

Palaeoecology Research Services

**Technical report: biological remains from excavations
at Barnagore 2, N22 Ballincollig bypass scheme, County
Cork, Republic of Ireland (site code: 02E0383)**

by

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N22 Ballincollig bypass scheme, County Cork, Republic of Ireland
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Summary

Small quantities of biological remains recovered from the processing of a bulk sediment sample from deposits encountered during monitoring works for the N22 Ballincollig bypass scheme at Barnagore 2, County Cork, were submitted for analysis.

The remains were restricted to two poorly preserved specimens of charred grains of both wheat and barley of no real interpretative value.

KEYWORDS: BARNAGORE 2; N22 BALLINCOLLIG BYPASS SCHEME; COUNTY CORK; REPUBLIC OF IRELAND; TECHNICAL REPORT; BRONZE AGE; MEDIEVAL; CHARRED PLANT REMAINS; CHARRED GRAIN

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Introduction

An archaeological excavation of deposits encountered during the initial stages of the monitoring programme for the N22 Ballincollig bypass scheme, County Cork, Republic of Ireland, was undertaken by Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd (ACS).

The site at Barnagore 2 comprised two unrelated pit features. One pit contained medieval pottery and the other Bronze Age pottery and a small number of stone objects.

A very small quantity of biological remains recovered from the processing of a bulk sediment sample was submitted to PRS for analysis.

Methods

The soil sample was placed onto 1 mm nylon mesh in a sieving tank. The light organic fraction was washed over through a 2 mm sieve into a 500 micron sieve to collect the flot. The sample was put through this system twice to ensure that as much material as possible was recovered.

The sediment sample was processed by ACS prior to delivery to PRS and only the small quantities of recovered plant remains were submitted for analysis. These remains were examined and identified as closely as possible.

Results

Archaeological information, provided by the excavator, is given in square brackets. The

sediment description was also supplied by the excavator.

Feature: Pit C1

Context 3 [primary fill of pit C1, prehistoric]
Sample 2

Loose, dark grey to black (charcoal-stained) clay silt, with frequent inclusions of pebbles, charcoal, Bronze Age pottery, and stones (60 to 80 mm). This fill contained the sherds of finer ware vessels (the overlying secondary fill yielding remains of larger, coarser vessels). Two water-rolled stones also appeared to have been deliberately placed in an upright position within the upper level of the fill. Charcoal recovered from the pit was dated to 2480-2050 BC.

The submitted remains amounted to only two poorly preserved specimens of charred grains of both wheat (*Triticum*) and barley (*Hordeum*).

Discussion

The submitted remains were too few to be of any interpretative value.

Retention and disposal

All of the material should be retained as part of the physical archive for the site.

Archive

All material is currently stored by Palaeoecology Research Services (Unit 8, Dabble Duck Industrial Estate, Shildon, County Durham), along with paper and electronic records pertaining to the work described here.

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