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# INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 This Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) provides supporting information to accompany a Planning Application to Fingal County Council by Roadstone Limited in respect of a proposed increase in the permitted waste intake to its existing licensed inert soil and stone recovery facility at the Huntstown Quarry Complex at North Road, Finglas, Dublin 11, from a maximum of 750,000 tonnes per annum at the present time to 1,500,000 tonnes per annum in future years.
- 3.2 The restoration of the entire quarry complex at Huntstown comprising backfilling of 4 separate quarry voids using imported soil and stone waste has previously been granted planning permission (Ref. FW12-0022 and An Bord Pleanála (ABP) Ref. 241693). An existing EPA waste licence (Ref. W0277-01) only applies in respect of ongoing backfilling and waste recovery activities at the North Quarry.
- 3.3 The entire development and restoration at Huntstown was subject to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) under Planning Ref. FW12-0022 and ABP Ref. 241693. For impact assessment purposes, a maximum projected soil and stone waste intake rate of 750,000 tonnes per annum was assumed in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which accompanied the planning application. As such, this is the *de-facto* upper limit on permitted waste intake for backfilling of the quarries within the Huntstown complex.
- 3.4 As noted, the proposed development provides for an increase in the permitted maximum limit for inert waste intake from 750,000 tonnes per annum to 1,500,000 tonnes per annum. In the short to medium term future, the intensification of backfilling and waste recovery activities will be confined to the North Quarry and West Quarry at Huntstown. The extent of the application site to which this planning application applies is shown in Figure 3-1.
- 3.5 In addition to obtaining permission for an increase in the maximum annual limit of soil waste intake, it will also be necessary to submit a separate waste licence review application to the EPA to obtain a similar increase in the maximum annual intake limit set by the current waste licence (Ref. W0277-01). The waste licence review application will also make provision for extension of the existing licensed area (which is limited to the North Quarry) to include backfilling and recovery activities at the West Quarry.
- 3.6 This chapter of the Environmental Impact Statement addresses the impact on human beings and the human environment of the proposed development.
- 3.7 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. The chapter includes, but is not limited to, consideration of economic activities, existing amenities and sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the site.

# RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

## Outline of Baseline Study and Methodology

- 3.8 The townlands of Huntstown and Kilshane, in which the inert soil recovery facility and application site lies, are located within the District Electoral Division (DED) of The Ward in north-west County Dublin and within the administrative area of Fingal County Council.
- 3.9 The baseline study of the Huntstown, Johnstown and Kilshane townlands, with regard to human beings, comprises a review of the census information (2002, 2006 and 2011) for The Ward DED, Fingal County and the Greater Dublin Area; Live Register Statistics from the Irish National Organization of the Unemployed and other local information sources. As at the time of writing, the preliminary results of the 2016 Census had not been published.
- 3.10 A survey of existing residential housing in the Huntstown and Kilshane areas 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.
- As the site is located approximately 2.5km northewest of Finglas, this study will 3.11 also have regard to Finglas and its immediate environs. It is considered that future development around Finglas will exert a strong influence on the lives of those currently living and working in and around the Huntstown area. tion put

### **Planning Context**

- The application site incorporating the existing North Quarry, the existing West 3.12 Quarry and the licensed ipertwaste recovery facility straddles the townlands of Kilshane, Johnstown and Huntstown in north-west County Dublin. It is located approximately 2.5 km porthwest of Finglas, 2km north-east of Corduff, and 3.5km north-east of Branchardstown village, Dublin 15. The application site is currently accessed from the R135 Regional Road, known locally as the North Road (the former N2 National Primary Road) to the east.
- A small number of existing residences are located in close proximity to the 3.13 inert soil recovery facility. The nearest residential property is located approximately 80m north-west of the West Quarry along Kilshane Road. A further three properties are also located to the west of application site along Kilshane Road. Within 500m of the existing recovery facility and application site, there are a further three residences, all located to the east along the R135 North Road. There is another single residential located to the south of the application site / recovery facility. The existing housing pattern in the vicinity of the application site is shown on Figure 3.1.
- 3.14 A review of planning and land use designations published on the website www.myplan.ie by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government website indicates that:
  - there are no designated European or national nature or habitat conservation sites in the vicinity of the site. The nearest such sites are Broadmeadow / Swords Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) and Malahide Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC) to the north-east and the Royal Canal proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA) to the south;

