

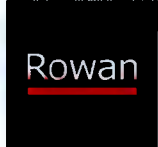
Rowan

Proposed Infill Area Slade, Saggart Co. Dublin



**Environmental and Planning Report
Coffey Construction Ltd
February 2022**

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ENVIRONMENTAL & PLANING REPORT



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Report Sign Off Page

CLIENT REF:	COF0001-6		
DEVELOPMENT ADDRESS	SLADE, CO DUBLIN		
REVISION	DATE	ORIGNATOR	REVIEWER
FOR CLIENT REVIEW	14/02/2022	EOB	EG
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1. Introduction

1.1 Introduction

This report has been prepared by Rowan Engineering Consultants Ltd. (Rowan) on behalf of Coffey Construction Ireland Ltd to accompany a planning application for permission for spreading of soil and stone materials for the benefit of agricultural. The volume of material to be placed on the site is c 35,000m³ over a c.2.4ha site, with an average fill level of c 3.5 m above existing.

1.2 The Applicant

The Applicant is Coffey Construction Ireland Ltd.

1.3 Scope of the Report

The scope of the report is to provide a description of the proposed Project and to outline the Planning Policy context as well as the potential environmental impacts associated with the spreading of soil and stone for the benefit of Agricultural land. Mitigation measures have been identified where the environmental assessments concluded there was potential for adverse environmental impacts to occur.

2. The Proposed Site

2.1 Site Location and Site Layout

The Proposed project is located in the townland of Slade, Co. Dublin. The nearest village to the site is Saggart, which is located c.600m north east of the proposed site. The proposed site is c.2.4ha. The site is bounded to the north by the Irish Water construction site, to the west by an ESB sub-station, to the south by the Camac River and to the east by a yard.

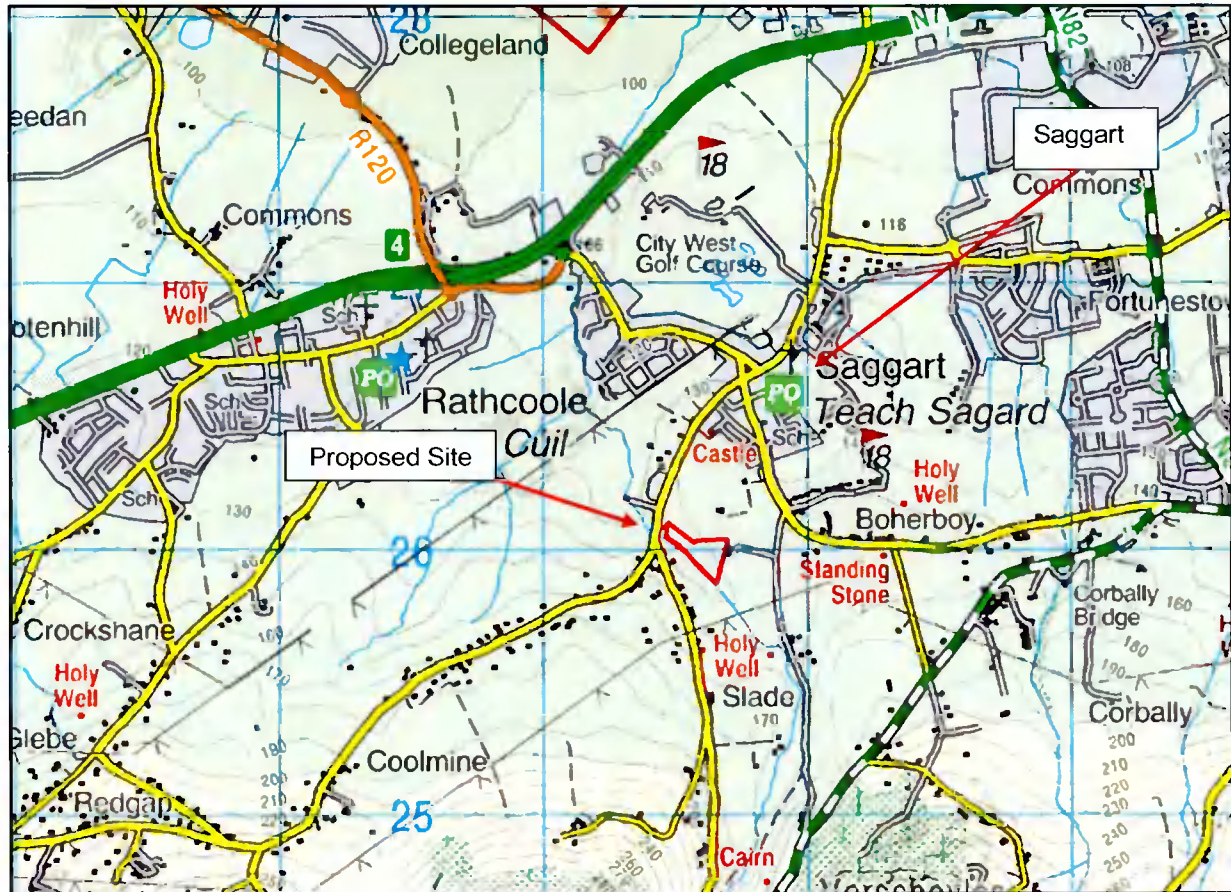


Figure 2.1: Site Location (outlined in red)

The site area of the proposed project is c.2.4 ha. The proposed site layout is shown below in Figure 2.3.



Figure 2.2 Site Location Aerial View (outlined in red).

