

**M3 CLONEE – NORTH OF KELLS
MOTORWAY SCHEME
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES CONTRACT 4
NAVAN TO KELLS AND KELLS BYPASS**



**E3119: ARDBRACCAN 5
MINISTERIAL DIRECTION REF. NO.: A029/**

FINAL REPORT

SUBMITTED TO MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

19TH MAY 2010

PROJECT DETAILS

Project Reference No.	MH 00 100
Project	M3 Clonee–North of Kells, Contract 4
Ministerial Direction Reference No.	A029
Excavation Registration Number	E3119
Excavation Director	Carmel Duffy
Senior Archaeologist	Shane Delaney
Consultant	Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, 120b Greenpark Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.
Client	Meath County Council
Site Name	Ardbraccan 5
Site Type	Undated structures
Townland	Ardbraccan
Parish	Ardbraccan
County	Meath
NGR (Easting)	281994
NGR (Northing)	269085
Chainage	60250–60300
Height m OD	62.5 m OD
RMP No.	N/A
Excavation Start Date	21 May 2006
Excavation Duration	18 days
Report Type	Final
Report Date	19 th May 2010
Report By	Carmel Duffy

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This final report has been prepared by Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd on behalf of Meath County Council and the National Roads Authority in advance of the construction of the M3 Clonee – North of Kells Motorway Scheme. This excavation has been carried out under Ministerial Direction to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG), in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland issued under Section 14 of the National Monuments Acts 1930–2004.

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ABSTRACT

This is a final report of an archaeological excavation at Ardbraconn 5 which was located on the route of the M3 Navan–Kells & Kells Bypass (Archaeological Services Contract 4) of the M3 Clonee–North of Kells Motorway Scheme, County Meath. The excavation was carried out by Carmel Duffy of Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd on behalf of Meath County Council and the National Roads Authority. The work was carried out under Ministerial Direction No. A029/001 and National Monuments Service (NMS) Excavation Registration No. E3119 which were received from the DoEHLG in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland. The fieldwork took place between 21 May 2006 – 13 June 2006.

Ardbraconn 5 is located in the townland of Ardbraconn c. 9km south-east of Kells town and c. 1.2km south of the existing N3 (County Meath OS sheet 24). Excavation of this site commenced on the 21 May 2006 and ended on 13 June 2006.

A total area of 2621m² was opened around Ardbraconn 5 to reveal the archaeological features that were identified at the site during archaeological testing under Licence No. 04E0924. This site consisted of three small rectangular structures of unknown date and modern plough furrows and drains.

There was no direct connection between any of these features. There were no datable archaeological finds. None of these features were truncating, or truncated by, any of the furrows, so this eliminated the possibility of establishing a chronology of the site using stratigraphy.

No environmental material was retrieved from samples taken from the site and as such it was not possible to obtain a radiocarbon date for these features.

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1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of the archaeological excavation of Ardraccon 5 carried out in the townland of Ardraccon, Co. Meath (Figures 1–4) as part of an archaeological mitigation program completed under Archaeological Services Contract 4 for the M3 Navan–Kells & Kells Bypass, which forms part of the M3 Clonee–North of Kells Motorway Scheme, County Meath. Archaeological fieldwork was directed by Carmel Duffy of Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd (IAC) under Ministerial Direction No. A029/001 and NMS Registration No. E3119. The work described here was funded by the Department of Transport under the National Development Plans 2000–2006 and 2007–2013 as part of the Transport 21 initiative. The total archaeological cost is administered by the National Roads Authority through Meath County Council. Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd was appointed by Meath County Council to undertake the works following a public procurement process.

1.1 Background to the Proposed Development

The M3 Clonee–North of Kells Motorway Scheme involves construction of 49km of two-lane, dual-carriageway motorway between Clonee and Kells and 10km of single carriageway from Kells to Carnaross, north of Kells, along with additional road upgrades, realignments and associated ancillary works. For the purposes of the Environmental Impact Assessment and the subsequent archaeological investigations the scheme was subdivided into five separate sections as follows: Clonee to Dunshaughlin (Contract 1), Dunshaughlin–Navan (Contract 2), the Navan Bypass (Contract 3) Navan to Kells (Contract 4) and Kells to North of Kells (Contract 5). This section of the scheme incorporates 11.1km along the N3 Navan–Kells Road and 3.8km of the N52 Kells Bypass.

The archaeological components of the Environmental Impact Statement published in 2002 were carried out by Valerie J. Keeley Ltd (VJK) and Margaret Gowen and Co. Ltd (MGL) in 2000–2001. This included desk based studies and field surveys of each section (VJK – Sections 1 & 3 and MGL – Sections 2, 4 & 5). Additionally on behalf of Margaret Gowen and Co. Ltd geophysical survey was undertaken on the Dunshaughlin–Navan section and at Nugentstown on the Navan–Kells section by GSB Prospection (2000 & 2001). These studies carried out as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment were augmented by further geophysical survey conducted by Bartlett-Clark Consultancy on the remainder of the scheme (2002).

Advance archaeological testing was completed by ACS and Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd (IAC) in 2004 (ACS – Sections 1–3 and IAC Sections 4–5). Excavation of the sites identified during testing was conducted by ACS and IAC between 2005 and 2008 (ACS Sections 1–3 & 5 and IAC Section 4).