- the quarry complex is not designated a Natural Heritage Area (NHA)or a proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA);
- some areas of the Huntstown Quarry complex are at (low) risk of pluvial flooding, caused by ponding rainfall. This is due solely to the fact that surface water run-off collects at low points in the quarry voids and immediate off-site drainage is impeded;
- there are recorded monuments located along the northern boundary of the Huntstown Quarry complex (DU014-012001-, a church; DU014-012003- a holy well; DU014-012002-, a burial ground). There are also other recorded monuments located in the vicinity, but not within the Huntstown Quarry complex;
- there are no buildings identified on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage in the immediate vicinity of the application site;
- the majority of address points recorded in the vicinity of the Huntstown Quarry Complex are commercial buildings. There are some residential properties identified along the North Road and the Kilshane Road.
- 3.15 The current Fingal County Development Plan (2011 2017) indicates that:
  - the Huntstown Quarry Complex is partly zoned HI (heavy industry) and partly zoned RU (rural);
  - there is a historic graveyard to the north of the quarry complex;
  - the quarry complex is not located in a Highly Sensitive Landscape;
  - the quarry complex is located within the development boundary;
  - the quarry complex is close to the airport, but it is not located within the inner public safety zone; where
  - it is located, however, partly within the inner airport noise zone, the outer public safety zone and the outer airport noise zone
  - the landholding is the subject of Local Objective No. 450 (which stipulates that development should be limited by the capacity of road infrastructure)
  - protected structure No. 663 (ruins of Kilshane Church and Holy Well) lies within the quarry complex and application site (close to its northern boundary);
  - an indicative metro route and stop is located to the south of the quarry complex;
  - the surrounding lands are zoned for heavy industry (HI), general enterprise and employment (GE) and rural related development (RU);
  - much of the quarry complex is designated a Nature Development Area;
  - there are recorded monuments along the northern boundary of the quarry complex.
- 3.16 Under the current Fingal County Development Plan 2011 2017, the Huntstown Quarry complex is the subject of two zoning objectives. The first provides for heavy industry<sup>1</sup> and the second seeks to "*protect and promote in a*"

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The objective vision is to *"Facilitate opportunities for industrial uses, activities and processes which may give rise to land use conflict if located within other zonings. Such uses, activities and processes would be likely to produce adverse impacts, for example by way of noise, dust or visual impacts. HI areas provide suitable and accessible locations specifically for heavy industry and shall be reserved solely for such uses."* 

balanced way, the development of agriculture and rural related enterprise, biodiversity, the rural landscape, and the built and cultural heritage"<sup>2</sup>.

- 3.17 Lands immediately west and south of the quarry complex, lands to the southeast, around the junction of the M50 Motorway and the N2 Dual Carriageway, and lands to the east are zoned to facilitate general employment. Lands to the north-east of the quarry complex are zoned as greenbelt and form a boundary between urban and rural areas. A small area to the north-east is zoned to provide for distribution, warehousing, storage and logistics.
- 3.18 The Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010 2022 identifies the site within the 'Metropolitan' area. Given its location in close proximity to transportation corridors as identified by the regional planning guidelines (specifically the N2 Dual Carriageway / M2 Motorway, the M50 Motorway and the N3 Dual Carriageway / M3 motorway), the Huntstown complex is located in close proximity to and within easy reach of designated 'Consolidation Towns' within the Metropolitan Area and 'Large Growth Towns' and 'Moderate Sustainable Growth Towns' within the Hinterland Areas

