

APPENDIX 5

Archaeological Survey 1998

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SECTION I - INTRODUCTION

**NOBLE WASTE TRANSFER STATION
FASSAROE, BRAY, Co. WICKLOW
CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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1. INTRODUCTION

The following report provides a Cultural Heritage Assessment in respect of the Noble Waste Transfer Station, Fassaroe, Bray, Co. Wicklow. The work was commissioned by Bord na Móna - Environmental Consultancy Services, who are currently preparing a Waste Management Licence Application and EIS in relation to the project.

1.2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The site is located in the townland of Fassaroe, on the Wicklow - Dublin border, c. 2.8 km to the WSW of Bray and c. 2 km NE of Enniskerry (Fig. CH-1). The ground to the north of the site slopes down steeply and rises again, the trough being part of a small valley through which runs a stream. Much of the area of this valley is covered in trees and bushes, and the area to the north is under grass. The immediate areas to the west and south are under crop and the land surface falls very gently to the south and east. The eastern part of the site is partially bounded by road, beyond which the land falls to the east.

Much of the site served as a quarry which is now partially backfilled, although parts of the northern and south western areas have not been disturbed.

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SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION

1.3 GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT

The site currently serves as a waste transfer station with a number of buildings constructed on the surface of the partially backfilled quarry area.

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SECTION 2 - EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

2. ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

For the purposes of the Waste Management Licence Application and EIS for the project, Cultural Heritage encompasses more than archaeology, and is assumed to include all humanly created features on the landscape, including portable artefacts, which reflect the prehistoric, historic, architectural, engineering and/or social history of the study area. The cut-off point is based on obsolescence, e.g. having gone out of common use and/or reflective of skills and techniques no longer practised.

2.1. METHODOLOGY

Six major sources were consulted in the preparation of this report, as follows :

- the Sites and Monuments Records (SMR) for Cos. Wicklow and Dublin.
- the topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland.
- the Ordnance Survey 6" maps for Co. Wicklow.
- The 1:30,000 vertical aerial photographic survey of Ireland by the Geological Survey of Ireland.
- the County Development Plan prepared by Wicklow County Council.
- documentary sources in Wicklow County Library.

In the case of map and cartographic sources, a 200m wide corridor in the area surrounding the site was checked for the presence of monuments. Furthermore, a field survey was carried out in these areas. This consisted of field-walking the surface of the study area as well as the visual inspection of the existing exposed quarry faces.

SECTION 2 : EXISTING ENVIRONMENT**2.2. ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE AREA**

The archaeological heritage of the general area of the site is a rich and diverse resource, typical of the archaeology of the region as a whole. The monuments and artefacts which have survived bear testimony to a history of human settlement dating back to the Neolithic Period (c. 4000 - 2500 BC).

Although there are no megalithic tombs known in the immediate area, there are a number located across the border in Co. Dublin, including wedge tombs at Laughanstown and Shankill and Portal tombs at Brennanstown, Kilterman and Ballybrack and a possible megalithic site at Parknasilloge (SMR: 007-021), c. 2.8km to the west. Evidence for the burial practices of later prehistory are also known from the area in the form of a tumulus in the townland of Monastery, c. 1.25km to the ESE (SMR: 007-023). Furthermore, an extended inhumation of an adult female aged c. 35 yrs. in an unlined grave was discovered in the 1940's, c. 0.75km to the SW (SMR: 007-024). Part of a flint scraper and a flint blade came from a high level in the grave fill (NMI: 1943: 316-7) and the site was subsequently destroyed by quarrying. An exact date cannot be assigned to this burial except in the very broad term of prehistoric.

The later prehistoric and medieval archaeology of the general area is very much typical of the region as a whole with enclosures, churches and castles dotting the rural landscape. On a local level, the presence or absence of these diagnostic monuments is often a good indicator of land quality and longevity of settlement. There are eight individual monuments which can be broadly classified as 'ecclesiastical remains' located within 2.5km of the site. There are churches at Kilbride (SMR: 007-029) and Kilcrouney (SMR: 007-030) located at c. 1.1km and 1.25km respectively to the SW, with further possible ecclesiastical remains at Rathbride (SMR: 008-001) situated c. 1.6km E. In the townland of Monastery are located a church (SMR: 007-032) c. 1.6km to the WNW, as well as a monastery and holy well (SMR: 007-031) c. 2.2km from the site. A cross (SMR: 007-026), known as St. Vallery's Cross, located c. 300m S from the entrance to the site may mark the site of an ecclesiastical site, while the socket stone of a cross is situated in Oldcourt, c. 2.5km E of the site. In the realms of secular settlement a cropmark enclosure (SMR: 007-025) [GSIAP, O, 173-4], located in Cookstown Td., c. 1.15km to the E, may be a possible rath, although an enclosure at Giltspur (SMR: 008-005), c. 2.4km to the SW

may be a tree-ring. Evidence of later medieval settlement in the area of the site includes a towerhouse (SMR: 007-027) located c. 600m to the south and a similar site at Oldcourt (SMR: 008-002) located c. 2.4km to the east.

