

Section 14A(2) National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2004

Directions to Meath County Council for archaeological works on the M3 Clonee to North of Kells (Dunshaughlin to Navan section) approved road development.

Introduction

The M3 Clonee to North of Kells motorway scheme is an approved road development having been approved by An Bórd Pleanála in August 2002. An Environmental Impact Statement was published in February 2002 that included an assessment of the impacts of the proposed motorway on the archaeological heritage. The assessment was based on a number of techniques including geophysical surveys and some 28 archaeological, or potential archaeological sites were identified on the route of the proposed motorway. Following the approval of the road development by An Bórd Pleanála, Meath County Council engaged archaeological consultants to carry out archaeological test excavations along the route. Thirty-eight archaeological sites were identified on the Dunshaughlin to Navan section of the route of the proposed motorway. Meath County Council has applied to the Minister for directions for the carrying out of further archaeological works in respect of the approved road development. The works proposed include an assessment of the artefact bearing potential of the topsoil in areas where archaeological sites have been identified to determine the most appropriate methodology for topsoil removal; additional geophysical survey at Collierstown; high-resolution topographical surveys at a number of locations; metal-detection surveys at a number of sites; the archaeological excavation and recording of all previously recorded features; the expansion of the areas of excavation at identified archaeological sites as required and the excavation and recording of all features uncovered; paleo-environmental coring will be carried out in three areas; any upstanding 19th century structures on the route will be architecturally recorded; the removal of forestry and topsoil at Lismullin and Ardsallagh will be carried out under archaeological supervision; all construction topsoil stripping will be archaeologically monitored. Details of the identified archaeological sites and outlines of the mitigation and post-excavation proposals, including publication of the results, have been submitted with the request for directions.

Directions

These directions relate only to the Dunshaughlin to Navan Section of the M3 Clonee to North of Kells approved road development.

All aspects of the archaeological works should be conducted in accordance with provisions of the policy and advice notes on archaeological excavations issued by the Department and in line with the provisions of the Code of Practice agreed with the National Roads Authority.

The archaeological works should be carried out in line with the proposal (with the modifications listed below) entitled “M3 Clonee to Kells Roadscheme Contract 2 Proposal For Archaeological Resolution”, including the additional proposal for targeted geophysical survey at Collierstown 1, that was submitted by Meath County Council to the Minister with the request for archaeological directions and in

accordance with the terms of these directions. Additions or changes to the works should be notified with full details of the works proposed to the National Monuments Section in advance of any works being commenced.

Modifications to *M3 Clonee to Kells Roadscheme, Contract 2 Proposal for Archaeological Resolution*

- A. On all sites where human remains have been identified in the archaeological test excavations, or where there is reason to suspect that such remains may exist, an osteoarchaeologist should be present on site to supervise, advise and assist with the excavation of all human remains.
- B. The procedure to be followed in the removal of the sod and topsoil over all archaeological sites is as follows:
 - (i) the grass should be cut and the surface systematically field walked and where appropriate, following consultation with the National Monuments Section, a metal detection survey should be carried out.
 - (ii) The methodology outlined in Section 6.1 of the proposal submitted by Meath County Council for the removal of sod and surveys of the exposed topsoil in advance of topsoil removal should be followed on every archaeological site identified.
 - (iii) The appropriate methodology for the removal of topsoil over archaeological features will be decided on after the completion of the surveys. This methodology shall be agreed with the National Monuments Section in advance of any removal of topsoil over all archaeological sites.
 - (iv) Where considered necessary, following consultation with the National Monuments Section, an artefact retrieval strategy shall be put in place to recover archaeological objects.
- C. **Berrillstown 1.** A buffer is to be established around the barrow to ensure that no damage is caused to the monument and details of this buffer should be submitted to the National Monuments Section in advance of works commencing on site. Details of the new location of the farm access track should be submitted to the National Monuments Section and confirmation is required that this area has been archaeologically investigated.
- D. **Berrillstown 2.** One large cutting, rather than the two cuttings proposed should be opened around the archaeological features.
- E. **Roestown 3, Dowdstown 1, Philpotstown 1 & 3.** On completion of the partial excavation of the 19th century features the National Monuments Section should be consulted on the necessity for further excavation and recording on these sites.
- F. **Collierstown 2.** The topsoil over the pit with the Bronze Age pot should be removed by hand and the National Monuments Section should be consulted on the size of the area to be hand excavated.
- G. On all sites should the archaeological features prove on excavation to be more extensive or more complex than anticipated, the area of excavation should be expanded, the time-scale for the excavation should be extended and/or the excavation team should be enlarged to ensure the full excavation and recording of all the archaeological features within the areas of impact from the construction of the proposed road development. Revised method statements (2 copies) shall be submitted to the National Monuments Section for approval.

Project Archaeologist:

The Project Archaeologist appointed for the road development should ensure that the archaeological works are carried out in accordance with the terms of the directions. The Project Archaeologist shall submit a report (2 copies) to the National Monuments Section on the progress of the archaeological works every two weeks. All correspondence relating to these directions and all reports submitted should be addressed to the Chief Archaeologist.

