

Rosie McLaughlin  
MacCabe Durney Barnes  
20 Fitzwilliam Place  
Dublin 2

07/12/2017

**Greystones Harbour, landscaping**

Dear Rosie,

I write in reply to your request for a letter outlining the archaeological risk associated with the proposed landscaping works for D'Arcy's field, south of the stream.

Our company carried out comprehensive survey, assessment and resolution activities in D'Arcy's Field on behalf of Wicklow CC, as part of the Greystones Harbour Development project in the early 2000s, both for the EIAR and its construction phase with SISPAR. Those archaeological works included extensive geophysical survey of the field, and the investigation and resolution of a series of anomalies in the field's southern section. It also included resolution of the cliff walk pathway to the north of the stream, where there remains an area of archaeological sensitivity associated with the deserted settlement of Rathdown Upper.

The proposed landscaping works in D'Arcy's Field south of the stream will include earth mounding and sculpting. It is anticipated that the material will be excavated from the apartment section of the Marina Village development. Some cut and fill will take place, but the area of the old landfill and the area of archaeological interest will not be cut into under any circumstance. The plan is to increase the levels in these areas. There is no archaeological reason why this work should not proceed.

The area of archaeological interest within the proposed park lies in its northern section, where three large anomalies detected by geophysical survey are located and are indicative of underlying archaeological features. It is understood that the landscaping plans will include the laying of a terram membrane above the footprint of each anomaly before introducing soils to raise the ground levels here. This is entirely in keeping with protecting such sites into the future.

The landscaping works to the south will take place over a series of lesser geophysical anomalies that were investigated archaeologically and have been resolved. There should be no constraint to the landscaping work proceeding.

It is recommended that archaeological consultation continues, both to inform the landscaping design by providing archaeological background and information of the findings made, and to manage the archaeological monitoring that can be an anticipated requirement associated with the proposed earth movements and related impacts to be conducted, to ensure that there are no unexpected or accidental impacts during the landscaping works.

Kind regards,



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Niall Brady, PhD, FSA  
Director and Secretary