2.3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL SITES WITHIN THE SPECIFIC STUDY AREA

No sites are known from, or discovered within the study area. The locations of all known archaeological sites, situated within 2.5km of the site, are shown in Fig. CH-2.

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SECTION 3 - IMPACTS OF WASTE TRANSFER STATION

3. IMPACT OF WASTE TRANSFER STATION ON ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE.

No archaeological or cultural heritage sites were defined within the general environs of the study area. Furthermore, the scheme will not have any visual effect on any sites in the general environs.

The archaeological results presented here are based on 'conventional' archaeological survey, which comprises detailed documentary and cartographic research followed by a physical examination of the surface of the study area, as well as a general examination of the open quarry faces that exist at the site. It is undoubtedly true that a more extensive survey, such as the use of geophysical instruments, would possibly reveal evidence of past human activity in the study area. However, surveys of this kind can be expensive and in the context of this assessment would not be considered appropriate. It is for this reason that the recommendations in Section 4 are included. In effect, it is the process of any ground-works in any previously undisturbed areas of the site that will allow the archaeologist the opportunity of recording hitherto unknown archaeological remains.

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SECTION 4 - MITIGATION MEASURES

4. GENERAL MITIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACTS

No sites of cultural heritage interest were identified within the specific boundaries of the site or indeed, within the study area. None of the archaeological sites, as detailed in section 2.2 and Fig. CH-2, will be affected, either directly or indirectly by the development.

However, it should be noted that should there be a need to carry out any future works associated with the development in any of the undisturbed areas identified in section 1.2, then the advice of the National Monuments and Historic Properties Division, Dúchas, should be sought. It is likely that there will be a requirement that any topsoil stripping undertaken in such areas should be carried out under the supervision of a licensed archaeologist.