The archaeological requirements for the M3 Clonee–North of Kells Motorway Scheme are set out in the Archaeological Directions issued to Meath County Council by the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government under Section 14A (2) of the National Monuments Acts 1930 – 2004 and in the terms of the contract between Meath County Council and Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. These documents form the basis of all archaeological works undertaken for this development. The excavations at Ardraccon 5 were carried out in accordance with the written method statement submitted for approval to the Project Archaeologist and the National Monuments Service and National Museum of Ireland in accordance with the provisions of the Ministerial Directions and the terms of the contract.

All features identified during the assessment phase were subsequently re-identified and the site was fully excavated during the resolution phase of the scheme which took place between 21 May 2006 – 13 June 2006.

Ardraccon 5 was located in the townland of Ardraccon, c. 9km south-east of Kells town and c. 1.2km south of the existing N3 (County Meath OS sheet 24). The topography from Navan to Kells is generally flat and gently undulating lowland. The area is characterised by a patchwork pattern of high quality agricultural fields as well as developed hedgerows. Ardraccon 5 was located in a triangular shaped field of pasture, both sides of which slope downwards to a stream which divides the field roughly north–south. A small tertiary road running in an east–west direction was located c. 200m south of Ardraccon 5.

The site was assigned the following identification data:

Site Name: Ardraccon 5; Ministerial Direction Number: A029; Excavation Registration Number: E3119; Route Chainage (Ch): 60250 – 60300; NGR: 281994/269085.

1.2 Previous Archaeological Work

1.2.1 EIS

An archaeological assessment of the proposed corridor for Contract 4 of the M3 Navan–Kells & Kells Bypass, which in turn forms part of the proposed M3 Clonee–North of Kells Motorway Scheme, was included within an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which was published in February 2002. This identified 12 RMP sites that would be directly affected by the entire proposed road development and highlighted a number of areas of archaeological potential.

Field walking and aerial survey for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) revealed the following areas of archaeological potential:

- A crossing point of a tributary of the River Blackwater is located c. 150m north-west of Ardraccon 5. The archaeological significance of the River Blackwater is well attested in the archaeological record. Rivers have acted as focal points for settlement through all periods of human settlement, and it is possible, particularly in green-field areas, that prehistoric settlement activity may come to light.

The townland of Ardraccon is referred to in the EIS as the proposed road travels c. 200m north of recorded monument ME024:007, a church site containing a square platform area defined by a 45m diameter earthen bank. The site at Ardraccon 5 was not within 500m of a Recorded Monument.

1.2.2 Geophysical Survey

A geophysical survey of the site was undertaken from May to July 2002. The survey phases were as follows:

Phase 1:	Magnetometry of 9m blocks within each 20m strip of ground, giving 45% coverage of each 20m block.
Phase 2:	A magnetic susceptibility reading at 12.5m intervals along the magnetometry transects.

Bartlett-Clark Consultancy undertook a geophysical survey of the test area containing Site Ardraccon 5 under licence No. 02R058. Any potential archaeological anomalies

worth investigation were highlighted within the report. Fourteen test trenches were excavated across geophysical anomalies to assess the extent, character and condition of any such below-ground archaeological remains (see section 1.2.3). In all cases the location of the geophysical trenches were surveyed in by GPS to ensure the accuracy of the testing exercise.

A summary of the results is as follows:

Geophysical survey on the site of Ardracchan 5 gave an unusually varied magnetic response. The plots show numerous individual magnetic anomalies of a kind which could represent silted pits with magnetically enhanced fill, or perhaps individual items of magnetic debris buried beneath the immediate topsoil. Some stronger magnetic anomalies could indicate larger deposits of debris, possibly of recent origin. Limestone blocks were also noticed on the ground at the time of the survey.

The survey in this field lies alongside a stream, and some of the ground is marshy. It could perhaps therefore be the case that there were once structures in the field, and that the limestone is building stone, or perhaps it is more likely that there has been infilling and levelling of the wet ground. The magnetic susceptibility readings remain relatively low, except at the locations of some of the stronger magnetic anomalies (Bartlett 2002, 7).

1.2.3 Testing

Ardracchan 5 was identified as a result of archaeological assessment undertaken by IAC Ltd. in 2005. Two features were identified, the first was interpreted as a possible Bronze Age temporary hut site and measured 3m north–south x 3.5m east–west, with a slot-trench measuring 0.25m–0.4m in width. The second feature consisted of a sub-rectangular possible structure with a possible entrance to the north, which may also be a hut site. The feature measured 3.3m north–south x 2.1m east–west.

1.3 Methodology

The methodology adopted was in accordance with the approved Method Statement. The topsoil was removed to the interface between natural and topsoil using a 20 tonne mechanical excavator equipped with a flat toothless bucket under strict archaeological supervision across an area measuring 2621m². The remaining topsoil was removed by the archaeological team with the use of shovels, hoes and trowels in order to expose and identify the archaeological remains. A site grid was set up at 10m intervals and was subsequently tied in to the national grid using GPS survey equipment.

All archaeological features were fully excavated by hand and recorded on *pro forma* record sheets using a variant of the single context recording system with plans and sections being recorded at a scale of 1:50, 1:20 or 1:10 as appropriate.

A complete photographic record was maintained throughout the excavation. Digital photographs were taken of all features and of work in progress. These photographs were supplemented by specialist aerial photography.

