



Cultural Resource Consultants

Memorandum

To: William Lee, Gowanus Environmental Remediation Trust #2

From: Michael Audin, RPA & Scott Warnasch, RPA

Date: April 28, 2022

RE: Memo # 19 - 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 4/28/22. The attached figure provided by the Trust indicates the approximate area that was dredged between 4/13/22 and 4/27/22.

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 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 4/28/22 to review the recovered items in person with the assistance of a Clean Earth machine and operator to sort through stockpiled material. Photographs were taken of stockpiled items at Clean Earth.

The recovered material was spread by machine on a flat hard surface to allow for an archaeologist to clearly review it (Photograph 1). Any item of potential interest was separated, rinsed and assessed. The reviewed material was unsorted and muddy debris comprised largely of rocks, Belgian blocks, large and small pieces of wood and timber, miscellaneous metal, tires and car parts (Photograph 2, 3, 4 and 5). Four items were identified: The hub of a wooden wagon wheel; two sections of two different wagon wheels and a wooden spoke that may or may not belong to one of the sections of wheels (Photographs 6, 7, 8, and 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 – smaller pieces of wood, front view.



Photograph 4 – Example of large timbers, front view.



Photograph 5 – Example of the miscellaneous material reviewed, front view.



Photograph 6 – Wheel hub.



Photograph 7 – Partial wagon or cart wheel 1.



Photograph 8 – Partial wagon or cart wheel 2.



Photograph 9 – Wagon or cart wheel spoke.

Items Segregated for Further Review

AHRS archaeologist identified four items consisting of four different parts of a wagon or cart wheels. Although the items may be of interest, and are not considered artifacts. The items were cleaned and will be stored via submersion in water as an item of interest.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

AHRS concludes that four items observed during the sediment screening at Clean Earth are not considered artifacts although they may be items of interest. Per the draft Cultural Resource Monitoring Plan, the four items are being held as potential items of interests. AHRS further recommends that all the non-historically/archaeologically significant debris at Clean Earth has been reviewed by the AHRS archaeologist as of 4/28/2022 may be disposed of.



Figure 1 - Approximate areas dredged between April 13, 2022, and April 27, 2022. Phase II and Phase III material removed south of Union Street Bridge from April 13, 2022, to April 15, 2022. Phase II material removed north of Union Street Bridge from April 18, 2022, to April 27, 2022.