Case Study

Dublin Port Tunnel Site Investigation

AWN Consulting was requested to design and project manage a comprehensive contaminated soil classification programme during the construction phase of the Dublin Port Tunnel, which opened in December 2006.

Dublin Port Tunnel is the largest civil engineering project in Ireland, with more than 5,000 people employed on the project over its lifetime. AWN has extensive experience in designing and co-coordinating comprehensive environmental and geotechnical site investigations on Greenfield and Brownfield sites and also being part of an overall team for large scale projects such as this.

The aim of the project was to determine the nature of large quantities of material stockpiled at the Dublin Port Tunnel site compound on East Wall Road, which was excavated from the vicinity of Alfie Byrne Road and Fairview Park during the construction of the tunnel.

Initially, a desktop assessment was carried out, whereby all available environmental information including library reference material, geological maps and the EIS for the project was reviewed. Site visits were carried out as well as consultation with the site engineers and project managers.

The design of the contamination classification programme was then carried out.

The site investigation comprised a comprehensive soil sampling programme with sampling conducted at 38 no. sampling points across the stockpiles at circa 15m centres using Competitor 130 Window Sampling rigs.

All investigation work was carried out in accordance with the relevant requirements of BS10175:2001 Investigation of Potentially Contaminated Sites – Code of Practice and relevant EPA and UK Environmental Agency Guidance.

Soil analyses were carried out for a range of parameters at an accredited laboratory and the results were used to classify the material according to the criteria detailed in Council Decision 2003/33/EC for disposal purposes. AWN provided supervision for materials removal and completed the waste permit application on behalf of the Council for reuse of some of the inert material to act as ballast over the tunnel.

A comprehensive report was compiled detailing the findings of the classification programme, including recommendations for the material stored at the site. From these findings it was then possible for the material to be stored, transported and disposed of accordingly.