



Cultural Resource Consultants

Memorandum

To: William Lee, Gowanus Environmental Remediation Trust #2

From: Michael Audin, RPA & Scott Warnasch, RPA

Date: January 22, 2021

RE: Memo # 5 - Results of Level 1 Cultural Resource Review
Debris Staging at Clean Earth – Claremont
RTA-1 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 and reviewed by an AHRS archaeologist on 1/22/21. The attached Figure (Figure 1) provided by the Trust indicates the approximate area that was dredged between 1/11 and 1/22/2021. Dredging was not conducted on 1/11 or 1/19/2021.

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 visit at Clean Earth on 1/22/21 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 an archaeologist to clearly review them, (Photographs 1 thru 6). Any item of potential interest was separated, rinsed and assessed. The majority of the items reviewed were separated into two piles: debris and tires (Photographs 1-2). The majority of the debris reviewed consisted of modern material, including car parts (Photograph 3), wood and timbers (Photograph 4), large concrete blocks (Photograph 5) and pipes (Photograph 6). No items were recommended for retention.



Photograph 1 - Overview of the material that was reviewed: debris (left) and tires (far right), front view.



Photograph 2 – View of tires reviewed, front view.



Photograph 3 – Example of the car parts reviewed, front view.



Photograph 4 – Example of the timber reviewed, front view.



Photograph 5 – Example of the concrete blocks reviewed, front view.



Photograph 6 – Example of pipes reviewed, front view.

Items Segregated for Further Review

AHRS archaeologist did not encounter any items to retain for further analysis.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

AHRS concludes that no 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 that has been reviewed by the AHRS archaeologist as of 1/22/21 may be disposed of.



Figure 1 – Approximate Area Dredged between dates January 11, 2021 and January 22, 2021. Dredging was not conducted on January 11, 2021 or January 19, 2021.
Figure provided by the Trust.