

APPENDIX C

NOISE ASSESSMENT

EOLAS

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GROUP Technical & Consultancy Services

DEPT. Atmospheric Environment

Sheet no. 1 of 11 sheets



THE IRISH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGENCY

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CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

Client M. C. O'Sullivan
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Innishmore
Ballincollig
Co Cork

Title Environmental Impact Statement -
Skibbereen Sewage Treatment Plant :
Noise Assessment.

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Report ref. : 58957

Order no. : Mr Pat Sheppard

File no. : R.6/01696K

Report by : John Patterson

Date recd. :

Approved by : Martin Reilly

Copies to :

Date : 12th February, 1993

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1.0 INTRODUCTION:

This report was undertaken at the request of Mr Pat Sheppard of M.C. O'Sullivan, Consulting Engineers, Innishmore, Ballincollig, Co Cork.

M.C. O'Sullivan have been asked to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (E.I.S.) for a proposed Sewage Treatment Plant at Skibbereen, Co Cork. This report is concerned with the Noise Impact part of the E.I.S.

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2.0 NOISE EMISSIONS:

The location of the proposed treatment works is shown on Messrs. M.C. O'Sullivan's drawing, titled 1:2500 Layout Plan, Drawing No. 1, Revision A.

The site plan showing equipment layout is shown on the drawing, titled Plans, Sections and Elevations of the Proposed Treatment Plant, Drawing No. 3, Revision A.

The treatment plant equipment with their installed electrical power is itemised as follows:-

Screens and Screening Removal	1.1 KW
Jetta Grit Trap	1.5 KW
Aeration Tanks, Motor x 4 No.	2.0 KW each
Compressors (in dewatering house) x 2 No. (one standby)	4.5 KW each
Dewatering House (Filter Bed Press)	15 KW
Settling Tank	0.55 KW
Penstock Actuator	0.5 KW
Submersible Pump	2.2 KW
Picket Fence Thickener	0.55 KW

To obtain data of noise emissions from these types of equipment, noise measurements were made of similar equipment at Ballincollig Sewage Plant, Clonakilty Sewage Plant and Enniscorthy Sewage Plant. Most of the noise levels at the visited sewage plants were very low (almost inaudible) except for the Aeration Tanks, Compressors and Filter Press equipment. The details of the noise measurements are tabulated below:-

Aeration Tanks (Enniscorthy) 52 dB(A) at 10 metres distance.

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Reverberant noise levels in Plant house of noise from two aeration compressors on at high speed (Enniscorthy).

Octave Band Levels

Hz:	<u>63</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>1K</u>	<u>2K</u>	<u>4K</u>	<u>8K</u>
dB:	80	87	76	82	75	79	77	67

Same location, one compressor on:-

Hz:	<u>63</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>1K</u>	<u>2K</u>	<u>4K</u>	<u>8K</u>
dB:	80	85	75	75	75	78	77	67

Measurements made outside the Plant house at 5 metres from the louvered doors with both compressors working gave a level of 59 dB(A).

Reverberant noise levels in the dewatering house of noise from the Filter Press equipment (Clonakilty):-

Octave Band Levels

Hz:	<u>63</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>1K</u>	<u>2K</u>	<u>4K</u>	<u>8K</u>
dB:	68	66	76	80	82	82	80	74

Measurements made outside this building at distances from shut roller steel door:-

10 metres	-	56 dB(A)
20 metres	-	50 dB(A)
30 metres	-	47 dB(A)

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3.0 NOISE BASELINE:

The site for the proposed sewage plant is situated in a rural area (see M.C. O'Sullivan's Layout Plan, Drawing No. 1) The nearest residences are East of the site at c.210 metres distance and South of the site at c. 220 metres distance. A graveyard is situated immediately West of the site and the Ballydehob road is c. 170 metres North of the site.

The local noise environment is made up of noise from local traffic on the minor road and more regular traffic on the Ballydehob road, noise from agricultural activities, some distant aircraft noise, bird-song etc.

Measurements were made of the pre-development noise levels. The locations chosen were as follows:-

- Position 1 :- Measurements on the road outside nearest house South of the site, c. 220 metres distance.
- Position 2:- On the road outside the graveyard, opposite site.
- Position 3:- On the road at junction to driveway of nearest house East of site c.210 metres distance.