An environmental strategy was devised at the beginning of the excavation which consisted of a combination of targeted and random bulk sampling. This ensured that noticeably rich contexts were sampled, but also allowed for samples where environmental remains may not have been obvious. Features exhibiting large amounts of carbonised material were the primary targets as well as structural stakeholes and postholes.

No artefacts were recovered from the site and no environmental remains were retrieved from the processing of soil samples. The paper archive is currently stored in IAC's facility in Lismore, Co Waterford.

All excavation and post excavation works were carried out in accordance with the relevant approvals and in consultation and agreement with the National Roads Authority (NRA) Project Archaeologist, the National Monuments Section of the DoEHLG and the National Museum of Ireland.

Final Report Date Ranges

The following date ranges for Irish prehistory and medieval periods are used for all final reports for the M3 Contract 4 excavations.

Mesolithic: 7000–4000 BC

Neolithic: 4000–2500 BC

Early Bronze Age: 2500–1700 BC

Middle Bronze Age: 1700–1200 BC

Late Bronze Age: 1200–800 BC

Iron Age: 800 BC–AD 500

Early medieval period: AD 500–1100

Medieval period: AD 1100–1600

Post-medieval: AD 1600–1800

Source:

Carlin, N., Clarke, L. & Walsh, F. 2008 *The M4 Kinnegad-Enfield-Kilcock Motorway: The Archaeology of Life and Death on the Boyne Floodplain*. NRA Monograph Series No. 2, Wordwell, Bray.

2 EXCAVATION RESULTS

Three structures excavated at this site belong to one phase of activity which is tentatively dated to the prehistoric/possibly Bronze Age, although due to a lack of finds and available dating material it has not been possible to definitively date this activity. These structures were post-dated by agricultural activity in the form of drains and furrows.

2.1 Natural Geology

The overburden in this area of the proposed route consists of stiff silts overlying glacial till. Bedrock is likely to be found c. 5m below ground level and to consist of limestone. Generally, the area surrounding Kells is characterised by relatively low ice marginal ridges, eskers, and kame and kettle topography (Finch et al. 1983; Meehan 1996) dominated by sand and gravel units. Overall, this area is very hummocky with some interspersed peat bogs and badly drained hollows (Meehan 1999).

The natural subsoil consisted of mottled brown grey and orange silty clay.

2.2 Phase 1: Possible Prehistoric Activity

Three small sub-rectangular and rectangular structures excavated at the site are tentatively thought to be prehistoric in date and all belong to one phase of activity (Plate 6). It was not possible to date these features. A sample of the soil backfill of each feature was subject to soil flotation but did not produce any charcoal, seeds or any datable material. Also no finds were recovered from the site.

2.2.1 Sub-Rectangular Structure C30

Contexts:

Context	Fill of	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Basic Description	Interpretation
C30	N/A	N/A	0.31	0.14	Sub-rectangular cut.	Cut for small structure.
C38	C30	N/A	0.31	0.14	Compact mid-brown/purple silty clay.	Fill of trench.

Finds: None

Interpretation:

Structure C30 (Figures 5, 6 and 9; Plate 1) was defined by three discontinuous foundation trenches that were sub-rectangular in plan and roughly aligned north-east to south-west. The structure measured c. 3.5m long and just under 3m wide. The foundation trenches were a maximum of 0.14m deep and a maximum of 0.31m wide.

The breaks in the trenches were located in the north-west, the south-west and the south-east. The break in the south-west of the structure was caused by truncation by a test trench, and although it was not possible to discern the cause of the other two breaks, it is likely that the one of them, possibly the break to the south-east, was an entranceway to the structure.

The foundation trenches had concave sides and base, and the break of slope was sharp at the top, and concave at the bottom (Figure 9). They contained only one fill (C38). Fill C38 was compact, mid-brown/purple silty clay, with occasional small stones. A small piece of plastic was found within this fill, however it is likely that this was the result of modern disturbance. A sample of soil of C38 was sieved but did not produce any material for dating.

2.2.2 Rectangular Structure C18

Contexts:

Context	Fill of	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Basic Description	Interpretation
C18	N/A	N/A	2.4	0.2	Foundation trenches.	Small rectangular structure.
C71	C18	N/A	2.4	0.2	Brown-grey silty sandy clay.	Fill of foundation trench.

Finds: None

Interpretation:

Structure C18 (Figures 5, 7 and 9; Plates 2–3) was a rectangular structure with a general south-east–north-west alignment. It was defined by a continuous foundation trench that was present to the north-west, west, south and east sides. It was absent towards the north. Structure C18 measured c. 3m x 2m wide. The trenches were on average 0.2m wide and 0.2m deep along their entire length.

The foundation trench had gradual sides and a U-shaped base and contained only one fill (C71). Fill C71 had a hard compaction with mottled colours of dark brown and light grey. Its material was silty/sandy clay, with inclusions of pebbles. There were no finds recovered from within this structure. A sample of soil of C71 was sieved but did not produce any material for dating.

2.2.3 Rectangular Structure C39 and Pit C72

Contexts:

Context	Fill of	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Basic Description	Interpretation
C39	N/A	N/A	3.05	0.19	A continuous foundation trench.	Small rectangular structure.
C65	C39	N/A	3.05	0.19	Loosely compacted mid-brown silty clay.	Rectangular structure.
C72	N/A	0.97	0.46	0.11	Irregularly shaped feature.	Shallow pit.
C73	C72	0.97	0.46	0.11	Moderately compacted silty clay.	Fill of shallow pit.

