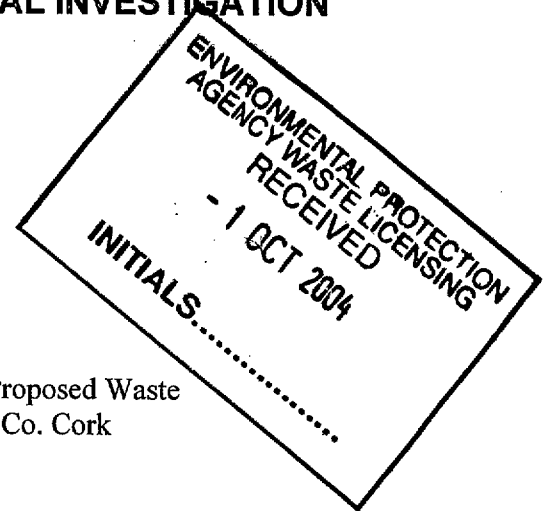


APPENDIX 8

SITE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION



Archaeological Impact Assessment Conducted for Site of Proposed Waste Recovery/Transfer and Sludge Drying Facility at Youghal, Co. Cork

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Conducted by Miriam Jones BA, MA. Archaeological Consultant.

For :

SWS, Shinagh House, Bandon, Co. Cork.

1.0 Introduction

This report presents the methodology and findings of an archaeological impact assessment conducted at the site of a proposed Waste Recovery/Transfer and Sludge Drying Facility at Youghal, Co. Cork. The 3.5-acre site is situated c. 1.8 km. to the north of the town of Youghal, on the west side of the Blackwater River and just south of the main Cork-Waterford Road (N25). It is bounded by a landfill site to the East. An archaeological assessment of this landfill site conducted in 1998 found nothing of archaeological merit that would impede continued use of the landfill site.

2.0 Methodology

The archaeological impact assessment consisted of a desktop study and a field walk of the site in question.

2.1 Desktop Study

The desktop study examined both cartographic and literary sources to determine the recorded archaeology of the proposed location of the treatment facility.

Cartographic sources consulted included sheet 67 of the 1st (1842), 2nd (1905), and 3rd (1935) editions of the six-inch Ordnance Survey maps for County Cork.

In addition, the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) for County Cork were examined to ascertain the location and nature of the archaeology found to date in this area. An invaluable tool for the protection of the country's archaeological heritage, the SMR identifies the location of all known or suspected archaeological sites and monuments on the most recent six-inch OS maps for each county. In accordance with Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994 and as a result of fieldwork, Dúchas revised the SMRs in 1998 to establish the statutory RMP. This record comprises lists of monuments and places for each county in Ireland to accompany SMR maps. It is an offence to interfere with any of the archaeological sites or monuments listed in the RMP, without first providing two month's notice in writing to the National Monuments Service of Dúchas. It should also be noted that SMRs, archaeological inventories and RMPs are not conclusive lists of archaeological sites and monuments for each county. Other pre-1700 A.D. archaeology with visible above ground features may be identified in the future from prospecting fieldwork and further aerial

photography.

Literary sources consulted as part of the desktop study included *Lewis's Cork* by Tim Cadogan, the *Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society* (JCHAS), *The Shell Guide to Ireland* by L. Killavin and M.V. Duignan and *Irish Names of Places* by P.W. Joyce, among others.

2.2 Field Inspection

A field inspection of the site was conducted on May 20, 2004. Weather conditions and visibility were excellent. The field inspection involved traversing the site on foot to ascertain the presence of any features of archaeological significance.

3.0 Desktop Study Findings

3.1 Cartographic Findings

Sheet 67 of the 1st-3rd editions of the OS maps for County Cork shows that the site in question is in an area of land reclaimed from mudflats during the mid-late 19th century. These mudflats were used to provide materials for Youghal's thriving brick and pottery trades of the 18th and 19th centuries. The 18th-century saw the establishment of brickfields on many estuaries, in particular those near ports, to facilitate ease of transportation by skiff or lighter (Aalen 1997, 224). Unlike the poorly fired brick produced by other brickfields, Youghal brick was of "fine quality" (Cadogan 1998, 438) and used in many buildings in East Cork and Waterford. Some of it was also sent along the coast into Cork (*ibid*). The clay extracted from the mudflats also went to good use to make pottery, three examples of which were exhibited at the Cork Exhibition of 1883 (JCHAS IIIA, 243). The study of the three editions of the OS maps did not reveal any features of archaeological significance on or near the site of the proposed development.

The SMR and RMP reveal numerous monuments in and around the town of Youghal. A table of some of the recorded monuments nearest to the site of the proposed development is provided.

SMR number	Sheet/Plan/Trace	National Grid Reference	Townland	Classification
CO067-037---	067-/07/3	20927/07916	Greencloyne	A one-storey vernacular house
CO067-038---	067-/08/04	20958/07878	Youghal-Lands	Gasworks
CO067-012---	067-/03/6	20871/08008	Muckridge	Brickworks

None of these sites will be affected by the proposed waste water treatment facility.

3.2 Findings of Literature Review

The name Youghal is from the Irish *éochail*, meaning Yew Wood (Joyce 1995, 510). According to Joyce, the hill slope on which the town now stands was once an ancient Yew wood. Moreover, neap tides expose an ancient bog on the strand beside the town, which contains numerous tree roots, nearly all yew. This bog was probably submerged during a slight submergence of the south of Ireland during the Mesolithic period (7,000-4,000 BC). Small scatters of flint tools from this period have also been discovered in the Blackwater Valley, indicating that this part of Ireland was settled during the Mesolithic. There are numerous references to the historic town of Youghal in the literature, from its 9th-century Viking origins, to the establishment of the 13th-century Anglo-Norman town, to its emergence as one of the most important English bases in Munster by the mid-17th century. However, there are no references to any features of archaeological significance that might be affected by the proposed development.

4.0 Field Inspection Findings.

The site is located at the side of a fourth-class road, which serves the adjacent National Car Testing centre to the W and the landfill site to the E. The NE section of

the site by the entrance is currently used as a storage area for skips and heavy goods containers (Plate 1).



Plate 1. Yard to NE of site

The rest of the site consists of several overgrown piles of dumped building materials and scrap metal, broken up by scrub, bracken, grassland and recolonising bare ground. The vegetation is not very high and a good overview of the site was obtained from the peaks of various small mounds of rubble within.



Plate 2. View to SE with the town of Youghal visible on the hill in the background.

The field inspection covered the entire site and did not reveal any features of archaeological potential.

5.0 Conclusion

This report outlines the methodology and findings of an archaeological impact assessment for the proposed development of a waste water treatment facility at Youghal, County Cork. Consisting of a desktop study and a field inspection, it did

not reveal any previously unrecorded features of archaeological significance on or near the site of the proposed development. Moreover, the proposed development will not affect any of the recorded archaeological sites and monuments in the nearby town and surrounding countryside. However, due to the archaeological and historical importance of the town of Youghal and its environs, a number of mitigation measures are recommended.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 It is recommended that a licenced and experienced archaeologist monitor the removal of all topsoil prior to construction of this development. The archaeologist will examine all deposits revealed during the course of excavations and, where possible, determine a date and context for any archaeological features that may emerge.

6.2 The developer must report the discovery of any archaeological features to Dúchas and facilitate and fund both their investigation and recording.

4.3 Any artifacts uncovered during the course of excavation must be reported to the Duty Officer of the National Museum of Ireland.

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