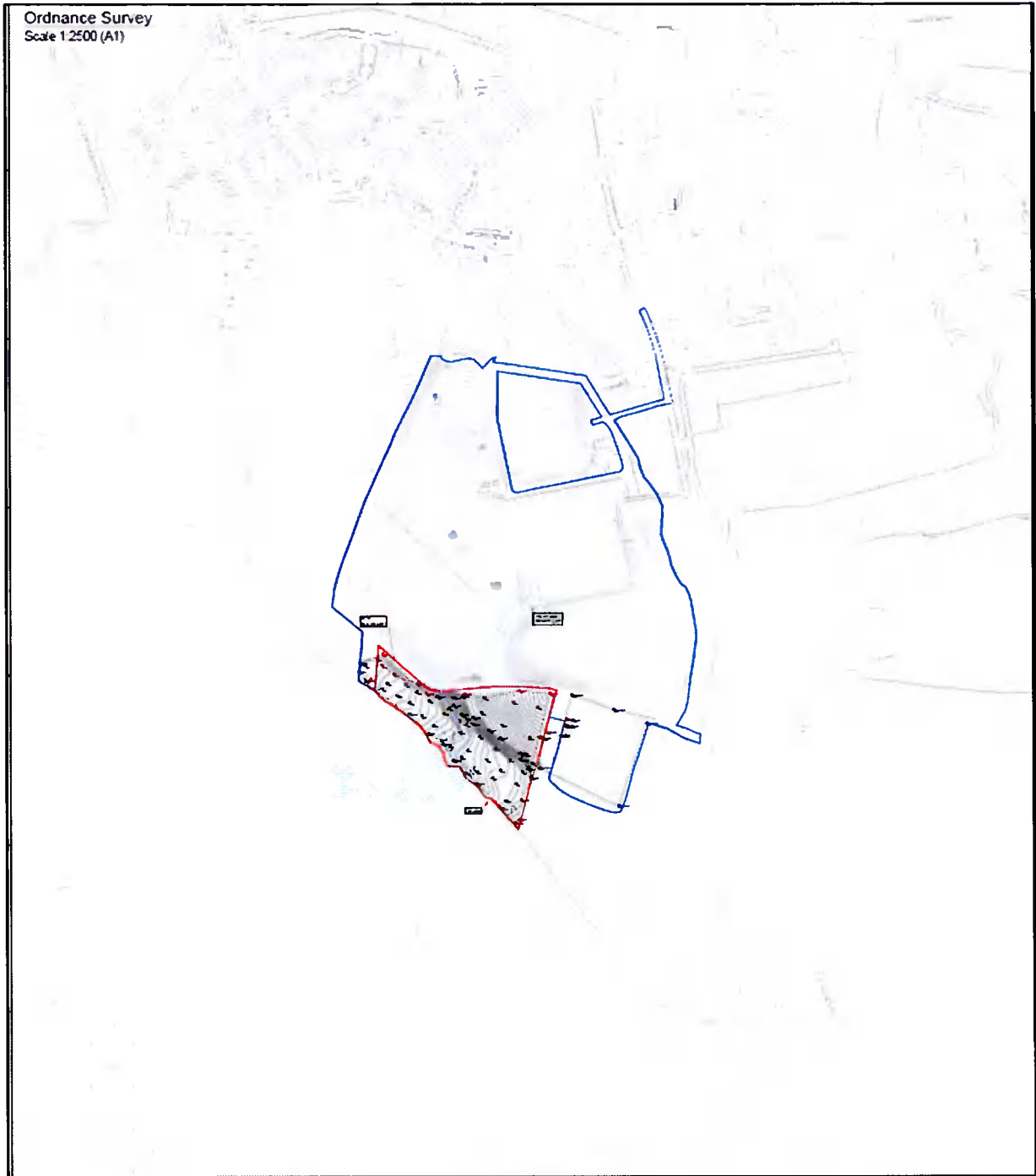


Figure 2.3: Site Location Plan and Site Plan with Proposed Development Boundary

The lands designated for infilling / recontouring of soil and stone material comprise of c. 2.4Ha. The site is situated along the southernly boundary of the existing water reservoir site to the east of the site is an ESB sub-station This is shown in Figure 2-3.

2.1.1 Existing Land Use

The nearest village to the site is Saggart, which is located c.600m north east of the proposed site.

The land-use surrounding the site is predominantly agricultural and improved agricultural grassland is the dominant habitat in the lands that surround the site. Other habitats represented locally include small areas of woodland and scrub, hedgerows and tree lines. There are a number of watercourses close to the application site the main one being the Camac River which flows along the south-western site boundary.

An overview of the local habitats surrounding the application site can be seen in the aerial photograph in Figure 2-4.



Figure 2.4 Aerial Photograph of the Site and its Surrounding Habitats.

2.2 The Proposed Details

Refer to planning drawings submitted as part of the planning application for full details.

2.2.1 Proposed Project

The principal activities associated with the proposed development are;

- Land recontouring works on c 16,000m² of a folio size of c 2.4 ha (allowing buffers).
- The volume of material to be placed on the site is c 35,000m³ with an average fill level of c. 3.5 m above existing. Refer to planning drawing numbered LH.001 submitted as part of the planning application for full details.
- A small section of hedgerow (6m wide) will be required to be removed between the Saggart Water Reservoir construction site and the proposed infill site to allow access of lorries and infill equipment onto the proposed infill site.

An infill free buffer zone of at least 10m will be established around much of the perimeter of the site, see the redline boundary in **Figure 2-5**. The Camac River flows along the south-western site boundary.