Finds: None

Interpretation:

Structure C39 (Figures 5, 8 and 9; Plates 4–5) was defined by a continuous foundation trench that was sub-rectangular in plan and was aligned north-east to south-west. It measured 3.5m x 3m. The foundation trench was on average 0.25m wide and 0.2m deep. The sides were steep and the base irregular/concave. As the foundation trench was continuous, an entranceway to the structure could not be defined. Structure C39 had one fill (C65). Fill C65 had a loose compaction of mid-brown silty clay and contained less than 5% small stones. A sample of soil of C65 was sieved but did not produce any material for dating.

To the south of the structure, directly adjacent to the south foundation trench was pit C72 (Figures 8 and 9, Plate 4). The main body of pit C72 was aligned east–west, but at its eastern end, it turned to the south for approximately 0.5m. It measured 1m x 0.8m and was 0.15m deep. Pit C72 had only one fill (C73). This fill was moderately compact silty clay, with inclusions of small stones.

Pit C72 was relatively shallow. Its fill appeared to differ from that of structure C39. It had no obvious function and no finds were recovered. It is possible that it was just deposition of fill within a natural hollow.

2.3 Phase 2: Topsoil, Drains and Furrows

Activity post-dating the structures described above consisted of agricultural activity such as land drains and cultivation furrows.

2.3.1 Topsoil

Contexts:

Context	Fill of	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Basic Description	Interpretation
C1	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	Moderately compacted mid-brown sandy silt.	Topsoil.

Finds: None

Interpretation:

The topsoil sealed all the archaeological features on site. It was light brown silty clay that had frequent inclusions of medium-sized to large sub-angular stones. It was consistent across the site.

2.3.2 Drains

Contexts:

Context	Fill of	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Basic Description	Interpretation
C14	N/A	37	0.3	0.26	Linear drain, with vertical sides and flat base.	Modern drain.
C23	N/A	48.16	0.28	0.18	Linear drain, with vertical sides and flat base.	Modern drain.
C31	N/A	31.76	0.25	0.25	Linear drain, with vertical sides and flat base.	Modern drain.
C74	C14	37	0.3	0.26	A fill of c. 70% stone, and a silty clay.	Modern drain.
C75	C23	48.16	0.28	0.18	A fill of c. 70% stone, and a silty clay.	Modern drain.
C76	C31	31.76	0.25	0.25	A fill of c. 70% stone, and a silty clay.	Modern drain.

Finds: None

Interpretation:

Modern drains criss-crossed the site. All of the drains were similar in their cut and fills. They all had almost vertical sides and a flat base. Their break of slope was sharp at the top and bottom, and each contained only one fill, which consisted of c. 70% stone, while the remainder was of silty clay type soil.

Drain C14 was located towards the north of the site and drain C31 was located towards the south. Both were orientated north-east to south-west. Drain C23 was located at the western edge of the area of excavation and ran in a north–south direction.

These drains have been interpreted as modern.

2.3.3 Furrows

Contexts:

Context	Fill of	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Basic Description	Interpretation
C5	N/A	3.5+	0.4	0.15	Linear cut, sloping sides, concave base.	Cut of furrow.
C6	N/A	6.5+	0.35	0.15	Linear cut, sloping sides, concave base.	Cut of furrow.
C19	N/A	11+	0.5	0.15	Linear cut, sloping sides, concave base.	Cut of furrow.
C20	N/A	12+	0.5	0.15	Linear cut, sloping sides, concave base.	Cut of furrow.
C21	N/A	16+	0.4	0.15	Linear cut, sloping sides, concave base.	Cut of furrow.
C22	N/A	7+	0.4	0.15	Linear cut, sloping sides, concave base.	Cut of furrow.
C24	N/A	3+	0.3	0.15	Linear cut, sloping sides, concave base.	Cut of furrow.
C25	N/A	4+	0.5	0.15	Linear cut, sloping sides, concave base.	Cut of furrow.
C26	N/A	2+	0.4	0.15	Linear cut, sloping sides, concave base.	Cut of furrow.
C27	N/A	11+	0.3	0.15	Linear cut, sloping sides, concave base.	Cut of furrow.
C28	N/A	1+	0.5	0.15	Linear cut, sloping sides, concave base.	Cut of furrow.
C29	N/A	7.5+	0.2	0.15	Linear cut, sloping sides, concave base.	Cut of furrow.
C32	N/A	22+	0.3	0.15	Linear cut, sloping sides, concave base.	Cut of furrow.
C34	N/A	26+	0.3	0.15	Linear cut, sloping sides, concave base.	Cut of furrow.
C35	N/A	26+	0.5	0.15	Linear cut, sloping sides, concave base.	Cut of furrow.

