

Appendix 10.1

Addendum to (February 2021)
and Report on Habitat Survey
for *Equisetum x moorei* at
Site Compound 6



AQUAFAC

**Addendum to
Habitat Survey for *Equisetum x moorei* at Site Compound 6**

Produced by

AQUAFAC International Services Ltd

On behalf of

ARUP

February, 2021

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Update February 2021:

Curtis and Wilson (2007¹) recorded *Equisetum x moorei* (*Equisetum hyemale x ramosissimum*) at Site Compound 6 (SC6) in July 2007.

The walkover survey undertaken at SC6 in December 2020 did not identify *Equisetum x moorei* at the site. This could be because the plant has gone from the site or that due to the time of year, it has died back. In order to verify this, a site visit in mid-May 2021 is recommended to see if the plant is present.

Following the publication of the December 2020 survey report, the boundary of SC6 was reduced to avoid directly impacting on the area where *Equisetum x moorei* was recorded in 2007.

¹ Curtis, T. and Wilson, F. 2007. Wicklow Rare/Threatened and Scarce Plant Survey 2007. *Equisetum x moorei*. National Parks and Wildlife Service.



Habitat Survey for *Equisetum x moorei* at Site Compound 6

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December, 2020

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Introduction

One of the areas, Site Compound 6 (SC6) with a total area (ex. car parks) of ca 8,500m², that has been identified as a site at which dredge material from the proposed deepening of the Avoca River upstream of the bridge in Arklow is to be stored for later examination archaeological remains is located to the south of the mouth of the Avoca River (see Figure 1).



Figure 1. Site Compound 6 at Arklow marked in brown.

It is a relatively narrow strip of land that includes 2 car parks, an access road and some amenity grassland. It is also a site where *Equisetum x moorei* (*Equisetum hyemale x ramosissimum*) was recorded by Curtis and Wilson in July 2007. This plant is on the only Horsetail on the Flora Protection Order and this affords the plant a high level of protection. It is illegal to cut, uproot or damage this species in any way, or to offer it for sale. This prohibition extends to the taking or sale of seed. In addition, it is illegal to alter, damage or interfere in any way with its habitat. This protection applies wherever the plant is found.

The site description given in this note is as follows:

“This population occurs in modified dune habitat which lies between the road linking Arklow Town to Arklow Rock and the road linking the 2 car parks just behind the south beach at Arklow. The sand hills here lie just to the south of the Qualceram plc factory and in the depression in the dunes to the south and to the west of beach road the species is found.”(sic.).

The population at the time was estimated at between 200 – 300 plants.

Site visit results.

The site was visited on 17th December to see if this species was present. The “depression” where Curtis and Wilson recorded *E. x. moorei* is shown in Figure 2 below marked in grey. Its area is estimated at 700m² which is slightly less than 10% of the total area of SC6.

This area was walked over for *ca* 1 hour but no Horsetail of any species was recorded. This could be because the plant has gone from the site or that due to the time of year, it has died back. In order to verify this, a site visit in mid-May 2021 is recommended to see if the plant is present.

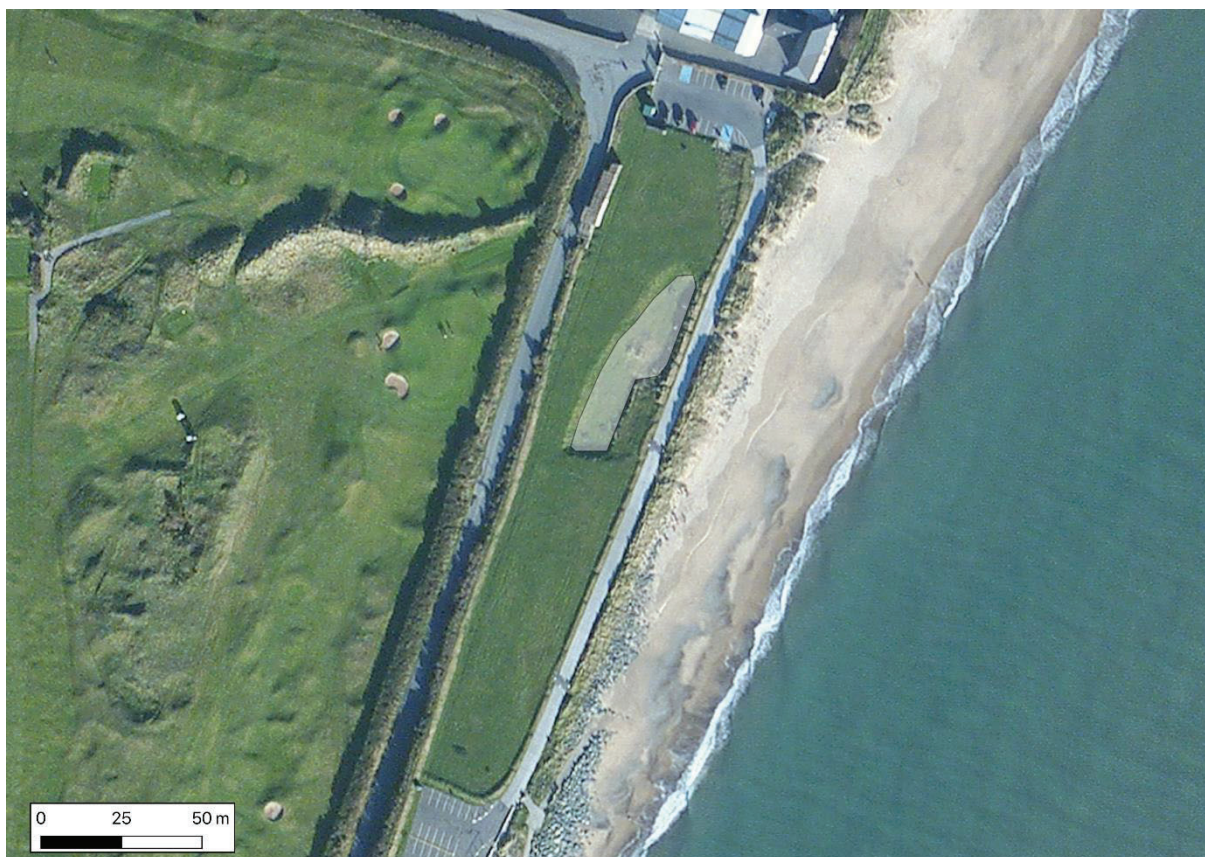


Figure 2. Area of depressed ground (marked in grey) at Site Compound 6 where Curtis and Wilson recorded *E. x. moorei*.

There was a population of *E. telmateia* recorded along the bank at the back of the larger carpark (see Photo. 1 below).



Photo. 1. *Equisetum telmateia* on the bank at the back of the carpark.

Management options

As *E. x moorei* is covered by the Flora Protection Order, it is recommended that Dr. Wyse Jackson of the National Parks and Wildlife Service who deals with rare, threatened or scarce plant species be contacted in order to discuss any potential methods of dealing with the plant.

It is possible that a licence to move the plant if the May site visit proves that it is present at the site. This would require to identification and possible purchase of suitable habitat away from SC6 to where the plant could be moved.

A simpler option would be if it is found in the May 2021 survey that the area where it is found growing would be fenced off and not be used for dredge disposal. The area would also need to be protected from dust blow that might arise during the drying out process of the dredge spoil.

Furthermore, any leachate arising from locations where dredge spoil is disposed off must not be let enter the protected area.

References

Curtis, T. and Wilson, F. 2007. Wicklow Rare/Threatened and Scarce Plant Survey 2007. *Equisetum x moorei*. National Parks and Wildlife Service.