### Demography

3.19 The application site comprises existing quarry voids within the Huntstown Quarry complex (known as the 'North Quarry' and the 'West Quarry') in the townlands of Kilshane, Johnstown and Huntstown. It lies in the District Electoral Division (DED) of The Ward, which had a population of 5,181 people at the time of the 2006 Census and a population of 8,241 at the time of the 2011 Census. This DED is relatively rural in nature and demographic trends in the area generally minor those in Fingal and North County Dublin generally. Details of past and predicted demographic trends are provided in Tables 3-1 and 3-2 below;

	Colle			Actual		
Area	2002	2006	2011	Change 2006 - 2011	% Change 2006 - 2011	
The Ward DED	1,308	5,181	8,241	3,060	59.1%	
Fingal County Council	196,413	239,992	273,991	33,999	14.2%	
Dublin County and City	1,122,821	1,187,176	1,273,069	85,893	7.2%	

#### ूले Table 3- 1 Recent Population Trends

Source: Census of Population 2002, 2006, 2011 C.S.O.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The objective vision is 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 and a high level of natural features".

Area	2006 Census	2016	2022	% Change 2006 - 2022
Dublin City	506,211	563,513	606,110	19.7%
Dun Laoghaire / Rathdown	194,038	222,800	240,338	23.9%
Fingal	239,992	287,547	309,285	28.9%
South Dublin	246,935	287,341	308,467	24.9%
Kildare	186,335	234,422	252,640	35.5%
Meath	162,831	195,898	210,260	29.1%
Wicklow	126,194	164,280	رم بر 100,800	40.1%
Greater Dublin Area	1,662,536	1,955,800	2,103,900	26.5%

 Table 3- 2

 Population Targets for Greater Dublin Area and Mid East Region

Source: Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010 - 2022

- 3.20 Demographic trends over the period 2002 and 2006 (as shown in Table 3-1 above) indicate that, over this period, there has been a marked increase in the population of The Ward (atmost 300%), with a more moderate increase in the population of Fingal (of 22%). The rate of growth in The Ward and Fingal decreased over the period 2006 2011, but remained comparatively high at 59.1% and 14.2%, respectively.
- 3.21 Current population projections estimate that the population of Fingal will rise to approximately 288,000 in 2016 and 310,000 by 2022. The projected population figure for 2022 would equate to a 28.9% increase on official population figures contained in the 2006 census and a c.13.1% on the population identified in the 2011 census. Significant population increases are also predicted for the other Dublin regions as well as the Mid East region over the period 2006 2022. In conjunction with this local and regional trend in population growth, there will be an associated increase in demand for housing and community facilities within the Greater Dublin area.

### Employment

3.22 According to the May 2016 Live Register statistics, there were 74,727 persons in County Dublin on the live register. This figure has dropped from 83,500 in May 2015 and 94,940 for the same time in 2014. The current figure is however in stark contrast to May 2006, when the number of unemployed stood at 39,628 persons. The current unemployment figure of 74,727 for County Dublin represents an increase of 88% on the May 2006 figure, but also represents an improvement on more recent statistics.

3.23 A breakdown of the industry in which those at work are employed is provided below in Table 3-3. Employment by Industry in The Ward and Fingal follows a broadly regional pattern with the highest participation in the commerce and trade and professional services sectors being the most common category of industry. A higher proportion of employees are engaged in manufacturing in the Ward and Fingal than in the Dublin Region.

