



3.7 CULTURAL HERITAGE

3.7.1 Introduction

This section of the EIS outlines a brief summary of any Architectural, Archaeological and Cultural Heritage features that could relate to the existing soil recovery facility at Tallagh, Belmullet, Co. Mayo, which is subject to a review of Waste Licence W0256-01.

The activities carried out under the existing Waste Licence are exempt from Planning Permission, as per the 2009 Waste Licence application. The EPA Technical Committee report dated 27th April 2011 relating to the existing Waste Licence acknowledges the development to be exempt from planning permission.

The letter of 8th May 2012 received from Mayo County Council confirms that the proposed alterations to the scheduling of the materials recovery at the site (i.e. the subject matter of the technical review of the waste licence) does not affect the planning status of the works as exempted development.

It is therefore safe to assume that matters relating to cultural heritage and protection of sites of archaeological or historical importance have been considered by Mayo County Council in making their assertion. Notwithstanding this point, this section of the EIS identifies and assesses any potential impacts upon cultural heritage.

The existing licensed facility, as per licence W0256-01, is a soil recovery facility, which is licensed for a final topographic level of a 1m Land Raise and with the acceptance of 24,900 tonnes per annum of soil and stone and its recovery, by spreading material over the deposition site area, with a consequential benefit for improving the land for agricultural use.

The application for the Licence Review is for the continued operation per the existing waste licence, with no change to the licensed final topographic level of a 1m Land Raise and with the acceptance of up to a maximum of 90,000 tonnes per annum of soil and stone for recovery as described above – this is to allow for the acceptance of the currently available suitable material from a nearby large infrastructural project, which is to provide for material from a well monitored source of incoming soil and stone.

The licence review creates no proposed change to the content, nature, composition or volume of materials intended for recovery by deposition at the site, and the overall tonnage of 265,000 tonnes for which the existing license was issued remains unaffected. The activity will just take a shorter time span to complete and fully restore to beneficial agricultural use.

3.7.2 Existing Environment

This study determines, as far as reasonably possible from existing records, the nature of the cultural heritage resource within the site (if any) and the general area of the existing soil recovery site at Tallagh, Belmullet, Co. Mayo using appropriate methods of study. Desk based research is defined as an assessment of the known or potential archaeological resource within a specified area consisting of a collation of existing written and graphic



information. The assessment takes place in order to identify the likely character, extent, quality and worth of the known or potential archaeological resource.

The study involved detailed interrogation of the archaeological and historical background of the existing site and general area.

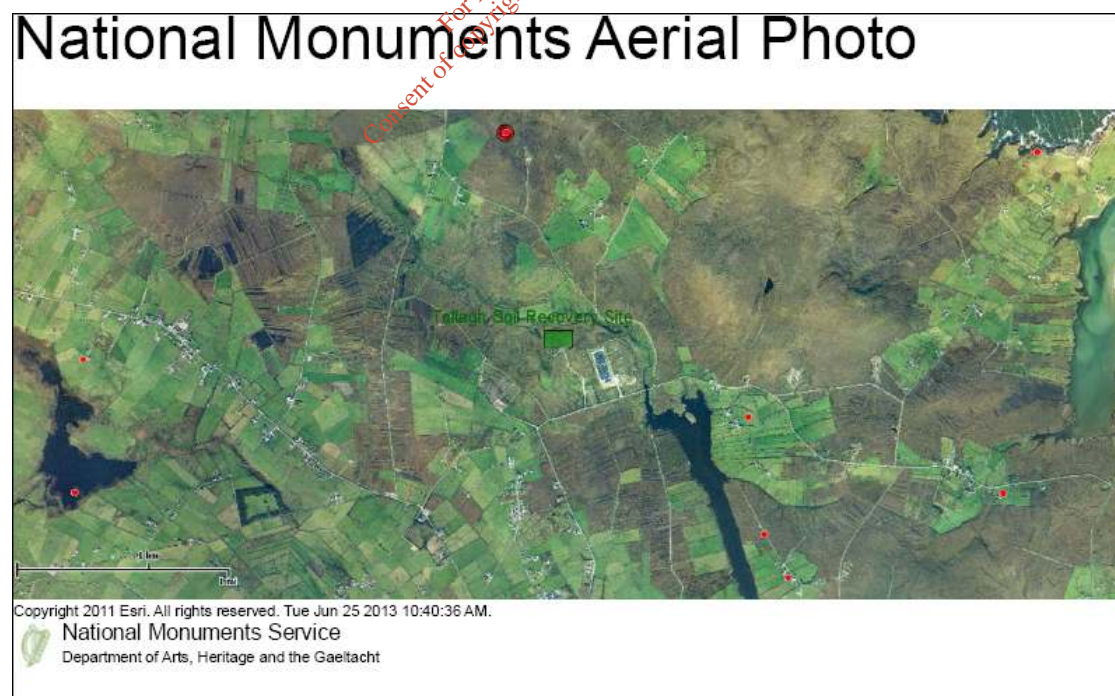
Information has been principally obtained from the National Monuments Service of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. This was in the form of the Archaeological Survey Database which can be accessed via the ArcGIS Viewer. This incorporates the SMR (Sites and Monuments Record) of Co. Mayo together with historic 6 inch Ordnance Survey Maps and aerial photography.

