

Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report:  
**Glenmore Quarry Refurbishment**



**For: Monaghan County Council**  
**Date: 15 September 2023**

## Table of Contents

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **2. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT**

### **3. RELEVANT LEGISLATION**

### **4. SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT**

#### 4.1 Project Class

#### 4.2 Infrastructure Projects

#### 4.3 Sub-threshold Development – EIA Screening

### **5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### REFERENCES

## **Note**

Works, plans, methodologies, materials, and infrastructural requirements are based on the client's brief, draft plans, and drawings provided to Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants of September 2023.

## **Statement of Authority**

This Appropriate Assessment Screening has been carried out by suitably qualified and experienced professionals of Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants. These were Louise MacElwain, BSc, MSc and Billy Flynn BSc, MSc, MCIEEM, CEnv.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Refurbishment works are proposed at Glenmore Quarry, Carrickroe,, Co. Monaghan. The purpose of this project is to repurpose the quarry to allow for the storage of road-construction materials here. The works will include the construction of a concrete hard-standing area, the provision of weighbridge and wheel wash facilities for the reception, storage and transfer of inert waste at Glenmore Quarry, Carrickroe, Co. Monaghan

Flynn, Furney Environmental Consultants Ltd has been engaged by Monaghan County Council for the provision of an environmental impact assessment screening report for the proposed works. The principal requirement for these services is to assist the relevant authorities in forming an opinion as to whether or not the proposed works should be subject to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and if so whether an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) should be prepared in respect of it.

Monaghan County Council is the lead agency in the development of this project.

The screening process includes an assessment of the details of the proposal with reference to the relevant EIA legislation including the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended by Planning and Development Regulations 2015), the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU (as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU) and relevant EU Guidance including *Interpretation of definitions of project categories of annex I and II of the EIA Directive*, EU, 2015 and *Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects Guidance on Screening*, EU, 2017. The report provides a conclusion of the process and finally a recommendation.

## **2. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT**

Monaghan County Council are seeking Part 8 Planning Permission for the refurbishment and repurposing of a disused quarry. This is in order to provide a location for the storage of materials that are to be recycled for road-finishing purposes. The primary inert materials will be in the form of road planings which will be required to be stored annually in a central location. On an annual basis, these stockpiled materials will be processed into a cold-mix reclaimed asphalt pavement material for the structurally rehabilitating the regional and local road network.

Particulars of the development comprise as follows:

- A. The construction of a concrete hard-standing area
- B. The installation of a weighbridge
- C. Wheel wash facilities
- D. Site Office (portacabin)
- E. Welfare facilities for staff



**Fig. 1.** The existing disused quarry and surrounding lands at Carrickroe. Base mapping from [maps.apple.com](https://maps.apple.com)



**Fig. 2.** Location of works in relation to Slieve Beagh Special Protection Area (pink hatched area) Base orthophotography from [dahg.maps.arcgis.com](http://dahg.maps.arcgis.com)



**Fig. 3.** Site Layout of proposed facilities at refurbished quarry



### 3. RELEVANT LEGISLATION & SCREENING METHODOLOGY

Screening is the first stage in the EIA process, whereby a decision is made on whether or not EIA is required. This Screening Assessment was undertaken with regard to the following legislation and guidance:

- Roads Act 1993, the Roads Regulations 1994 and the EIA (Amendment) Regulations 1999;
- The Planning & Development Act 2000, the Planning & Development (Strategic infrastructure) Act 2006 and the Roads Act 2007;
- Guidance on EIA, Screening, European Commission, 2001
- EIA, Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-threshold Development, DoEHLG, 2003
- Environmental Impact Assessment of National Road Schemes – A Practical Guide (NRA, 2008).
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities, 2009.
- Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (Draft) - EPA 2017
- European Directive EIA 2014/52/EU<sup>1</sup>
- Transposition of 2014 EIA Directive (2014/52/EU) in the Land Use Planning and EPA Licencing Systems. Key Issues Consultation Paper by Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (DOHPCLG, 2017).
- European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 S.I. No.277 of 2011

EIA requirements derive from the EIA Directive (Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU). The amended Directive came into force on 16th May 2017 and regulations transposing it into national legislation have been enacted. No changes to the prescribed project

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<sup>1</sup> [Directive 2014/52/EU](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (OJ L 124, 25.4.2015, p. 1).

types or thresholds are required under the amended Directive so the types and thresholds set out in the 2001-2010 Regulations remain in effect.

