

**N3-N55 Link Cavan Bypass Stage 2:
Archaeological Resolution**

**FINAL REPORT
04E1166**

**Site 3 Pollamore Near Townland
Co Cavan**

Site Director:	J Channing
Job No.:	1088-04
Client:	Cavan County Council
Date:	July 2009

Valerie J. Keeley Ltd



SUMMARY

This report describes archaeological resolution of a possible site at Pollamore Near Townland, County Cavan. Investigation of two subsoil anomalies did not yield any archaeologically significant information and the contexts are interpreted as field clearance work.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Project Location

Location of Development

The proposed Cavan bypass stage 2 Scheme commences at the existing N3, 1.5km east of Cavan town, extending in a predominantly northeast to southwest direction to the existing N55, c.2.5km south of Cavan town. There is also a secondary link connecting the N55 at Moynehall to the Ballyjamesduff road. The development may be located on 6" sheet 25 Co. Cavan.

National Grid Start point (north): 243559E 304013N

National Grid End point (south): 242075E 301584N

Site location is at Project chainage 925

Townlands/Barony/Civil parish effected, (listed from north to south):

Townland	Barony	Civil Parish
Pollamore Near	Upper Loughree	Annagelliff
Tirquin	Upper Loughree	Annagelliff
Gortnakesh	Upper Loughree	Annagelliff
Moynehall	Upper Loughree	Annagelliff

Location of Site 3

The site was located to the North of site 2 in field 6 of testing report in Pollamore Near Townland. The part of field 6 containing site 3 consisted of reasonable flat pasture with occasional sharp undulations caused by bedrock outcrops.

The Scope of the project

The aim of the archaeological excavation was to fully resolve and preserve by record archaeological remains within the road-take at site 3 thus facilitating road construction. The area opened reflected the centreline testing results.

Circumstances and dates of fieldwork

All cuttings were topsoil striped by tracked-excavator with a toothless bucket. Subsoil surface was manually cleaned down and archaeological features fully recorded and manually excavated. The works were conducted during week ending Friday 3rd September. The on-site team consisted of a site director (the author), a supervisor, one assistant, and a general operative.

Organisation of the report

Report format follows layout in tender document

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Testing Resumé

The site was initially discovered during centreline testing. The testing was conducted under licence 04E0968 and is reported separately. The site presented as an oval spread of charcoal staining and flecks on the subsoil surface measuring c.3x2m. An additional test trench was excavated to delimit the feature and test for possible associated features.

3.0 SITE SEQUENCE: INTERIM STATEMENT ON FIELDWORK

Introduction

The excavation uncovered two features. Both features were manually excavated with the surrounding area cleaned down; no further features came to light.

Natural and topography

The site occupied a flat area within a large field of pasture. The ground sloped up sharply to the north and east. A stream ran to the south of the site.

Prehistoric

The features are not interpreted as prehistoric. Excavations at adjacent site 2 located c 50m south, (04E173 Channing) uncovered possible Bronze Age activity in the form of burnt deposits, troughs, pits and possible prehistoric pottery and lithics.

Medieval Post-medieval and modern

Both features have been interpreted as medieval, post-medieval or modern in date. The features were shallow with single fills. The larger, F3, was oval in plan measuring 1.0 by 1.5m with a maximum depth of 0.20m. The second feature, F4, was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.08m. The larger feature possessed a concave profile, with gentle break of slope and concave base. The smaller feature was well defined to the east but presented a gentle break of slope to the west.

The fill of F4 comprised of charcoal stained topsoil. There was no evidence of scorching or discoloration of the base of the cut. The second feature contained a mixed dark grey silty fill with flecks of charcoal and reddened clay. The cut sides of the feature were not discoloured.

Both features are interpreted as evidence for field clearance. While site 2 is close there is no evidence to link the two areas of interest.

4.0 QUANTIFICATION & ASSESSMENT

Site archive and assessment: stratigraphic

The site is stratigraphically simple. Two separate contexts were uncovered, both set into natural subsoil and sealed by topsoil.

F #	Area	Description	Stratigraphy	Provisional Interpretation	Finds
1		Unstratified/Topsoil	n/a	Unstratified	None
2		Subsoil	n/a	Natural	None
3	Site 3	Oval spread, 1x1.5m, of grey silt with charcoal flecks and redeposited subsoil on subsoil surface.	Under F1	Possible Tree bowl from field clearance	None
4	Site 3	Circular deposit of grey silt with charcoal flecks on subsoil surface.	Under F1	Possible Root disturbance, field clearance.	None

Site archive and assessment: finds and environmental

Soil samples/Plant remains

None recovered during the excavation due to lack of suitable contexts.

