

EA DETERMINATION SHEET

Applic. No. **A/2011/0115/F**

Date Received **02.03.2011**

Case Officer: **Clare Louise O'Neill**

Proposal: **Extension to quarry including consolidation and deepening of extraction areas previously approved under planning consents A/1998/0635/F and A/442/75, retention of entrance gates and security fence, installation of wheel-wash, weighbridge and office use, use of mobile crushing and screening plant (mobile jaw crusher, mobile cone crusher and mobile screener), native species planting, landscaping and full site restoration**

Location: **Gortree Quarry, Gortree Road, Gorticross, Londonderry, BT47 3LN**

Deadline for Determination: **30.03.2011**

Extension of time requested: **15.06.2011** Date Agreed:

Does the development fall within the scope of Schedule 1 of the above Regulations: - **No**

Does the development fall within the scope of Schedule 2 of the above Regulations: - **Yes**

If 'Yes' which category: -

2 (A) - The carrying out of development to provide quarries, open-cast mining and peat extraction (unless included in Schedule 1)

What are the likely environmental effects of the project:-

Dust – Due to the nature of the proposal, dust will be generated from blasting operations on site, loose material on site and from traffic transporting the material off site

Noise – Due to the nature of the proposal, noise will be generated from on site processing and the removal of the material from the site and occasional blasting.

Visual amenity – The site is visible from the Gortree Road on approach from the south. Proposed bunding of the southern boundary and removal of the existing plant will improve the visual integration the site has with the surrounding environment.

On approach to the site along the Gortree Road, the site is very exposed across the southern access and southern boundary. Security gates and fencing line the western boundary of the site and the front of the access has been concreted. Existing plant is located to the front of the site, however this is to be removed and replaced with mobile plant.

Loss of fauna and flora - Due to the nature of the proposal there was a loss of fauna and flora as the development involved the removal of material.

Occupants close to the site may be affected by the aforementioned issues.

Were consultations necessary to complete the environmental assessment determination? If YES please specify.

Yes, the following bodies have been consulted;

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| NIEA: Natural Heritage | Derry Environmental Health Department |
| NIEA: Water Management Unit | Roads Service |
| DOE: Landscape | DOE: Development Plan |
| DARD: Countryside Management | |

Having fully considered the likely environmental effects as detailed above and upon receipt of advice from the above consultee's any environmental impacts which occur will be identified and mitigated through the normal planning process.

Are the environmental effects likely to be significant:- **NO**

Recommended Determination

An Environmental Statement is not required for the following reasons

Specify below

The development falls within Schedule 2 (A) of the Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999.

Gortree Quarry is an existing hard rock quarry located off the Gortree Road approximately 115m south-east of No.110 Gortree Road. The site has been in operation from 1975 when operations were first approved under application A/442/75. The quarry is operated by AS Ballantine Ltd who is a leading provider of crushed stone in the local area. The site is approximately 5km east of Derry, which is a large regional hub market for aggregates.

The site was not in operation at the time of inspection as works were being postponed until Planning approval has been obtained to carry out the necessary next stage of blasting.

The site is visible from the Gortree Road on approach from the south. Proposed bunding of the southern boundary and removal of the existing plant will improve the visual integration the site has with the surrounding environment.

On approach the site is very exposed across the southern access and southern boundary. Security gates and fencing line the western boundary of the site and the front of the access has been concreted. Existing plant is located to the front of the site, however this is to be removed and replaced with mobile plant.

Due to the nature of works, all stockpiles of material are kept on the working quarry floor which limits their visual impact and risk of dust pollution.

Operations propose to deepen the site and progress extraction predominately eastwards and slightly north-eastwards.

The Department has determined that the proposal, while meeting the Schedule 2,2(a) threshold

does not merit the submission of a complete Environmental Statement. However during the scoping exercise carried out by the Department the following comments were received from statutory consultees and subsequently additional information will be required. This information can be requested as additional information within the normal planning process.

NIEA: WMU

The development would appear to have the potential to impact on local surface water and/or groundwater resources. Hence some level of assessment of this risk would normally be expected to allow NIEA Water Management Unit to form an opinion on the application. WMU cannot comment on the application until such information is received.