Context	Fill of	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Basic Description	Interpretation
C36	N/A	5+	0.4	0.15	Linear cut, sloping sides, concave base.	Cut of furrow.
C37	N/A	36+	1.1	0.15	Linear cut, sloping sides, concave base.	Cut of furrow.
C77	N/A	1+	0.3	0.15	Cultivation mark, very faint.	Fill of furrow.
C78	C34,5,7	26+	0.3–1.1	0.15	Mid-brown silty clay.	Fill of furrow.
C79	C32	22+	0.3	0.15	Mid-brown silty clay.	Fill of furrow.
C80	C24	3+	0.3	0.15	Mid-brown silty clay.	Fill of furrow.
C81	C22	7+	0.4	0.15	Mid-brown silty clay.	Fill of furrow.
C82	C21	16+	0.4	0.15	Mid-brown silty clay.	Fill of furrow.
C83	C20	12+	0.5	0.15	Mid-brown silty clay.	Fill of furrow.
C84	C25	4+	0.5	0.15	Mid-brown silty clay.	Fill of furrow.
C85	C26	2+	0.4	0.15	Mid-brown silty clay.	Fill of furrow.
C86	C27	11+	0.3	0.15	Mid-brown silty clay.	Fill of furrow.
C87	C28	1+	0.5	0.15	Mid-brown silty clay.	Fill of furrow.
C88	C19	11+	0.5	0.15	Mid-brown silty clay.	Fill of furrow.
C89	C06	6.5+	0.35	0.15	Mid-brown silty clay.	Fill of furrow.
C90	C05	3.5+	0.4	0.15	Mid-brown silty clay.	Fill of furrow.
C92	C36	5+	0.4	0.15	Mid-brown silty clay.	Fill of furrow.
C93	C77	1+	0.3	0.15	Mid-brown silty clay.	Fill of furrow.
C94	C29	7.5+	0.2	0.15	Mid-brown silty clay.	Fill of furrow.

Finds: None

Interpretation:

Agricultural furrows were present throughout the whole area of excavation area.

There were 18 furrows recorded altogether. These were C5, C6, C19, C20, C21, C22, C24, C25, C26, C27, C28, C29, C32, C34, C35, C36, C37 and C77. All of these had similar cut and fills. They were linear in plan and on average were 0.4m wide and 0.15m deep, with varying lengths. All of their fills (C78, C79, C80, C81, C82, C83, C84, C85, C86, C87, C88, C89, C90, C92 and C94) were of similar material, which was mid-brown silty clay with occasional inclusions of small and medium sized stones. These furrows were interpreted as being modern in date.

3 SYNTHESIS

The synthesis presents the combined results of all of the archaeological analysis carried out at Ardraccon 5. This includes the analysis of the physical and archaeological landscape, the compilation of information gathered during research into the site type, date, and function, and the results of the excavation.

3.1 Landscape Setting

The topography from Navan to Kells is generally flat and gently undulating lowland. The area is characterised by a patchwork pattern of high quality agricultural fields as well as mature hedgerows. The River Tolka and its tributaries drain much of southern part of County Meath. The Blackwater drains most of north Meath, flowing just east of Kells and is fed by a number of significant tributaries such as the Moynalty River and Yellow River.

The geology of Meath consists of solid and glacial geology. The solid geological formations are mostly of Palaeozoic age dating between 545–290 million years ago (Finch et al. 1983, 9). The solid geology of the area through which the road traverses is dominated principally by carboniferous limestone, which provides the basis for the nourishing, calcium-rich pastures that are seen throughout much of County Meath. The outcome of geological activity from other periods can be seen in the Namurian shales, which form a number of the hills in the area, such as the Hill of Tara and Skreen, and the Ordovician and Silurian shale and sandstones, which form the underlying geology of Kells and the surrounding area.

The overburden in this area consists of stiff silts overlying glacial till. Bedrock is likely to be found c. 5 m below ground level and to be limestone. Generally, the area surrounding Kells is characterised by relatively low ice marginal ridges, eskers, and kame and kettle topography (Finch et al. 1983; Meehan 1999) dominated by sand and gravel units. Overall, this area is very hummocky with some interspersed peat bogs and badly drained hollows (Meehan 1999).

The overlying soils of County Meath are mostly classified as grey-brown podzolics which are good all-purpose, well drained soils used for both arable and pastoral farming. The overlying soil of the Kells area is brown earths, which are well-drained, mature soils which are generally ideally suited to arable farming. A detailed survey of the soils of County Meath is provided by Finch et al. (1983).

Ardraccon 5 is situated at a height of 62.5m above sea level in a roughly triangular shaped field of pasture, both sides of which slope downwards to a modern drainage stream which divides the field roughly north–south. The western boundary of the field forms part of the townland boundary between Ardraccon and Grange. The site was located about 30m to the east of the stream. A small tertiary road running in an east–west direction is located c. 200m south of the site. The newly discovered burnt mound site of Ardraccon 6 is visible to the south-west of the site on the other side of the stream in the same field. There are seven recorded archaeological monuments in a 2km radius of the site. A large quarry is located about 250m to the north and was marked on the 1st edition OS map (1837).

3.2 The Archaeological Landscape

As part of the general research relating to sites along the scheme and the specific research relating to Ardraccon 5, the known archaeology within the surrounding landscape was assessed in order to establish the level and type of activity in the surrounding area in the past. This included a review of information from the Record of monuments and places, previous excavations and other relevant documentary sources including mapping and other sites excavated as part of the M3 scheme.

As Ardracchan 5 is not dated it is not possible to place it within any archaeological timeframe and remains undated.