3.7.2.1 Site and Monuments Records – Archaeological Interest.

The following Maps and Aerial Photographs (**Figures 3.7.2.1**) are derived from the National Monuments Service - Archaeological Survey Database which can be accessed via the ArcGIS Viewer. These aerial photographs and maps clearly show that there are no known archaeological sites or monuments either within or within close proximity to the existing soil recovery facility at Tallagh.

The historical 6 inch Ordnance Survey Maps also show that there are no known archaeological sites within or close to the site.

Figures 3.7.2.1: Maps and Aerial Photographs relating to Protected Sites and Monuments





National Monuments Ordnance Survey Map



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National Monuments Service
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National Monuments Historic 6 Inch Ordnance Survey Map



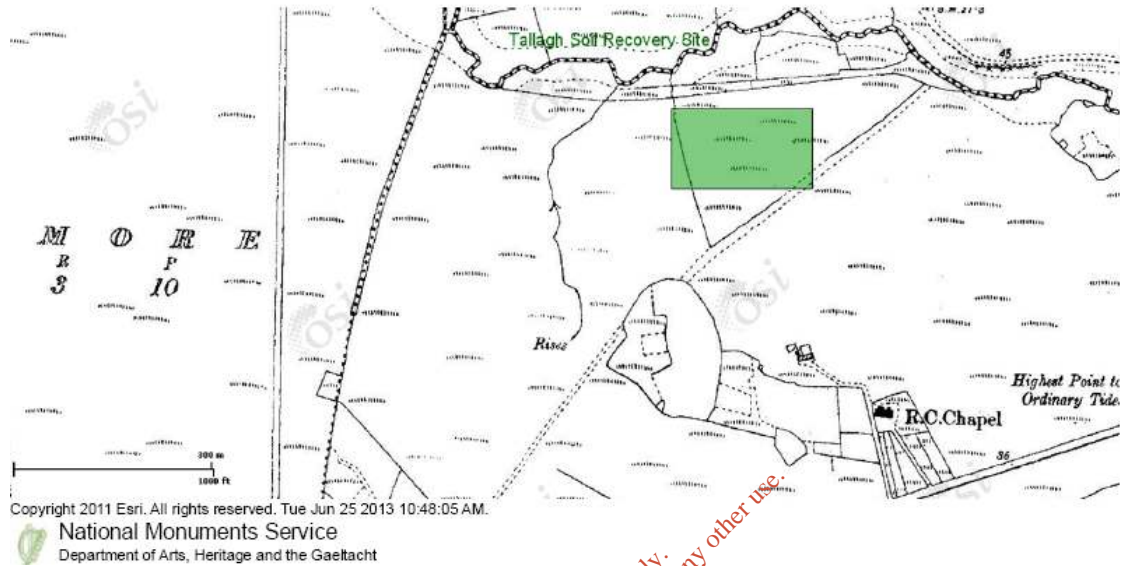
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National Monuments Service
Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

