

14 CULTURAL HERITAGE

14.1 Introduction

The 2001 Offshore EIS considered the potential for archaeological impacts associated with the construction of an offshore pipeline and associated landfall terminating in an underground chamber. It also covered the two (previously proposed and permitted) crossings of the Sruwaddacon Bay (which are no longer under consideration due to changes in the proposed route of the onshore pipeline). The assessment was based on data in the public domain and geophysical and geotechnical data generated by the marine contractors at that time.

During 2002, a marine trench was partially excavated and subsequently backfilled under the archaeological supervision of Tideways archaeological subcontractors – Moore Group. The marine trench was excavated further in 2005, 2008 and 2009 under archaeological monitoring under licences for excavation, diving and use of a metal-detector from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG). Nothing of any archaeological significance was recorded during these works.

In 2005, 2008 and 2009, the landfall and associated topsoil stripping associated with the Glengad Headland temporary site compound was monitored under archaeological supervision. An excavation licence was obtained from the DoEHLG for works associated with the landfall.

In 2004 and 2005, archaeological monitoring was also undertaken in association with the geotechnical test pits constructed to assess the crossing of the Sruwaddacon.

In 2008, excavation of pits for the winch and anchors to facilitate the pulling in of the pipeline into the landfall and topsoil stripping of the landfall site was also monitored.

Based on the findings of the post-2001 archaeological monitoring, a re-assessment of the potential archaeological impacts of the offshore, near-shore and landfall works has been undertaken.

14.2 Study Methodology

The National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2004:

- Clarified ministerial responsibilities in relation to matters affecting national monuments;
- Revised previous provisions in relation to consent required for works affecting national monuments;
- Made provision for archaeological works carried out in connection with road developments approved under the Roads Act 1993; and
- Introduced special provisions for dealing with national monuments discovered in the course of construction of such approved road developments.

As noted in the 2001 Offshore EIS, under the National Monuments Act, 1930-2004, all archaeological heritage is the property of the nation. The DoEHLG is the licensing authority for intrusive and non-intrusive archaeological investigations.

14.3 Receiving Environment

During the archaeological monitoring of the marine pipe trench undertaken in 2002, 2005, 2008 and 2009 nothing of any archaeological significance was found.

The archaeological monitoring of three geotechnical test pits located within the pipeline wayleave on the eastern shore of Glengad Headland, a walkover survey of the pipeline

wayleave on Glengad Headland, and archaeological monitoring of topsoil stripping activities at Glengad Headland also revealed nothing of archaeological significance.

Further archaeological monitoring associated with the geotechnical test pits constructed to assess the previously permitted lower crossing of the Sruwaddacon did not reveal any archaeological material.

Topsoil stripping of the landfall site and the excavation of pits for the winch and anchors, to facilitate the pulling in of the pipeline was monitored and no archaeological material was revealed.

Further archaeological monitoring was carried out during construction works in Summer 2009. This included:

- Dredging: round-the-lock cover on a trailer suction dredger (*Ham 311*) and back hoe dredgers (*Aberko Server* and *Razende Bol*), from 4th May-31 August; and
- Trenching: results from both pre- and post-lay ROV surveys of the section of the pipeline route to be trenched (in ~21-70m water depth) were subject to archaeological assessment.

In all cases, nothing of archaeological significance was recorded.

14.4 Characteristics of the Proposed Development

The characteristics of the proposed development are detailed in Sections 2 and 3.

14.5 Potential Impacts of the Proposed Development

To date, no archaeological deposits, finds or features have been revealed as a result of the archaeological desktop assessment, intertidal survey, previous geophysical investigations or previous archaeological monitoring. Based on these investigations, it is anticipated that there will be no impact upon archaeology. However, due to the buried and invisible nature of archaeological remains, there is always the possibility that previously unknown archaeological remains could be encountered during construction.

14.6 Do-Nothing Scenario

No change from 2001 Offshore EIS. Further consideration of the do-nothing scenario is addressed in Section 13.7.

14.7 Mitigation Measures

Whilst the marine pipe trench was archaeologically monitored in 2002, 2005, 2008, and 2009 and nothing was found during this work, there still may be potential for archaeological remains to be uncovered during remaining works, if any deviation from the original routes occurs.

The DoEHLG will require a monitoring licence for any new marine trenches or onshore topsoil stripping in areas not stripped previously.

Contingency plans to deal with such an eventuality will be put in place for the remaining construction phases.

Given the previous monitoring that has been carried out in the area, the Underwater Archaeology Unit of the DoEHLG have confirmed that no further archaeological monitoring will be required for the umbilical installation works.

14.8 Predicted Impact of the Proposed Development

To date, no archaeological deposits, finds or features have been revealed as a result of the archaeological desktop assessment, intertidal survey, previous geophysical investigations or previous archaeological monitoring. Based on these investigations, it is anticipated that there will be no impact upon the archaeology resource. However, due to the buried and invisible nature of archaeological remains, there is always the possibility that previously unknown archaeological remains could be encountered during the remaining construction works.

14.9 Monitoring

No further archaeological monitoring will be required once construction is completed.

14.10 Reinstatement and Residual Impacts

There will be no residual impacts in relation to archaeology.