Animal bone

No faunal remains present on site.

Accessioned finds

None recovered during the excavation.

Site archive and assessment: Photographic

Initial photograph index presented below:

04E	Num	Area	Feat #	Description
1166_	1	Site 3	3	Pre-excavation
1166_	2	Site 3	3	Pre- excavation
1166_	3	Site 3	3	Pre- excavation
1166_	4	Site 3	4	Pre- excavation
1166_	5	Site 3	4	Pre- excavation
1166_	6	Site 3	4	Half-section
1166_	7	Site 3	4	Half-section
1166_	8	Site 3	3	Half-section
1166_	9	Site 3	3	Half-section

5.0 POTENTIAL OF THE DATA

Realisation of the original research aims

All features have been recorded and described. This report preserves the site by record.

General discussion of potential

The site does not offer potential; it is interpreted as not archaeologically significant.

6.0 SIGNIFICANCE OF DATA

The site is not deemed archaeologically significant.

7.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The work was facilitated and funded by Cavan County Council in association with National Roads Design Office.

8.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Channing J. *Centreline Testing Report 04E0968 N3-N55 Link, Cavan Bypass Stage 2*, unpublished

Dept of Environment. Record of Monuments and Places Co Cavan

Ordnance Survey of Ireland. 1839. *6 inch map series*. County Cavan Sheet 25

Ordnance Survey of Ireland. 1998 *Discovery Series Sheet 34*, 1:50,000.

9.0 PLATES AND FIGURES



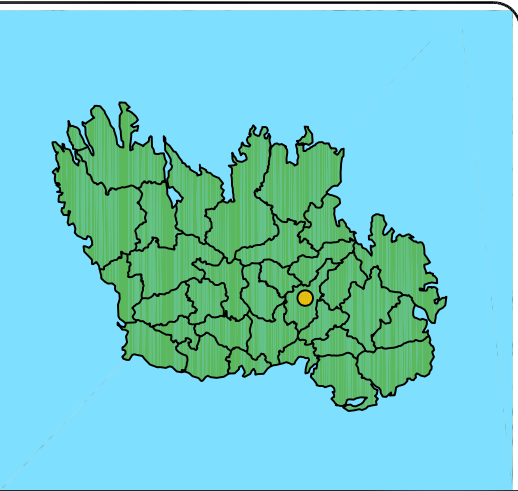
Plate 1 04E1166_003 Pre-excavation shot of F3, looking north




