



**An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán**
Department of Tourism, Culture,
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

Your Ref: 32111000

Our Ref: **G Pre00220/2019**

(Please quote in all related correspondence)

02/02/2021

Jacobs

Merrion House

Merrion Road

Dublin 4

Via email rory.mcdonnell@jacobs.com

Re: Replacement of 7 manned level crossings at Limerick to Cork Line.

A chara

I refer to correspondence dated 06/08/2019 received in connection with the above. Outlined below are heritage-related observations/recommendations co-ordinated by the Development Applications Unit under the stated headings.

Archaeology

Further to the submission of a pre-planning enquiry in advance of the preparation of an EIAR for the above-proposed project *obo* Irish Rail (received this office 06-08-2019), the National Monuments Service (NMS) has now received, in addition to Geophysical Survey Reports for Shinanagh/Imphrick, Co. Cork (20R0016), Newtown, Co. Cork (20R0017) and Ballycoskery, Co. Cork (20R0018), the following reports:

- Geophysical Survey Report for Thomastown, Ballycoskery, Shinanagh/Imprick and Buttevant, Co. Cork: 20R0239 – ACS Ltd *obo* Jacobs Engineering report dated 14-12-2020.
- Archaeological Testing Report for Shinanagh/Imphrick, Co. Cork: 20E0639: Ian Russell, ACS Ltd *obo* Jacobs Engineering report dated 18-12-2020.
- Archaeological Testing Report for Newtown, Ballyhea, Co. Cork: 20E0640: Ian Russell, ACS Ltd *obo* Jacobs Engineering report dated 07-12-2020.
- Topographical Survey Report: Unlicensed: Donald Murphy ACS Ltd *obo* Jacobs Engineering report dated 16-12-2020.

Further to the above the NMS participated at in a meeting on 06-01-2021 with representative of Irish Rail, Jacobs Engineering and ACS Ltd, to discuss and agree an archaeological mitigation strategy for the proposed development based on the results of the Geophysical Survey and Archaeological Testing Reports.

In light of the above, the NMS recommends that the following be included as a condition of planning permission. Please note that the archaeological excavations and test excavations

Aonad na nIarratas ar Fhorbairt

Development Applications Unit

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Newtown Road, Wexford, County Wexford, Y35 AP90



shall be carried out in advance of the commencement of the works required for this project. In this regard, it is advised that an appropriate timeframe is set-aside to allow for the full implementation of the archaeological mitigation strategy, including a contingency plan to allow for the resolution of/preservation *in situ* of any additional archaeological features discovered during the course of archaeological testing.

Archaeological Condition:

The following Archaeological Mitigation Strategy is to be carried out by a suitably qualified, licensable archaeologist in advance of any groundworks required for the development. Please allow 2-3 weeks to facilitate the processing of/extension to the existing licences. The developer shall set-aside an appropriate timeframe to allow for the full implementation of the archaeological mitigation strategy. This shall also include a contingency plan to allow for the resolution of/preservation *in situ* of any additional archaeological features discovered during the course of archaeological testing:

1. The Geophysical Survey carried out at Ballynageragh, Co. Cork (20R0239) has revealed extensive anomalies that are likely to be archaeological in nature. In this regard this site is not considered suitable for development, and should therefore be excluded from the project.
2. The programme of targeted archaeological test excavation, based on the results of the geophysical survey, at Newtown, Co. Cork (20E0640) did not reveal any archaeological features. In this regard, given the scale of the groundworks required here, that archaeological monitoring will suffice.
3. The results of archaeological testing at Shinanagh/Imphrick, Co. Cork (20E0639) has revealed two areas of concentrated archaeological activity – in the N/NE portion Field 1 (trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6) and in the S/SE portion of Field 2 (trenches 13, 14 and 15) adjacent to the scarped feature (which has now been established to be geological in nature). Given the extensive and possibly significant nature of archaeological features recorded in these areas it is recommended that open-area excavations take place according to best archaeological practice. These areas shall be excavated in full and a methodology for same shall be detailed in the Method Statement submitted with the licence application, in addition to a soil sampling strategy, post-excavation analyses and appropriate artefact recording and storage. The archaeologist shall consult with the National Museum of Ireland in this regard. A programme of more intensive archaeological testing shall be carried out along the rest of this route, between the two areas designated for excavation.
4. Additional archaeological testing is required to the E/SE/S of RMP CO007-120 *Church and graveyard*. Where significant archaeological features are recorded during testing further mitigation will be required. This may include redesign to allow for preservation *in situ*, archaeological excavation and/or a combination of both strategies. The developer and archaeologist shall be advised by the NMS in these matters.
5. Archaeological Testing, based on the results of the Geophysical Survey (20R0239), shall take place within the route selected at Buttevant, Co. Cork. Testing shall be targeted around the area of the possible enclosure recorded by geophysics. Should significant archaeological features be recorded during testing, further mitigation will be required. This may include redesign to allow for preservation *in situ*, archaeological excavation and/or a combination of both strategies. The developer and archaeologist shall be advised by the NMS in these matters.
6. Given the scale of the groundworks required in the townlands of Thomastown and Ballycoskery, Co. Cork, a programme of archaeological testing shall be carried out



to establish whether any subsurface anomalies/features survive at these (based on the results of the geophysical survey 20R0239). Should significant archaeological features be recorded during testing, further mitigation will be required. This may include redesign to allow for preservation *in situ*, archaeological excavation and/or a combination of both strategies. The developer and archaeologist shall be advised by the NMS in these matters.

7. Where archaeological testing is to take place, excavation is to take place to the uppermost archaeological horizons only, where they survive. Where archaeological material is shown to be present, the archaeologist shall stop works pending further advice from the NMS. Please note that all features/archaeological surfaces within the test trenches are to be hand-cleaned and clearly visible for photographic purposes and an interim report is submitted to NMS for review.

This recommendation is based on the papers/reports submitted to the NMS on a pre-planning basis and is made without prejudice to any decision the Minister may take upon sight of a formal planning application.

You are requested to send further communications to the Development Applications Unit (DAU) at manager.dau@chg.gov.ie, or to the following address:

The Manager
Development Applications Unit (DAU)
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Newtown Road
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Is mise, le meas

Connor Rooney
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