

## ATTACHMENT 17 – ASSESSMENT OF ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS

There are no designated or proposed Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs) within or contiguous to the existing licensed waste recovery facility or application site or Roadstone's wider landholding at Huntstown. No designated sites will be directly or indirectly impacted by the proposed increase in the rate of waste intake to the existing licensed inert soil recovery facility at Huntstown Quarry.

The proposed increase in the waste intake rate to the existing licensed inert soil recovery facility at the North Quarry is not likely to have any implications on protected or important species.

The backfilling of the West Quarry will result in the direct loss of habitats supporting protected species including: Irish hare and common frog evaluated as being of Local (higher) value; and smooth newt at County value.

However, through the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures (principally species relocation), it is considered that the proposed increase in the permitted waste intake rate is not likely to have a significant impact on the local population status of these species. It is envisaged that following relocation of smooth newts from the West Quarry to a suitable receptor site, ongoing population monitoring will be undertaken at the receptor site.

While the proposed increase in the permitted waste intake rate to the soil recovery facility will not result in any loss of important habitats, there will be a loss of a number of ponds formed in the base of the West Quarry that are of Local (higher) value following the stripping of topsoils and overburden. However, due to extant planning consent for quarrying and backfilling operations in the West Quarry, these habitat areas would otherwise be lost through continuation of quarrying at this location and/or permitted backfilling. The impact of this previously permitted development is considered significant at a Local (higher) level.

Details of the existing (baseline) ecological environment and the impact of the increased waste intake at the existing recovery facility and associated emissions thereon are provided in Chapter 4 of the Environmental Impact Statement which accompanies this waste licence review application.

For inspection purposes only. Consent of copyright owner required for any other use.