The noise measurements were made on the day and night of 3.2.93. Weather conditions were calm and dry for the duration of the measurements. The background noise levels or minimum levels and Leq levels were measured for each measurement period. The Leq is an energy based average widely used in the assessment of environmental impact.

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The details of the noise measurement results, locations and time periods are tabulated as follows:-

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Background Level dB(A)</u>	<u>Leq, dB(A)</u>
12.10 - 12.20	Position 2	32	38
14.10 - 14.25	Position 2	33	39
14.55 - 15.15	Position 1	29	37
16.15 - 16.45	Position 3	34	47
19.00 - 19.15	Position 2	31	41
19.20 - 19.30	Position 1	30	37
19.40 - 19.50	Position 2	29	38
19.55 - 20.05	Position 1	32	39
20.10 - 20.20	Position 3	35	42
00.20 - 00.30	Position 1	28	34
00.35 - 00.45	Position 2	28	32
00.50 - 01.00	Position 3	31	34

These levels are representative of a quiet rural area with some intermittent traffic.

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4.0 INSTRUMENTATION:

Noise measurements were made using a Precision Sound Level meter, Bruel & Kjaer, Type 2218; Octave Filter Set, Type 1613; Microphone, Type 4165; Extension Rod, UA 0196.

The system was calibrated using a Type 4230 Sound Level Calibrator.

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5.0 NOISE CRITERIA:

In general, noise criteria for industrial noise in European countries are related to zones such as residential, industrial, commercial etc. "Acceptable levels" in various countries can vary from 35 to 60 dB(A) at night and 40 to 70 dB(A) during the day, depending on the type of area. The lower levels of 35 (night time) are normally applicable to rural areas, zones of Hospitals etc.

EOLAS experience and precedents set in planning conditions in Ireland by various local authorities and An Bord Pleanála have shown that, for general acceptability, noise level criteria outside nearby residences should normally be selected within the following ranges:

Night : 35 to 40 dB(A)
Day : 45 to 55 dB(A)

An important aspect of these criteria is the absence of prominent discrete tones or impulses.

Selection of the preferred noise criteria values within the range of values above depends on the pre-existing noise levels, the character of the area and the nature of the development.

Taking the above into account and the low level of background noise in the area of the proposed development we propose the following criteria as being appropriate for minimal impact on the existing noise environment:-

Night : 35 dB LAEQ
Day : 45 dB LAEQ

These are limit values for the noise from the proposed plant measured outside any permanent dwelling. There should not be any significant pure tones or impulsive elements in the noise spectrum.

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Control of Noise Emissions

In general, the proposed development is amenable to noise control measures using proven and available technology. The following options are among those available to control noise emissions from the site.

- i. Selection of low noise equipment
- ii. Selection of building materials
- iii. Selection of plant location and building layout on the site
- iv. The use of local screening and enclosures
- v. The use of buildings or earth banks for screening
- vi. The use of silencers and attenuators on individual plant items and equipment.

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6.0 IMPACT OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:

Estimates of the expected noise levels based on measurements at similar plant show that the environmental noise criteria of 35 dB(A) night-time and 50 dB(A) day-time should not be exceeded at any nearby residence. There is ample scope for additional noise control should this be necessary.

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APPENDIX D

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT SITE - ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES UNIT, UCC

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1. Introduction

This report assesses the impact of a proposed sewerage treatment works facility and outfall pipe on the archaeological landscape of Coronea townland, Skibbereen, County Cork. The proposed development is directly south of the River Ilen, which flows through Skibbereen town. The proposed area for the sewerage treatment works is a greenfield site and is partially within the *zone of constraint* around one known archaeological site and is within the environs of at least eight others (Fig 1; Appendix 1). The development will involve ground disturbance during the site preparation works and the construction phases of the proposed sewerage treatment works facility and outfall pipe. The outfall pipe will extend into the River Ilen and this area will be subject to an underwater and metal detection survey (Fig. 2).

2. Study Methodology

This report was compiled using the following sources

1. Desk top study
2. Field-walking

1. A desktop study of the proposed development area was carried out in order to assess the developments impact on the archaeological potential of Abbetstrowry townland and the surrounding area. The desktop study included a review of the first and second editions of the six inch scale Ordnance Survey (OS) maps, the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) for County Cork. All of the available archaeological and historical literature for the area was also consulted. All local historical and archaeological journals were checked to establish if any new information on the area was published in the recent past.
2. Field-walking was carried out in February 2004 by Rose M. Cleary and Kerri Cleary on behalf of the Archaeological Services Unit UCC. The conditions for field walking were good in that the vegetation cover was relatively low.