	The Ward <sup>3</sup>		Fingal⁴		Dublin Region <sup>5</sup>	
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing	26	0.07%	993	1.2%	2,003	0.37%
Building and Construction	151	3.9%	2,194	2.65%	18,544	3.5%
Manufacturing Industries	386	10.2%	8,936	10.8%	39,522	7.12%
Commerce and Trade	1,056	27.9%	22,776	oth27.5%	164,565	30.4%
Transport and Communications	604	15.9%	22,776 16,670 <sup>13, an</sup>	20.1%	64,802	11.9%
Public Administration	184	4.86%		4.97%	35,343	6.5%
Professsional Services	781	20,65%	18,467	22.3%	130,320	24.1%
Others	593 cons	15.6%	8,582	10.37%	85,630	15.8%
Total	3,782		82,738		540,729	

Table 3- 3 Employment by Industry

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

3.24 The main employment locations in the area surrounding the Huntstown Quarry complex are the business and technology campus facilities of Northwest Business Park, Ballycoolin Business Park, Millennium Business Park, Rosemont Business Park and Blanchardstown Corporate Park. All of these employment centres are located within a large industrial and commercial block which lies immediately to the west and south-west of the application site, between it and Blanchardstown / N3 Dual Carriageway.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> http://www.cso.ie/en/census/census2011smallareapopulationstatisticssaps/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> http://census.cso.ie/areaprofiles/areaprofile.aspx?Geog\_Type=CTY&Geog\_Code=04

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> http://www.cso.ie/en/census/census2011smallareapopulationstatisticssaps/

## **Economic Activities**

- 3.25 There are two principal types of economic activity prevalent in the Huntstown and Kilshane areas, namely
  - agriculture
  - industry

### Agriculture

3.26 Many of the lands located immediately around the Huntstown Quarry complex are currently used for agricultural activity and enterprise, typically tillage and grazing. Most of the land surrounding the Roadstone landholding, however, has been zoned for industrial development, and this is gradually displacing agricultural activity in the area. The exception to this is the land to the northeast, on the eastern side of the N2 Dual Carriageway, which remains zoned as greenbelt in order to demarcate the northern urban limit of Dublin City.

#### Industry

- 3.27 There has been active extraction of limestone at the Huntstown Quarry complex dating back to the late 1960s. It is a long established activity and has provided employment in the area continually since its commencement right up to the present day. Quarrying and concrete batching activities are the main activities carried out at the site. Aggregate and concrete products from the site are dispatched across North County Dublin and into Counties Meath and Louth. There is also a retail stone paying outlet at the site which trades as Roadstone Retail and provides decorative stone and paving to the commercial and DIY markets. It is one of four retail centres operated by Roadstone in the Dublin area and one of four retail centres.
- 3.28 There is one other quarry in the surrounding area, located in the townland of Bay approximately 1.5 kilometres north-west of Huntstown. This quarry is owned by Irish Asphalt Ltd., although it is not currently in operation.
- 3.29 In 2002, Viridian successfully commissioned its first high efficiency 340 MW Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) power plant in Ireland at Huntstown. The power plant is located within the Huntstown Quarry complex and shares an access road with traffic to the quarry and existing licensed waste recovery facility. In October 2007, Viridian commissioned a second CCGT power plant of 400 MW capacity on the same site.
- 3.30 In November 2013, Stream BioEnergy Limited obtained planning permission for construction of a Renewable Bioenergy Plant to generate up to 3.8MW of electricity from 90,000 tonnes of imported non-hazardous biodegradable waste per annum using Anaerobic Digestion (AD) technology site within the Huntstown Quarry complex. The planned facility, which has not yet commenced construction, is located on a 2.4 hectare site to the south of the Viridian power plant and shares the access road to the R135 North Road.
- 3.31 One of the main employment hubs of north-west Dublin lies west and south of Huntstown Quarry complex. This area includes the business and technology campus facilities of Northwest Business Park, Ballycoolin Business Park, Millennium Business Park, Rosemount Business Park and Blanchardstown Corporate Park. Many large distribution warehouses and multinational companies are located within these business parks.

- 3.32 There are also a number of small local enterprises and other organisations based in the vicinity of the application site and quarry complex, including a garden centre, a car sales business, a dog rehoming centre and a veterinary surgery, all of which are located along the North Road / R135 Regional Road. Business parks and local enterprise locations are identified in Figure 3.1.
- 3.33 Fingal County Council had previously planned to develop a waste recycling park at Kilshane Cross to the north-east of the application site, and although some site infrastructure was put in place, the development ultimately did not proceed as intended. This site is now for sale and it is understood that Fingal County Council no longer intends to develop a recycling facility at this location.

