ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCREENING ASSESSMENT OF MIDDLE WAD FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME - CONTRACT E: CLONTARF OUTFALLS PROJECT, COUNTY DUBLIN

ON BEHALF OF: DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL
The following report details an initial archaeological screening assessment, which has been undertaken as part of the Middle Wad Flood Alleviation Scheme - Contract E: Clontarf Outfalls Project. The proposed scheme is located in Clontarf, County Dublin (Figure 1). This assessment has been carried out in order to ascertain the potential impact of the proposed project on the archaeological and historical resource that may exist within the area, and define whether further studies are required in order to define potential impacts. The assessment was undertaken by Jacqui Anderson of IAC Archaeology, on behalf of Dublin City Council.

Figure 1: Site location showing nearest archaeological site

1.2 THE DEVELOPMENT
The proposed development will comprise:

- Sealing of manholes in properties immediately north of Clontarf Road to prevent flooding of those properties
- Construction of a new splitter chamber and parallel culvert in the green space between Clontarf Road and the shoreline to improve conveyance
- Construction of a new outfall headwall with suitable flap valves at the foreshore. To minimise the intrusion into the mudflats/silts this headwall can be recessed into the existing rock armour
- Remedial works to the existing partly collapsed headwall which will effectively result in its replacement / modification so that it matches the configuration of the proposed new adjoining headwall
- All ancillary works including operation and maintenance.

The proposed development is shown on Drawing 20834-NOD-XX-XX-DR-C-08006 in Volume 2, Planning Drawings. Refer also to Section 3 Proposed Development of the
2 RESULTS OF SCREENING ASSESSMENT

The proposed development area is located on the Clontarf Promenade, Clontarf, County Dublin. The site is located outside the zone of archaeological potential for historic core of Dublin (DU018-020). There are no recorded monuments within a 500m radius study area. A Sites and Monuments record for a battlefield (DU019-020) is marked c. 476m east-southeast of the proposed development area; however, this location represents an approximate area relating to the battlefield associated with the Battle of Clontarf (AD 1014). The exact location and extent of the battlefield is unknown but is believed to have taken place in the vicinity of the modern-day suburb of Clontarf. The coast line has changed significantly in this area since the early medieval and medieval periods, and now incorporates areas that would previously have been the intertidal area or part of Dublin Bay, therefore it is unlikely that the battle took place in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development area. Previous discoveries in the 18th and 19th century identified human remains possibly relating to the battle over 3km to the west, in the proximity of Parnell Square.

Two features are recorded in the Dublin City Industrial Heritage Record (DCIHR) for the study area of the proposed development area, a tramway north of the site and Dublin Harbour (sand and shingle) extending into the proposed development area.

The Excavations Bulletin (1970–2021) and available excavation reports were reviewed as part of this assessment. Only one previous investigation has taken place to date within the 500m study area of the proposed development area. Archaeological monitoring of pipe laying took place along Hollybrook Park, Hollybrook Road and Clontarf Road under licence 14E0425. Site Investigation works were also carried out along the seafront south of the Clontarf Road and were subject to archaeological monitoring. One possible archaeological deposit, a small burnt feature, was identified on Hollybrook Road (Bennett 2015:125).

Analysis of the historic mapping shows that the proposed development area once formed part of the intertidal area of Dublin Bay, with the Clontarf Road to the north marking the extent of the previous shoreline (Figures 2 to 4). Taylor’s map shows the proposed development area within an area of strand labelled as ‘Cockle Point’ (1816). The historic Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1911, shows that a tram line formerly ran along Clontarf Road to the immediate north and this is recorded in the DCIHR. The site itself continued to occupy an estuarine location until a relatively recent time, with the third edition OS map of 1953 showing the start of reclamation works in the area (Figure 5).
Figure 2: Extract from Rocque’s map of Dublin (1760) showing the approximate location of the proposed development area

Figure 3: Extract from Taylor’s map of Dublin (1816) showing the approximate location of the proposed development area
Examination of the aerial photography and the satellite imagery indicates that the proposed development area occupies a location on the promenade of Clontarf. The site comprises a grassed area and part of an existing car park (Bing Maps 2022, Figure 4).
6). The foreshore area is characterised by imported rock, with a pathway to the north, both of which are partially included within the proposed development area. No previously unknown features of archaeological potential could be identified from the aerial coverage.

Figure 6: Satellite imagery of the proposed development area (Bing Maps, 2022)

Whilst there are no recorded archaeological sites in the vicinity of the proposed development area, it is possible that the Battle of Clontarf occurred within the wider landscape. Furthermore, the development area is located within a marine environment, which lends a general archaeological potential to the site.
3 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDIES

Based on the results of this assessment, no direct impacts are predicted upon the onshore/terrestrial archaeological resource as a result of the proposed development going ahead.

Based on the archaeological potential of the site, which is located within an intertidal/marine environment, a separate intertidal archaeological assessment will be carried out by specialist archaeologists (ADCO Ltd.). It is recommended that any mitigation strategies proposed in that assessment be fully implemented in order to ensure any impacts on the marine archaeological resource are minimised and mitigated appropriately.
4 REFERENCES


National Monument Section, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Sites and Monuments Record, County Dublin.

National Museum of Ireland. Topographical Files, County Dublin.

CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

John Rocque’s Exact survey of the city and suburbs of Dublin, 1760

John Taylor’s Map of the County of Dublin, 1816

Ordnance Survey Maps of County Dublin, 1843-1953

ELECTRONIC SOURCES


www.archaeology.ie – DoHLGH website listing all RMP/SMR sites.

www.heritagemaps.ie – The Heritage Council web-based spatial data viewer which focuses on the built, cultural and natural heritage.

www.googleearth.com – Satellite imagery of the proposed development area.

www.bing.com – Satellite imagery of the proposed development area.