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3. The Receiving Environment

Skibbereen or the 'little boat harbour' is a thriving market town, regarded as the capital of the area known as 'The Carberies'. Standing on the River Ilen, at a point where the river widens into a creek, it was founded after Algerian pirates sacked the neighbouring port of Baltimore in 1631. The growth of Skibbereen therefore seemed to stem from an influx of inhabitants who moved up river to safer homesteads.

The proposed sewerage treatment works facility and outfall pipe are located in Coronea townland, within the Barony of West Carbery, on the western side of Skibbereen town. The Great Southern Railway is to the east where it cuts through the western side of Skibbereen town, while the Ilen River forms the northern boundary of the town. Abbeystowry church and cemetery (RMP¹ CO141-084/01 and 02) are to the north-east of the proposed development site, separated from it by the River Ilen (Plate 1).

The proposed site of the sewerage treatment works is in the north-western corner of a greenfield site (Plates 2 and 3) with a public roadway at the northern and western boundaries. The adjacent southern and eastern areas are under pasture. A ringfort (RMP CO141-122) is visible to the south (Plates 4 and 5) and an old stone and earth field boundary runs north-south to the east of the proposed sewerage treatment works and ringfort. A cemetery is located directly west of the proposed development site but is separated from it by a roadway (Plate 2). The outfall pipe will extend from the treatment works facility in a northern direction, crossing the public roadway and a greenfield site that steeply slopes down to the River Ilen, from south to north (Plate 6).

4. Development Proposal

This project consists of one part of a sewerage scheme collection system for Skibbereen town. The proposed development consists of the construction of a treatment works facility and associated outfall pipe, measuring 400mm in diameter, extending into the River Ilen (Fig. 2). The development incorporates two greenfield sites, crosses a public road and enters the River Ilen.

¹ Record of Monuments and Places

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

The proposed sewerage treatment works facility and outfall pipe is located in the townland of Coronea, in the barony of West Carbery, west of Skibbereen town. The proposed development incorporates the constraint circle around one known archaeological site, a ringfort (RMP CO141-122). There are also at least eight other known archaeological sites in the vicinity of the development (Fig. 1; Appendix 1).

The town of Skibbereen is synonymous with the Famine period but much earlier settlement activity in the area is also evident. There is one recorded standing stone (RMP CO141-087) in the environs of the development. Single, upright stones are a frequent element of the Irish countryside. They are known by a variety of names such as *gallán*, *dallán*, long stone etc (Power *et al* 1992, 45). They may have had a variety of functions and span a wide dating range, although many may be Bronze Age. Some excavated examples have marked prehistoric burials while others may have had a commemorative or ritual function, or served as boundary markers or positions along ancient route ways. A second unrecorded standing stone was discovered during field-walking, c.500m to the east of the proposed site. It was 0.50m high and triangular in shape, leaning to the north. The ground surrounding the site slopes into the monument.

There are five ringforts in the environs of the proposed development (RMP CO141-083, 086, 088, 121 and 122). Ringforts are the most widespread archaeological field monument in Ireland. They are usually known by the names *rath* or *lios* and are circular or sub-circular areas enclosed by a single or multiple earthen bank(s) formed of material thrown up from a concentric fosse (ditch) on its outside. Variations on the enclosing element include stone facing or stone banks (*caher*). Archaeological investigation has shown that the majority of ringforts were enclosed farmsteads, built in Early Medieval times. Although comparatively few ringforts have been excavated, it is accepted that they have a long period of use, from about 600-900 AD. Sites may have re-occupied in the medieval and post-medieval period (*ibid*, 131). The proposed sewerage treatment works facility includes the *zone of constraint* around one of these ringforts (RMP CO141-122; Plates 4). The interior of this ringfort contains a raised area (Plate 5) which may mark the location of structures, a souterrain or may simply be the result of field clearance, which was noted during the Archaeological Survey Office's work in 1985. An earthwork (RMP CO141-

082) is located to the north-west of the proposed development site and although this no longer survives above ground it was hachured on the 1844 OS map. It is therefore not possible to classify it to a specific archaeological site type, however, due to the density of ringforts in the environs of the site it may originally have been one of these monuments.