## **Existing Amenities**

- 3.34 As previously noted, the Kilshane / Huntstown area is predominantly rural in nature. It has no churches, schools, retail outlets (apart from Roadstone's paving shop) or service industries.
- 3.35 There are a wide variety of recreational, social, community and sport facilities within 4km of the site in the Blanchardstown and Finglas areas, which are available to local residents in Kilshane / Huntstown townlands. These include golf courses at Elm Green, Hollystown and Sillogue, the national aquatic centre at Abbotstown and a range of football pitches, gyms and tennis courts located at both Blanchardstown and Finglas. There are also community and resource centres located at Blakestown in Blanchardstown and the Fingal Centre in Finglas.
- 3.36 The Fingal County Development Plan indicates that the townlands of Kilshane, Johnstown and Huntstown lie within the designated low lying agricultural landscape character area. There are no protected views or prospects into or out of the application site identified in the Plan, nor are there any designated or proposed Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) or proposed Natural Heritage Areas (NHA's) within or contiguous to Roadstone landholding. It is understood that a geological exposure of the contact between the Tober Colleen and Waulsortian formations at the Central Quarry was previously identified as a possible geological / geomorphological heritage feature by the Geological Survey of Ireland although, to date, no formal designation as an NHA has occurred.
- 3.37 Records held by the National Monuments Service of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government indicate that there are a number of national monuments within and in the immediate vicinity of Roadstone's landholding. At the northern end of the application site, the ruins of Kilshane Church, a graveyard and holy well (Ref. DU014-012) are identified as part of an extended archaeological site. These features are also included in the list of protected structures in the Fingal County Development Plan. There are no visible remains of these monuments remaining in situ.
- 3.38 Immediately east of Roadstone's landholding, the National Monuments Record (NMR) indicates that there is an enclosure (Ref. DU014-015) and ring fort (Ref DU014-016) located in Coldwinter townland, on the opposite side of the North Road. These features are also included in the list of protected structures in the County Development Plan. A castle, motte (earthen mound) and bailey (courtyard) (Ref. DU014-013) is located north-east of the landholding in Newtown townland, while a fulacht fia (Ref. DU014-050), a Bronze Age cooking site, is located to the west in Grange townland.

### **Sensitive Receptors**

- 3.39 There is significant separation distance between the licenced inert waste recovery facility at the North Quarry, the West Quarry and potentially sensitive receptors. The most critical sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the application site comprise four private residential properties which lie beyond the application site and within 250m of the application site boundary. These properties are identified in Figure 3-1. Six other residential properties located at a greater distance from the application site (up to 500m) are also identified in Figure 3-1.
- 3.40 There are a number of established businesses located in Millenium Business Park, located immediately beyond the southern and south-western boundary of the West Quarry. As many of the established businesses within the business park are classified as heavy industry, in line with the land zoning, it is considered that, although closer, they are likely to be less sensitive to the permitted development and the proposed intensification of backfilling and recovery activities at the adjoining quarry complex.

