

## **Archaeological, Architectural Heritage & Cultural Heritage**

### **1 Qualifications and Professional Experience**

1.1 My name is Lisa Courtney and I am a senior archaeologist with Margaret Gowen & Company Ltd. We are a cultural heritage and project management consultancy. I have worked on numerous large-scale infrastructural projects and small-scale developments alike including the production of archaeological constraints studies, routing studies and environmental impact statements for pipeline, road and landfill developments.

1.2 I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts, Honours Degree in Archaeology and a Masters of Science (Ag) in Environmental Resource Management from University College Dublin (UCD). Since 1992 I have been employed as a professional archaeologist and I am a member of the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland (MIAI). As a post graduate I specialised in Irish wetland archaeology with the archaeological department and the Irish wetland unit at UCD. I accumulated skills to address archaeological assessment in a bogland environment. These skills included field survey, excavation, planning, surveying, recording and sampling of features and artefacts and post excavation work. As part of this programme, I studied wood and pollen identification at Exeter University and dendrochronology at Queens University.

### **2. Knowledge of the Area**

2.1 I have almost ten years experience on this project. I know this area having managed the cultural heritage component for the Mayo to Galway Pipeline EIS (Bellanaboy Bridge to Cappagh South) and the previously approved Corrib Onshore Pipeline Route and Gas Terminal at Bellanaboy Bridge. Work for these projects included overseeing documentary and cartographic research, review of aerial photographic survey, field inspection, advising on rerouting to avoid archaeological sites and complexes and attendance at oral hearing.

Today, in my statement I will discuss our approach to the study, our findings and the proposed mitigation measures.

### **3. Assessment Approach**

3.1 The purpose of the architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage impact assessment for the proposed Corrib Onshore Gas Pipeline is to:

- assess and describe the receiving architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage environment,

- identify and evaluate the significance of the impact of the scheme on this environment,
- propose appropriate measures for the avoidance or mitigation of these impacts within the design of the proposed pipeline development.

3.2 Inspector, this assessment had regard to the principal statutes which provide protection to the archaeological and architectural heritage and guidance notes which advise on good practice.

The sources and archives availed of during the study were:

- The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland,
- The Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland (NMI),
- The Record of Protected Structures (RPS),
- Mayo County Development Plan 2003–2009 and the recently adopted 2008-2014 plan,
- Documentary and literary references,
- Historical map sources obtained from the Trinity Map Library,
- Low-level vertical aerial photographs of the study area (2004, 2006 and 2008).

3.3 Field inspection was undertaken to -

- Assess the present topography and land use in order to identify areas of archaeological potential where no upstanding features are visible.
- Identify any low-visibility or previously unrecorded cultural heritage sites.
- Confirm the location and condition of previously recorded monuments.
- Record where necessary the exact location, extent and possible character of newly revealed features.

The assessment in the field had special regard to the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage landscape. The nature of the terrain in the study area was assessed to observe if it was a well-preserved cultural landscape, undeveloped, natural or marginal. For example, a forested, bogland and/or wetland environment.

Each area is assessed and discussed under the following headings:

- Physical environment,
- Cultural landscape,
- Archaeological potential,
- Proximity to known archaeological monuments,
- Proximity to protected structures.

3.4 The entire length of the pipeline route, the proposed temporary working areas and the pipe stringing areas and associated ancillary works were inspected by Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd. All sections were field surveyed with the exception of the area between chainage c. 83.830–84.060 in Glengad. These four fields were previously assessed and field surveyed by myself in 2000 for a previous application.

3.5 Consultation with the National Monuments Section of the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government took place. Similarly discussions with the underwater archaeological consultant (The Archaeological Diving Company Ltd), with individual archaeologists who have carried out studies in the area and with local landowners took place during the assessment.

#### **4 Assessment Summary**

In this section, I will first discuss the architectural heritage, followed by the cultural heritage and archaeological findings.

