

Palaeoecology Research Services

**Technical report: biological remains from excavations
at Ballinaspig More 5, N22 Ballincollig bypass scheme,
County Cork, Republic of Ireland (site code: 02E1033)**

by

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Summary

Small quantities of biological remains recovered from deposits of ?Bronze Age to early modern date, encountered during monitoring works for the N22 Ballincollig bypass scheme, at Ballinaspig More 5, County Cork, were submitted for analysis.

The submitted remains were restricted to small quantities of charred plant remains (mostly cereal grains) and of no interpretative value.

KEYWORDS: BALLINASPIG MORE 5; N22 BALLINCOLLIG BYPASS SCHEME; COUNTY CORK; REPUBLIC OF IRELAND; TECHNICAL REPORT; ?BRONZE AGE; 1800S FARM COTTAGE; 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 5 comprised numerous archaeological features relating to two possible Bronze Age structures and a further structure that was probably a farm cottage dating from the 1800s.

Small quantities of biological remains recovered from the processing of bulk sediment samples were submitted to PRS for analysis.

Methods

The soil samples were 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. Each of the soil samples was put through this system twice to ensure that as much material as possible was recovered.

The sediment samples were 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 in Feature number order. Archaeological information, provided by the excavator, is given in square brackets. The sediment descriptions were also supplied by the excavator.

Feature 30 [fill of posthole from semi-circular structure]
Sample 18

Dark greyish brown silty clay, with frequent stone inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks.

A single wheat grain, perhaps of emmer, *Triticum dicoccon* Schrank, was recovered.

Feature 1005 [pit fill]
Sample 13

Loose, mid to dark brown silty clay, with frequent charcoal and occasional stone inclusions.

There was only a little charcoal (to 5 mm) and ?cereal fragments.

Feature 1121 [?remains of plank-built wall in curvilinear slot trench]
Sample 143

Mid greyish brown sandy silt with approximately 35% charcoal.

The plant remains consisted of some rather 'silted' grains of cereals (16 barley (*Hordeum*), 2 ?wheat, and 15 indeterminate) and a single earthworm (*Oligochaeta* sp. indet.) egg capsule, apparently mineral-impregnated.

Feature 1143 [fill of (?waste) pit]
Sample 134

Dark brown silty sand, with a number of pottery sherds and stone inclusions.

There was a single wheat grain, perhaps emmer.

Feature 1173 [primary fill of hearth]
Sample 125

Reddish orange oxidised clay.

The recovered assemblage comprised a few poorly preserved charred cereal grains (two barley, one wheat, and five indeterminate or fragmentary).

Feature 1177 [?remains of plank-built wall in curvilinear slot trench]
Sample ? (no sample number)

Mid greyish brown sandy silt with approximately 35% charcoal.

There was a small group of charred cereals, very 'silted' and mostly rather damaged, of about 3.3 cm³ in volume, and all apparently barley.

Discussion

The submitted remains were restricted to small quantities of charred plant remains (mostly cereal grains) and of no 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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