



**METRO NORTH
ORAL HEARING**

Overview of Archaeological Strategy

Metro North Archaeological Strategy – Briefing note

Purpose:

The purpose of this briefing note is to provide an overview of the Metro North Archaeology.

The strategy develops the measures outlined in the EIS for the mitigation of impacts on archaeological heritage arising from the project. The strategy was developed in consultation with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG) and in line with the Code of Practice agreed in relation to archaeology between the RPA and the DoEHLG.

Purpose of the strategy:

The planning and procurement process for Metro North ran in parallel to each other. The purpose of the strategy is to develop the mitigation measures set out in the Metro North EIS for minimising the effects on archaeology associated with the project. This provides a base from which to plan and execute the proposed mitigation measures. It also facilitates the procurement process as it sets out the archaeological works that are likely to be carried out by the RPA and those that the main contractor will be required to execute.

The Approach of the Strategy:

The strategy considers all proposed works for each of the seven areas (MN101-MN107) for Metro North. Each of these areas will be subject to a range of construction methodologies and associated civil works from diversion of utilities and surface track-bed construction works to the construction of larger facilities for the depot, park and ride facilities and construction works associated with the tunnel portals, stop construction especially below-ground and also for bridge and viaduct construction. The strategy recognises that there are a series of diverse receiving environments across Metro North and outlines appropriate mitigation for each area and phase of works.

Broadly speaking, two different archaeological approaches are applied to greenfield and to urban developed environments on Metro North. In accordance with best practice, the approach to the management of archaeological investigation and arising resolution (archaeological excavation and recording works or preservation *in situ*) in greenfield areas has been devised and sequenced with a view to ensuring that sections of the route, subject to land and site access, can be investigated and resolved at the earliest opportunity and, where possible, in advance of the construction contract. The approach for urban/developed areas will comprise monitoring of construction activities and advance test trenching of larger interventions e.g. stop boxes. In the event that archaeology is identified at construction stage, an appropriate mitigation strategy will be formulated in consultation with the DoEHLG.

Given the nature of this phased approach to archaeological mitigation, it is understood by RPA and the DoEHLG that the strategy must remain a live document throughout the process so as to allow the results of each survey phase to be evaluated and assessed and an appropriate resolution strategy to be developed.

Implementation of the strategy:

RPA is currently implementing the Metro North Archaeological Strategy. To date an extensive programme of gradiometry scanning, detailed magnetometry or detailed electrical resistivity geophysical survey has been carried out on greenfield areas along the route. The results of the geophysical survey have been discussed with the DoEHLG in our regular

consultation meetings and the final report on the findings will be forwarded to the DoEHLG in due course. Additionally, underwater archaeological assessments of the River Liffey and the Broadmeadow and Ward Rivers were completed in December 2008. The River Liffey report has been finalised and the report on the Broadmeadow and Ward Rivers is undergoing final review. A ground penetrating radar survey at Lissenhall and Balheary was carried out in April 2009 and the results of this survey will be incorporated as an appendix to the final geophysical survey report.

RPA are currently procuring an archaeological consultant to conduct an extensive programme of targeted and centreline testing along the route of Metro North. It is RPA's policy that invasive testing should only be carried out in advance of an enforceable Railway Order with the consent and agreement of the affected landowners. The testing will be carried out at the earliest opportunity and the results of the testing will be submitted to the DoEHLG in report form and will inform the subsequent archaeological strategy for Metro North.

Novation of Archaeological Strategy to Main Contractor

The main contractor will be required to appoint an archaeological consultant to manage and implement the archaeological strategy during the main construction phase. The strategy addresses the nature, sequence, location and extent of the archaeological investigations required during the main construction phase particularly in relation to the excavation of the stop boxes at Drumcondra, Parnell and O'Connell Bridge North and South and ensures that the main contractor integrates these requirements into their main construction methodology and programme.

It will be a contractual requirement that the appointed archaeological consultant will revise and update the strategy in consultation with the RPA Project Archaeologist and the DoEHLG in accordance with the main contractor's final design.

Consultation with the DoEHLG

RPA has agreed a Code of Practice with the Minister for the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (RPA and DoEHLG 2007). The Code of Practice sets out a partnership approach to the management and mitigation of archaeological impacts between RPA and the Minister.

In accordance with the Code of Practice, RPA have appointed an in house archaeologist to manage the archaeological elements of the Metro North Project and to implement the archaeological strategy. The Project Archaeologist consults regularly with the DoEHLG in relation to appropriate archaeological mitigation and will continue to consult with the DoEHLG during all phases of the project including the main construction phase.

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