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National Monuments Cassini 6 Inch Ordnance Survey Map



National Monuments Aerial Photo Close Up





Two SMR records are shown on the maps greater than 1km away to the north-west and to the south-east of the existing site but these are so far removed from the site that there will be no possible impact whatsoever on these sites. The protected site to the north-west of the site is SMR site MA010-001 – a Crannog in the townland of Gort An Eadain. The protected SMR to the south-east is site MA010-028 – a Midden located in the townland of Barr Thrau.

3.7.2.2 Built Heritage

To the south of the existing soil recovery site and to the west of the entrance road is a small disused Roman Catholic chapel. This building is shown on the Cassini 6 inch Ordnance Survey Map but not on the Historic 6 inch Ordnance Survey Map. The building is shown in **Photo 3.7.7.2** below and appears now to be used for storage or agricultural purposes having long since ceased to be used as a place of worship. There are no other historical buildings of any note either close or within the existing soil recovery site.



Photo 3.7.2.2: Former Roman Catholic Chapel – Now Derelict

3.7.2.3 Cultural Heritage

As the development intends to reinstate the land for agricultural afteruse and will not stretch past its current limits there will be no disturbance to the townland boundary or loss of townland name. Therefore there are no limitations to the proposed development due to the cultural heritage record.



3.7.3 Assessment of Potential Impacts

The existing soil recovery at Tallagh does not contain, nor is close to, nor abuts any protected archaeological site or monument. The activity will therefore have no impact upon archaeology.

The entrance road abuts a former disused and derelict Roman Catholic Chapel but as this is not in use as a place of worship and the activity does not impact directly upon this building, there will be no impact upon historical buildings.

The landscape where the site is located does not have specific historical, cultural or archaeological significance.

There are no standing structures within the area of land interest and due to the nature of the existing soil and stone recovery activity it is envisaged that there will be no direct negative impacts on the architectural heritage or the local area. The emplacement of soil on the site will not destroy any unknown subsurface archaeological features as the site is not being excavated or cleared but rather a 1m layer of inert soil and stone will be placed upon the existing land surface.

As the development intends to reinstate the land for agricultural afteruse and will not stretch past its current limits there will be no disturbance to the townland boundary or name. Therefore, there are no potential impacts of the proposed development to the cultural heritage record.

Lennon Quarries Ltd. is also a member of the Irish Concrete Federation (ICF) and comply with the parameters contained within their Environmental Code of Practice and Archaeological Code of Practice.

3.7.4 Mitigation Measures

As it is concluded that there will be no direct or indirect impacts upon Cultural Heritage, no mitigation measures are required or are proposed.

The potential impacts from the proposal to increase the annual tonnage from 24,900 tonnes to 90,000 tonnes poses no change in the scope of the activity, the nature of the activity or potential emissions from the activity (as presently licensed).

- The development sequence will still be to fill the site progressively (as presently licensed).
- The lands are presently marginal agricultural land and will be restored using imported soil and stones to more productive agricultural land thereby having a consequential benefit to agriculture (as presently licensed).
- The exact same proposed activity will occur as licensed i.e. a total of 265,000 tonnes of soil and stones but over a shorter time span (i.e. ca. 2.5 – 3 years). The activity will just take a shorter time span to complete and fully restore to beneficial agricultural use.



- The site survey drawings submitted with the Waste Licence Review remain unaltered as there will be no change whatsoever in the proposed topographical levels based on the reclamation of the site occurring over a shorter time period. Therefore, there is no change to finished site survey drawings.
- Therefore, the licence review creates no proposed change to the content, nature, composition or volume of materials intended for recovery by deposition at the site, and the overall tonnage of 265,000 tonnes for which the existing license was issued remains unaffected.

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