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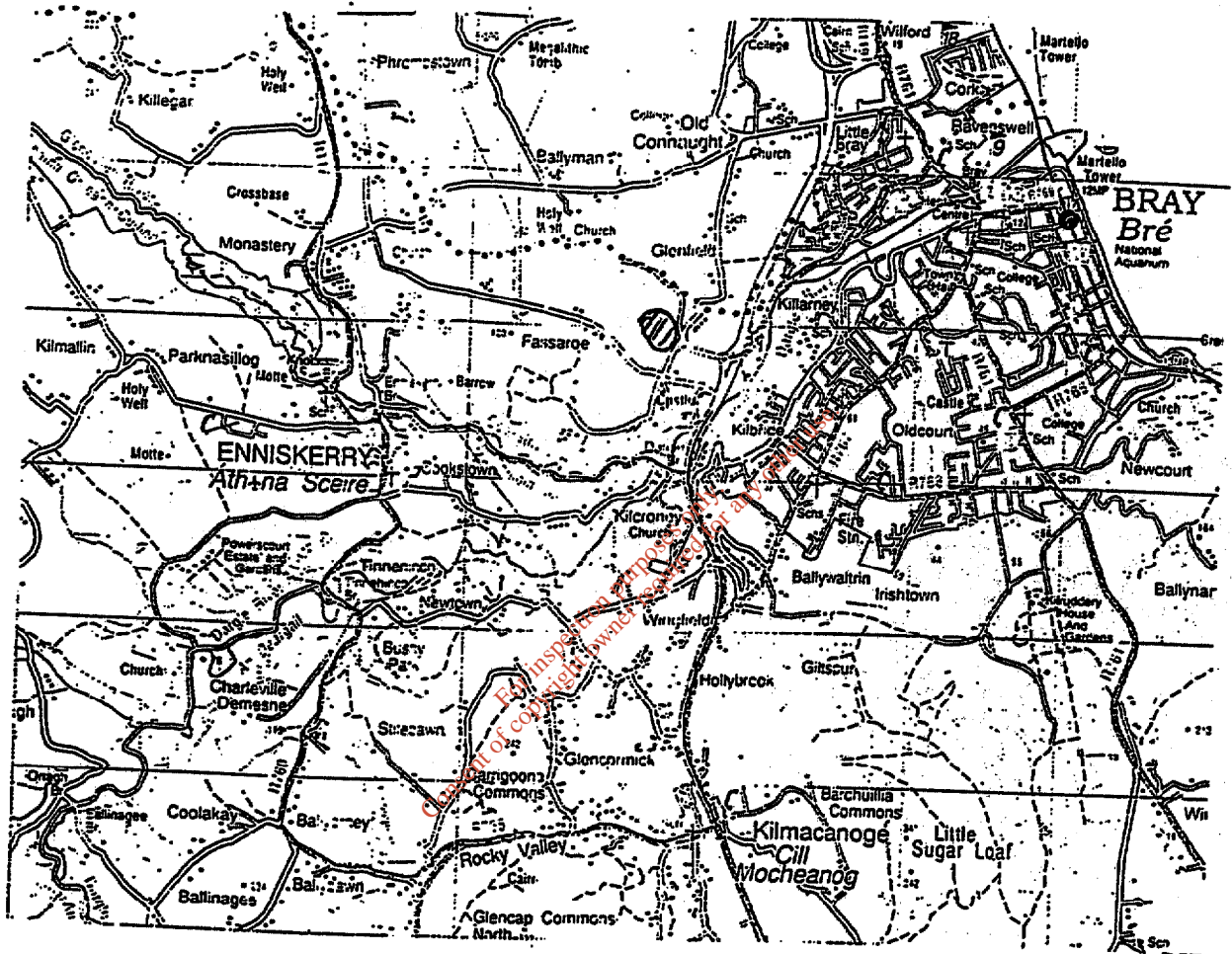
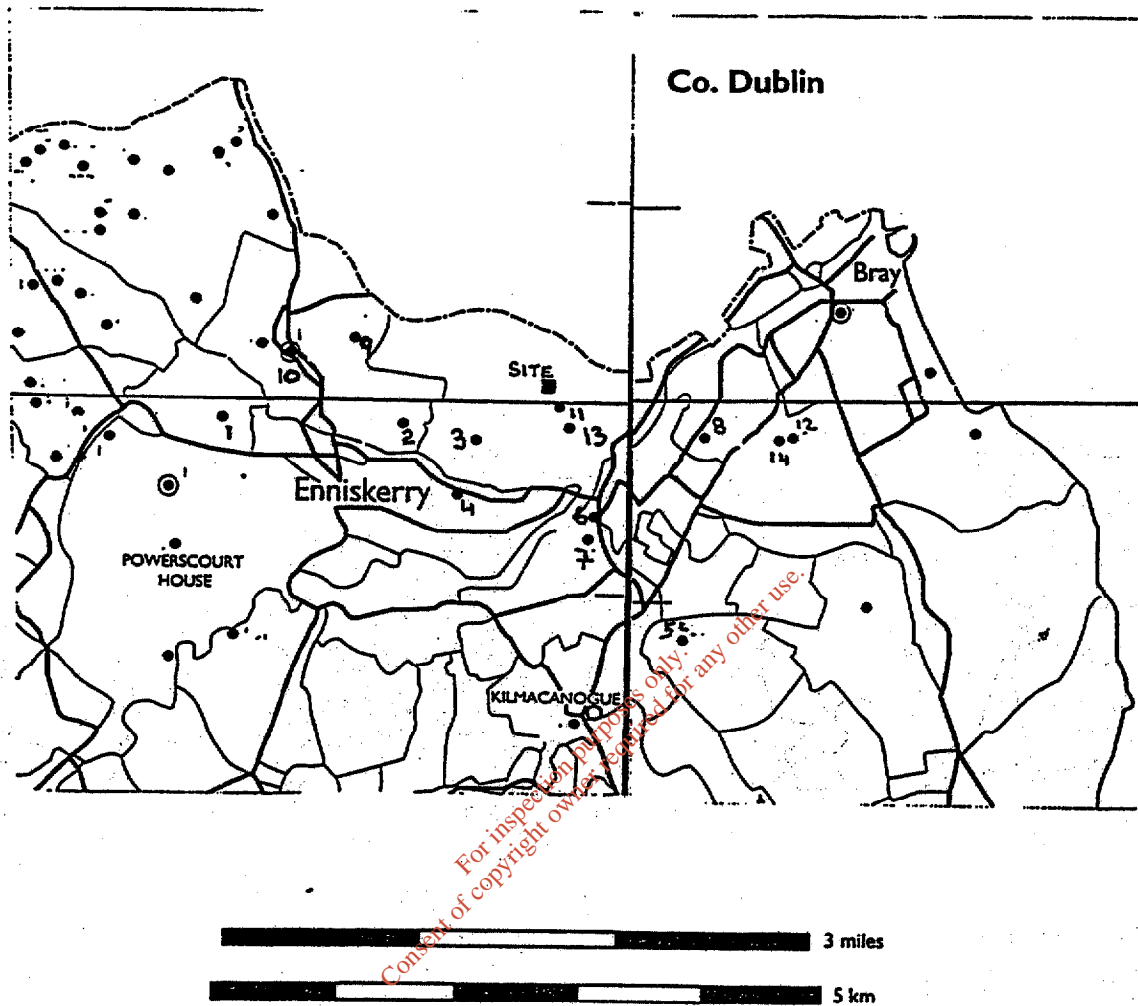


Fig. CH-1. SITE LOCATION



- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Parknasilloge - Megalithic Tomb | 8. Rathbride - Ecclesiastical Remains |
| 2. Monastery - Tumulus | 9. Monastery - Church |
| 3. Fassaroe - Grave | 10. Monastery - Monastery |
| 4. Cookstown - enclosure | 11. Fassaroe - Cross |
| 5. Giltspur - Treering | 12. Oldcourt - Socket Stone |
| 6. Kilbride - Ecclesiastical Remains | 13. Fassaroe - Towerhouse |
| 7. Kilcronev - Church | 14. Oldcourt - Towerhouse |

Fig. CH-2 LOCATIONS OF SITES MENTIONED IN TEXT