



Cultural Resource Consultants

Memorandum

To: William Lee, Gowanus Environmental Remediation Trust #2

From: Michael Audin, RPA & Scott Warnasch, RPA

Date: April 14, 2021

RE: Memo # 11 - Results of Level 1 Cultural Resource Review
Debris Staging at Clean Earth – Claremont
RTA-1A Dredging, Level 1 Monitoring
Gowanus Canal Remediation Project
Brooklyn, Kings County, NY

This memorandum presents the findings of Archaeology & Historic Resource Services, LLC's (AHRS) review of screened sediments at the Clean Earth Claremont Facility in Jersey City, New Jersey (Clean Earth) from Level 1 Monitoring. The screened sediments are from the RTA-1 dredging currently underway at the Gowanus Canal Superfund Site in Brooklyn, New York. The purpose of this memorandum is to present the results and recommendations for the items recovered from sediment screening at Clean Earth reviewed by an AHRS archaeologist on 4/9/21. The attached figure provided by the Trust indicates the approximate area that was dredged between 3/24 and 4/9/21.

INTRODUCTION

Cashman Dredging and Marine Contracting Co. (Cashman) continues with the dredging of soft sediments from RTA-1 under the oversight of the EPA. The dredge material is being processed according to the Level 1 Archaeological Monitoring protocol outlined in the draft Cultural Resource Monitoring Plan (revised September 2020). This protocol calls for dredged soft sediments to be placed directly into scows, floated to Clean Earth, and screened over 4" bars on a vibrating platform. Items removed during the vibratory screening process are then sorted by the Clean Earth operator as per the draft Cultural Resource Monitoring Plan. Items of potential interest (possible artifacts or objects of local interests) are placed in a separate stockpile and photographed daily for AHRS archaeologists to review. These items are then placed in a holding area for AHRS to inspect weekly.

RESULTS

AHRS archaeologist Scott Warnasch conducted a scheduled site visit on 4/9/21 to review the recovered items in person with the assistance of a Clean Earth machine and operator to sort through stockpiled items. Photographs were taken of stockpiled items at Clean Earth.

The recovered items were spread by machine on a flat hard surface to allow for the archaeologist to clearly review them (Photograph 1). Any item of potential interest was separated, rinsed and assessed. The reviewed material consisted two piles of unsorted and muddy debris comprised of concrete fragments, rocks, large and small pieces of wood and timber (Photograph 2 and 3), miscellaneous metal (Photograph 4), tires and car parts. Two items were recovered at the canal site and were delivered, cleaned and put to the side at Clean Earth prior to the site visit. The first item was a partial non-active, inert military military projectile (Photograph 5). The second item was a large metal safe (Photograph 6). In addition, three items were recovered during the material review and retained: an iron cleat used to tie off a boat to a dock with a rope (Photograph 7), a set of metal cart wheels connected by a wooden axle (Photograph 8) and a small wooden ball (Photograph 9).



Photograph 1 – View of debris piles to be reviewed, front view.



Photograph 2 – Close up of the condition of the material to be reviewed, front view.



Photograph 3 – Example of large timber, front view.



Photograph 4 – View miscellaneous metal, front view.



Photograph 5 – View of the projectile, front view.



Photograph 6 – View of the safe, front view.



Photograph 7 – View of the iron cleat, front view.



Photograph 8 – View of metal wheels, front view.



Photograph 9 – View of wooden ball, front view.

Items Segregated for Further Review

AHRS archaeologist retained five items for further analysis: a partial non-active, inert military projectile shell, a metal safe, an iron dock cleat, a set of metal cart wheels and a small wooden ball. The wooden ball should be placed in water.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

AHRS concludes that the five items observed during the sediment screening at Clean Earth retain possible historic/archaeological significance. Per the draft Cultural Resource Monitoring Plan, AHRS further recommends that all the non-historically/archaeologically significant debris at Clean Earth has been reviewed by the AHRS archaeologist as of 4/9/2021 may be disposed of.



Figure 1 - Approximate area dredged between March 24 and April 9, 2021. No dredging activities were conducted March 22 or March 23, 2021.