleet, and Waste Collection Permits from those areas where materials will be collected will be sought.

Based on an average projected filling rate of 46 loads per day on average, it is estimated that the void would be filled within a 6-year time frame based on filling this void with inert materials.

#### 2. THE PROPOSED FACILITY

The application site comprises a largely redundant sand and gravel pit adjoining the village of Kilmeage. At present there are some extraction and processing activities being carried out. Sand and gravel extraction and processing operations have been undertaken at the Kilmeage site from the 1940s to the present. The application site is ca. 6.5 ha in size and is depicted on Figures 1 and 2 (attached).

## 2.1 The Proposed Development

The Applicant proposes the following works:

- · Paving the site access road with macadam surface
- Planting and landscaping sections of the site boundary
- Importing inert materials from sources such as Builders'/Construction and Demolition (C&D) wastes over a ca. 6 year period
- · Placing, levelling and compacting imported materials
- Grading and seeding completed areas of the site on a phased basis over an 8 year period

# 2.2 Waste Quantities

The estimated volume of material required to fill the existing pit is 950,000 m<sup>3</sup>. This volume corresponds some 1.5 million tonnes of heavy construction and demolition wastes such as soil, stones, broken concrete, tiles, and macadam (assuming an average density of 1.6 t/m<sup>3</sup>).

# 3. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

#### 3.1 Existing Environment

The application site comprises a largely redundant sand and gravel pit. At present there are some extraction and processing activities being carried out. The character of the existing landscape is one which is typical for this type of north Kildare rural setting, and includes slightly elevated sand and gravel deposits in an otherwise lower-lying bog landscape.

# 3.2 Emissions from the Proposed Development

The potential emissions from the proposed development are:

- Dust
- Noise
- Surface water from the temporary wheelwash
- Traffic outside the site

Natural resources will not be used during the restoration of the pit, apart from the small quantities of materials that will be needed to produce concrete and macadam, fossil fuels and groundwater.

# 3.3 Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures

There are no archaeological or ecological features within the proposed area for restoration. Dust and noise levels are slightly elevated due to current site activities, however proposed mitigation measures will result in a reduction of these levels. If all mitigation measures are employed, there will be no impact on soils, surface waters or groundwater. There will be a net environmental gain in terms of landscape.

Table 1 below outlines the Mitigation Measures and Likely Significant Effects resulting from the proposed restoration of 'The Pit', Kilmeage, Co. Kildare.

**Table 1. Mitigation Measures and Likely Significant Effects** 

Item	Mitigation Measures	Likely Significant Effects
Air quality	Use of suppression measures to prevent the generation of dust from the facility	None if mitigation measures are put into place
Climate	None Required	• None
Cultural Heritage	None Required	• None
Flora and Fauna	<ul> <li>Trees and hedgerows around the perimeter of the site will be retained:</li> <li>Additional planting of native trees (such as ash, oak) and shrubs (such as hawthorn, blackthorn) around the perimeter of the site</li> </ul>	None if mitigation measures are put into place
Human Beings (traffic)	Current trip numbers to the site will diminish over time     The maximum number of trips to the site during restoration will be 76	None as trip numbers will diminish over time
Soils, Geology and Groundwater	<ul> <li>Liquid from temporary wheel wash will drain to a soakaway</li> <li>Fuel and lubricant will be stored in appropriate double-lined tanks</li> <li>Regular monitoring of groundwater (levels and chemical parameters)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>None if mitigation measures are put into place</li> </ul>
Landscape	Enabling landscape works to provide enhanced screening through hedge- plantings, woodland maintenance and berms	<ul> <li>None if mitigation measures are put into place</li> </ul>
Noise	Screening berms, tarmacing of entrance to facility	<ul> <li>None if mitigation measures are put into place</li> </ul>
Surface water	<ul> <li>Surface water that could potentially contain contaminants is to be directed to a soakaway</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>None if mitigation measures are put into place</li> </ul>
Material Assets	<ul> <li>Other than the road network, use of fossil fuels, power and water supply, material assets and natural resources will not be consumed</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>None if mitigation measures are put into place</li> </ul>

#### 4. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

As the restoration of the site is envisaged to take ca. 6 years to complete, it is proposed to undertake annual monitoring at the site. The proposed monitoring regime is presented in Table 2 below:

Table 2. Proposed Monitoring at 'The Pit', Kilmeage, Co. Kildare

Monitoring Parameter	Frequency	Comments	
Dust	Annual	It is proposed to monitor dust at the locations shown in Figure 2. Complaints will be recorded and appropriate actions taken	
Noise	Annual	It is proposed to monitor noise at the locations shown in Figure 2	
Groundwater Monitoring	Annual	A minimum of one upgradient and three downgradient boreholes will be sampled and analysed over the course of the restoration programme	