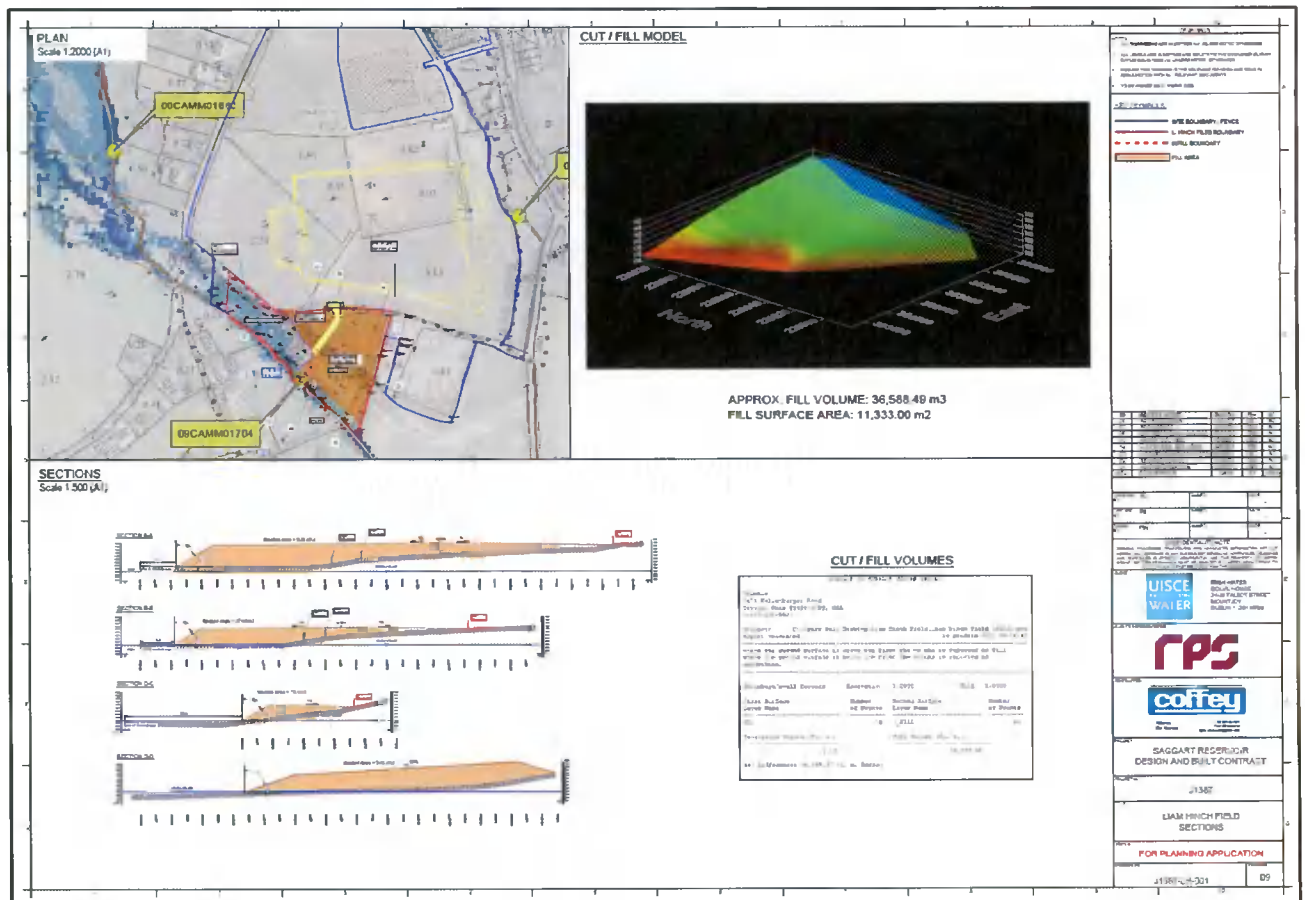


Figure 2.5: Extracts from proposed infill area and cross sections of the site (Refer to Planning drawing LH.001)

2.2.2 Site Access

The soil and stone would be transported through the hedgerow between both land parcels using site machinery. Truck movements would be avoided on the local road network.

The Site Layout Drawing no. J1387-LH-001 shows the hedging to be removed as hatched:

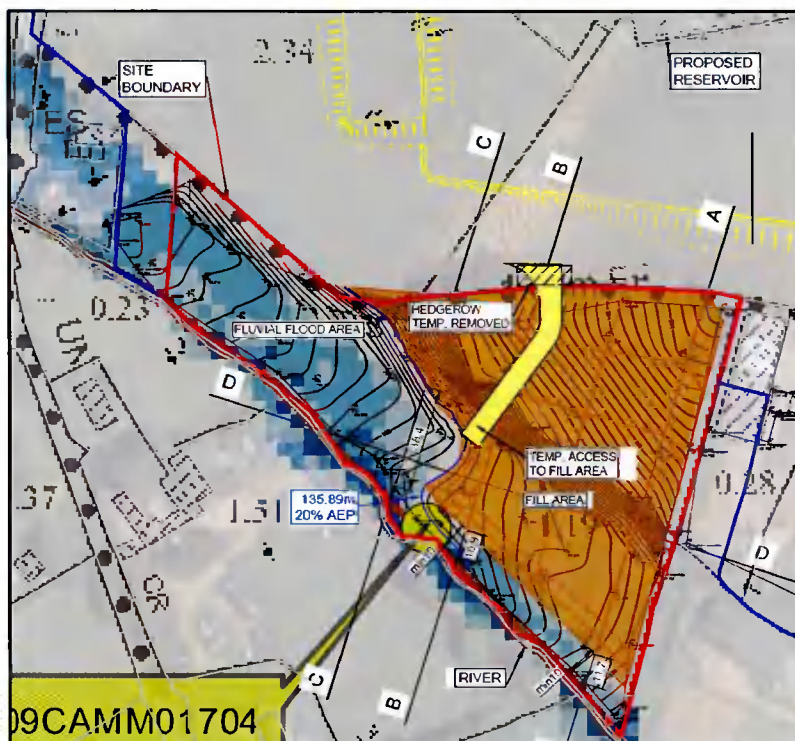


Figure 2.6: Site Access

The main site will be accessed via an entrance along the northern site boundary, which leads to the construction site of the new Saggart Irish Water Reservoir that is under construction.

2.3 Decommissioning of the proposed project

At the end of its operational life, the following will be implemented.

- The infilled areas will be levelled and suitable reseed mix will be sown which will be beneficial for agricultural purposes.

As the equipment used in the infilling and levelling processes 'belong' to the adjacent main site, these will be returned to compounds when not in use.

2.3.1 Emergency Response Procedure

The purpose of the emergency response procedure (ERP) is to address an emergency situation which may originate on-site.

Emergency Spill/Leakage Protocol

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No chemicals, oils or fuels will be stored at the site. All plant used on the site will be refuelled in the site compounds.

The procedure for dealing with spillages and/or leakages (such as from a vehicle arriving to the site) is as follows:

- Where there is any indication that environmental pollution (releases to the environment) has, or may have, taken place, then contact will be made with the appropriate Authority as deemed required;
- If possible, the type & nature of the spilled material and the volume shall be confirmed. Any risks to human health and/or the environment shall be determined;
- Stop the source and contain the spillage;
- Limit the spillage effected area by blocking, diverting or confining the spillage;
- Leaks/spillages shall be contained using a spill kit, where absorbent product will be applied to the spill and removed as soon as it has absorbed all the material. All contaminated spill kit material shall be put into a suitable waste container and labelled as to the contents, prior to collection by a licenced waste contractor;
- If a spillage results in discharges to a surface water feature or an adverse impact on the environment, it shall be reported to the appropriate authority (South Dublin County Council and Inland Fisheries Ireland) and agree a course of action;
- A record of the spill/leakage incident shall be maintained.

3. Planning Review

3.1 National Planning Framework 2040

The Project Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework (NPF) was published by the then Minister for the Environment and Local Government on the 16th February 2018. The aim of the NPF is to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for the people of Ireland, and to protect and enhance the environment. The document envisages that by 2040 there will be roughly an extra one million people living in Ireland. The NPF targets population growth of approximately 265,000 within Dublin City and Suburbs by 2040 and 330,000 additional jobs in the Eastern and Midland Region by 2040.