Derry EHO

The potential impact of the proposal in terms of noise, vibration and dust should be addressed either by way of acoustic consultants noise report, blast induced vibration study & dust mitigation report or as part of an Environmental Statement should your Department, after taking the views of consultees in relation to the potential impact of the development, determine a statement is necessary.

NIEA: Natural Heritage

The proposal is located approximately 1.3 km away from the River Faughan and Tributaries Candidate Special Conservation Area (cSAC) and Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI). A Test of Likely Significance under the Habitats Regulations of the impact of the proposal on the SAC has been carried out. NIEA are content that no significant effects will result from the proposal. A separate assessment of the impact of the proposal on the ASSI has also identified that no significant effects will result.

A site visit was carried out on 19 April 2011. The site is composed of an existing quarry with improved grassland and gorse scrub to the east of the quarry. There is low nature conservation value on site. Following assessment of the landscaping and restoration proposals we are content that restoration proposals will ensure enhancement of biodiversity on site. Native plant species listed within the planting schedules should be of local provenance.

Roads Service

- A fully detailed topographical survey;
- A fully detailed and dimensioned design of the site;
- Fully detailed cross sections;
- Details of the proposed haul route;
- Details of passing bays if required;
- Assessments of all junctions leading to the proposed site, this should include auto tracks;
- Access details to include sight splays, drainage, gradient etc;
- Details of the number of vehicles using the site, (existing and proposed);
- Details of wheel washing facility.

Landscape Architects

Landscape Architects Section has considered all the available information in relation to this application, including in particular the 'Landscape Plan & Planting Plan' and the 'Restoration Plan' which were omitted from the previous consultation.

We would have no objection to this application proceeding as the aforementioned additional information is satisfactory.

DARD: Countryside Management

We welcome the inclusion of the landscaping plan as requested in May 2011. I have no additional comment to make regarding this application.

Derry Area Plan 2011

The application site is located within the development limit for Derry District, but outside the City boundary, as defined in the adopted Plan (DAP 2011).

Policy MN 1 of the Plan relates to Restoration of Despoiled Land, and states that the Department will seek to restore despoiled land where development proposals provide appropriate opportunities.

This quarry is not specifically identified in the Plan (with regards to being despoiled by previously unregulated and un-restored mineral workings), therefore this section would have no further comment on this proposal.



Dated

..... 20th Jul - 2011
..... 20/7/11
..... 20/07/11

REASONS WHY AN EA DETERMINATION IS NECESSARY

PROPOSAL: Extension to quarry including consolidation and deepening of extraction areas previously approved under planning consents A/1998/0635/F and A/442/75, retention of entrance gates and security fence, installation of wheel-wash, weighbridge and office use, use of mobile crushing and screening plant (mobile jaw crusher, mobile cone crusher and mobile screener), native species planting, landscaping and full site restoration

This form must not be detached from EA Determination Sheet

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1. Characteristics of development.

The characteristics of development must be considered having regard, in particular, to: -

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| a) the size of the development; | Y |
| b) the cumulation with other development; | Y |
| c) the use of natural resources; | Y |
| d) the production of waste; | Y |
| e) pollution and nuisances; | Y |
| f) the risk of accidents, having regard in particular to substances or technologies used. | Y |

2. Location of development

The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by development must be considered, having regard, in particular, to: -


- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| a the existing land use; | Y |
| b the relative abundance, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources in the area; | Y |
| c the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas:- | |
| i.) wetlands; | N |
| ii.) coastal zones; | N |
| iii.) mountain and forest areas; | N |
| iv.) nature reserves and parks; | N |

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| v.) areas classified or protected under EEA states' legislation; areas designated by EEA states pursuant to Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds (a) and Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (b); | N |
| vi.) areas in which the environmental quality standards laid down in Community legislation have already been exceeded; | N |
| vii.) densely populated areas; | N/A |
| viii.) landscapes of historical, cultural or archaeological significance. | Y |

3. Characteristics of the potential impact

The potential significant effects of development must be considered in relation to criteria set out under paragraphs 1 and 2 above, and having regard in particular to: -

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| a) the extent of the impact (geographical area and size of the affected population); | Y |
| b) the transfrontier nature of the impact; | Y |
| c) the magnitude and complexity of the impact; | Y |
| d) the probability of the impact; | Y |
| e) the duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact; | Y |

Signature of Officer: 

Date: 20th July 2011