3.2.1 Archaeological Landscape of Site Ardracchan 5

The excavated archaeology at Ardracchan 5 failed to uncover any dateable finds or material. The site consisted of three small sub-rectangular structures and modern plough furrows. A burnt mound (2134–1963 BC) was located about 150m to the south at Ardracchan 6 (Figure 2) and consisted of three pits, a trough and a burnt mound (Mc Manus 2010). Another possible burnt mound site at Grange 5 was located c. 1km to the north-west of Ardracchan 5 (Figure 2) and consisted of an area of surface burning associated with five small burnt pits and two postholes (Kelly 2010). One of the pits from this site produced a 2 Sigma radiocarbon date of between 2335–2148 BC.

Another Bronze Age site at Grange 4 (Figure 2) was located c. 1.2km from Ardracchan 5 and consisted of a curvilinear feature, a pit that contained burnt bone and a cluster of postholes, stakeholes and pits (Duffy 2010). Two radiocarbon dates from two different postholes returned dates of 2574–2474 BC and 1493–1326 BC.

There were a number of recorded archaeological monuments within the general vicinity of Ardracchan 5 (Figure 2). To the south of the site ranging from 1km – 1.3km distant were four recorded monuments: a fortified house (ME024:011); a church site (ME024:012); a tumulus (ME024:013) and a church (ME025:022). To the north of Ardracchan 5 there were three recorded monuments ranging from 1.2km – 1.7km distant: an enclosure site (ME024:003); a church site possible (ME024:007) and a rectilinear enclosure (ME024:008). Apart from the tumulus all the other recorded monuments date from the early medieval period or later demonstrating a continuity of settlement in the area stretching over several millennia.

3.3 Summary of the Excavation Results

Three undated rectangular structures were identified at Ardracchan 5 (Structure C30, Structure C18 and Structure C39. Structure C30 (Figures 5, 6 and 9; Plate 1) was defined by three discontinuous U-shaped foundation trenches that were sub-rectangular in plan and roughly aligned north-east to south-west. The structure measured c. 3.5m long and c. 3m wide. The foundation trenches were a maximum of 0.14m deep and a maximum of 0.31m wide. It is possible that a break in the foundation trench to the south-east was an entranceway to the structure.

Structure C18 (Figures 5, 7 and 9; Plates 2–3) was a rectangular structure with a general south-east–north-west alignment. It was defined by a continuous U-shaped foundation trench that was present to the north-west, west, south and east sides. It was absent towards the north. Structure C18 measured c. 3m x 2m wide. The trenches were on average 0.2m wide and 0.2m deep along their entire length.

Structure C39 (Figures 5, 8 and 9; Plates 4–5) was defined by a continuous U-shaped foundation trench that was sub-rectangular in plan and was aligned north-east to south-west. It measured 3.5m x 3m. The foundation trench was on average 0.25m wide and 0.2m deep. An entranceway to the structure could not be defined.

A shallow pit (C72) was positioned at the south-east side of the structure. Its fill appeared to differ from that of structure C39. It had no obvious function and no finds were recovered. It is possible that it was just deposition of fill within a natural hollow.

3.4 Summary of the Specialist Analysis

No ecofacts or artifacts were recovered during the excavation so no specialist analysis was possible.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion

The site at Ardbracon 5 comprised three rectangular structures of unknown date. Each structure was on average 3–3.5m by 2–3m and comprised shallow U-shaped foundation trenches with single fills. There was no evidence of packing material within the foundation trench but it is assumed that they held up-right planks supporting a roof structure. No internal or external roof-support features were encountered during the excavation.

Although these structures are un-dated they are positioned within a rich prehistoric landscape. A Bronze Age burnt mound (2134–1963 BC) was located about 150m to the south at Ardbracon 6 (Figure 2) while further burnt mound sites have been identified c. 2km to the south-east within Ardbracon townland including an un-dated burnt mound at Ardbracon 3 (Mossop 2008) and a middle Bronze Age burnt mound at Ardbracon 2 (Murphy 2009).

The rectangular structure (Structure 1) at Philpotstown c. 6.5km to the south-east is the closest parallel to the Ardbracon 5 structures (Martin 2009). Although slightly larger at c. 5.65m by 3.7m it shared many characteristics of the Ardbracon structures. It was defined by a continuous U-shaped foundation trench with a single fill. A date was established for the Philpotstown 1 structure from charcoal retrieved from the foundation cut fill (1386–1123 BC).

4.2 Conclusions

The three Ardbracon 5 structures, were likely to be small huts and can only be tentatively/speculatively dated to the Bronze Age on the basis of shared/common characteristics with the recently identified structure at Philpotstown 1.

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5.2 Other Sources

Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 7 Ely Place Upper, Dublin 2.

Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

Cartographic Sources

Ordnance Survey. 1st and 2nd editions, 1837 & 1883, sheet 24.