Sustainable development and the protection of the environment are key overarching goals and the need for resilient water supply systems to support population growth and economic activity is recognised. National Policy Objective 63 states:

“Ensure the efficient and sustainable use and development of water resources and water services infrastructure in order to manage and conserve water resources in a manner that supports a healthy society, economic development requirements and a cleaner environment.”

3.2 Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-2022

The *Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-2022* (RPGs) were published on the 15th of June 2010. The RPGs set out the planned direction for growth within the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) up to 2022 by giving regional effect to national planning policy.

The RPGs detail the importance of water quality and the need to meet future needs. The RPGs state:

“The past decade of high growth put significant pressure on all water resources and facilities in the Greater Dublin Area. Alongside this investment to improve water quality is the need to invest to meet future population growth; which is a major challenge in a large metropolitan area. It is also a challenge for smaller inland towns where the Water Framework Directive [2000/60/EC] and other necessary environmental regulation is impacting on what can be discharged to the local rivers and/or lakes. It is vitally important that solutions are found to meet the medium and long term needs for water supply and treatment for the next decades in the GDA.”

The RPGs set out the following physical infrastructure policy to promote and encourage the successful delivery of water services in the GDA:

“**Strategic Policy PIP2:** Protect and work to improve water quality in and impacted by the GDA and seek that investment in water supply projects/programmes is prioritised to support the delivery of the economic and settlement strategy for the GDA through the coordinated and integrated delivery of all essential services supporting national investment.”

The reservoir improvement works are considered to be part of the solution to current and future needs. The development will ensure a high quality water supply for the Greater Dublin Area. The generation of soil material from the project is inextricably linked to the wider plans under Irish Water’s remit.

3.3 South County Dublin Development Plan 2016-2022.

The South Dublin County Development Plan 2016-2022 (CDP) was adopted in May 2016. The CDP provides a strategic planning direction for the South Dublin area. The CDP identifies key development areas and sets policies to guide development.

3.3.1 Land Use Zoning

The proposed site is zoned under the South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016-2022 as GZT Zone: P1 Agriculture.

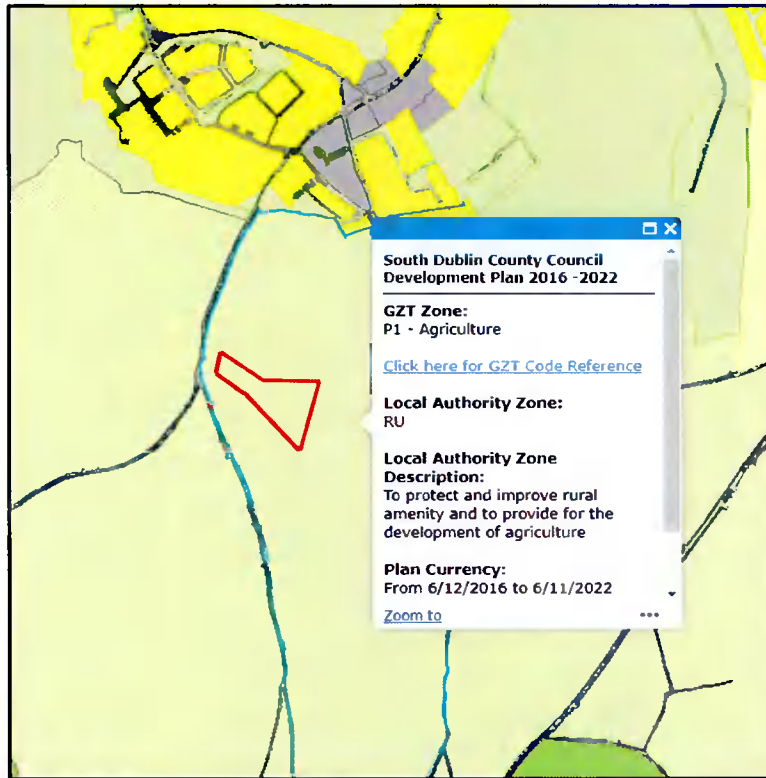


Figure 3.1: South Dublin County Development (CDP) Zoning Map Extract (Proposed site in red)

Zoning Objective RU is “To protect and improve rural amenity and to provide for the development of agriculture high amenity areas.”

Public Services are permitted in principle on RU zoned lands. Public Services are defined within the CDP as, “building or part thereof or land used for the provision of public services. Public services include all service installations necessarily required by electricity, gas, telephone, radio, telecommunications, television, drainage and other statutory undertakers. It is suggested as the infill site is adjacent to the approved Irish Water development and the generation of soil material from the project is inextricably linked to the wider plans under Irish Water’s remit.

The placing of fertile clean soil on to the land will also sustain the development of agriculture at the subject site.

3.3.2 Infrastructure and Environmental Quality

In the Infrastructure and Environmental Quality chapter of the CDP policies are set out regarding the provision of water supply within the county and the wider region.

A number of these policies support the delivery of water infrastructure by Irish Water:

“IE1 Objective 1: To work in conjunction with Irish Water to protect, manage and optimise water supply and foul drainage networks in the County.

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IE1 Objective 2: To work in conjunction with Irish Water to facilitate the timely delivery of ongoing upgrades and the expansion of water supply and wastewater services to meet the future needs of the County and the Region.

IE1 Objective 5: To promote and support the implementation of the Irish Water, Water Supply Project to increase water supply capacity throughout the Dublin Region.” The proposed development is being delivered by Irish Water and accords directly with Objectives IE1 and IE2.”

The proposed works development will also support the future delivery of the Water Supply Project referenced in IE1 Objective 5. The CDP also sets out a specific policy pertaining to Saggart water services infrastructure. “IE1 Objective 3: To support Irish Water in delivering key water service projects. Key Projects to be progressed in South Dublin County include: Completion of the Saggart to Leixlip Watermain Scheme to provide resilience and flexibility of water supply in the County.”

It is suggested as the infill site is adjacent to the approved Irish Water development and the generation of soil material from the project is inextricably linked to the wider plans under Irish Water’s remit.

