

Attachment-4-3-9-Waste Hierarchy

1. Waste Hierarchy Consideration

The European Union's waste management hierarchy is a series of waste management options, presented in decreasing order of environmental and economic desirability. The hierarchy states that the preferred option is prevention and minimisation, followed by re-use, recycling, recovery, with the least desirable option being landfill. The overall intent of these policy statements is to move Irish waste management away from disposal and towards the more favoured options higher up the hierarchy. Section 29(2A) of the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended states that it shall be the duty of waste producers and holders to ensure that waste undergoes recovery operations in accordance with sections 21A (Waste Hierarchy) and 32(1) of the Waste Management Act.

The Waste Framework Directive defines recovery as:

'any operation, the principal result of which, is waste serving a useful purpose by replacing materials which would otherwise have been used to fulfil a particular function, or waste being prepared to fulfil that function, in the plant or in the wider economy'.

MSK Silversands proposed to import waste inert soil to Ballinarooaun Quarry from the construction industry. Considering the cost implications associated with excavation and management of soil, it is assumed that during design stage of construction works that the amount of soil excavated on construction sites will be minimised to avoid unnecessary costs. Similarly, it is assumed that inert soils would be re-used insofar as possible on-site and that only excess material not suitable for re-use will be exported from construction sites. As soil cannot be recycled, recovery of excess soil from construction sites would form the next tier under waste hierarchy. Ballinarooaun Quarry shall provide such facility for the recovery of excess (waste) inert soil from the construction industry.

The most recent waste management data available for Ireland is presented in the *National Waste Report (2012)* which was published by the EPA in August 2014 and states that Ireland achieved all its EU obligations across a broad range of waste legislation in relation to recycling, recovery and diversion targets. The Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) has a target for Dec 2020 of *preparing for reuse, recycling and other material recovery (incl. beneficial backfilling operations using waste as a substitute) of 70% by weight of C&D non-hazardous waste*; However, this target excludes natural soils & stone.

While there are no national or EU targets specified for the recovery of soil and stone, as per the above the Waste Management Planning Regions have highlighted a lack of treatment capacity for soil & stones. The proposed development shall provide much need capacity for soil and stone recovery in the South-East region and promotes appropriate segregation and recovery of inert waste in the construction and demolition industry.

The backfill of the quarry void via recovery of inert soil will be beneficial in the restoration of the original landform of the Screen Hills, returning the habitat of the site similar to that prior to quarrying activities.

Topsoil and overburden stripped from site and extracted material not suitable of commercial sale are considered not to be waste and are valuable assets at the facility which shall be re-used as essential material in the restoration of the site.

Pre-waste acceptance checks shall minimise the likelihood of unacceptable waste being delivered to the facility. In the event that unacceptable waste is delivered to the facility, the Waste Acceptance and Waste Storage procedures for the facility shall ensure waste management of these wastes are carried out in such a manner so that:

- 1 Segregation is undertaken to minimise waste volumes,
- 2 Maximum recycling/reuse of waste is undertaken, where feasible,
- 3 All waste will be handled and contained in a safe manner,
- 4 All disposal of waste will be carried out by a licensed contractor and will present no risk to the environment.

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