APPENDIX 1 CATALOGUE OF PRIMARY DATA

Appendix 1.1 Context Register

Context	Fill of	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Interpretation	Description
C1	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	Topsoil.	Moderately compacted mid-brown sandy silt that had frequent inclusions of medium sized to large sub-angular stones.
C2	Subsoil	N/A	N/A	N/A	Natural subsoil.	Firmly compacted silty clay. Mottled brown with patches of grey and orange. Occasional decaying stone.
C3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C5	N/A	3.5+	0.4	0.15	Furrow.	A linear (E–W) cut with a moderate top break of slope, sloping sides and a barely perceptible break of slope at the base. The base was concave.
C6	N/A	6.5+	0.35	0.15	Furrow in area A.	A linear (E–W) cut with a moderate top break of slope, sloping sides and a barely perceptible break of slope at the base. The base was concave.
C7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C10	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C11	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C12	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C13	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C14	N/A	37	0.3	0.26	Modern drain.	Modern linear field drain.
C15	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C16	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C17	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C18	N/A	N/A	2.4	0.2	Small rectangular structure.	Small rectangular structure. Trenches present on W, S and E sides. The sides were gradual and the base was U-shaped. The break of slope was gradual at the top and bottom. This feature is possibly associated with structures C39 and C30. The shape in plan differs between the three structures but the cut is very similar.
C19	N/A	11+	0.5	0.15	Cut of furrow.	A linear (E–W) cut with a moderate top break of slope, sloping sides and a barely perceptible break of slope at the base. The base was concave.
C20	N/A	12+	0.5	0.15	Cut of furrow.	A linear (E–W) cut with a moderate top break of slope, sloping sides and a barely perceptible break of slope at the base. The base was concave.
C21	N/A	16+	0.4	0.15	Cut of furrow.	A linear (E–W) cut with a moderate top break of slope, sloping sides and a barely

Context	Fill of	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Interpretation	Description
						perceptible break of slope at the base. The base was concave.
C22	N/A	7+	0.4	0.15	Cut of furrow.	A linear (E–W) cut with a moderate top break of slope, sloping sides and a barely perceptible break of slope at the base. The base was concave.
C23	N/A	48.16	0.28	0.18	Modern drain.	Linear drain, with vertical sides and a flat base. The break of slope at the top was sharp and it was gradual at the base. Cut of drain.
C24	N/A	3+	0.3	0.15	Cut of furrow.	A linear (E–W) cut with a moderate top break of slope, sloping sides and a barely perceptible break of slope at the base. The base was concave.
C25	N/A	4+	0.5	0.15	Cut of furrow.	A linear (E–W) cut with a moderate top break of slope, sloping sides and a barely perceptible break of slope at the base. The base was concave.
C26	N/A	2+	0.4	0.15	Cut of furrow.	A linear (E–W) cut with a moderate top break of slope, sloping sides and a barely perceptible break of slope at the base. The base was concave.
C27	N/A	11+	0.3	0.15	Cut of furrow.	A linear (E–W) cut with a moderate top break of slope, sloping sides and a barely perceptible break of slope at the base. The base was concave.
C28	N/A	1+	0.5	0.15	Cut of furrow.	A linear (E–W) cut with a moderate top break of slope, sloping sides and a barely perceptible break of slope at the base. The base was concave.
C29	N/A	7.5+	0.2	0.15	Cut of furrow.	A linear (E–W) cut with a moderate top break of slope, sloping sides and a barely perceptible break of slope at the base. The base was concave.
C30	N/A	N/A	0.31	0.14	Cut for small rectangular structure.	Sub-rectangular cut, in three separate parts. The E side is missing as is the SW and WNW.
C31	N/A	31.76	0.25	0.25	Modern drain.	Linear drain, with vertical sides and a flat base. The break of slope at the top was sharp and it was gradual at the base. Cut of drain.
C32	N/A	22+	0.3	0.15	Cut of furrow.	A linear (E–W) cut with a moderate top break of slope, sloping sides and a barely perceptible break of slope at the base. The base was concave.
C33	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C34	N/A	26+	0.3	0.15	Cut of furrow.	A linear (E–W) cut with a moderate top break of slope, sloping sides and a barely perceptible break of slope at the base. The base was concave.
C35	N/A	26+	0.5	0.15	Cut of furrow.	A linear (E–W) cut with a moderate top break of slope, sloping sides and a barely perceptible break of slope at the base. The base was concave.
C36	N/A	5+	0.4	0.15	Cut of furrow.	A linear (E–W) cut with a moderate top break of slope, sloping sides and a barely perceptible break of slope at the base. The base was concave.
C37	N/A	36+	1.1	0.15	Cut of furrow.	A linear (E–W) cut with a moderate top break of slope, sloping sides and a barely perceptible break of slope at the base. The base was concave.
C38	C30	N/A	0.31	0.14	Fill of foundation trenches for structure.	This was a compact mid-brown/purple silty clay, with occasional small stones.
C39	N/A	N/A	3.05	0.19	Small rectangular structure.	A continuous foundation trench, sub rectangular in plan and aligned NE/(SW. Steep sides and an irregular/concave base.
C40	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A

Context	Fill of	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Interpretation	Description
C41	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C42	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C43	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C44	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C45	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C46	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C47	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C48	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C49	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C50	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C51	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C52	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C53	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C54	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C55	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C56	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C57	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C58	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C59	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C60	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C61	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C62	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C63	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C64	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C65	C39	N/A	3.05	0.19	Rectangular structure.	Loosely compacted mid-brown silty clay. Infrequent inclusions of small stones.
C66	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C67	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C68	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Natural.	N/A
C69	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C70	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C71	C18	N/A	2.4	0.2	Small rectangular structure.	Small rectangular structure. Purpose uncertain. No evidence of burning in its interior and no finds.