3.3.3 Heritage, Conservation and Landscapes

Heritage, Conservation and Landscapes of the CDP promotes a coherent approach to protect, conserve and enhance natural, built and cultural heritage features. The CDP identifies views for protection and preservation and include Saggart Hill and Verschoyle’s Hill, both of which are proximate to the subject site. There are some locations within Saggart where views towards these hills will be slightly obstructed by the taller elements of the development. Given the nature of the topography of the area and the low-lying nature of the site, the retention of boundary screening and proposals for new planting, most views towards the hills are unaffected by the proposals. The following polices encourage the conservation and consideration of the Record of Protected Structures, Record of Monuments and Places/Architectural Conservation Areas identified in the CDP.

“HCL1 Objective 1: To protect, conserve and enhance natural, built and cultural heritage features and restrict development that would have a significant negative impact on these assets.

HCL1 Objective 2: To support the objectives and actions of the County Heritage Plan, including the preparation of a County Biodiversity Plan.

HCL2 Objective 3: To protect and enhance sites listed in the Record of Monuments and Places and ensure that development in the vicinity of a Recorded Monument or Area of Archaeological Potential does not detract from the setting of the site, monument, feature or object and is sited and designed appropriately.”

There are no protected structures within or immediately adjacent to the proposed development. The proposed development therefore does not include works to a protected structure. Due to the nature of the works and their location in relation to Protected Structures in the general area, it is considered that the proposed development will not have an adverse effect on any Protected Structure listed in the CDP Schedule 2: Record of Protected Structures in accordance with **HCL3 Objective 1:** “To ensure the protection of all structures (or parts of structures) and the immediate surroundings including the curtilage and attendant grounds of structures contained in the Record of Protected Structures

3.4 Planning History of the Site

There is previous planning history associated with the proposed site. The planning application history for the site is summarised in **Table 2.1 Error! Reference source not found.** below as sourced from South Dublin County Council website

Table 2.1 Previous Planning Applications made on the Lands.

Reference No.	Details	Status	Decision Date
ED10/0011	Land Reclamation at Slade, Saggart	Declared not Exempt	13/09/2010
SD21A/0159	Land recontouring/infilling works on c.16,000sq.m. of a folio size of c.2.4ha (allowing buffers); volume of material to be placed on site is c.35,000m ³ with an average fill level of c.3.5m above existing.	Refused	20/01/2022

4. Appropriate Assessment

The Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) and the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) provide legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Article 2 of Directive 92/43/EEC requires the maintenance or restoration of habitats and species of European Community interest, at a favourable conservation status. Articles 3 – 9 of the Directive provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of Community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of sites known as *Natura 2000*. *Natura 2000* sites are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive and also Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79/409/EEC). The terms “European site” replaced the term “Natura 2000 site” under the EU Environmental Impact Assessment and Habitats Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 473 of 2011).

A key protection mechanism is the requirement to consider the possible nature conservation implications of any plan or project on European sites. Appropriate Assessment (AA), which is outlined in Article 6(3) of Directive 92/43/EEC, is the process which considers the possible effects of a plan or project on the European sites network.

An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report was completed in March 2021 by Noreen McLoughlin, MSc, MCIEEM of Whitehill Environmental.

The proposed Project is not located within any *Natura 2000* areas.

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There are six Natura 2000 designated sites within 15km of this application site, plus four other sites that are hydrologically connected to it via the River Camac

The Glenasmole Valley SAC (site code 001209) is located c.5.1km south east of the proposed site. The Wicklow Mountains SAC (site code 002122) is located c.6km south east followed by the Wicklow Mountains SPA (site code 004040) which is located c.9.5km south east. The Poulaphouca Reservoir (site code SPA 004063) is located c.10.5km south. The Red Bog Kildare SAC (site code 000397) is located c.10.1km south west and the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC (site code 001398) is located c.10km north of the proposed site.

The Natura 2000 designated sites that are hydrologically connected to it via the River Camac are South Dublin Bay SAC (site code 000210), South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (site code 004024), North Bull Island site (code SPA 004006) and North Dublin Bay SAC (site code 000206).

In view of best scientific knowledge and on the basis of objective information, it can be concluded that this application, whether individually or in combination with other plans and projects, will have no significant negative effects upon the Natura 2000 sites. It is of the opinion of this author that this application does not need to proceed to Stage II of the Appropriate Assessment process.

The full Appropriate Assessment is provided in **Appendix 1**.

5. Noise Assessment

A Noise Assessment has been prepared by Rowan and is provided in **Appendix 2**.

Based on the baseline noise survey carried out at The Hinch Site, Saggart, Co. Dublin on the 18th of May 2021. The following was concluded;

Day noise measurements were recorded at 4 No. NSL's at the Hinch site. The daytime LAeq recorded at NSL's ranged between 41.0dB and 67.6.9dB. The LA₉₀ readings ranged between 37.4dB and 50.6dB. Table 13, demonstrates that the noise levels from the proposed Project will be compliant with the relevant daytime noise limits for the site of 55dBLeq,T between 07:00 and 19:00hrs at all NSL's. It is also proposed that the Dump trucks are only permitted to tip the soil and stone in the centre of the site to further reduce noise at the NSL's.

6. Surface Water Environment

6.1 The Baseline Environment

The Camac River flows along the south-western site boundary.

The Camac River (IE-EA_09C020100) (to the south west of the proposed site) and the proposed site are located within the Liffey Catchment. The proposed site is located in the (Liffey_SC_090) sub catchment.

Under the WFD, all water bodies are required to meet good status within a certain time period. Ireland is now in the second cycle of the WFD and therefore good status should be achieved in all water bodies by the end of this current cycle, i.e., 2021. If a waterbody is unlikely to achieve this status, then it is deemed to be *At Risk*. The Camac River is described as being *Not At Risk* and of *Good Status*.

6.2 Chemical Analysis and Report

Chemical analysis has been carried out by The Water Lab, a report has been prepared by Rowan and is provided in **Appendix 3**.

This conclusion is based on the surface water samples taken from SW1 upstream of the proposed site and SW2 downstream of the proposed infill site on the 18th of May 2021. The lab results show the results are within the limits set out in the EPA Surface Water Regulations 2019 (S.I. No. 77 of 2019).

6.3 Biological Water Quality Assessment of the River Camac

Biological water Quality Assessment has been carried out and a report has been prepared by Whitehill Environmental and is provided in **Appendix 4**.