# IMPACT OF PROPOSED WASTE FACILITY

- 3.41 The previously approved backfilling and restoration of the North Quarry and the West Quarry requires ongoing importation of excess inert soil and stones generated by construction and development works across North County Dublin, and possibly further afield, in Counties Meath and Louth. Some aggregate will also be imported on occasion to construct temporary internal haul roads across the backfilled ground as and when required. As previously noted, the proposed development provides for an increase in the existing permitted rate of backfilling from 750,000 tonnes per annum to 1,500,000 tonnes per annum. In other respects, the previously permitted development will not change significantly.
- 3.42 The duration of the quarry backfilling works is ultimately dependent on the rate of backfilling but is expected to be between 6 and 12 years. If the maximum permitted intake is increased to 1,500,000 tonnes per annum, as provided for in this application, and that quantity is imported to the recovery facility in each subsequent year it operates from 2017, both quarries will be backfilled within 6 years, by 2023. If the average importation rate averages out at 750,000 annum, backfilling will take approximately 12 years and be complete around 2029.
- 3.43 The location and intensity of associated environmental impacts at receptors will vary somewhat as the active backfilling area moves across the application site over time. The increase in the rate of backfilling and recovery will however ensure that the duration of any effects will be reduced as compared to the duration of the backfilling development that is currently permitted.
- 3.44 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.
- 3.45 The impact of the proposed increase in the rate of backfilling at the North Quarry and the West Quarry on human beings and socio-economic factors is addressed in the following sub-sections by means of an appraisal of the effects of the proposed development on the environment in general, of which human

beings are an integral part. The proposed increase in the rate of recovery activities at the application site also have the potential to generate a number of direct and indirect effects on the relevant socio-economic baseline characteristics of the surrounding area

## **Residential Amenity**

3.46 Potential negative impacts on human beings and the amenity of the surrounding area arising from the proposed development relate mainly to potential nuisance from noise, dust, traffic, and visual effects. All such impacts would however be temporary in nature, arising for the duration of the recovery operations, but effectively ceasing on completion of the backfilling and restoration works at the quarries.

#### Dust and Noise Related Impact

- 3.47 Detailed assessments of the potential effects of the proposed development on air quality and the noise environment are detailed in Chapters 8 and 9 of this EIS. The potential for the proposed increase in waste intake to generate additional dust and noise impacting local residential property has been assessed having regard to baseline monitoring data and modelling potential impacts using accepted methodologies.
- 3.48 Impacts are most likely to arise at those properties fronting onto the Kilshane Road) when the active backfilling and restoration works are being undertaken at the western end of the waste recovery facility. The increase in the rate of backfilling will however ensure that the duration of any effects will be less than that previously anticipated by previous planning and waste licence applications.
- 3.49 A number of mitigation measures are recommended to ameliorate any potential adverse effects, principally through good housekeeping and the adoption of best operational practices. Existing perimeter screening berms and the separation distance between dust and noise sources and sensitive receptors both provide significant attenuation of any dust and noise emissions likely to be generated by the increase in waste recovery activity.
- 3.50 Existing mitigation measures were demonstrated to be effective when there was a short-term increase in the intensity of waste recovery activities at the North Quarry in the early months of 2016. The assessments presented in Chapters 8 and 9 of this EIS indicate that existing and/or proposed mitigation measures to ameliorate potential adverse effects, will minimise potential dust and noise impacts experienced at nearest sensitive receptors and ensure that no significant adverse residual dust and noise impacts arise from the proposed development.
- 3.51 In the unlikely event that residual effects should occur, any such effects would be insignificant, intermittent, temporary and short-term and would cease upon cessation of the proposed recovery activities.

#### Traffic

3.52 The projected increase in the rate of backfilling and recovery will have a significant impact on traffic movements and on overall traffic flows in and out of the quarry complex. An assessment of these impacts, taking due account of planned development and potential increases in output levels from established aggregate and concrete production activities at Huntstown quarry are assessed in Chapter 13 of this Environmental Impact Statement

- 3.53 The Traffic Impact Assessment in respect of the proposed increased intake of inert soil and stone via the R135 Regional Road (North Road) and the surrounding road network, and the resultant increase in HGV traffic movements, will not have a significant adverse effect on traffic safety or on the capacity of roads and junctions surrounding the Huntstown quarry complex.
- 3.54 Given established land uses and existing traffic levels along the R135 North Road and N2 Dual carriageway immediately to the east, it is considered that the increased traffic movements generated by the proposed development will not result in any significant adverse residual effects on the residential amenity of properties along the designated access and egress routes.
- 3.55 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 Huntstown quarry complex, with consequent improvement of the human environment.

