

SECTION 9: CULTURAL HERITAGE

9.1 INTRODUCTION

9.1.1 Outline of Scope of Works

This report, prepared on behalf of SLR Consulting (formerly John Barnett and Associates), has been undertaken to assess impacts on the cultural heritage of a proposed inert waste soil recovery facility in the townland of Milverton, Skerries, Co. Dublin. The application site covers an area of approximately 7.9 hectares (19.0 acres). In preparing this assessment, a wide variety of paper, cartographic, photographic and archival sources were consulted. All subject lands within the application site were visually inspected.

9.1.2 Methodology

This EIS chapter presents an assessment of the known or potential archaeological resource within a defined study area. It consists of a collation of existing written and graphic information in order to identify the likely context, character, significance and sensitivity of the known or potential archaeological resource using an appropriate methodology (EPA 2002 and 2003).

The study involved detailed investigation of the archaeological, architectural and historical background of the application site and the area immediately surrounding it. The application site comprises the bulk of Roadstone Dublin's existing landholding at Milverton and is overlaid on a recent aerial photograph in Figure 9.1. The overall study area is that shown on the aerial photograph and extract from the Record of Monuments and Places, reproduced in Figure 9.2.

The study area was examined using information from:

- The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) of County Dublin;
- The Fingal County Development Plan 2005-2011;
- Topographical and Correspondence Files / Finds List of the National Museum of Ireland;
- Aerial photographs;
- Previous excavations;
- Cartographic sources and
- Documentary sources.

A field assessment was undertaken on 3 December 2008 in order to identify and assess any known archaeological sites and previously unrecorded features and possible finds within the application site and/or the surrounding landholding.

An impact assessment and mitigation strategy has been prepared. An impact assessment is undertaken to outline potential adverse impacts that the development may have on the cultural resource, while a mitigation strategy is designed to avoid, reduce or offset such adverse impacts.

9.1.3 Consultations

In the course of producing this document consultations were carried out with the National Monuments Section of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

9.2 RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

9.2.1 Landscape Setting

The application site is situated in north-west County Dublin, to the south-west of the town of Skerries, on the southern side of the R127 Regional Road between Skerries and Lusk. The site is situated on coastal flat to undulating lowland, between 20mOD and 40mOD approximately. The soil of the area is generally a grey brown podzolic developed from Irish Sea till with limestone and shale (Gardiner and Radford 1980). The underlying bedrock is of the Holmpatrick formation, described as grainstone-packestone (limestone) and micrite (lime mud).

9.2.2 Archaeological Heritage

The following is a brief summation of the archaeological and historical development of the study area and the main types of sites and monuments that are known from the surrounding landscape. It is intended to place the sites and monuments in the study area in context. The application site and the proposed waste recovery facility development is situated in the parish of Holmpatrick and the barony of Balrothery East.

RMP sites within the study area identified by the National Monuments Service of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government are presented in Appendix 9.1. Records indicate that there was previously a cist (a Bronze / Iron Age burial structure) located immediately beyond the eastern boundary of the application site. The RMP file notes that the field in which these graves may have been located was quarried in the 1970s. There are no other national monuments located within 1km of the site.

Prehistoric Period

There are no definite prehistoric sites known within the study area. There is a tradition of burials in Milverton townland, but no finds have been reported from the area.

Early Medieval Period

In the Early Medieval period, the study area was situated in the Ui Chathasaig Kingdom of Saithne, later known as the Cantred of Fyngal north of the Gowre. The Kings of Saithne were the Ua Cathasaigh. (MacCotter 2008, 165).

Just off the coast from Skerries, on Inis Padraig (St. Patrick's Island), a monastery was founded before the year 798, at which time it was attacked by the Vikings. The Annals of Ulster record *'The burning of Inis Pátraic by the heathens, and they took the cattle-tribute of the territories, and broke the shrine of Do-Chonna, and also made great incursions both in Ireland and in Alba'*.

About the year 1120, the Abbey of Holmpatrick was re-founded for the regular canons of St Augustine by Sitric, the son of Murchard, and dedicated to St Patrick (Dalton 1838, 446).

In the Early Medieval period, settlement is often indicated by the presence of enclosed farmsteads known as Ringforts. There is only one possible enclosure known in the study area, at Ardla. However, this site is believed to have been levelled in the 1970's.