All samples were taken with a Freshwater Biological Association approved hand held sweep net with a mesh diameter of 500µm. At all stations, a two minute kick sample (the travelling kick) method was taken, which ensures that all habitats within a riffle area are sampled. Samples were deposited in a tray on the bank of the river. Bigger stones were washed and any macro-invertebrates clinging to the stones were removed and placed in the tray. Once the debris in the sample was removed, the sample containing the macro-invertebrates and the finer substrates were placed into containers and preserved with isopropyl alcohol.

Once the samples were delivered to Whitehill Environmental, all macro-invertebrates were removed from the sample, identified to the appropriate taxonomic level and then counted.

Overall, based on the results as part of this survey, it can be concluded that the ecological status of this water body at all stations is good as all stations were assigned a Q4. Looking within Group 4, currently the ecological status of Station 1 (upstream) is the most vulnerable, with downstream the least vulnerable. The upstream station has the lowest proportion of sensitive Group A taxa, followed by midstream with the downstream station having the highest proportion of sensitive taxa.

6.4 Flood Risk Assessment

A Flood Risk Assessment Report has been completed and is attached in **Appendix 7**.

The FRA concluded the project subject to the specified mitigation measures being implemented, will not be at risk from flooding nor will it exacerbate flooding in the immediate vicinity or wider area.

7. Ground Investigation Report

The proposed infill material is clean inert soil and stone in line with the definitions in the *EPA (2019) Guidance on Soil and Stone By-Products (Article 27)*. The material is predominately soils and some naturally occurring stones maybe present. Soil testing analytical results and logs of boreholes and testpits completed in the source site have been included in **Appendix 5**. The depth of excavation on the source site ranges from 1.2 metres below existing ground level (mbegl) to 3 mbegl and material at this depth is predominately described as *brown slightly sandy slightly gravelly CLAYs*.

8. Slope Stability Check Report

A Slope Stability Check Report has been completed for the proposed infill material and has been attached in **Appendix 6**.

The report concluded:

- Slope stability analysis confirms infill area side slopes up to 40 degrees are stable. Maximum proposed slope as per planning submission drawings is 30 degrees, therefore proposed slopes are stable.
- Long term surcharge loading to top of embankment not to exceed 5kPa.

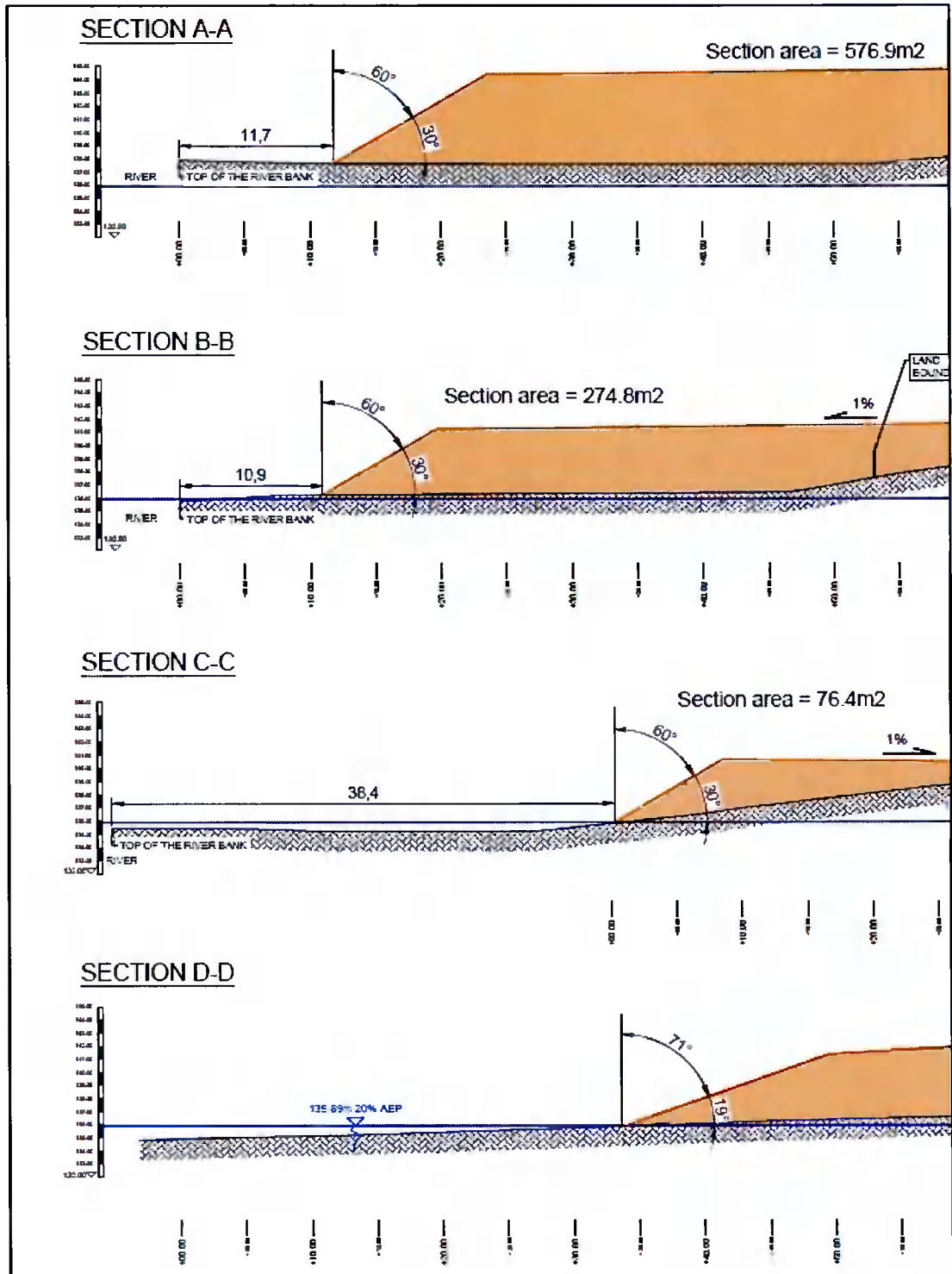


Figure 8-1: Proposed slope of Infill not exceeding 30 degrees to ensure stability

9. Traffic Management

Traffic will not enter the local road networks as material will be transported from the source site to the destination site through a break in the hedgerow between the two sites which border one another. This will divert approximately 4,000 truck movements off the road network which would otherwise have to be transported to an offsite facility.

The attached Site Layout Drawing J1387-LH-0001 shows this proposed routeway between the two sites.

