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1 INTRODUCTION

RPS-MCOS Ltd were appointed by Killarney Waste Disposal to prepare a Waste Licence Application with Environmental Impact Assessment for a proposed extension to the Waste Materials Recovery Facility at Aughacurreen, Killarney, Co. Kerry. As part of this assessment the potential impacts of this proposed extension were identified and recommendations proposed in relation to archaeology, architectural and cultural heritage.

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2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Sites and Monuments Record and Record of Monuments and Places

Between 1984 and 1997 a list of all known and potential sites for each county were compiled in the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), which was based on a paper survey of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey of Ireland carried out in the 1840s and 1850s, reports from various antiquarians, academic journals and excavation reports. This record shows that an archaeological site existed at some time and was recorded however it does not indicate whether these sites survive up to the present day.

2.2 Stray Finds Register

2.2.1 The National Museum of Ireland

The topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland archive have records of stray finds that have been discovered and given to the state by the finders. Each find is identified by the townland in which it was found. The location and the nature of the find and in some cases excavation reports are available. There were no stray finds recorded in the townland of Aughacurreen where the facility is located.

2.2.2 Kerry County Museum

The Curator of the Kerry County Museum was also consulted regarding any stray finds in the study area. No stray finds in this area were recorded at the museum however it was advised by the Curator to consult the County Archaeologist.

2.2.3 Kerry County Council

Correspondence received from the Heritage Officer from Kerry County Council on 23/07/04, which is included in Appendix A stated "that there are no known monuments within 500m of the proposed extension. Two monuments are located just outside a 500m radius KE 58-093 Ringfort and KE 066-027 Fulacht Fiadh. A Late Bronze Age hoard was recovered from the neighbouring townland of "Knockasarnet".

2.3 Excavations Database

The website www.Excavations.ie was consulted to check if any previous excavations were carried out in the area. No excavations were registered for the area.

2.4 Cartographic Sources

The following historical map sources were consulted:

- The first edition map of the Ordnance Survey (OS) six-inch series, surveyed in 1841-42.
- The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) constraints map which is based on the six inch OS revised edition 1894.

These maps were consulted at the Local History Section of the Kerry County Library in Tralee, County Kerry and the Archaeological Survey at 51, St. Stephens Green, Dublin 2 respectively.

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3 DESCRIPTION OF THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Archaeological Heritage

Drawing No. DG0001-04 shows the locations of sites and monuments within 500m and 1km from the boundary of the Killarney Waste Disposal facility. The data for this drawing was taken from the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) for County Kerry. No sites or monuments are located within a 500m boundary. Six sites are located within 1km from the facility, descriptions of which are shown below in Table 1.

Table 1: Sites and Monuments located within 1km boundary from Facility.

| Monument Number | National Grid | Townland | Classification |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| Monument No. KE066 -026 | 9404 9319 | Nunstown | Fulachta Fiadh |
| Monument No. KE066 -027 | 9436 9332 | Aghacurreen | Fulachta Fiadh |
| Monument No. KE058 -087 | 9380 9476 | Aghalee Beg | Enclosure |
| Monument No. KE058 -088 | 9267 9349 | Cortaree | Enclosure |
| Monument No. KE058 -089 | 9288 9366 | Curragh | Enclosure |
| Monument No. KE058 -093 | 9457 9396 | Knockasarnet | Ringfort (Rath\Cashel) |

A booklet prepared by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government describes the Irish field monument types in more detail as follows:

Fulachta Fiadh

Fulachta Fiadh are described as ancient cooking places, which were used from at least the Bronze Age down to the historic period and the method of using them is described in early texts. They usually survive as small horseshoe-shaped mounds made up mainly of small pieces of blackened stone and situated close to a waste source or in marshy or formerly marshy ground.

Enclosures

A large proportion of old church sites and graveyards around the country are on the sites of Early Christian ecclesiastical foundations which were originally surrounded by large enclosures, often circular or oval in plan, and usually far more extensive than the surviving graveyards. In some instances the entire enclosing bank, ditch or stone wall survives but more often the line of the enclosure is only indicated by curving field boundaries or cropmarks or low earthworks visible only from the air.

Ringforts

The ringfort is a space surrounded by an eathern bank formed of material thrown up from a fosse or ditch immediately outside the bank. Generally they vary from 25-50 metres in diameter. In some areas, a massive stone wall enclosed the site in place of a bank and ditch. This type of ringfort is called a caher, cashel or stonefort and well preserved examples may have terraces and

steps in the inner face of the wall. Ringforts were erected as protected enclosures around farmsteads mainly during the Early Christian period (C. 500 – 1100 AD).

3.2 Architectural Heritage

The rural nature of the location of the facility ensures that the architectural heritage is characterised by structures that serve primarily domestic and agricultural purposes. As shown in the first edition Ordnance Survey surveyed in 1841-1842, the ruins of 19th century cottages were evident. These cottages remain today on a nearby farmstead.