##### **4.1 Architectural Heritage**

The 2003–2009 Mayo Development Plan and the 2008–2014 plan were consulted to identify any protected structures or features of an architectural heritage merit that may be impacted by the proposed development. No upstanding historic structures, no items of architectural heritage significance or their surrounds, curtilage or attendant grounds will be affected by the construction of the proposed pipeline route or associated development.

A single storey stone structure in Rosdoagh (also known as Rossport) is located close to a T-junction that will be temporarily widened for the movement of construction traffic. This structure will not be impacted by this proposal.

##### **4.2 Cultural Heritage**

The proposed route crosses three townland boundaries noted as Area B, Area E, and ID A19 within Area F as described in the EIS (Section 16.3.2.2.1). All of the townland boundaries are formed by watercourses.

A natural hillock (ID A8) in Rosdoagh commonage, located in an otherwise low-lying area is known among some locals as '*Cnocán Rua*' which translates as the Red Hillock. This place name is also mentioned in the book 'The Placenames and Heritage of Dún Chaocháin in the Barony of Erris, County Mayo' but it is situated in a different location in this publication. The proposed pipeline runs to the northeast of this feature (Appendix N, Plate 16 of the EIS) and will not directly impact it.

The large mound identified in the EIS as ID A3a (**Slide 1**) is known in local tradition as a fairyfort and is called *Cnocán a' Chodladhta* meaning the hillock of sleep. This placename may refer to a long forgotten site and may imply a final resting place or burials, and may indicate the possibility that the remains of a site may still survive below the ground surface. This area will not be affected by the proposed pipeline development.

The townland names of the area are unsurprisingly Irish in origin and have been anglicised through time. Most of the names relate to natural features in the landscape. For example Bellagelly refers to the mouth of the glen, Aghoos to fields, Glengad to the glen of the rods (a name taken from Donegal settlers) and Rosdoagh to a wooded sand hill. Some townland names or placenames are also attached to the local folklore and others may indicate areas of archaeological potential. For example, Sruwaddacon Bay is derived from the mythical *Clann Lir* and Dooncarton from the fort of Carton referring to one of the promontory forts located in this townland. Within Rosdoagh there is a placename *Léana Mhianaig* meaning the wet meadow of the mining (Mac Graith & Ní Ghearraigh 2004, 101) - Lewis, in his Topographical Dictionary of Ireland (1837) mentions that good quality iron ore was found in abundance in the parish of Kilcommon.

A modern wayside memorial cross (**Slide 2**) was identified on the southeast side of the local road which runs northwest-southeast through Rossport village and lies within the temporary working area along the L52453-25. While this is not a feature of archaeological or architectural heritage value it is an important marker to those who erected it and is considered to be of a local cultural heritage value. Mitigation measures to ensure that there will be no long term impact to the memorial cross are set out in Section 5.2 of this statement.

#### 4.3 ***Archaeological Heritage***

The proposed route avoids all known recorded archaeological monuments (RMP sites). One recorded enclosure site (ID A1, RMP MA 004-015) lies c.10m from the existing access road to the proposed LVI (**Slide 3**). As you can see from the slide this monument is not near the pipeline but close to the access road. All previous work conducted in this area was archaeologically monitored and did not reveal any finds or features of an archaeological nature. Any further work in the area will be monitored by a licenced archaeologist. Such work would be classified as a potential indirect impact as it would have to take place in the environs of a recorded monument.

The construction of the pipeline has the potential to impact upon two sites of archaeological potential, ID A6 and ID A12 (**Slide 4**).The top photograph on the slide

displays IDA6 while the lower photograph shows ID A12. Both these features are located adjacent to bog roads in areas that have been previously cut for turf and are heavily disturbed. In both cases, it is thought that these features were created due to activities associated with turf cutting and the clearance of the bog and are unlikely to be of archaeological significance. None the less they have been noted and will be fully investigated (details of this are explained in Section 5.3 of the statement).