There are also some ecclesiastical sites in the vicinity of the proposed development. A church and graveyard (RMP CO141-084/01 and 02) are located to the north of the proposed site on the northern bank of the Ilen River. This church probably dates to the fifteen or sixteenth century and it was recorded as being in 'repair' by 1695 and in 'bad repair' by 1806. It was reportedly on the site of a 'Cell', which was affiliated, with the Cistercian monastery of Abbeymahon. The graveyard (Plate 1) contains many nineteenth- and twentieth-century headstones but also a famine plot in the south-western quadrant adjacent to a derelict keeper's house. To the north-east of this church and graveyard is a holy well (RMP CO141-085), however no surface trace is visible today but the site is marked 'Tobernasool' on the 1842 OS map. These sites are frequently found close to early ecclesiastical sites and their origins probably date to pre-Christian times.

The town of Skibbereen to the east is itself a historically and culturally important area. The name Skibbereen is itself open to interpretation as an article by historian James M. Burke in the Southern Star in January 1914 demonstrated:

The name Skibbereen has been the despair of etymologists. Conor Lyons suggests it may be formed from *Sgiobraidhe* (many skiffs). Dr Joyce says *Scibrin* means a place frequented by skiffs. Some say it is *Sciobadh ar drion* (the sweeping away of thatch). There is also a story about a person snatching '*sciobadh*' – a cake – (*bairin*) from another.

It is also suggested that the name may derive from '*Uisce Brean*' meaning fowl water, after the stagnant pools in the lowland areas on the southern perimeter of the town, however at present the name Skibbereen is widely acknowledged as meaning 'little boat harbour'. It is known locally that a quay wall once existed in the town, although no above water remains of it are visible today.

The earliest historical record of the town is 1615 when Sir Walter Coppinger was granted a Royal Patent to hold fairs in the townland of Gortnaclohy, the eastern side of the town. Prior to 1600 most of the surrounding land belonged to the native MacCarthy tribe, but they were dispossessed during the Cromwellian Wars of 1649-1652. The land was then

divided into two manors, New Stapleton and Bridgetown and these were granted to William Prigg and Samuel Hall who attempted to rename the town, New Stapleton, but failed and subsequently the titles fell to the Bechers. In the early 1800s extensive trade in the manufacture of woolen and linen cloth as well as basic agricultural products. In the 1815 records of Rev. H. Townshend he mentions that the town had 'bolting mills, porter and beer breweries and an extensive distillery of whiskey'. However, after the Napoleonic Wars (1792-1815) industries across Ireland, particularly textile industries, fell into decline, although Skibbereen still boasted a large brewery and a steam corn mill. The Temperance Hall (now the Fire Station on Townshend Street) was the site of the foundation of the first Temperance Society in Europe and was constructed in 1833.

The Great Famine of the 1840s devastated Skibbereen town as the communal grave in the Abbeystrowry Cemetery north-east of the proposed development site attests to (Plate 1). This large plot of ground reserved for them near the entrance to the graveyard now has a Famine Memorial which contains the inscription 'Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints Ps.CXV-5 Erected to the memory of those departed ones who fell victims to the awful famine of 1846 and 1847'. Depending on the source, the figures for the amount of people buried in this plot range from 4,000 to 10,000, proving that the number of famine victims was devastating and that few records were kept in this time of chaos. In the very bad autumn of 1846 a soup kitchen was established in the town, despite the claim that there was Government food stored in the town that would only be handed out at high fixed prices. The workhouse in Skibbereen was built to hold only 800 people but was extensively over-crowded and eventually had 1449 inmates, with the death rate reaching sixty-five in one week in early 1847. The victims were buried in the Workhouse grounds, in the Old Chapel Yard, and even in the cabins and gardens where they died. Law Commissioners directed local guardians to obtain additional workhouse accommodation in December 1846 and as a result of this directive three small timber sheds were also utilized in Skibbereen. Many of the buildings occupied at the time of the famine are still in existence today, albeit in various states of repair.

