Appropriate Assessment Screening	
STEP 1. Description of the project / proposal and local site characteristics	
File Reference No:	**AP-20-01 (Air Emissions Licence)**
Brief description of the project or plan	This proposal seeks an Air Emissions license for the operation of a mobile Asphalt Plant by way of PLREF:10/1163 and PLREF:10/91163 (extension of duration of planning permission).
Brief description of site characteristics:	This site is located within an existing sand and gravel quarry at Clasheen, Killarney, Co Kerry approx. 3Km southeast of Killarney, Co Kerry.

STEP 2. Identification of relevant Natura 2000 sites using Source-PathwayReceptor model and compilation of information Qualifying Interests and conservation objectives.

European Site (code)	List of Qualifying Interest/Special Conservation Interest[1]	Distance from proposal (km)[2]	Connections (Source-Pathway-Receptor	Considered further in screening Y/N
Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC	26 Qualifying Interests habitats and species, including a Priority Habitat- Alluvial forests [91E0] and species dependant on high water quality www.npws.ie	c.0.75 km and downstream	Yes The site is located c.750m from the River Flesk which forms part of the SAC. Habitats and species possibly present may be sensitive to increases in air emissions, in particular nitrogen deposition.	Yes
Sheheree (Ardagh) Bog SA	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	c.3km	Habitats and species possibly present may be sensitive to increases in air emissions, in particular	Yes

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European Site (code)	**List of Qualifying Interest/Special Conservation Interest[1]**	**Distance from proposal (km)[2]**	**Connections (Source-Pathway-Receptor**	**Considered further in screening Y/N**
			nitrogen deposition.	
Killarney National Park SPA	Merlin (Falco columbarius) [A098] Greenland White-fronted Goose (Anser albifrons flavirostris) [A395]	c.3.5Km and downsteam	This Natura 2000 site is c. 3.5Km distant. Hydrological and air connection to key habitat considered to be weak. It is considered that there are no realistic or meaningful connecting pathways between the proposal (source) and these species or key habitat for these species (receptors). Potential for significant effects can be conclusively ruled out with certainty at this preliminary stage of the AA Screening process.	No
Castlemaine Harbour SAC	19 Qualifying Interest habitats and species, including 2 Priority Habitats-Alluvial forests [91E0] Fixed Coastal	c.12Km	This Natura 2000 site is c.12Km distant and downstream of	No

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	Dunes (2130) and species dependant on high water quality www.npws.ie		the proposed site. Nonetheless, it is considered that there are no realistic or meaningful connecting pathways between the proposal (source) and these species or key habitat for these species (receptors). Potential for significant effects can be conclusively ruled out with certainty at this preliminary stage of the AA Screening process.	

[1] Full details on Conservation Objectives (COs), Qualifying Interests (QI) and Species of Scientific Interest (SCIs) for European Sites are available on www.npws.ie

[2] If the site or part thereof is within the European site or adjacent to the European site, state here.

STEP 3. Assessment of Likely Significant Effects	
(a) Identify all potential direct and indirect impacts that may result in significant effects on the conservation objectives of a European site, taking into account the size and scale of the project under the following headings:	
Impacts	**Significance of Impacts (duration/magnitude/etc.)**
Construction phase e.g. • Vegetation clearance • Demolition • Surface water runoff from soil excavation/ infill/landscaping (including borrow pits) • Dust, noise, vibration • Lighting disturbance • Impact on groundwater/dewatering • Storage of excavated/construction materials • Access to site • Pests	None
Operational phase e.g. • Direct emission to air and water • Surface water runoff containing contaminant or sediment • Lighting disturbance • Noise/vibration • Changes to water/groundwater due to drainage or abstraction • Presence of people, vehicles and activities • Physical presence of structures (e.g. collision risks) • Potential for accidents or incidents	Potential to alter water and soil fertility by way of operational stage atmospheric / air emissions - namely by way of nitrogen deposition. Sensitive QI habitats include raised bog habitat in Sheheree (Ardagh) Big SAC. Other habitats such as old sessile oak woods in Killarney National Park SAC are also potentially vulnerable to air emissions. Freshwater systems are less vulnerable to nitrogen deposition being phosphorus limiting systems. There is no real likelihood of any significant effects on European Sites in the wider catchment area.
In-combination/Other	There is potential for in-combination effects with other sources of nitrogen deposition arising from existing transport and agriculture practices.

STEP 3. Assessment of Likely Significant Effects	
(a) Identify all potential direct and indirect impacts that may result in significant effects on the conservation objectives of a European site, taking into account the size and scale of the project under the following headings:	
Impacts	**Significance of Impacts (duration/magnitude/etc.)**
	No other likely significant in-combination effects are identified.

STEP 3. Assessment of Likely Significant Effects	
(b) Describe any likely changes to the European site:	
Examples of the type of changes to give consideration to include: • Reduction or fragmentation of habitat area • Disturbance to QI species • Habitat or species fragmentation • Reduction or fragmentation in species density • Changes in key indicators of conservation status value (water quality etc.) • Changes to areas of sensitivity or threats to QI • Interference with the key relationships that define the structure or ecological function of the site • Climate change	It is considered that there will be no likely significant effect on any European site as a result of emissions to air or otherwise. It is considered that the level of change in annual N and other deposition and associated with the proposed asphalt plant is not likely to be discernible from ambient measurements or fluctuations in the background annual rate at sensitive receptor sites and is thus not likely to degrade habitat, change key indicators of conservation value or otherwise significantly affect Natura 2000 sites. The distance between the proposed development site and European Sites, and the modelling undertaken indicate a very weak ecological atmospheric pathway and is such that the proposal will not result in any likely changes to the European sites that comprise part of the Natura 2000 network.

STEP 3. Assessment of Likely Significant Effects	
(c) Are 'mitigation' measures necessary to reach a conclusion that likely significant effects can be ruled out at screening?	
No	While best practice construction methods and environmental mitigation measures are referenced these are not required to avoid or reduce any effects on a European site. These measures are not relied upon to reach a conclusion of no likely significant effects on any European site.

STEP 4. Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination Statement
The assessment of significance of effects: Describe how the proposed development (alone or in-combination) is/**is not likely** to have significant effects on European site(s) in view of its conservation objectives.
On the basis of the information on file, which is considered adequate to undertake a screening determination and having regard to: • the nature and scale of the proposed emissions from a permitted development located within an existing quarry, • the intervening land uses and distance from European sites, • the lack of meaningful emissions as could result in an appreciable effect on European site habitats or species, it is concluded that the proposed development, individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, would not be likely to have a significant effect on the any European site, in view of their conservation objectives. An appropriate assessment is not, therefore, required.

Conclusion:	Recommendation
It is clear that no likelihood of significant effects arises.	The proposal can be screened out: Appropriate Assessment is not required.
Signature and Date of Recommending Officer:	**Eoin Kelleher** **Executive Planner and Ecologist** **Environmental Assessment Unit** **16/04/2021**