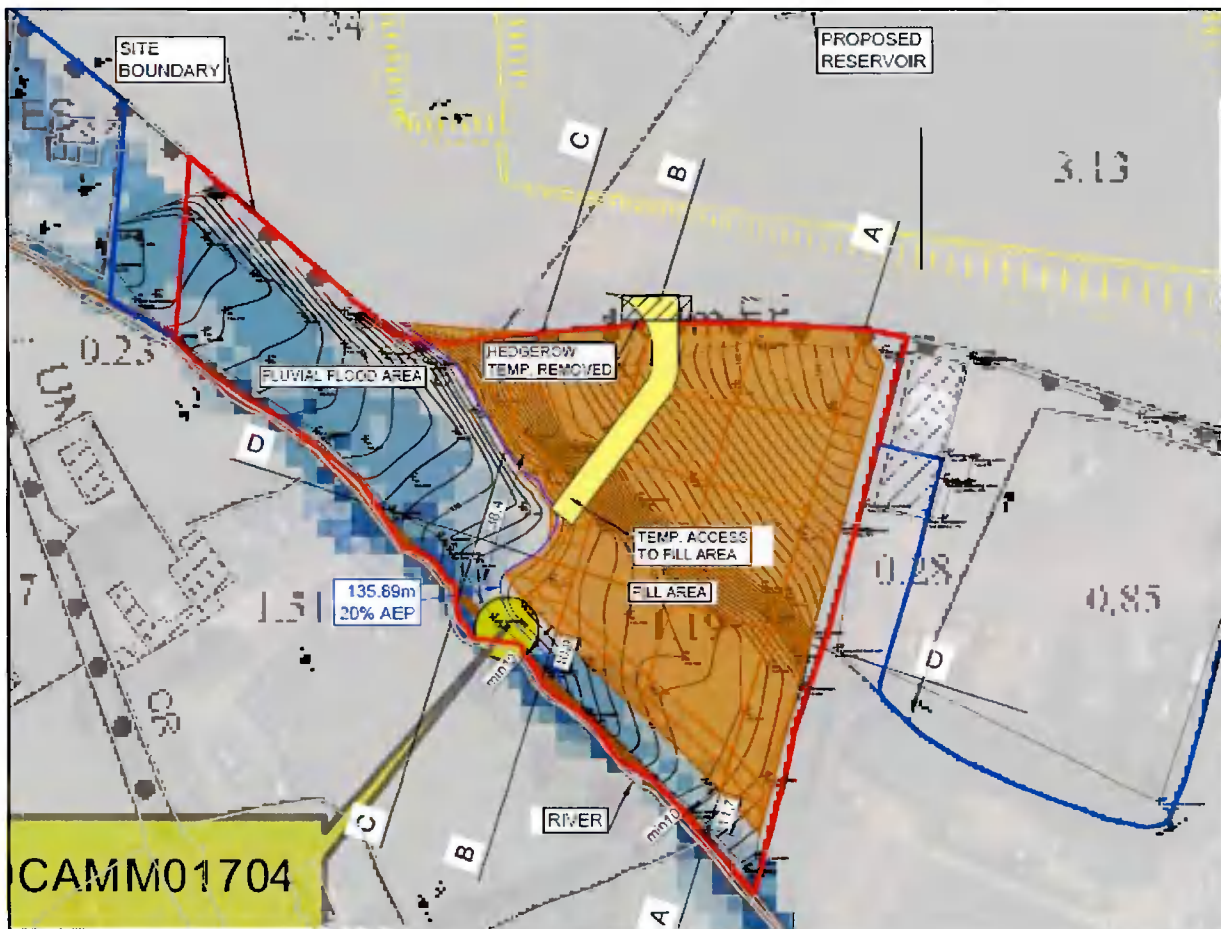


Figure 9-1: Proposed access between infill site and source site

10. Construction Environmental Management Plan.

A Construction Environmental Management Plan has been prepared and is attached in Appendix 8. Silt fencing and a minimum of 10m buffer area from the Camac River has been proposed. Infilling is not proposed in 1-100 year event flood zone in the western area of the site.

11. Landscape and Visual

A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Report has been completed and is presented in **Appendix 9**.

The Landscape Visual Impact Assessment concluded that based on the landscape and visual impact judgements, the proposed infill development in the townland of Slade, County Dublin, was not considered to give rise to any significant landscape or visual impacts.

On this basis, it is not believed necessary to plant additional hedges or include screen planting measures to 'hide' the infill. The infilled areas will be levelled and suitable reseed mix will be sown which will be beneficial for agricultural purposes.

12. Ecological Impact Assessment Report

An Ecological Impact Assessment Report has been completed and is attached in **Appendix 10**.

With the recommended mitigation measures, it can be concluded that the proposed development at Slade will have a residual neutral impact upon the biodiversity of the local area.

13. Mammal Assessment

The mammal assessment is included as **Appendix 11** in relation to trees and bats concluded:

None of the trees proposed for removal offer roost potential. There are a small number of trees with low roost potential along the western section of the hedgerow to be crossed with spoil loads for storage within this field. The tree roots shall be protected by avoidance of storage on them.'

14. Archaeological & Architectural Assessment

14.1 Baseline conditions

14.1.1 UNESCO World Heritage Sites

There are no UNESCO World Heritage Sites within the vicinity of the proposed Project.

14.1.2 Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) & Record of Protected Structures (RPS)

There are no known SMR's located within c. 300m of the proposed Project. There are two SMR's located within a 500m buffer. The closest known SMR to the site is located C. 330m to the east (Ref DU021690). The second SMR is c. 410m north of the proposed site (DU021034010)



Figure 13.1 Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) within a 500 meter radius of the proposed site.

The closest registered asset on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) is located c. 43m west of the proposed site. (Bridge)

14.1.3 Excavation Database

The excavations database is a live record which is updated annually with details of all excavations carried out under licence. This database was consulted, and no records existed relevant to the facility or in the vicinity.

There were no records relate to excavations on or near the vicinity of the proposed site.

14.1.4 Cartographic Sources and Aerial Photography

A review of cartographic sources available on the Historic Environment viewer and aerial photography was undertaken and is presented in Figure 13.1-13.5.