On a more culturally historical note, Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa founded the Phoenix Society at Skibbereen in 1856 to promote national freedom and a separate identity for Ireland. Naturally the society was suppressed and many of its members ended up in Mountjoy jail. The Gaelic League, founded in 1893, also enjoyed extensive support in Skibbereen and led to the establishment of local industries. In 1889 the local newspaper

the Southern Star was established as a strongly nationalist paper and eventually in 1929 it took over its imperialist counterpart the Skibbereen Eagle.

The 21st July 1877 saw the opening of the extension of the Railway line to Skibbereen (Creedon 1986, 32). This added an importance to the town as a trading center and the extensions of the line to Schull and Baltimore further enhanced outside business. Unfortunately by the early twentieth century and with the Civil War, industry and trade in Skibbereen and a lot of West Cork diminished greatly.

Many archaeological sites are low visibility monuments and these include ancient (prehistoric) settlements, souterrains, ceremonial and burial sites. Remains of these types of sites may lie buried under the surface. Sites have also been leveled in the past and the sub-surface evidence for these may still remain below the modern surface. Stray finds, dropped or lost in the past can also be recovered when the ground is disturbed. The present inventories of sites and monuments (SMR and RMP) indicates only sites that are now visible above the ground and there remains the possibility that other buried sites exist below the surface.

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6. Impact of Proposed Development on the Archaeological Landscape

Visual impact

The proposed development will not have any visual impact on the known archaeological sites in the environs of Coronea townland.

Archaeological Impact

The proposed sewerage treatment works facility is partially located within the zone of one recorded archaeological site and there are eight more in the surrounding environs (Fig 1; Appendix 1). The proposed development includes the *zone of constraint* around the ringfort CO141-122 and is located close to the north of the monument. It is also possible that formerly unrecorded sites will be uncovered during topsoil stripping, particularly of the previously undeveloped areas of the greenfield sites. Buried archaeological sites may range from small-scale sites such as isolated burials to extensive evidence for habitation. These sites will only be detected by archaeological monitoring during ground disturbance. In order to prevent accidental damage to or loss of such features, the removal of topsoil in the development area should be supervised by a suitably qualified archaeologist. The proposed outfall pipe will also enter the Ilen River. The Ilen River is tidal with substantial mud-flats exposed at low tide. This area will be subject to an underwater and metal detection survey.

Impact Summary

The impact of the proposed sewerage treatment works facility and outfall pipe on the archaeological landscape of the area was assessed using all of the available documentary and cartographic sources. There are nine recorded monuments surrounding the proposed development area, which is incorporated into the *zone of constraint* around one of these known sites. It is also possible that previously unrecorded monuments may be uncovered during topsoil stripping and the underwater survey associated with the outfall pipe.

7. Mitigation Strategies

In order to prevent any potential loss to the archaeological record a series of mitigation strategies are recommended.

1. All topsoil removal should be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist to record any archaeological deposits and to recover any artefacts. The archaeologist will require a licence for this work and this licence will be issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Fifteen working days advance notice is required to apply for and obtain the necessary licence.
2. The monitoring archaeologist should be empowered to halt the development if buried archaeological features or finds are uncovered. Provision should be made to resolve any newly exposed archaeological sites.
3. Provision, including financial and time should be made at the outset of the project to facilitate any excavation or recording of archaeological material that may be uncovered during the developmental works.
4. An underwater survey of the area where the outfall pipe enters the River Ilen must be carried out under licence by a suitably qualified archaeologist.
5. A metal detection survey of the areas must also be undertaken under license. It will record the location of all ferrous and non-ferrous materials on and beneath the inter-tidal zone and riverbed. Each contact will be plotted, facilitating the development of a metal detector contact distribution pattern.

8. Non-Technical Summary

A number of sources were consulted in order to assess the archaeological potential of the proposed development area. Field walking was also carried out to assess the proximity and therefore impact of the development on the archaeological monuments and to record any other potential monuments which are not marked on the SMR and RMP maps. While there is no direct impact on the recorded archaeological monuments within the vicinity of the development area as yet unknown archaeological monuments in the development zone may be impacted upon by ground disturbance. A number of mitigating strategies are recommended in order to protect these monuments and to prevent accidental loss or damage to archaeological finds or features that lie below the present surface and have no visible surface remains.

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www.skibbereen.ie/history

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Appendix 1

Extracts from the *Archaeological Inventory of County Cork – Vol. 1: West Cork*
(Power *et al*, 1992).

