

Environmental Impact Assessment

Schedule III

(Screening according to S.L. 549.46)

ERA Reference no.:	EA/00028/18
PA Reference no.:	PA/02581/18
Project Title:	Proposed storage of inert material (dolomite) in unused quarry including the placing of separator blocks.
Location:	Barriera tas- Sghajtar, Triq il- Germanja/ Triq I- Ingilterra/Triq I- Awstralja/, Triq is-Saghjtar, Naxxar, Malta
Screening date:	November 2018

1. Description of Proposal

1.1 Outline of project/development

PA 02581/18 seeks to use part of an unused quarry at il-Barriera tas- Sghajtar in Naxxar as a temporary storage area for inert material (dolomite). The area to be used as a storage area measures circa. 2,500m², with another 1,000m² being used for manoeuvring purposes.

A number of 1m by 1m concrete blocks will be placed on top of the existing rock face, reaching up to 3m in height, thus forming five separators for the storage of imported aggregate of different sizes. The concrete blocks will be delivered onsite by heavy vehicles and hoisted to their proposed positions as indicated in the proposed drawings. The area of intervention lies several storeys beneath road level and is currently screened from the public streets by masonry boundary walls.

No interventions on the existing material within the site is being envisaged. The rock face is level enough to enable the concrete blocks to be placed directly on the existing rock surface without the need of levelling material of any sort. Thus, no excavation or backfilling works are being planned or proposed.

1.2 Site description and related considerations

The quarry is located within the Tas-Sghajtar area, between Naxxar and Mosta, abutting Triq il-Germanja and Triq I-Ingilterra, Naxxar and is accessed from Triq I-Awstralja, Naxxar. The quarry is mainly surrounded by residential areas.

2. EIA-relevant history

2.1 Relevant EIA/screening criteria (citations refer to EIA Regulations, 2017 (S.L. 549.46), except where otherwise specified):

The proposal was screened on the basis of Schedule I, Category II, Section 9.0.2.3 (*Restoration and after-use of existing or disused quarries or mines, other than for restoration of the site back to its pristine state*) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (S.L. 549.46).

2.2 Documents used for screening:

1. ERA consultation reply Doc. 24a dated 27th April 2018 on E-Apps;
2. Project Description Statement (PDS), referred to ERA by the applicant on the 18th October 2018.



Figure 1. Location of the site (Source: PA Geoserver)

