

Palaeoecology Research Services

**Technical report: biological remains from excavations
at Ballinaspig More 4, N22 Ballincollig bypass scheme,
County Cork, Republic of Ireland (site code: 02E0947)**

by

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PRS 2003/37

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Summary

A small quantity of biological remains recovered from the processing of a single bulk sediment sample from deposits of Bronze Age to post-medieval date at Ballinaspig More 4, encountered during monitoring works for the N22 Ballincollig bypass scheme, County Cork, were submitted for analysis.

The remains were restricted to a single charred wheat grain, a trace of barley, and a very little charcoal (to 5 mm), of no interpretative value.

KEYWORDS: BALLINASPIG MORE 4; BALLINCOLLIG N22 BYPASS SCHEME; COUNTY CORK; REPUBLIC OF IRELAND; TECHNICAL REPORT; BRONZE AGE TO POST-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 Ballinaspig More 4 comprised a possible cremation pit and features of dissociated agricultural representing three main phases of activity dating from the Bronze Age to the post-medieval period.

A 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 flots. 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

The results are presented below. Archaeological information, provided by the excavator, is given in square brackets. The sediment description was also supplied by the excavator.

Feature: Pit C37

Context 36 [tertiary fill of pit C37]

Sample 14

Fairly loose, orangey-brown, silty clay, with occasional stones and charcoal flecking.

A single charred wheat (*Triticum*) grain, a trace of barley (*Hordeum*), and a very little charcoal (to 5 mm) were recovered.

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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