Medieval Period

About the year 1220, Holmpatrick Abbey was moved from Inis Patrick to the mainland, where it occupied the present day site of the Church of Ireland in Skerries (Dalton, 447). From this period, the abbey controlled the area of the development until the end of the Medieval period.

The process of sub-infeudation is normally associated with the construction of timber castles, known as Motte and Baileys. These earthwork fortifications were used to house and defend the Norman lords and their retinues while they set about the process of pacifying and organizing their new fiefs. However, there are no Mottes within the study area.

Manorialism describes the organisation of the feudal rural economy and society characterised by the vesting of legal and economic power in a Lord, supported economically from his own direct landholding, and from the obligatory contributions of a legally subject part of the peasant population under his jurisdiction. In Ireland, the Lord's Manor House was also sometimes enclosed by a rectangular moat and these sites are referred to as moated sites. They are a useful indicator of Anglo-Norman settlement. There are however, no moated sites within the study area.

The Post-Medieval Period

Holmpatrick was one of the Irish religious houses suppressed in 1537. Its lands were granted by Henry VIII to John Parker. In 1578, they were granted to Sir Thomas Fitz Williams of Baggot Rath and Merrion, and the grant included the town of Holmpatrick, Skerries, Barnegarragh, Cogbragh (Cabragh); New Grange; Milwardeston (Milverton); Lanie; Hacketstown; Piercystown, Dallabrocan, Hlamestown, Balruddery, Mallahonie, and Thurleston. The Manor of Holmpatrick then passed to Charles Wilmot, Sir James Fullerton and Donogh O'Brien, Earl of Thomond. The Earl of Thomond sold it to Hans Hamilton in 1721 (Dalton 1838)

National Museum of Ireland

Examination of the finds registers and topographical files held by the National Museum of Ireland did not identify any finds within the study area.

Cartographic Sources

The Ordnance Survey 1st and 2nd edition six inch maps (1:10,560 scale) of the area were examined. This review did not identify any previously unrecorded archaeological sites, buildings or potential features of landscape importance.

Aerial Photography

A 2005 orthophotograph of the Milverton area is reproduced in Figure 9.1. This does not indicate any previously unmapped cultural heritage features.

Other Sources

Examination of archaeological corpus works on prehistoric artefacts (Harbison 1969, Eogan 1983, 2000, Kavanagh 1991, Simpson 1990), pottery (O’Riordain and Waddell 1993) and Iron Age material (Raftery 1984) revealed no additional finds from the study area

Previous Excavations

No previous excavations have been carried out in the study area.

Field Inspection

Field inspection of the application site and the surrounding area was carried out on 3 December 2008. The site has already been quarried to bedrock, as shown on Plate 9.2. No additional sites or potential monuments were identified in the course of this inspection.

9.2.3 Built Heritage

There is one structure within the study area which is listed as a protected structure in the Fingal Development Plan 2005-2011.

Ref. No. 232 Engine House, Roadstone Skerries Quarry, Dublin Road, Milverton
Described as a single-storey stone building with bell-cote, linked to port-a-cabins.

This structure is located within Roadstone Dublin’s landholding and is owned by it. Up until recently, it was used as an office by staff at Milverton Quarry. A photograph of the structure is reproduced in Plate 9.1. It is located immediately inside the application site, on the eastern side of the existing site entrance.

9.2.4 Cultural Heritage

Townland /Placename Evidence :

Townland names are a source of information not only on topography, land ownership, and land use but also on the historical evolution, archaeological formation and folklore of an area. During the Ordnance Survey of the early 19th century, Ireland was mapped accurately for the first time. The task of recording placenames resulted in some townland names being merely anglicised, whilst others were literally translated and more still were completely distorted.

The meaning of townland names in the vicinity of the application site is indicated below.

Ardla	Probably high field or high half.
Balcunin	Cunnion’s town
Baldongan	Donnagan’s town
Drumlattery	Slattery’s ridge
Hacketstown	Town of the Hackets
Holmpatrick	Old Norse, An island or drier place in a marshy area of Patrick
Milverton	Town of the Milvers
Milverton Demesne	The demesne of the Milvers
Piercetown	Pierce’s town
Townparks	Parkland of the town of Skerries

The English translations of the townland names within the study presented above are based on the Placenames Database of Ireland (www.logainm.ie).