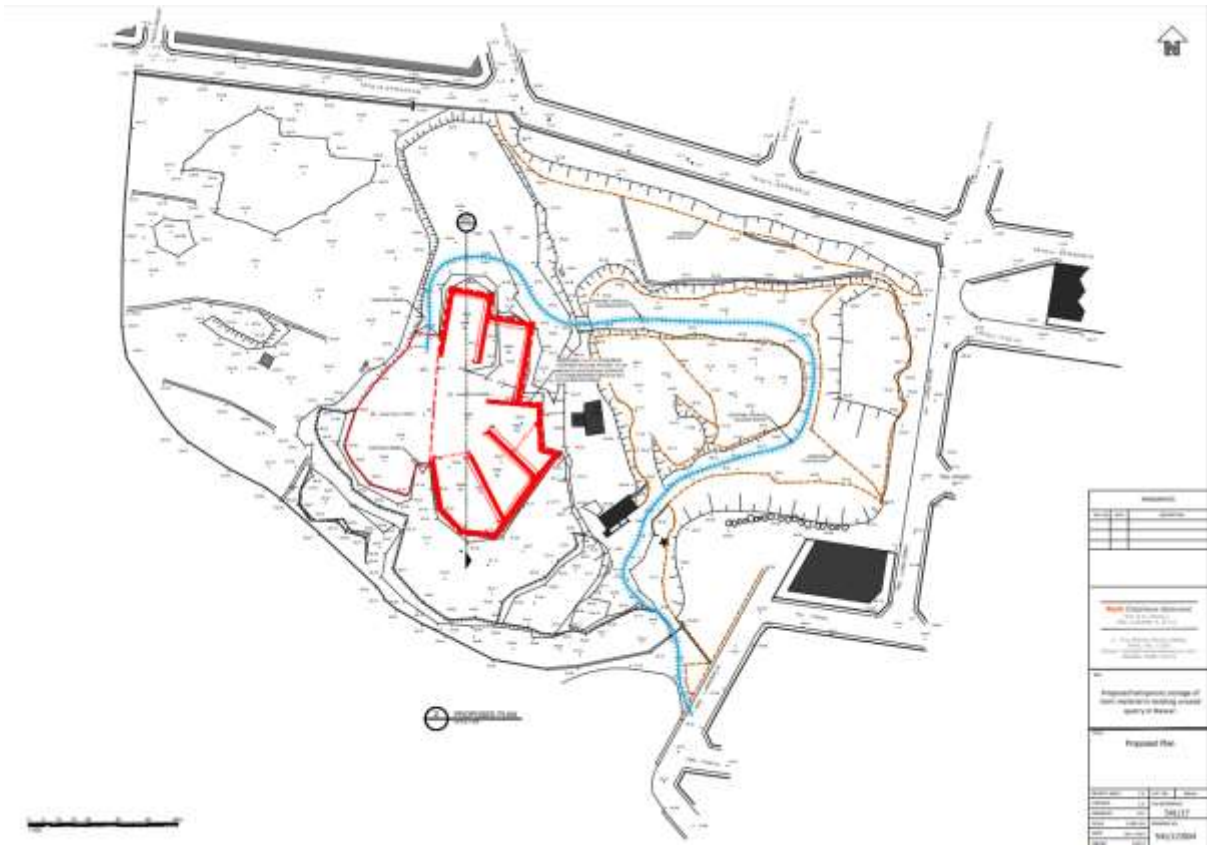


Figure 2. Block Plan (Source: PA/02581/18/Doc.1e)



Figure 3. Site Photos (Source: PDS)

3. Screening Report

- 3.1. Due to the nature of the site (disused quarry, which contains no environmentally-relevant features) and the inert nature of the material, the placing of concrete blocks for storage of inert aggregate material is unlikely to have any direct significant impacts on the surrounding environment. Furthermore, as no re-levelling is taking place, the site can easily be turned back to its current state on termination of operations. No use of natural resources is proposed. In addition, no residues, emissions, or waste products are envisioned. No impact on landscape and visual amenity is expected. Noise from the delivery vehicle is likely, but is not expected to be significant.

4. Conclusion

4.1 Screening Conclusion and recommended way forward

The above detailed EIA screening concludes that impacts of the development are unlikely to be significant to the point of warranting an EIA, in accordance with Regulation 15(3b) of the EIA Regulations 2017 (S.L. 549.46), as long as various mitigation measures are duly incorporated into the mainstream development consent mechanism and mitigated by means of conditions and specifications (e.g. approved documents) in the development permit. This is also without prejudice to the adoption of the required environmental operational requirements, and the implementation of environmental registration or permit, as relevant.

4.2 Conditions

1. The permitted development shall not be a source of light pollution, especially at night. To this effect:
 - a. All exterior lighting installed on site is to be downward-pointing and full cut-off. No luminaire globes or uplighters are allowed; and
 - b. All exterior lighting shall be intruder-triggered and continuous nocturnal lighting shall be avoided.
2. Any waste management, including the management and disposal of material currently on site shall follow the provisions of the Waste Regulations (S.L.549.63), the Waste Management (Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Regulations (S.L.549.89) and any other relevant regulations, including any required compositional analysis to identify the most suitable disposal option

4.3 Screening Disclaimer

The above screening results, the ensuing conclusions and recommendations are without prejudice to any required changes or updates should the development proposal be eventually modified or should the information/assumptions provided turn out to be incorrect. Any deviations of the proposal from this submission would need to be re-assessed and the merits of this screening would need to be re-opened.