Record Number for the Archaeological Works

The record number for the archaeological works carried out under these directions is A008/000. This number, and sub-numbers assigned to individual sites and archaeological activities, should be used to record all archaeological work. Section 26 licence numbers or any other numbers previously issued by the National Monuments Section to record archaeological works on this road development should no longer be used.

Conduct of Archaeological Excavations:

1. The names of the archaeologists who will direct the archaeological excavations should be submitted in advance to the National Monuments Section.
2. Method statements (2 copies) for the archaeological works for each site should be submitted to the National Monuments Section for approval before any works commence.
3. The method statements should include:
 - (a) Details of the location of the site
 - (b) A map showing the location of the site
 - (c) A plan showing the known archaeological features on the site and the extent of the area to be excavated
 - (d) an outline of the excavation methodology to be followed
 - (e) the name of the site director
 - (f) the size of the archaeological team
 - (g) the names of the relevant archaeological specialists that will be available as required
 - (h) details of the provisions being made for the care and conservation of archaeological objects recovered
 - (i) details of the arrangement put in place for the storage of archaeological objects during excavations
 - (j) details of the recording methodology to be used and of the location of the site archive during excavations
4. The National Monuments Section should be informed of the commencement date of the archaeological excavations on each site.
5. The record number A008/000 should be used to record all the archaeological works carried out under these directions. The individual sites notified to the

National Monuments Section have been assigned a record number as per the attached list.

6. Any new archaeological sites uncovered during the course of the works should be numbered in sequence and the details (location, method statement) sent to the National Monuments Section.

7. Archaeological artefacts discovered in the course of these excavations should be treated, stored and conserved in line with guidelines and advice notes issued by the National Museum of Ireland.

8. Any changes to the agreed method statement for the excavations should be submitted to the National Monuments Section for approval.

9. Any proposal to change the named director of the excavations should be notified to the National Monuments Section for approval.

Post-Excavation Programme and Reports:

10. On completion of the archaeological excavations on site a preliminary report summarising the results of the excavations should be prepared and submitted to the National Monuments Section within 4 weeks of the end of works on site. Should a longer period be required for the preparation of the report the National Monuments Section should be informed before the expiration of the 4 weeks period.

11. A programme (2 copies) for the post-excavation works required to analyse the results of the excavations and for the preparation of the final report on the excavations should be submitted to the National Monuments Section within 6 weeks of the completion of works on site. A proposal for the publication of the results of the excavations should be included with this submission.

12. The National Monuments Section should be informed of the location of the site archive.

13. Copies of the preliminary report and the final report should be provided to the National Museum of Ireland.

14. On completion of the final report the National Museum of Ireland should be informed of the location of archaeological objects from the excavations and arrangements should be agreed for the final deposition of those archaeological objects.

15. A summary of the excavation results should be published in the Excavations Bulletin for the year in which they are completed.

16. On completion of the final report the National Monuments Section should be informed of the location and storage arrangements for the excavation archives.

17. The Minister may publish any reports submitted on foot of these directions.

Detection Device / Underwater Surveys:

Geophysical surveys and the use of metal detectors to recover archaeological objects may be carried out as considered necessary as part of the works. The National Monuments Section should be informed in advance of the locations and details of the proposed works. Underwater dive surveys may be

carried out as considered necessary. Details and the location of the proposed dive surveys should be provided to the National Monuments Section in advance of such works being carried out. The Project Archaeologist should assign numbers to any such works and details should be sent to the National Monuments Section.

National Monuments Acts 1930 – 2004 (Subsection 14A(4)):

If during the carrying out of the archaeological excavations a site should prove to be a National Monument within the meaning of the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2004, all works should stop and the National Monuments Section should be informed immediately.

Inspection of Works

Officers, servants or agents of the Minister may inspect the archaeological works at any time and full co-operation should be given to them in carrying out the inspections.

M3 Dunshaughlin to Navan Road Development

Site Record Numbers

A008/001 Roestown 1
A008/002 Roestown 2a & 2b
A008/003 Roestown 3
A008/004 Cooksland 1
A008/005 Cooksland 2
A008/006 Cooksland 4
A008/007 Garretstown 1
A008/008 Garretstown 2a & 2b
A008/009 Berrillstown 1
A008/010 Berrillstown 2
A008/011 Clowanstown 1
A008/012 Clowanstown 2
A008/013 Clowanstown 3
A008/014 Trevit 1
A008/015 Collierstown 1
A008/016 Collierstown 2
A008/017 Baronstown 1
A008/018 Skreen 1
A008/019 Skreen 2
A008/020 Skreen 2
A008/021 Lismullin 1
A008/022 Blundelstown 1

A008/023 Blundelstown 2 & 3
A008/024 Philpotstown 1
A008/025 Castletown Tara 1
A008/026 Castletown Tara 2
A008/027 Castletown Tara 3
A008/028 Philpotstown 2
A008/029 Philpotstown 3
A008/030 Ballinter 1
A008/031 Ballinter 2
A008/032 Dowdstown 1
A008/033 Dowdstown 2
A008/034 Ardsallagh 2
A008/035 Ardsallagh 1
A008/036 Ardsallagh 3
A008/037 Ardsallagh 4
A008/038 Ardsallagh 5