Abbeystrowry

RMP CO141-087

Standing stone In pasture, with good views in every direction. Fallen stone (L 1.5m; 1.35m x 0.65m). Three other partially buried stones around base.

Coronea

RMP CO141-122

Ringfort In pasture, on break in N-facing slope, overlooking Ilen river. Circular raised area (30m N-S; 29m E-W) enclosed by scarp (H 1m), stone-faced in parts. Field clearance material dumped on S side. Field fence skirts site W-NNW.

Mallavonea

RMP CO141-121

Ringfort In pasture, on NW-facing slope. Roughly circular area (37m N-S; 30m E-W) enclosed by earthen bank (H 1.6m), stone-faced in parts; with silted-up external fosse.

Abbeystrowry

RMP CO141-088

Ringfort In tillage, on E-facing slope. Heavily overgrown circular area (diam. c.30m) defined by earthen bank with external fosse to W.

Abbeystrowry

RMP CO141-086

Ringfort In pasture, on SE-facing slope. D-shaped area (18m NE-SW; 6m NW-SE) enclosed by arc of earthen bank 9H 2.05m NE-SW; straight line of field fence SE-NE. Low undulation (H c.0.5m) on line of levelled bank SW-NE. Known locally as 'ringfort'.

Abbeystrowry

RMP CO141-083

Ringfort In grassland, on N-facing slope, below crest of ridge. Circular area (22m N-S; 24m E-W) enclosed by earthen bank (H 1.6m), stone-faced in parts on inside. Earthen field fence running NE-SW truncate SE edge of site.

Abbeystrowry

RMP CO141-082

Earthwork In pasture on high level ridge; Ilen river to S. hachured horseshoe-shaped area on OS map (1944). No visible surface trace.

Abbeystrowry

RMP CO141-085

Holy Well Adjacent to Skibbereen-Ballydehob road. Marked 'Tobernasool' on OS map (1842). No visible surface trace. Abbeystrowry graveyard (CO141-084/01) lies short distance to W.

Abbeystrowry

RMP CO141-084/02

Church In graveyard (CO141-084/01), ruins of rectangular church. Ivy-clad E gable (Wth 7.7m) and E ends of N and S walls survive to near full height, otherwise gone except lower courses of n wall. Lintelled window embrasure near E end of S wall and at centre of E gable, both missing lights; wall press near S end of E wall. In repair in 1695 but in 'bad repair' by 1806 and replaced by a new church in Skiberrean in 1827 (Brady 1863, vol. 2, 453-5). On site of 'cell' affiliated to Cistercian monastery of Abbeymahon (Gwynn and Hadcock 1988, 126).

Abbeystrowry RMP CO141-084/01

Graveyard on N shore of Ilen river estuary, oblong yard extended to E in 19th century, with large number of 19th- and 20th-century inscribed headstones; also some chest tombs. Famine plot in SW quadrant adjacent to derelict keeper's house. Ruins of Abbeystrowry church (CO141-084/02) near W end. In use.