EIA legislation as it relates to the planning process has been largely brought together in Part X of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2018 and Part 10 and Schedules 5, 6 and 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2018. Part 1 of Schedule 5 to the Planning and Development Regulations lists project types included in Annex I of the Directive which automatically require EIA. Part 2 of the same Schedule, lists project types included in Annex II. Corresponding developments automatically require EIA if no threshold is given or if they exceed a given threshold. Developments which correspond to Part 2 project types by are below the given threshold must be screening to determine whether they require EIA or not. This is done by consideration of criteria set out in Schedule 7.

EIA legislation sets down the types of projects that may require an EIAR. Annex I defines mandatory projects that require an EIAR and Annex II defines projects that are assessed on the basis of set mandatory thresholds for each of the project classes.

The EIA screening exercise initially assesses the development for Mandatory EIA using classifications defined in the appropriate legislation. Where no mandatory requirement is concluded, screening advances to sub-threshold development assessment, where the competent authority evaluates whether the project is likely to have a *significant* effect on the environment, with reference to its scale, nature, location and context.

## **4. SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT**

### **4.1 Project Class**

EIA legislation defines the types of projects that may require an EIAR. *Annex I* defines mandatory projects that require an EIAR and *Annex II* defines projects that are assessed on the basis of set mandatory thresholds for each of the project classes.

### **4.2 Project Class Definition**

The proposed development does not readily classify under any of the classes of development as given in Article 4(1).

In addition, this project has been further considered under the relevant list of activities which warrant discretionary consideration for the requirement of an EIA. This applies to those projects listed in Annex II of the EIA Directive and Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended. The proposed scheme at Glenmore does not fall within the list of activities requiring discretionary EIA as set out in the legislation.

Development class 15 in part 2 of Schedule 5 notes that sub-threshold development applies to any project that may have likely significant effects which does not equal or exceed or, as the case may be, a quantity, area or other limit specified in Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended in respect of the relevant class of development. Specifically, the following is set out under Class 15 in Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended: Any project listed in this Part which does not exceed a quantity, area or other limit specified in this Part in respect of the relevant class of development but which would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, having regard to the criteria set out in Schedule 7.'

Having regard to this sub-threshold development criteria and the relative environmental sensitivity of the proposed scheme, this EIA Screening Report has been prepared to provide sufficient information to enable the competent authority to undertake screening against any

potential likely significant effects that may occur. Given the scale of the existing disused quarry and the facilities to be provided through the proposed development, it is the opinion of Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants that any significant effects to the surrounding environment are unlikely to occur during construction or operation for the proposed development.

In conclusion, the proposed development does not fall within the projects or classes of development as defined by the parameters set out in Annex I and Annex II of the EIA Directive and Part 1 and Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended. As such, it is considered that the proposed development is a sub-threshold development for the purposes of this EIA Screening.

Article 120(a)(1)(a) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, requires that prior to screening a project for EIA: -

*Where a local authority proposes to carry out a sub-threshold development, the authority shall carry out a preliminary examination of, at the least, the nature, size or location of the development.*

This preliminary examination is given in the following section.

#### **4.3 Preliminary Examination**

The 'preliminary examination' is required to find out if: (i) there is any likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development; (ii) there is significant and realistic doubt in regard to the likelihood of significant effects on the environment; or (iii) there is a real likelihood of significant effects on the environment. In instance (i) no EIA is required. In (ii) the project needs to be screened for EIA using prescribed screening criteria. In (iii) an EIA is required and no further screening is necessary.

In the case of the subject development, it can be seen on preliminary examination that the development is small in scale and will not give rise to any significant emissions. It could be

concluded on this basis that there is 'no real likelihood of it causing significant effects on the environment' and that an EIA is not required.

It should be noted however, that the development involves the construction of facilities in a rural setting in a quarry that has become disused for some years. Given this context it would therefore be appropriate to adopt a cautious approach and to take the view that there is significant and realistic doubt in regard to the likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development.

In accordance with the Regulations, it is considered appropriate to proceed further and to screen the proposal in order to form an opinion as to whether or not the proposed development should be subject to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

**Conclusion:** The proposed scheme does not fall within the mandatory requirement for an EIA as addressed in EU Directive 85/337/EEC (as amended by Directive 97/11/EC). The proposed scheme does not readily conform to any prescribed project type and is not in an urban setting. Neither does the project contain any characteristics of typical uses of quarries, active or disused. However, given the rural nature and character of the receiving environment and in order to adopt a cautious approach with regard to possible environmental impacts, the proposed works should be screened for EIA. These proposed works are thus assessed as a sub-threshold development.

## 1. SUB-THRESHOLD DEVELOPMENT - EIA SCREENING

A key determinant of the necessity for Environmental Impact Assessment of sub-threshold projects is whether or not such works are likely to have *significant* effects on the environment. The 1997 amending Directive (97/11/EC) introduced guidance for Member States in terms of deciding whether or not a development is likely to have a “significant effect on the environment.”

