

PROJECT THRESHOLD - PLANNING

Planning permission for the restoration all existing and planned future quarries at the Huntstown quarry complex was obtained in August 2014 (Fingal County Council Ref. No FW12A-0022, An Bord Pleanála Ref. No. 06F.241693).

This planning permission provides for the importation and recovery of naturally occurring waste, principally excess soil, stones and/or broken rock from construction and development sites, to completely backfill and restore the voids created by the previous extraction of overburden soils and limestone bedrock.

Part 1 and Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) identify the nature and scale of development that requires mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

Paragraph 2(b) of Part 2 of Schedule 5 states that the following form of development is to be subject to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and requires submission of an EIAR with any application for planning permission:

Extraction of stone, gravel, sand or clay where the area of extraction would be greater than 5 hectares.

Paragraph 11 of Part 2 of Schedule 5 also states that the following development is also to be subject to EIA

(b) Installations for the disposal of waste with an annual intake greater than 25,000 tonnes not included in Part 1 of this Schedule.

As both of these criteria applied when Roadstone sought permission in 2012 for

- (i) continued working of pre-existing and planned future quarries at Huntstown and
- (ii) long-term quarry restoration by backfilling to former ground level (through recovery of imported soil and stone waste and/or placement of soil by-product),

there was a requirement for EIA in respect of the existing approved development under Part 2 of Schedule 5, and the planning application was accompanied by an Environmental Impact Statement.