

12. CULTURAL HERITAGE

12.1 Introduction

Archaeological Development Services (ADS) Ltd. were commissioned by Project Management to carry out an archaeological study and survey of the proposed development site. The study was carried out to identify any items of archaeological significance on the proposed development site and any potential impacts the development could have on such items.

This study and survey consisted of the following:

- A field inspection of the site
- Consulting the Sites & Monuments Record maintained by Duchas – The Heritage Service and the Topographic files maintained by the Irish Antiquities Division of the National Museum of Ireland
- Documentary and Cartographic research

A full copy of the report by ADS is included in Attachment 11.

12.2 Existing Environment

The site is located in a region of historical importance. A visual inspection of the site was carried out on 17 May 2000. The four fields within the site were under pasture at the time of the site survey. No evidence of any archaeological remains or features were found on the site. A literature survey, cartographic and aerial photographic research did not reveal any items of archaeological significance on the site. There are no known archaeological monuments recorded on the site in the Sites & Monuments Record and there are no recorded archaeological finds on the site in the Topographic files of the National Museum of Ireland. There are four recorded monuments in the vicinity of the site which are described in detail in the main report in Attachment 11.

12.3 Construction Impacts and Mitigation

Although the ADS study indicates that there are no items of archaeological significance on the site it is possible that archaeological features may have survived below ground. This area of Meath has been subject to intensive farming practices over a long period of time which may have resulted in the destruction of above ground archaeological features, traces of which may still survive beneath the present ground surface. Archaeological artefacts could also be revealed during the construction of the development.

There will be extensive earthworks associated with site clearing and the construction phase of the development. These earthworks could have a negative impact on any archaeological features surviving below ground or any archaeological artefacts yet to be discovered.

In order to prevent any such negative impacts occurring the following measures will be put in place during the construction phase of the development:

- Topsoil stripping of the site will be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist.
- Should any archaeological discoveries be made during construction it is the responsibility of the finder, under the terms of the National monuments Act (1930 & amendments), to immediately report their discovery to the Duty Officer of the National Museum of Ireland. Any archaeological discoveries should also be reported to Dúchas – The Heritage Service. These institutions can be contacted at:

National Museum of Ireland,

Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Tel: 01-661 9753

Fax: 01-6766116

Dúchas

51 St. Stephen's Green,
Dublin 2.

Tel: 01-6473000

Fax: 01-662 1767

The mitigation measures outlined above will prevent any negative impacts during the construction phase on archaeological features and artefacts which may have survived below ground level.

12.4 **Operational Impacts and Mitigation**

There will be no impacts on archaeological features / artefacts during the operation of the plant and therefore no mitigation measures are required.

12.5 **Conclusions**

An archaeological study and survey did not reveal anything of archaeological significance on the proposed development site. There are no known archaeological monuments on the site and there are no recorded archaeological finds for the site. The mitigation measures outlined above will prevent any negative impacts on archaeological features or artefacts which may have survived below ground during the construction phase of the development and there will be no impacts on archaeological features / artefacts during the operational phase of the development.