These criteria have been transposed fully into Irish legislation in the third schedule of the European Communities Environmental Impact Assessment (Amendment) Regulations 1999, (SI No.93 of 1999) and in Schedule 7 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (SI No 600 of 2001) as amended by Planning & Development Regulations 2008. This has been updated by transposition of the 2014 EIA Directive (2014/52/EU) which amends Directive 2011/92/EU<sup>2</sup>). Guidance is provided by use of criteria set out in Annex III of the new Directive. These criteria as transposed in Irish legislation are grouped under three headings and are used to assist the screening process in determining whether a development is likely to have a significant effect on the environment. The three headings and criteria details as given in Annex III are given below:

Heading	Criteria
1. Characteristics of proposed development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the size and design of the entire proposed development</li><li>• the cumulation with other existing and/or approved development</li><li>• the use of natural resources</li><li>• the production of waste</li><li>• pollution and nuisances</li><li>• the risk of major accidents (with regard to substances or technologies used)</li><li>• the risks to human health</li></ul>

<sup>2</sup> Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (codification) (OJ L 26, 28.1.2012, p. 1).

2. Location of proposed development	The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by proposed development, having regard in particular to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the existing and approved land use</li><li>• the relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources in the area and its underground</li><li>• the absorption capacity of the natural environment in particular, wetlands, coastal zones, mountain and forest areas, nature reserves and natural parks, areas protected under the Habitats Directive / Birds Directives, other protected areas, densely populated areas, protected landscapes of historical, cultural or archaeological significance.</li></ul>
3. Type and characteristics of potential impacts	The potential significant effects of proposed development in relation to criteria set out under paragraphs 1 and 2 above, and having regard in particular to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the magnitude and spatial extent of the impact (geographical area and size of the affected population)</li><li>• the nature of the impact</li><li>• the transboundary nature of the impact</li><li>• the intensity and complexity of the impact</li><li>• the probability of the impact</li><li>• the expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of impact</li><li>• the cumulation of the impact with the impact of other existing and/or approved projects</li><li>• the possibility of effectively reducing the impact</li></ul>

The project at Carrickroe is therefore considered under the above criteria (as set out in Schedule 7) in the tables below.

CRITERIA (Schedule 7)		RELEVANCE	RATIONALE
<b>1. Characteristics of Proposed Development:</b>  The characteristics of the proposed development, in particular:	The size of the proposed development	No	The site to be developed is small (c. 0.5 ha). The entirety of the scheme footprint will be on lands previously used for extraction and processing of stone
	The cumulation with the proposed development	No	No projects have been identified as having cumulative impacts with this present project.
	The use of natural resources	No	No significant natural resources will be required to complete the project. Resources required will be limited and will largely be extant in-situ.
	The production of waste	No	Waste produced during the construction process is anticipated to be minimal and insufficient to cause significant effects. Any such materials (as suitable) may be reused within the site (e.g. stone, gravel, chippings). Otherwise any non-usable waste will be brought to a construction and demolition recycling centre for reuse.
	Pollution and nuisance	No	Impacts such as noise and dust will be kept within acceptable standards. No polluting activities are predicted as being necessary for this project. Road traffic to the site will increase to bring and remove materials. However, the establishment of a central depot for materials will reduce traffic on busier roads. As such, overall pollution and nuisance impacts are anticipated to be negligible.
	The risk of accidents having regard to substances or technologies used.	No	Any potential risks are anticipated as being negligible given the nature and very limited scale of the proposed development. No novel technology, techniques or materials will be used.



CRITERIA (Schedule 7)	RELEVANCE	RATIONALE
<p><b>2. Location of the Proposed Development:</b> The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by proposed development, having regard in particular to:</p>	The existing land-use	No The site proposed for development is a disused quarry. No lands will be removed from productive economic use.
	The relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources in the area and its underground	No No significant impacts are anticipated given the low sensitivity of the areas proposed for development. These are species-poor habitats which have been modified by previous quarrying activity. An ecological survey was carried out here and no natural areas of higher value are proposed to be impacted upon. It should be noted that the facility will be located within a previously quarried area and no further areas are proposed for extraction or other development.
	The absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas:	
	Wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths;	Yes Ecological surveys of the site were carried out in October 2022. There are no wetland or riparian areas to be impacted upon by the proposed development. An unnamed stream flows in an approximately north-south direction through the site. This appears to arise from a spring in the north-western corner of the previously quarried area. There were few macrophytes within this. The stream may be of fisheries significance. The stream is unnamed but is likely to be a 3 <sup>rd</sup> Order Tributary of the Mountainwater River, itself a Tributary of the Monaghan Blackwater. Both of the latter are known to be salmonid watercourses.  However, there are no in-stream works or riverbank works proposed on this stream. Works in this area proposed carried out as per best practice will ensure no indirect impacts on this watercourse. Therefore, no significant impacts on this watercourse are predicted.