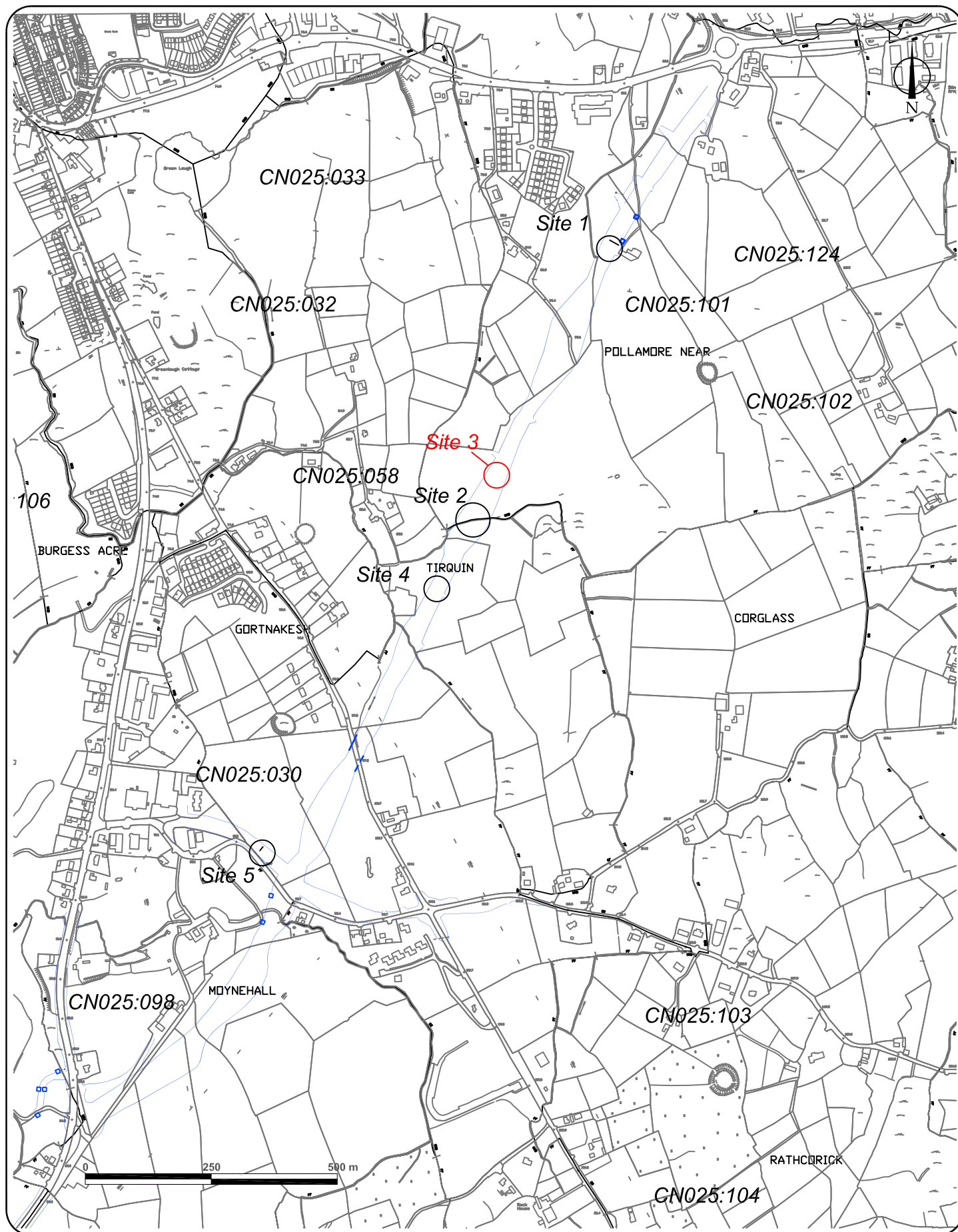
Plate 2 04E1166_009 South facing section of F3




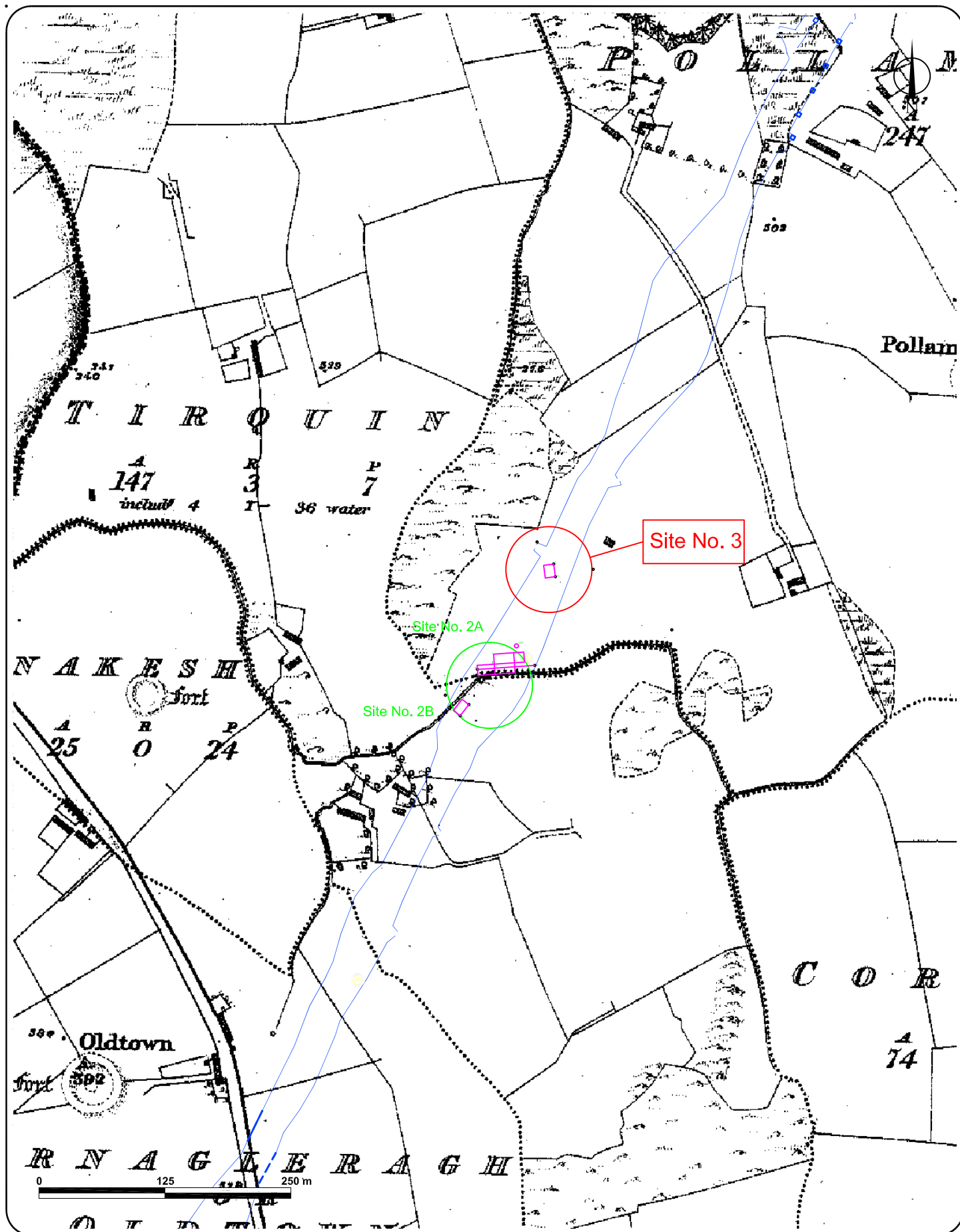
Plate 3 04E1166_009 South facing section of F4