3.3 Cultural Heritage

3.3.1 Prehistoric Killarney and Arrival of Christianity

The first residents of the Killarney area were the Bronze Age Beaker Folk, from around 2000 BC. They mined copper on Ross Island. They led a prosperous life with strong trade ties to the Continent. The Beaker Folk were generally peaceful farmers. However in the beginning of 500 BC, the first invaders from the North of Ireland Pictish tribes came to Killarney. According to the legend, the ruling tribe in Killarney was descended from Queen Mebh's son Cair and was known as the Ciarraige. It is from this name that "Kerry" is derived.

In approximately 400 BC, the Fir Bolg of Ioverni arrived who were experts in stone masonry. They created stone forts and developed the Ogham script.

The Gaels who later called themselves the Milesians arrived in 100 BC. It took them 500 years to dominate the other groups. From then on Killarney rulers were called Eoganacht Locha Lein.

Around 400 AD the first Christian communities were established around this time with St. Abban building a cell at Aghadoe. The Eoganacht Locha Lein ruled undisturbed for 200 years until they were defeated by another Milesian family from Cashel, the O'Donoghue/MacCarthy's. From 1200 onwards, the Anglo-Normans launched attacks on the O'Donoghue/MacCarthy's. The Anglo-Normans were defeated at Callan in 1261. The O'Donoghue/MacCarthy family built Ross Castle and Muckross Abbey. Then in 1583, the English defeated the O'Donoghue/MacCarthy's, and most of their lands were handed over to Sir Vincent Browne.

3.3.2 The Townland of Aughacurreen

The townland of Aughacurreen is located 4.5km northwest of Killarney Town. It is described by the Ordnance Survey Name Book for Co Kerry:

"as Acad a curraoin, field of the small moor-

This townland contains --- acres of arable and --- acres of bog. The proprietor H.A. Herbert Esqr. has it let to tenants on a lease of 21 years at £2 per acres. One eight tilled; soil good; no limestone. County Cess not paid by the acres but by Gneeves which is an indefinite quantity of land, varying in different townlands being in some places more and some less."

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4 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Appendix B contains the Existing Site Layout Plan and the Proposed Site Layout Plan for the facility. Killarney Waste Disposal (KWD) currently operate a Materials Recovery Facility under a Waste Permit from Kerry County Council and accept 16,500 tonnes of non-hazardous waste per annum for processing. KWD propose to increase the annual intake to 40,000 tonnes and extend the current KWD facility by constructing a new processing building. Therefore they are required to apply to the EPA for a Waste Licence and an Environmental Impact Statement will accompany the application. The size of the existing building on site is 720 square metres and the new extension will be 2,503 square metres (total size 3,333 square metres). The total area of the site is approximately 2.2 hectares.

The landscape character of the area is defined by a combination of agricultural farmlands, bog lands and forested areas. The topography of the site and the surrounding lands is generally low lying. A stream is running through the site which has already been diverted. Peatland and wet grassland are located to the west of the site where the stormwater treatment system is located. The area for the proposed extension is covered in a hardcore surface fill. Please refer to the Existing and Proposed Layout Plans and Figure 1.

Figure 1: Area for Proposed Extension (Facing Southeast towards the Existing Building).



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5. POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The proposed extension area is located in a low lying landscape surrounded by peatland and poor drained land with natural watercourses intersecting the site. This type of landscape is characteristic of where most archaeological sites of interest are often found as these areas would have been favourable to settlers.

Although there are no known sites within a 500m boundary of the site, as the surrounding area has recorded sites then there is a possibility that unknown sites remain to be discovered.

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6. SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATIONS

An investigation of archaeological and historical sources has confirmed that the proposed extension site at Killarney Waste Disposal Ltd., Aughacurreen, Co. Killarney is situated within an area which contains archaeological remains. However the proposed extension area itself does not contain any recorded archaeological monuments and does not appear to have been the site of any recorded finds. The most significant artefact recorded from the surrounding area is a hoard dating from the late Bronze Age, which was recovered from the neighbouring townland of "Knockasarnet".

The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government recommended that a geophysical survey of the site be undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (correspondence in Appendix A). However the significance of a geophysical survey is not an issue due to the fact that the proposed extension area is covered in hardcore fill and therefore it is considered that this method of investigation will not provide any additional information to the assessment.

Therefore the following recommendations are proposed:

1. The site preparatory works within the proposed extension area will be monitored by a qualified archaeologist. This will ensure that any archaeological features that may be disturbed will be identified.
2. The stream on site should be inspected by a qualified archaeologist to assess its archaeological potential.

Mitigation measures will be finalised following consultation with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

7. REFERENCES

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 1995. *Draft Guidelines on the information to be contained within Environmental Impact Statements.*

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Department of Heritage and Local Government, 2003. *Irish Field Monuments.*

Ordnance Survey Name Books for County Kerry, Volume I.