

REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

Sigginstown Castle, Co. Wexford

Planning Ref.20210390

ITM706250/607101

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INTRODUCTION

The clients applied for planning permission to erect a domestic garage/store and an agricultural shed at Sigginstown. Wexford County Council granted planning permission subject to a number of conditions including no.2, which requires the applicant to employ an archaeologist to monitor all ground works. The agriculture shed is to be located about 25m west to the nearest point on the castle (marked A on map). The proposed domestic garage is to be placed c.40m north-west from the nearest point on the castle.

The exact nature of the finished floors at this stage has not been decided but basically terram will be placed on the reduced ground level and filled-in with hard-core.

MONITORING

DOMESTIC GARAGE (B on map)

The area for the domestic garage was first excavated with a small machine with a toothless bucket c.1.20m wide. This site is beside the driveway which was already archaeologically monitored and nothing of archaeological interest was found. The NW angle was first excavated in an area measuring 4m by 1.20m. This area was reduced by 450mm to reveal the top of the undisturbed boulder clay. This area was right beside a hedge so as a result the soil was full of roots. The rest of the area was then reduced to c.300mm below the present surface leaving c. 150mm of overburden on the undisturbed. The remaining overburden was then removed to reveal the top of the boulder clay.

Nothing of archaeological interest was found either small finds or features.



Plate 1 Proposed domestic garage site looking SW



Plate 2 Proposed domestic garage site looking NW

AGRICULTURE SHED (A on map)

The area for the agricultural shed is c. 25m from the nearest point on the towerhouse. This area was already much disturbed during renovation works on the towerhouse with the installation of the percolation system, water

treatment and drainage. Work commenced in the SE angle where the overburden was removed to a depth of 350mm below the surface to reveal the undisturbed, which is a light-grey coloured boulder clay. A 1.20m wide strip was then removed from along the E side of the area to a depth 250mm below the surface. There was no sod left on this area which was much disturbed and contained modern rubbish including plastic from the previous works. The entire area was the stripped of c.250mm of its overburden to the level where terram and hardcore will be placed,

Nothing of archaeological interest was found on this site.



Plate 3 Site of agricultural shed looking WSW

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Area A was reduced to c. 250mm below the present disturbed surface which is c. 100mm above the undisturbed. This will be covered by terram and in-filled with hardcore. Area B was reduced to the top of the boulder clay and will be covered in the same way as A. Nothing of archaeological interest either small finds or features was found during monitoring. No further archaeological input is necessary at either of the sites.