Five sites presenting as earthen mounds are considered to be of archaeological potential and are located within the proposed temporary working area. These sites are identified in the EIS as ID A2, ID A8, ID A10, ID A15 and ID A20 and are described in Section 5 and 7.5 of Appendix N and in Section 16.3.1.4 and 16.4.1 of the EIS. ID A2 and ID A20 are located in areas of improved grassland while ID A8, A10 and A15 are all located in bogland. Archaeological work carried out in bogland environments have proved that features noted on the surface of the bog do not necessarily equate with a buried archaeological site. Mounds may simply reflect a rise in mineral soil or rock which lies beneath the peat or may have formed naturally by the dynamics of a growing bog. Specific mitigation measures as detailed in Section 5.3 of this statement will ameliorate any adverse indirect impact on these potential sites.

The pipeline crosses two environments or areas considered to be of archaeological potential due to the possible presence of prebog or subsurface remains. These are identified as blanket bog and greenfield areas and both are recorded in the EIS as Area D and Area F and Area A and Area C respectively (Sections 16.3.1.1 and 16.3.1.3 and on table 16.3 of the EIS). Specific mitigation measures are in place for these areas as detailed in Section 5.3 of this statement.

## **5 Mitigation Measures**

### **5.1 Architectural Heritage**

The stone structure located in Rosdoagh townland will not be impacted by the proposed temporary junction improvement works. It will be appropriately photographed and monitored during the construction stage of the project to ensure that no inadvertent damage occurs from construction traffic.

No protected structures or features of an architectural heritage merit will be directly impacted by the proposed scheme. Mayo County Council in their submission dated the 7<sup>th</sup> of April 2009 is satisfied that

***'the proposed development will not affect any RMP, protected structure or architectural conservation area'.***

### **5.2 Cultural Heritage**

Field boundaries will be appropriately reinstated during the post construction stage of the proposed development.

All the townland boundaries along the proposed route are formed by watercourses. An underwater archaeological survey of these watercourses was undertaken and results of this survey are outlined in Section 16.6 of the EIS.

The modern wayside memorial cross in Rosdoagh will be removed during construction and reinstated to its original position after all construction work has ceased in the area. This will be carried out under consultation with Mayo County Council.

### 5.3 **Archaeological Heritage**

The mitigation measures, as outlined in Chapter 16 (section 16.5) of Volume 1 of the EIS and Appendix N (section 8 pp 51-56) include –

- Centreline test excavation
- Probing
- Palaeoenvironmental analysis – this involves environmental sampling of peat to provide information on landscape development and the date of the blanket bog.
- Monitoring

All mitigation strategies will be carried out in accordance to the requirements of the National Monuments Section of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG) as specified in correspondence from that authority dated the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2009.

The National Monuments Section of the DoEHLG have stated:

***‘Mitigation for specific sites is outlined in table 16.5 of chapter 16 (archaeology, architecture and cultural heritage of Volume 1 of the Corrib Onshore Pipeline EIS). The Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government agrees with the archaeological mitigation as outlined in this section.’***

Mitigation measures will vary with different construction techniques and different terrains encountered. The proposed integrated archaeological programme will establish an understanding of the historic landscape. In ecologically sensitive environments approvals and permission will be sought from the National Parks and Wildlife Section of the DoEHLG in advance of any archaeological investigation (Appendix N (Volume 2), section 8.5.3 and Chapter 16 section 16.5.1.1)

Archaeology encountered will be ameliorated by mitigation techniques that will involve where possible preservation 'in situ', by design and/or preservation by record, which may

involve full or partial excavation and publication (**Slide 5**). This slide demonstrates how archaeologists work along side and in tandem with a pipeline development.

All construction works will be monitored by a licensed archaeologist.

## **6 Conclusion**

This assessment had regard to the principal statutes which provide protection to the archaeological and architectural heritage and guidance notes which advise on good practice. All archaeological work will be conducted in accordance to the requirements of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the National Museum of Ireland.

In my professional opinion, based on the results of this completed archaeological impact assessment, and with the implementation of the suggested mitigation measures there will be no residual impacts on archaeology or cultural heritage. It is anticipated that any issues associated with archaeological features and cultural heritage sites will be resolved in the pre-construction or construction stage of the proposed pipeline development.