

N4 Collooney to Castlebaldwin, Proposed Road Development

APPENDIX NO. 15.3

Excavation Summaries

PREPARED BY:

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Document Control

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1 Excavation Summaries

Site name	Cloghoge Lower
Nat Grid Ref	G759138
Excavation No.	03E1243
Excavations ref.	2003:1637
Classification	No archaeological significance
Description	The site is situated on the north-eastern shoulder of the Bricklieve Mountains, overlooking Lough Arrow to the east. The proposed development is located close to the site of a ringfort, which contains the remains of a probable hut site (SMR 34:192(01, 02)). A second ringfort is located upslope to the west (SMR 34:193). Testing, by means of four machine-dug trenches, revealed nothing of archaeological significance. The only feature noted was that of the remains of a field boundary, which was removed within living memory.
Author	Eoin Halpin, Archaeological Development Services, Westlink Enterprise Centre, 30-50 Distillery Street, Belfast BT12 5BJ.
Site name	Bricklieve, Castlebaldwin
Nat Grid Ref	—
Excavation No.	01E0565 (SMR 40:153)
Excavations ref.	2001:1152
Classification	No archaeological significance
Description	Pre-development testing took place in advance of the construction of a single house, access and septic tank. The site of the proposed development is within the same field as a portion of an ancient route known locally as 'the Red Earl's Road'. Six trenches (two located across the supposed line of the road) were excavated to a depth of 0.6–1m. No archaeological remains or features were uncovered. No sign of the road, above ground or below, was revealed.
Author	Christopher Read, North West Archaeological Services, Cloonfad Cottage, Cloonfad, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim.
Site name	Drumderry
Nat Grid Ref	17558 31533
Excavation No.	04E1574 (SMR 34:178)
Excavations ref.	2004:1515
Classification	No archaeological significance
Description	Testing was undertaken pursuant to granted planning permission to construct a dwelling house and carry out associated site works in the townland of Drumderry. The site is adjoining a field where a ringfort is located. Five trenches were opened on the site, none of which revealed any features of archaeological provenance. Weathered bedrock was relatively close to the surface.
Author	Mary Henry, Mary Henry Archaeological Services Ltd, 17 Staunton Row, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.
Site name	Sheerevagh
Nat Grid Ref	17540 31575
Excavation No.	02E1763 (SMR 34:126, 34:127)
Excavations ref.	2002:1661
Classification	No archaeological significance
Description	The site of a proposed development of a house, garage, access lane and septic tank/percolation area is near two ringforts. There were no visible archaeological features in the area of the proposed development. All excavation works were fully monitored, but no archaeological features or finds were revealed.
Author	Christopher Read, North West Archaeological Services Ltd, Cloonfad Cottage, Cloonfad, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim.

Site name	Tawnagh
Nat Grid Ref	17370 31773
Excavation No.	02E0821 (SMR 34:85)
Excavations ref.	2002:1681
Classification	No archaeological significance
Description	The site of this single house at Tawnagh, Riverstown, was midway down a field that slopes down from a medieval church in a graveyard, which is still in use, to a stream. The entire area of the house, 35m by 50m, was stripped in two layers, as was the area of the driveway. The soil sequence was entirely consistent and showed no sign of prior disturbance. A few pieces of modern china, slate, red brick, glass and a rusted metal pin from an old plough were retrieved. The area was stripped to within 3m of a presumed field bank running along the north side of the site; there were no indications of an accompanying ditch. No archaeological deposits or finds were revealed.
Author	Martin A. Timoney, Bóthar an Chorainn, Keash, Co. Sligo.
Site name	Lecarrow
Nat Grid Ref	G799090
Excavation No.	—
Excavations ref.	1989:086
Classification	Ringfort with enclosure
Description	In this townland, a ringfort has, abutting its south-western and north-western aspects, an oval-shaped enclosure with a low bank of earth and stone walling. Although the oval enclosure may not be coeval with the fort, it is of some antiquity and is classifiable as part of the heritage of that particular site.
Author	Brendan Ó Ríordáin, Burgage More, Blessington, Co. Wicklow.
Site name	Kilmorgan
Nat Grid Ref	17156 31689
Excavation No.	03E1709 (SMR 34:81)
Excavations ref.	2003:1655
Classification	No archaeological significance
Description	The proposed development, to consist of a house, garage, access and septic tank/percolation area, is located in the Bricklieve Mountains between Keash and Castlebaldwin at Kilmorgan, Ballymote. It is located within an archaeological complex, comprising both ecclesiastical remains and field systems. An assessment of the proposed development, including testing, was carried out on 17 October 2003. Five trenches, 1m wide and 10m long, were excavated by machine to a depth of 0.3-0.45m. There was no evidence of any archaeological activity on the site.
Author	Christopher Read, North West Archaeological Services Ltd, Cloonfad Cottage, Cloonfad, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim.
Site name	Kilmorgan
Nat Grid Ref	17153 31678
Excavation No.	03E1858 (SMR 34:81)
Excavations ref.	2003:1656
Classification	No archaeological significance
Description	The proposed development, to consist of a house, garage, access and septic tank/percolation area, is located in the Bricklieve Mountains between Keash and Castlebaldwin at Kilmorgan, Ballymote. It is near an archaeological complex, comprising both ecclesiastical remains and field systems. Testing was carried out on 20 November 2003. Five trenches, 1m wide and 10m long, were excavated by machine across the site to a depth of between 0.35 and 0.5m. There was no evidence of any archaeological activity on the site.
Author	Christopher Read, North West Archaeological Services Ltd, Cloonfad Cottage, Cloonfad, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim

Site name	Carrowkeel
Nat Grid Ref	15655 31102
Excavation No.	03E0669 (SMR 38:52)
Excavations ref.	2003:1626
Classification	Unknown
Description	<p>Planning permission was granted for a house, associated works and a driveway on the site of a supposed enclosure at Carrowkeel, Chaffpool, Tobercurry, Co. Sligo. The site was tested and site clearance subsequently monitored. The 1838 6-inch OS map is the only source for the suggested existence of an enclosure. A broad sinuous bank of stones and earth along the east and south sides of the site does not curve to form an enclosure. This may have been bounding an area of decorative trees on the Chaffpool demesne, as indicated on the 1838 OS map. While the south-east half of what is shown on the map may be equitable with part of the sinuous bank on-site, there is no indication of anything on the ground for the north-west half. A thin soil covers the limestone bedrock and there is a massive limestone quarry some 500m to the north-north-east beyond Chaffpool House. There are several rock edges within the area for development. Testing on 14 and 15 May 2003 did not clarify the issue. Trench 1 was 61.7m long. There was a yellow brick, some modern sheet metal and a piece of a milk crock in the dark clay and stone make-up of the bank. There was no sign of a fosse at the east end. In Trench 2, there were no finds. The central area had dark clay and lots of stone. In Trench 3, there was a lot of modern rubbish in the dark clay and stone make-up of the bank at the lower east end. There was no sign of a fosse. This ground was difficult to assess, due to the stepped nature of the underlying bedrock. The sinuous bank was made up of loose dark clay with loose stones. There was no formal structure to it and there were no finds recovered from it. In Trench 4, the thin sod lay directly on the natural glacial deposits. There were no finds. There was no indication of the suggested ringfort or enclosure found in testing. The central and downhill area of the site had loose dark soil and lots of loose stones. The possibility of a central element, a cairn, in a black soil and stone area is, however, possible. This was a long concentration of stones, 0.5m high, dumped along a geological edge to the slope of the hill. There were a few slabs, apparently prised from the weathered surface layers of the underlying rock. Six animal bones were found close together, which may be of archaeological significance. Monitoring did not reveal an explanation for the dark soil and stones.</p>
Author	Martin A. Timoney, Bóthar an Chorainn, Keash, Co. Sligo.
Site name	Ardneskan/ Cloonanure/ Clooneagh/ Cloonlurg/ Doomore/ Doonmeegin/ Kildarganmore/ Kingsfort/ Kinkellew/ Knockanaher/ Knockmoynagh/ Knocknagore/ Roscrib East/ Tawnagh
Nat Grid Ref	124860 295683 TO 175007 235427
Excavation No.	05E0305
Excavations ref.	2005:1354
Classification	Monitoring
Description	<p>Groundwork relating to the construction of a 220/110kV transmission line by ESB International between substations at Flagford, Co. Roscommon, and Srananagh, Co. Sligo, was monitored. The work comprised the removal of topsoil where angle masts or intermediate pylons along the designated route were to be erected. All the monitoring took place at locations in County Sligo; the sites of two intermediate pylons were to be stripped near Boyle, Co. Roscommon, on 21 June, but access was denied by the landowner. No features or finds of archaeological significance were revealed at any of the monitored locations. Work on the project is expected to continue in 2006.</p>
Author	Ken Wiggins, Judith Carroll & Co. Ltd, 13 Anglesea Street, Temple Bar, Dublin 2.
Site name	Curlaw Mountains Project
Nat Grid Ref	17620 31342

Excavation No.	98E0202
Excavations ref.	1998:569
Classification	Fulachta fiadh
Description	<p>All of the cluster of sites described below were revealed through the monitoring of the existing N4 from Hollybrook Estate to Castlebaldwin, Co. Sligo, a distance of 2km, when it was realigned and widened during the summer of 1998. The route lies at the base of the Curlew and Bricklieve Mountains and is only 1.2km from the megalithic cemetery at Carrowkeel. At the northern end of the proposed routeway, and in close proximity to SMR 40:31, a holy well, and SMR 40:30, a flat-topped mound with an enclosure, six fulachta fiadh were discovered set within what is now a very boggy landscape, bordered to the west by a small stream known as the Brickeen Stream. As all of the fulachta fiadh lay to the immediate west of the N4 routeway and in an area to be used as a tip for unwanted soil, it was not necessary to excavate them. They were left undisturbed by the removal of soil for the actual roadway, having being fully recorded and protected by the redeposition of peat. In many cases only the dimensions and height of the sites were noted, in other cases, where part of a fulacht fiadh was exposed in section, it was possible to gain further information on its make-up and stratigraphy. All of the sites lay under a layer of topsoil and peat c. 0.1-0.5m deep. The smallest site measured 3m x 3m, and the largest 6m x 10m. Most of the mounds were low, with an average height of 0.5m, although there is some evidence that one or two of the mounds had been truncated at some time in the past, thereby severely reducing their profile. Owing to the high vegetation and growth of peat over the mounds, none of the sites was visible in the landscape before the monitoring of the realignment of the routeway. The make-up of the mounds, where revealed, was of the classic burnt mound type, with the presence of charcoal and fire-reddened soil with shattered and heat-cracked stones. As none of the sites was excavated it is not possible to give an accurate date. However, it is possible to speculate that they were connected to the possible Bronze Age enclosure, SMR 40:30 that overlooked all six fulachta fiadh and that may indicate that the mounds were the result of domestic activity in the valley during that period.</p>
Author	Sylvia Desmond, 25 Rowan Hall, Millbrook Court, Milltown, Dublin 6.