9.3 IMPACT OF THE SCHEME

Direct Impacts

Traffic movements associated with the importation of inert soil to the quarry over the short to medium term (up to 10-15 years) will pass the western side of the protected engine house structure. In the longer term, traffic in and out of the proposed waste facility will cease. In view of the many years of quarry related HGV traffic movement in and out of the application site, the impact of continued traffic to and from the proposed waste recovery facility is expected to be minimal.

No other direct impacts on the archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage of the area cultural have been identified for the waste recovery facility.

Indirect Impacts

No indirect impacts on the archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage of the area cultural have been identified for the waste recovery facility.

Interaction with other Impacts

No interaction with other impacts were identified during the assessment.

'Do Nothing' Impact

If the proposed waste recovery facility or future quarrying not to proceed, there would be no direct or indirect negative impact on the archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage of the area.

'Worst Case' Impact

In the worst case scenario, the waste recovery facility will have no impact on the archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage of the site, landholding or the surrounding local area.

9.4 MITIGATION MEASURES

Direct Impacts

No direct impacts requiring mitigation have been identified.

Indirect Impacts

No indirect impacts requiring mitigation have been identified.

Residual Impact

There will be no residual impacts remaining following the implementation of mitigation measures.

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FIGURES

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PLATES

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Plate 9.1 View of the Engine House at Milverton looking North.



Plate 9.2 View of Quarry Area to be backfilled with Inert Soil

APPENDICES

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APPENDIX 9.1 RMP SITES IN THE STUDY AREA

DU005-026- Ardla Ringfort Site
Site was marked on the OS 1st ed. Maps, but was levelled in the 1970s.

DU005-02701 Mill Hill Park Windmill
Seventeenth century windmill base.

DU005-028- Mill Hill Park Windmill
Seventeenth century windmill base.

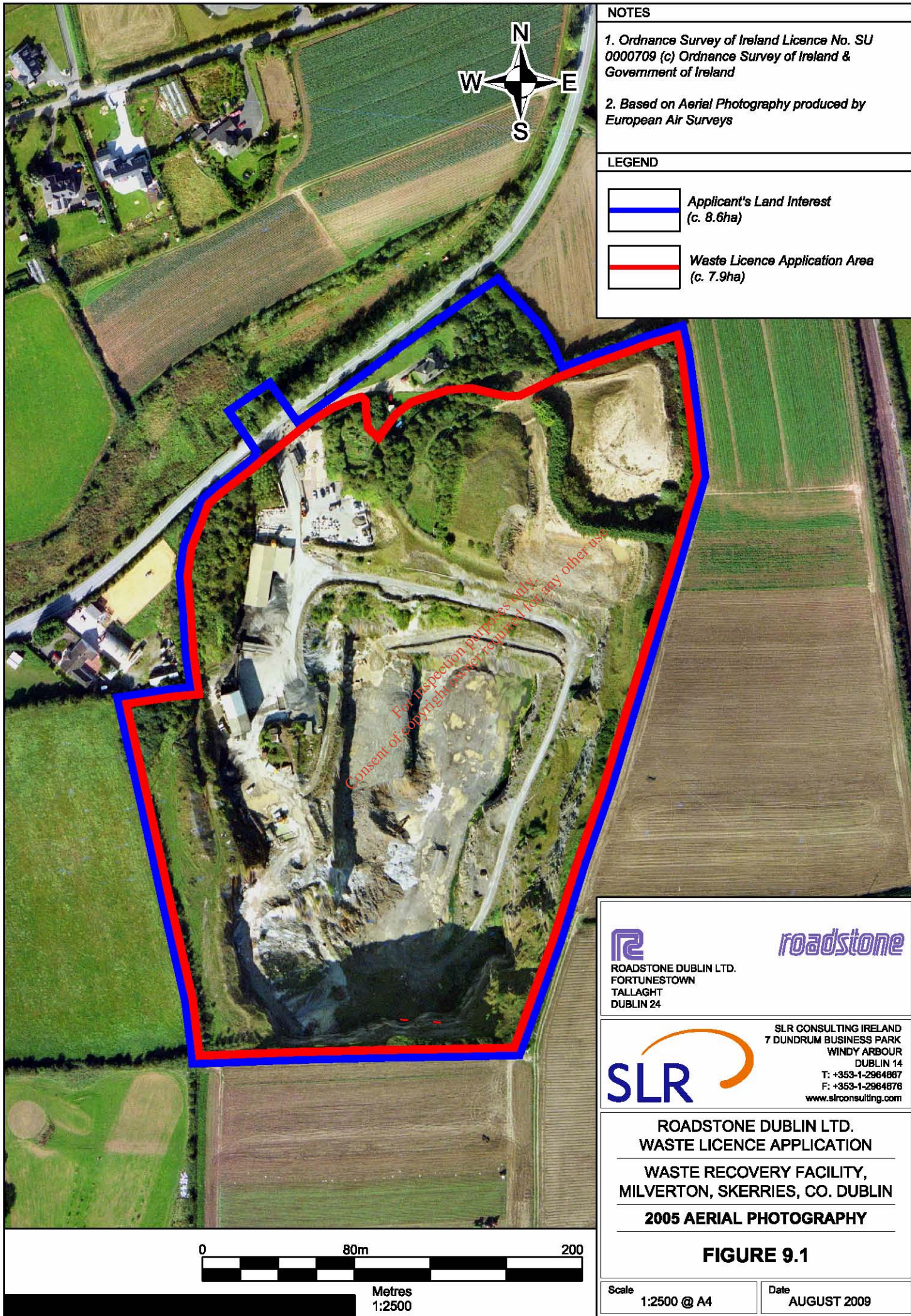
DU005-029- Mill Hill Park Watermill Site
Site of a watermill occupied by a nineteenth century mill complex.