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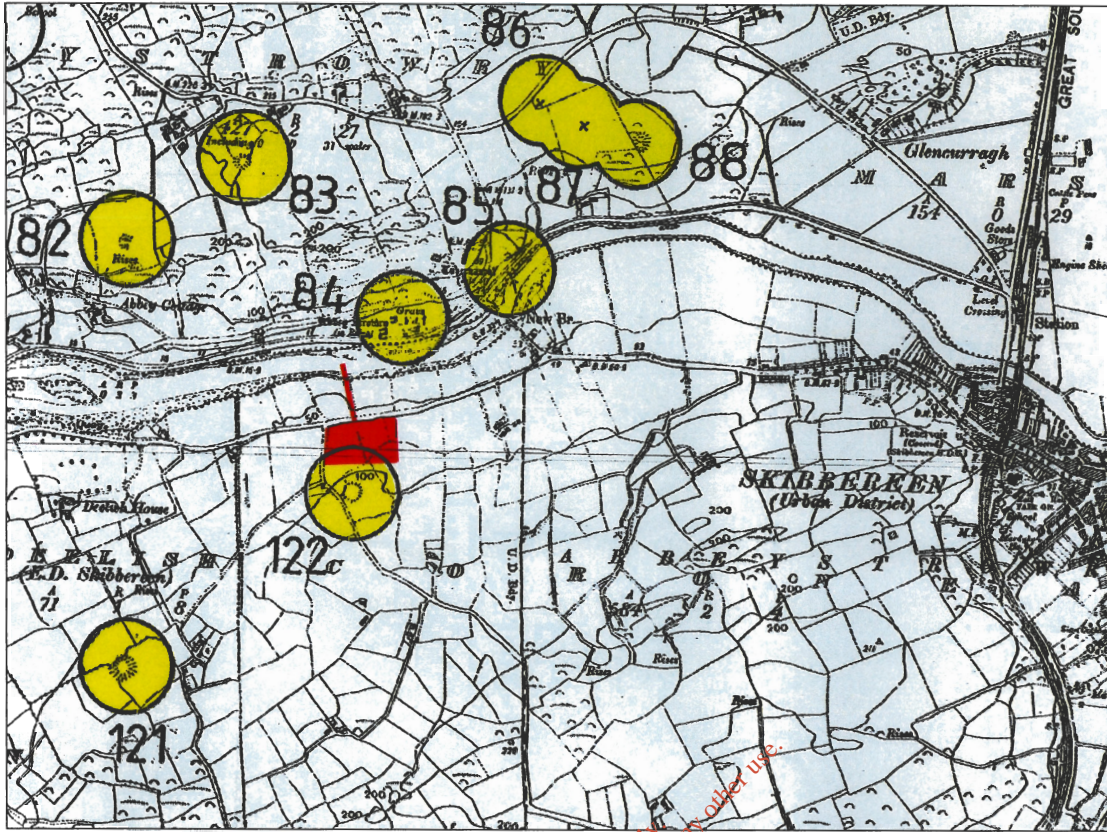


Fig. 1: Extract from RMP CO141 showing proposed development area and known archaeological sites in the environs.

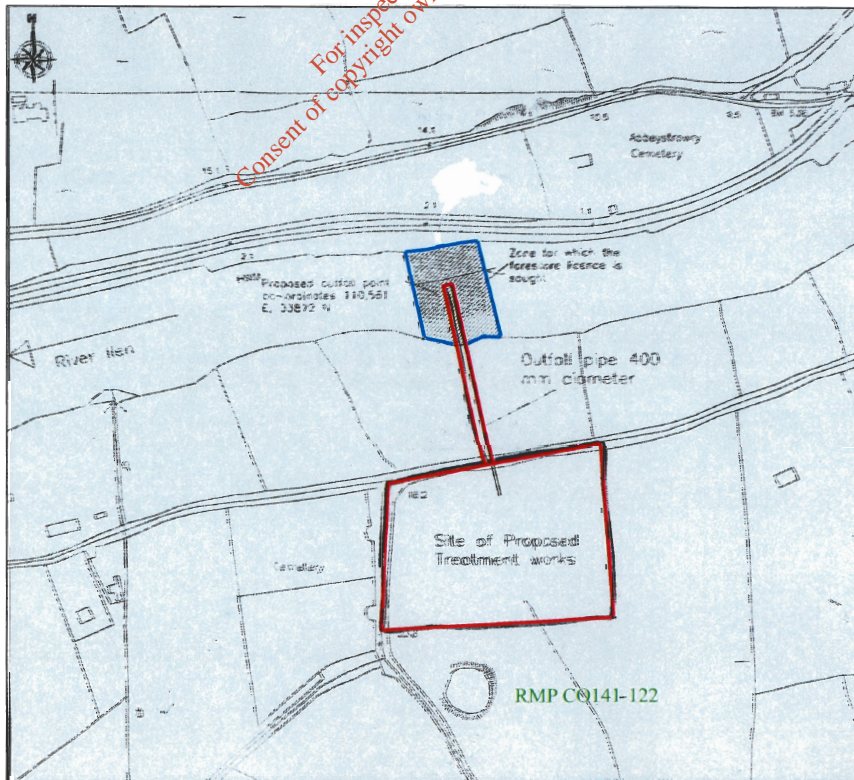


Fig. 2: Proposed sewerage treatment works facility and outlet pipe extending into River Ilen.



Plate 1: Abbeystrowry Cemetery (RMP CO141-084/01) to north-west of proposed development site, with River Liffey to south.



Plate 2: Site of proposed sewerage treatment works facility with cemetery to west (red arrow), looking north-west.