

Appendix 14.1

ARCHAEOLOGY
ARCHITECTURE AND
CULTURAL HERITAGE -
Correspondence

14.1 ARCHAEOLOGY ARCHITECTURE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE – Correspondence

14.1.1. Correspondence sent to and received from County Archaeologist (Cork County Council) between March and May 2015

I am involved in an EIS for a new waste management facility at Ringaskiddy by Indaver (aerial photo attached). An application was submitted for the same site in 2008.

I understand that Arup have already met the council and briefed them on the proposal which is to be submitted as a strategic infrastructure development during this year.

There are no Recorded Monuments or Protected Structures within the development site. Ringaskiddy Martello Tower which is both a Recorded Monument (CO087-053) and Protected Structure (RPS 00575) is in ground adjoining to the south.

If you have any particular issues or queries that you would like addressed in the EIS regarding the development please don't hesitate to contact me.

Reply:-

As noted in your e-mail there are no Recorded Monuments within the development site and no new sites occur in the area. Outside of the usual content of an Archaeological assessment for the EIS, the Martello Tower (Recorded Monument CO087-053 & Protected Structure RPS 00575) is the main immediate archaeological concern and the visual impact of the proposed development, this is particularly pertinent in regards the tower which must be seen as part of a wider network of other Martello towers and military installations in the harbour where inter visibility is a key issue.

In addition Cork harbour is been developed as a tourism attraction – included as a tourist attraction are a number of heritage sites such as Spike island, Camden and Cobh itself which has been developed since the last planning application in 2008. The assessment should address the impact of the proposed development cultural heritage of the wider harbour area in this regard both in terms of visual impact in regards to the (a) as archaeological /architectural heritage and the (b) as a tourism asset.

14.1.2. Correspondence sent to and received from Conservation Officer (Cork County Council) between March and May 2015

I am involved in an EIS for a new waste management facility at Ringaskiddy by Indaver (aerial photo attached). An application was submitted for the same site in 2008.

I understand that Arup have already met the council and briefed them on the proposal which is to be submitted as a strategic infrastructure development during this year.

There are no Recorded Monuments or Protected Structures within the development site. Ringaskiddy Martello Tower which is both a Recorded Monument (CO087-053) and Protected Structure (RPS 00575) is in ground adjoining to the south.

If you have any particular issues or queries that you would like addressed in the EIS regarding the development please don't hesitate to contact me.

Reply:-

I was not aware that Arup had already met the council. Regarding your query if it is the same development site as the 2008 application, I assume you will look at the same issues in terms of visual, physical and landscape issues in relation to the Martello Tower and the wider military landscape of Cork Harbour. There has been significant works in terms of heritage tourism within the Cork Harbour Area since 2008 and the impact of the proposed development on the architectural/archaeological and cultural heritage of the harbour area is an element that will need to be addressed in detail and certainly this was something that was considered to be deficient by ABP under the previous application.

I hope this is of some assistance to you.

14.1.3. Correspondence sent to and received from National Monuments Service Archaeologist for County Cork between March and May 2015

I am involved in an EIS for a new waste management facility at Ringaskiddy by Indaver. An application was submitted for the same site in 2008.

Correspondence has already been submitted to the Development Application Unit by Arup (attached) and a reply received reference G Pre0050/2015 (also attached).

There are no Recorded Monuments within the development site, the nearest is a Martello tower (CO087-053) in ground adjoining to the south.

If you have any particular issues or queries that you would like addressed in the EIS regarding the development please don't hesitate to contact me.

Reply:-

I have reviewed the documentation we have on file. I made a note on our database that I needed to review the Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment before commenting further. However, Dr Connie Kelleher in the Underwater Archaeology Unit of NMS issued observations to our Development Applications Unit on 11/03/2015, in which she stated that an Underwater Archaeological Assessment was also required this recommendation formally issued to Arup on 30-03-2015. Maybe you haven't seen this letter yet? I believe the letter issued to Ms Fiona Patterson in ARUP.

The specifics in relation to Dr Kelleher's requirements are detailed in this letter. The email you attached here relates to our response to a request for a meeting on 18th February - this pre-dates the additional correspondence sent to ARUP on 30-03-2015. I hope this clarifies things.

14.1.4. Correspondence sent to and received from the Underwater Archaeology Unit, National Monuments Service between March and April 2015

You may remember an application in 2008 for a waste to energy facility at Ringaskiddy by Indaver which didn't get through planning at the time. Debbie Sutton probably contacted you with some queries about it and I subsequently did an intertidal and metal detection survey on Gobby Beach in about 2010 on foot of a further information request from Bord Pleanála.

Indaver are putting together a new application for the same site which is at the eastern tip of the Ringaskiddy peninsula with the Martello tower to the south of it and Gobby Beach to the east. One of the problem areas in the 2008 application was potential coastal erosion and Indaver are proposing beach nourishment to mitigate this. This would involve depositing cobbles along the toe of the cliff adjoining Gobby Beach along the eastern site boundary to Indaver. No excavation would be required for this but the cobbles would need to be brought to the cliff base from the car park at Gobby Beach which immediately adjoins it to the north. This would require trucks traversing the beach along the length of the Indaver site boundary and a machine would need to grade the cobbles once deposited. I don't have a more detailed methodology on this yet.

The intertidal and metal detection survey done in 2010 found nothing along the Indaver site boundary but I covered the adjoining area to the north of this as well, basically from the Gobby Beach car park for some distance north and identified a few features, most of which were previously identified by Donal Boland in 2006 when he did an intertidal survey of the same area (a bridge to Spike Island was proposed at the time). The features are a section of sheet piling on the seaward side of the car park and beside it the remains of approximately 7 small timber uprights with a deposit of concrete to the south. Further to the north the metal frame, probably of a small boat, was submerged in the shallow water just beyond the low tide mark, this wasn't mentioned in the 2006 report by Boland. An L-shaped metal girder was partially buried in a soft sandy area and beside it a section of pipeline. A small deposit of rock armour was present at the landward edge of the beach where the road to Rocky Island lies immediately beside the strand.

The movement of trucks and a machine across the strand may have an archaeological impact which will require mitigation. I was going to propose monitoring of the coastal protection works and confining movement of trucks to a designated route along the strand. Do you think this sounds appropriate?

Reply:-

I would be inclined to ask for a new intertidal as there are a lot of year since it was last done and we would need to know if there was anything else now exposed or if that previously identified is still there. I think the application is in at the moment here, so I will be asking for that.

Let me know if you have any more details and I can comment on it.