DU005-030- Mill Hill Park Well
Spring in a stone enclosure.

DU005-031 Ecclesiastical site
Nineteenth century church built on the site of a medieval church. Has a number of grave slabs.

DU005-032 Milverton Cists Site
An article published by Champion in the 1969 volume of the Dublin Historical Record noted the tradition of burials in stone coffins in the townland of Milverton. The RMP file notes that the field in which these graves may have been located in was quarried in the 1970s.



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NOTES

1. Ordnance Survey of Ireland Licence No. SU 0000709 (c) Ordnance Survey of Ireland & Government of Ireland
2. Based on Aerial Photography produced by European Air Surveys

LEGEND

-  Applicant's Land Interest (c. 8.6ha)
-  Waste Licence Application Area (c. 7.9ha)

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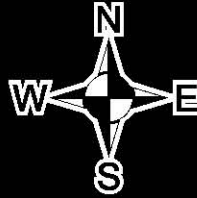
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**WASTE RECOVERY FACILITY,
 MILVERTON, SKERRIES, CO. DUBLIN**

2005 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

FIGURE 9.1

Scale 1:2500 @ A4	Date AUGUST 2009
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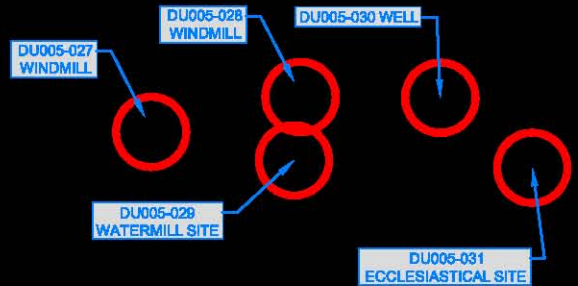


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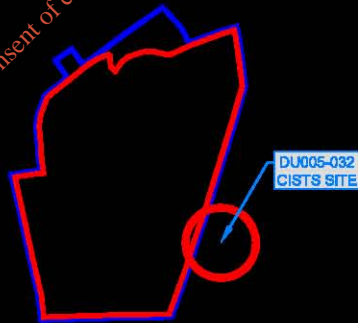
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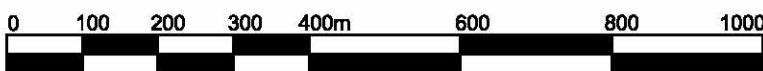
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LOCATION OF RMP SITES

FIGURE 9.2

Scale 1:10,000 @ A4

Date AUGUST 2009



Metres
1:10,000