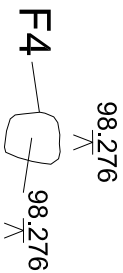
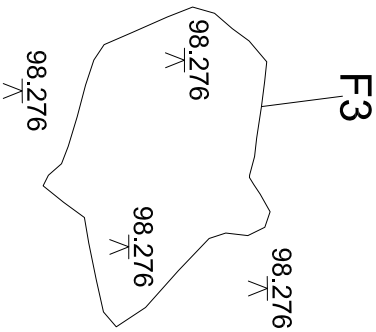
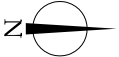
Title Project Location on Discovery Series Mapping	Notes		Client		 VJK Valerie J. Keating Ltd. Archaeological Consultancy Brethon House Kilkenny Road Castlecomer Co. Kilkenny. Tel: (+353) 056 444023 Fax: (+353) 056 444023 Email: vjk@vjk.ie Website: www.vjk.ie
	Works/Exc No.	Completed by	CAD reference	Client	
	04E1166	OR/GW	1088-041TERA3	Cavan County Council	
	Date June 09	Scale N.T.S.	Drawing No. Figure 1	Project N3-N55 Cavan Link Road	




Title Site Location			Notes			 Brehon House Kilkenny Road Castlecomer Co. Kilkenny. Tel: (+353) 056 4440236 Fax: (+353) 056 4440237 Email: vjk@vjk.ie Website: www.vjk.ie
Job No. 04E1166	Drawn by SD/GW	CAD reference 1088-041TERA3	Date June 09	Scale 1:10000	Drawing No. Figure 2	Project N3-N55 Cavan Link Road



Title Site location on 1st edition 6" map, sheet 25, Co. Cavan			Notes			 Client Cavan County Council
Job No. 04E1166	Drawn by OR/GW	CAD reference 1088-04/TERA3	Date June 09	Scale 1:5000	Drawing No. Figure 3	
Project N3-N55 Cavan Link Road						Brehon House Kilkenny Road Castlecomer Co. Kilkenny. Tel: (+353) 056 4440236 Fax: (+353) 056 4440237 Email: vjk@vjk.ie Website: www.vjk.ie



Title Plan of F3 and F4	Notes	Works/Exc No.	Completed by	CAD reference	Client		Brehon House Kilkenny Road Castlecanner Co. Kilkenny. Tel: (+353) 056 4440236 Fax: (+353) 056 4440237 Email: vjk@vjk.ie Website: www.vjk.ie
		04E1166	OR/GW	1088-04\TERRA3	Cavan County Council		
		Date	Scale	Drawing No.	Project		
		June 09	1:50	Figure 4	N3-N55 Cavan Link Road		