#### Labour Market and Employment

- 3.56 The proposed intensification of activity will have a very minor positive impact as regards employment levels. It is envisaged that the number of dedicated staff directly employed at the facility is likely to increase from 4 full time equivalents (FTE) at present to possibly 6 FTE once the projected increase in waste intake and recovery materialises.
- 3.57 Although there will also be an increase in haulage related activity at the Huntstown recovery facility and an increase in the numbers of people indirectly employed by the activity, this would be more reflective of the general level of activity in the construction and development sectors rather than as a direct consequence of the proposed intensification of activity at the recovery facility.

#### Land Use

3.58 The proposed increase in the rate of backfilling would ensure that the duration of impacts on the human and natural environment would be less than that anticipated at the time planning permission and a waste licence were issued in respect of backfilling and recovery activities at the Huntstown facility.

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- 3.59 Another long-term benefit of the proposed backfilling will be reinstatement of the subject lands to a beneficial use and the removal of potentially unsightly and unsafe quarry voids from the landscape. These impacts are considered to be permanent, minor and positive. An assessment of landscape and visual impacts associated with the proposed development is presented in Chapter 10 of this Environmental Impact Statement
- 3.60 The proposed development will bring forward the final restoration of the North and West quarries, making them available at an earlier date than might previously have been envisaged for productive agricultural use in the immediate short term (following restoration) and for potential re-development for zoned industrial and enterprise activity thereafter.

### Interaction with other Environmental Receptors

3.61 As mentioned above, all environmental factors ultimately impact upon, and interact with human beings to some degree or other. These impacts are discussed in detail in the relevant Chapters of this Environmental Impact Statement as follows: -

- Chapter 6 Hydrology and Hydrogeology •
- Chapter 8 Air Quality •
- Chapter 9 -- Noise •
- Chapter 10 Landscape
- Chapter 12 Material Assets
- Chapter 13 Traffic

### Cumulative Effects

- 3.62 Other than the recent grant of planning permission for an anaerobic digestion (AD) plant at the Huntstown guarry complex, there is no other planned developments in the vicinity of the application site which has the potential to have any significant adverse cumulative effects on the local environment.
- 3.63 The only impact associated with the proposed AD plant which has the potential for significant cumulative impact is that of traffic. This is assessed and discussed in the traffic impact assessment presented in Chapter 13 of this EIS. That assessment concluded that planned development would not have any significant adverse cumulative impact on junction capacity and traffic safety along the R135 North Road or across the local road network.
- It is considered in light of the available assessments that the proposed 3.64 increase in the rate of backfilling of the North Quarry and West Quarry at Huntstown will not have any significant adverse cumulative effect on human esor beings. 205 required

# MITIGATION MEASURES

- Mitigation measures to be accepted during the quarry backfilling will relate 3.65 primarily to minimising any impacts of the project on surrounding sensitive receptors (primarily associated with noise, dust and traffic). These measures are discussed in the following chapters of this EIS:
  - Chapter 8 Air Quality •
  - Chapter 9 -- Noise •
  - Chapter 10 Landscape
  - Chapter 12 Material Assets •
  - Chapter 14 Traffic
- In addition, to the proposed mitigation measures, it is anticipated that impacts 3.66 associated with the proposed intensification of recovery activity could be controlled by further conditions attached to any planning permission granted by Fingal County Council and/or conditions attached to any waste licence review undertaken by the Environmental Protection Agency.
- 3.67 In view of the continued rock extraction, processing and concrete production activities at the Huntstown Quarry complex, the existing grant of planning permission for backfilling activities, the established backfilling and recovery operations and the existing EPA waste licence, it is anticipated that intensification of established waste recovery activities will not give rise to any significant adverse impact on human beings. As detailed elsewhere in this EIS, the recovery activities will continue to be subject to ongoing monitoring to ensure compliance with emission limit values (ELV's) set by planning and/or waste licensing consents.

FIGURES on to any other use. FIGURES I Figure 3- 1 Local Residential and Business Locations

SLR CONSULTING IRELAND