Figure 13-2: Historic 25 Inch (Dated 1888-1913) (Ref: ArcGIS Online)

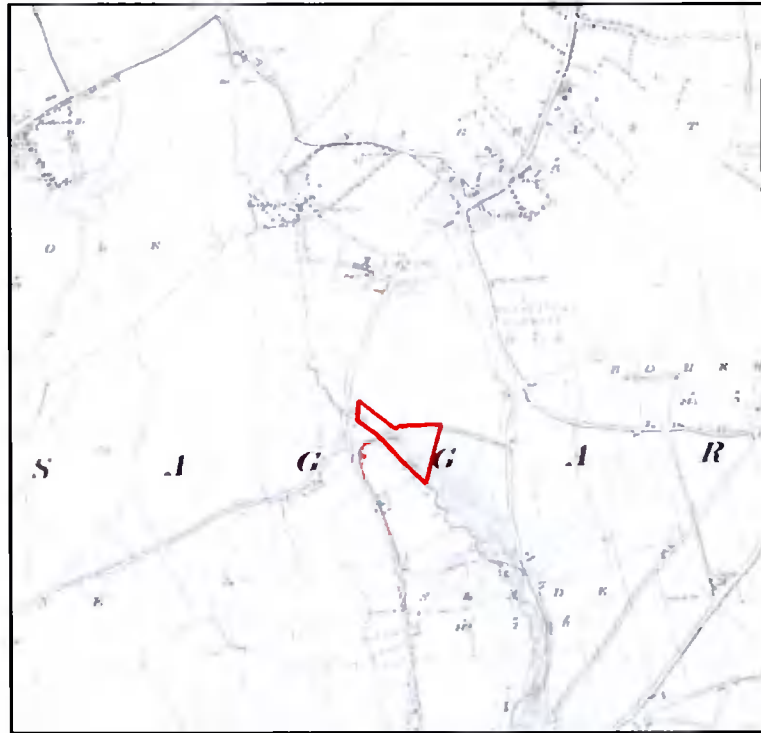


Figure 13-3: Historic 6 Inch (Dated 1837-1842) (Ref: ArcGIS Online)

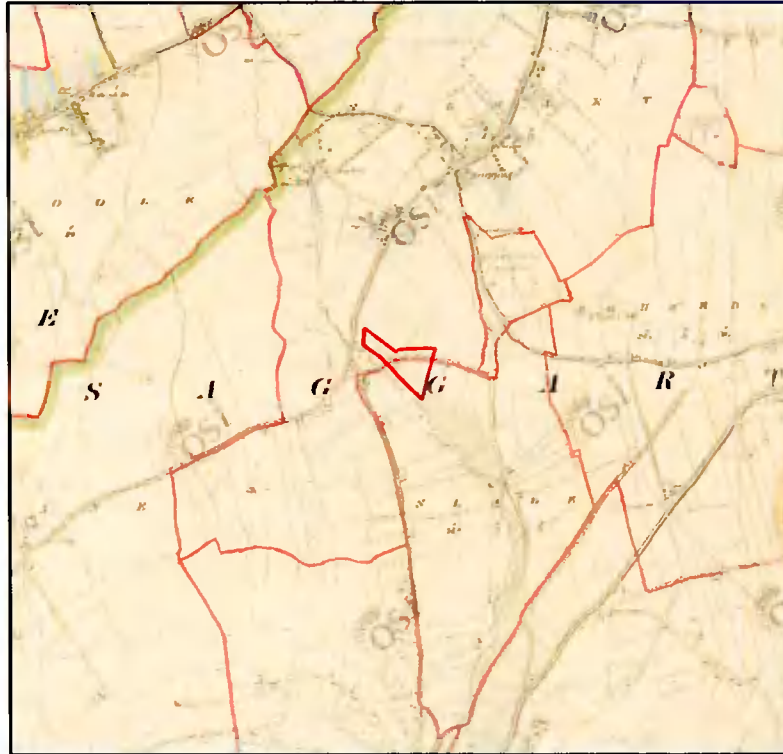


Figure 13-4: Historic 6 Inch Colour (Dated 1837-1842) (Ref: ArcGIS Online)

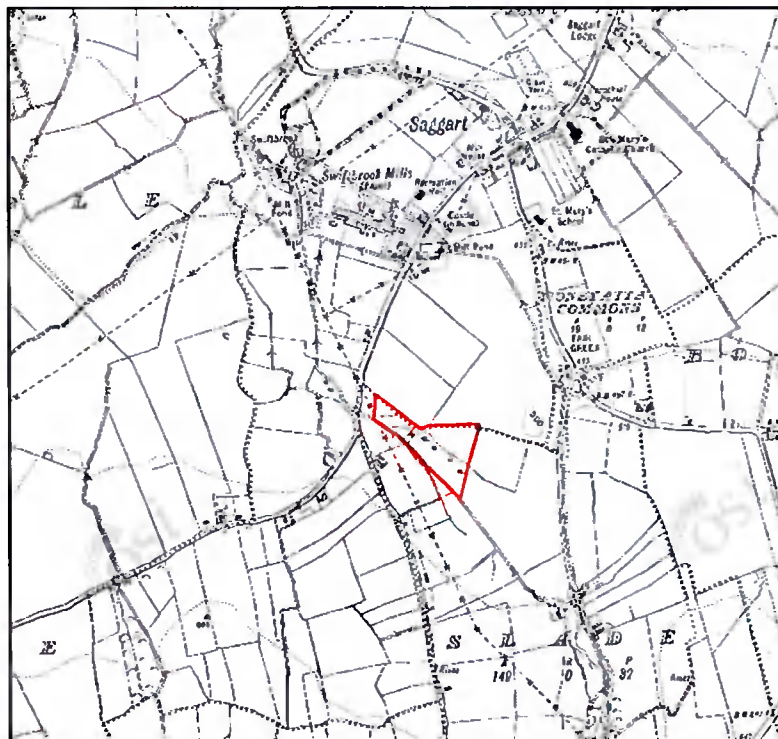


Figure 13-5: Historic 6 Inch Cassini (Dated 1829-1842) (Ref: ArcGIS Online)



15. Conclusion

This field is located immediately adjacent to the Saggart reservoir development project being undertaken by Coffey for Irish Water. The volume of material to be placed on the site is c 35,000m³ with an average fill level average of c 3.5 m above existing.

This material would have a beneficial reuse in this adjacent field and would remove the need for considerable amount of off-site disposal as the soil and stone would be transported through an existing linkage between both land parcels using site machinery – c3500 truck movements would be avoided on the local road network.

Subject to planning being granted, and Article 27 Process will be entered into to allow placement of this inert soil by-product on to the area proposed.

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