	Coastal zones	No	None coastal zones occur within area of proposed development.
	Mountain and forest areas	Yes	There is no montane or alpine habitat within the area proposed for development. The site is within 0.5km of a conifer plantation. Given the nature of the proposed development, works will not result in any indirect impacts on afforested areas.
	Nature Reserves and National Parks	No	None of these occur within area of proposed development.
	Areas classified or protected under legislation, including special protection areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC	No	Area proposed for development is not under any such designation. An Appropriate Assessment Screening exercise was carried out on the proposed project (October 2022) and this concluded that there will be no likely significant effects on any Natura 2000 site.
	Areas in which the environmental quality standards laid down in legislation of the EU have already been exceeded.	No	N/A
	Densely populated areas	No	N/A

	Landscapes of historical, cultural archaeological significance	No	A search of the Sites and Monuments Records (SMR) and the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) was carried out. Brindley (1986) has no records of significant finds here. There were no sites of historical, cultural archaeological significance found to be located within the area proposed for development. It should be noted again that no extraction or excavation will be required.
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CRITERIA (Schedule 7)		RELEVANCE	RATIONALE
3. Type and characteristics of potential impacts:	the magnitude and spatial extent of the impact (geographical area and size of the affected population)	No	Any potential impacts arising from construction are considered to be insignificant, given the very small scale of the proposed development and the short duration of works that would be required. No negative impacts on populations are expected given the absence of any residences within or close to the area. The completed development will allow a central location for storage and distribution of road-repair materials. This will reduce overall traffic volumes on Monaghan roads. Positive impacts on the local population may therefore be expected in the long-term.
	The nature of the impact	No	Short-term visual impacts may be anticipated during construction phase. Impacts such as noise and dust will be kept within acceptable standards. As there are no sensitive receptors within the zone of influence of the works, no significant impacts are anticipated.
	the transboundary nature of the impact	No	The works are proposed c.1.95km from the border of Co. Monaghan with Co. Fermanagh. However, there being no pathway for impacts, no transboundary impacts are anticipated.
	the intensity and complexity of the impact	No	Any impacts are considered insignificant given size and scale of development (as above). No significant negative impacts are predicted. Short-term visual and nuisance impacts may occur. However, long-term positive impacts may be predicted.
	the probability of the impact	No	No significant negative impacts are predicted. Short-term visual and nuisance impacts may occur. However, long-term positive impacts may be predicted.
	the expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of impact	No	No significant negative impacts are predicted. Short-term visual and nuisance impacts may occur. However, long-term positive impacts may be predicted.

	the cumulation of the impact with the impact of other existing and/or approved projects	No	A number of other proposed and ongoing developments were reviewed. No plans, proposals or developments that could have a cumulative impact with this present project may be anticipated.
	the possibility of effectively reducing the impact	No	No significant negative impacts are predicted. It is not considered that any mitigation measures are required to be prescribed in order to reduce any impacts given the nature and scale of the proposed works.

## 6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is concluded that the **characteristics of the proposed development** would not be considered likely to have significant effects on the environment. This is based primarily on the limited size and scale of the proposed works and low potential to have significant impacts. No other projects emerged from the screening process with which the proposed works may have significant cumulative impacts.

It is concluded that there will be no significant direct or indirect impacts by virtue of the **location of the proposed development** on the receiving environment. This is based primarily upon the absence of any impacts predicted upon any protected sites such as Nature Reserves, parks or Natura 2000 Sites. The site is within a disused quarry. However, the works do not have potential for any significant impacts on this site given that no excavation or extraction will be involved. This area has previously been highly modified for the extraction of stone.

It is concluded that the **type and characteristics of the potential impacts** would not be considered significant. This is based primarily upon the limited size and scale of the proposed works. Impacts on landscape, soils and geology are not considered significant, given the previously worked location, as well as the very limited nature and scale of works.

Given the size and scale of the proposed development and the absence of any other projects or plans known at time of writing, no significant **cumulative impacts** are considered likely.

The assessment has been carried out on the proposed works as a **sub threshold development**. The overall conclusion of this screening exercise is that there should be no specific requirement for a full Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposed development.

## REFERENCES

Brindley, A. (1986) *Archaeological Inventory of Co. Monaghan*. The Stationery Office, Dublin.

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