

ATTACHMENT E6 ENVIRONMENTAL NUISANCES

General

Backfilling and restoration activities at the North Quarry and West Quarry at Huntstown requires a number of environmental controls to eliminate or minimise the potential nuisance to the public arising from the importation, placement and compaction of inert waste soil and stone. Some of the environmental control measures implemented at the existing licenced facility are outlined in sections below.

The quarry backfilling and restoration works being undertaken at Huntstown are regulated by conditions attaching to the existing grant of planning permission issued by Fingal County Council and the waste licence issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Any additional control measures required on foot of the planning application to increase the rate of soil and stone waste intake and/or this waste licence review application will also be implemented.

Bird Control

As the soil and stones being placed / recovered at the North Quarry and West Quarry are free of putrescible (food / kitchen) waste, site activities are unlikely to attract scavenging birds such as gulls and crows for the duration of the restoration works. Accordingly, it is not intended to implement any specific bird control measures at the facility.

In the unlikely event that any putrescible waste is identified among imported materials, it shall be immediately removed to the waste quarantine area pending removal off-site to a licenced waste disposal or recovery facility.

Dust Control

In dry, windy weather conditions, the quarry backfilling and restoration activities may give rise to dust blows across, and possibly beyond the quarry complex / application site. In order to control dust emissions, the following measures are / will be implemented:-

- water is sprayed from a tractor drawn bowser on dry exposed surfaces (paved roads, unsealed haul roads and hardstand areas)
- dust blows are partially screened by the quarry side walls as backfilling progresses upwards (this is more relevant and significant at the North Quarry). As the level of the backfilled materials approach the final (original) surface levels, they will be topsoiled and seeded with grass on a phased basis. This will help to minimise soil erosion and potential dust emissions;
- the area of bare or exposed soils will, insofar as practicable, be kept to a minimum. If necessary, consideration will be given to establishing temporary vegetation cover over temporary exposed soil surfaces and/or stockpiles pending backfilling and restoration to final ground levels;
- all HGV's exiting the recovery facility are routed through the existing wheelwash facility along the egress route to the R135 North Road. This minimises the transport of fines by HGVs over the access / egress road and the public road network;
- stockpiling of imported soil materials will be minimized. Soils will ideally be placed and compacted in-situ immediately after being imported to site and end tipped. If and when temporary stockpiling of soil is required, it will be placed as far as practicable from nearby residences.

The amount of dust or fines carried onto the public road network is further reduced by periodic sweeping of internal paved site roads and surrounding public roads as required. It is possible that the increases in soil and stone waste intake may necessitate increased road cleaning effort when potentially adverse (dry, windy) weather conditions arise.

Fire Control

As the soil and stones being placed / recovered at the Huntstown facility are free of flammable materials and biodegradable waste which could create a fire or explosion risk, on-site soil and stone waste recovery activities will not present a fire risk for the duration of the backfilling operations. Accordingly, there is no requirement to implement specific fire control measures at the facility.

Notwithstanding this, the following operational practices will be implemented in order to prevent fire at the application site:

- (i) smoking at the application site, at the recovery facility / weighbridge office and canteen is prohibited

- (ii) any biodegradable or flammable waste included in materials imported to site is immediately transferred to the waste quarantine area pending removal off-site to an authorised waste disposal or recovery facility
- (iii) plant and equipment is removed if they exhibit signs of overheating etc.

In the unlikely event that a fire does occur, the local fire stations in Finglas and Swords will be contacted and emergency response procedures will be implemented. Fire extinguishers (water and foam) are provided at all offices to deal with any small outbreaks which may occur.

Litter Control

As the materials being placed at the Huntstown recovery facility are largely free of litter, the backfilling and restoration activities are unlikely to give rise to problems with windblown litter. Accordingly, there is no requirement to implement any specific litter control measures at the facility.

In the unlikely event that any litter waste is identified among the imported waste materials, it will be immediately removed to the waste quarantine area pending removal off-site to an authorised waste disposal or recovery facility.

Traffic Control

Waste recovery activities at Huntstown North and West quarries will require the importation of 9,450,000 tonnes of inert soil and stone waste in order to backfill the quarry voids to their original ground level. This is equivalent to approximately 472,500 HGV return trips (at 20 tonnes per load) in order to completely backfill the quarry voids.

Based on recent experience, Roadstone has defined a relatively optimistic scenario where it would be possible to fill the voids at the North and West Quarries in approximately 6 years from 2017 with an annual permitted waste intake of up to a maximum of 1,500,000 tonnes per annum. Although it is likely that it could take longer to fill the quarry voids as a result of future fall back in construction related activity, the 6 year scenario forms the basis for modelling and assessment of traffic impacts.

Assuming a maximum annual intake of up to 1,500,000 tonnes / year is approved, this would correspond to an average of 24 trips per working hour over a 11 hour working day (equivalent to 48 movements per hour), in and out of the Huntstown facility (an increase of 12 trips (or 24 movements) per hour over and above the current permitted maximum).

As indicated in Chapter 13 of this Environmental Impact Statement, intensification of operations at the waste recovery facility will have no adverse impact on traffic flows along the existing North Road (the former N2 National Primary Road).

Based on its experience of comparable high levels of demand over the early months of 2016, Roadstone has contingency measures in place to ensure safe and orderly queuing of HGV traffic along the existing network of internal paved roads, should it be required when periods of intense or elevated demand occur.

Vermin Control

As the soils and stones being placed / recovered at the Huntstown recovery facility are free of putrescible (food / kitchen) waste, on-site activities will not attract vermin (rats) for the duration of the backfilling operations. Accordingly, no specific vermin control measures are implemented at the facility.

In the unlikely event that any putrescible waste is identified among imported materials, it shall be immediately transferred to the waste quarantine area pending removal off-site to a licenced waste disposal or recovery facility.

Odour Control

Any vegetation or organic materials which are present around the floor and sides of each quarry has been / will be uprooted and/or cut back, chipped, removed and recycled off-site prior to commencement of backfilling activities.

The soil and stone waste being imported and recovered is inert, inorganic and free of biodegradable material and/or organic contamination. It will not therefore break down and emit odorous gases over time.

In the absence of any organic waste, the recovery activities at the Huntstown facility are highly unlikely to rise to odour nuisance and therefore no requirement to implement any specific odour control measures at the facility.

In the unlikely event that any organic and/or biodegradable waste is identified or suspected among imported soil and stones wastes, it will be immediately removed to the waste quarantine area pending removal off-site to an authorised waste disposal or recovery facility.

Mud Control / Road Cleansing

HGV movements around the recovery facility at Huntstown Quarry will generally be over hardstanding and/or paved ground. As such, the proposed development would not be expected to give rise to significant quantities of mud, clay or dust being carried off-site onto the local road network.

Haul routes / paved and unpaved areas within the recovery facility will be regularly inspected and maintained as required as part of routine 'housekeeping' operations in order to minimise potential accumulation of mud on wheels of HGV lorries.

In order to further minimise transport of mud, clay and dust onto the public road network, all HGV and tipper truck exiting the recovery facility are routed through the existing wheelwash facility along the egress route leading to the R135 North Road. In addition, a road sweeper is deployed to ensure local public roads are cleaned as and if required.

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