Context	Fill of	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Interpretation	Description
C72	N/A	0.97	0.46	0.11	Shallow pit.	Irregularly shaped feature adjacent to the southern foundation trench of Structure C39.
C73	C72	0.97	0.46	0.11	Fill of shallow pit.	A moderately compacted silty clay with inclusions of small stones.
C74	C14	37	0.3	0.26	Modern drain.	The fill consisted of c. 70% stone, and the remainder was a silty clay.
C75	C23	48.16	0.28	0.18	Modern drain.	The fill consisted of c. 70% stone, and the remainder was a silty clay.
C76	C31	31.76	0.25	0.25	Modern drain.	The fill consisted of c. 70% stone, and the remainder was a silty clay.
C77	N/A	1+	0.3	0.15	Furrow.	Cultivation mark, very faint.
C78	C34, C35, C37	26+	0.3–1.1	0.15	Fill of furrow C34, C35, C37.	A linear (N–S) mid-brown silty clay with occasional small and medium sized stone inclusions.
C79	C32	22+	0.3	0.15	Fill of furrow.	A linear (N–S) mid-brown silty clay with occasional small and medium sized stone inclusions.
C80	C24	3+	0.3	0.15	Fill of furrow.	A linear (N–S) mid-brown silty clay with occasional small and medium sized stone inclusions.
C81	C22	7+	0.4	0.15	Fill of furrow.	A linear (N–S) mid-brown silty clay with occasional small and medium sized stone inclusions.
C82	C21	16+	0.4	0.15	Fill of furrow.	A linear (N–S) mid-brown silty clay with occasional small and medium sized stone inclusions.
C83	C20	12+	0.5	0.15	Fill of furrow.	A linear (N–S) mid-brown silty clay with occasional small and medium sized stone inclusions.
C84	C25	4+	0.5	0.15	Fill of furrow.	A linear (N–S) mid-brown silty clay with occasional small and medium sized stone inclusions.
C85	C26	2+	0.4	0.15	Fill of furrow.	A linear (N–S) mid-brown silty clay with occasional small and medium sized stone inclusions.
C86	C27	11+	0.3	0.15	Fill of furrow.	A linear (N–S) mid-brown silty clay with occasional small and medium sized stone inclusions.
C87	C28	1+	0.5	0.15	Fill of furrow.	A linear (N–S) mid-brown silty clay with occasional small and medium sized stone inclusions.
C88	C19	11+	0.5	0.15	Fill of furrow.	A linear (N–S) mid-brown silty clay with occasional small and medium sized stone inclusions.
C89	C06	6.5+	0.35	0.15	Fill of furrow.	A linear (N–S) mid-brown silty clay with occasional small and medium sized stone inclusions.
C90	C05	3.5+	0.4	0.15	Fill of furrow.	A linear (N–S) mid-brown silty clay with occasional small and medium sized stone inclusions.
C91	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-archaeological.	N/A
C92	C36	5+	0.4	0.15	Fill of furrow.	A linear (N–S) mid-brown silty clay with occasional small and medium sized stone inclusions.

Context	Fill of	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Interpretation	Description
C93	C77	1+	0.3	0.15	Fill of furrow.	A linear (N–S) mid-brown silty clay with occasional small and medium sized stone inclusions.
C94	C29	7.5+	0.2	0.15	Fill of furrow.	A linear (N–S) mid-brown silty clay with occasional small and medium sized stone inclusions.


Appendix 1.2 Catalogue of Artefacts

No finds were recovered from this site.

Appendix 1.3 Catalogue of Ecofacts

A total of 3 bulk soil samples were taken during the course of excavation at this site. All of these were processed by means of flotation and sieving through a 250/300µm mesh. No environmental material was recovered during sieving.

Appendix 1.4 Archive Checklist

Project: M3 – Navan to Kells, Contract 4	Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd	
Site Name: Ardraccon 5		
Excavation Registration No.: E3119		
Ministerial Direction: A029/001		
Site director: Carmel Duffy		
Date: February 2007		
Field Records	Items (quantity)	Comments
Site drawings (plans)	9	
Site sections, profiles, elevations	17 sections drawings	
Other plans, sketches, etc.	0	
Timber drawings	0	
Stone structural drawings	0	
Site diary/note books	Levels book	
Site registers (folders)	1 lever arch folder	
Survey/levels data (origin information)	On plans	
Context sheets	15	Context numbers that proved non-archaeological were not allocated context sheets
Wood Sheets	0	
Skeleton Sheets	0	
Worked stone sheets	0	
Digital photographs	49	
Photographs (print)	0	
Photographs (slide)	0	
Finds and Environ. Archive		
Flint/chert	0	
Stone artefacts	0	
Pottery (specify periods/typology)	0	
Ceramic Building Material (specify types eg daub, tile)	0	
Metal artefacts (specify types - bronze, iron)	0	
Glass	0	
Other find types or special finds (specify)	0	
Human bone (specify type eg cremated, skeleton, disarticulated)	0	
Animal bone	0	
Metallurgical waste	0	
Enviro bulk soil (specify no. of samples)	3	
Enviro monolith (specify number of samples and number of tins per sample)	0	
Security copy of archive	Yes	Digital copy

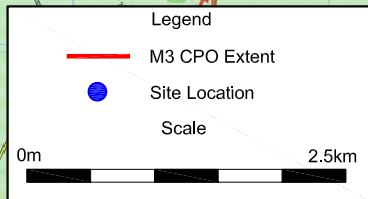
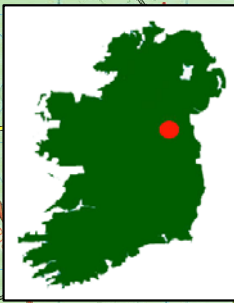
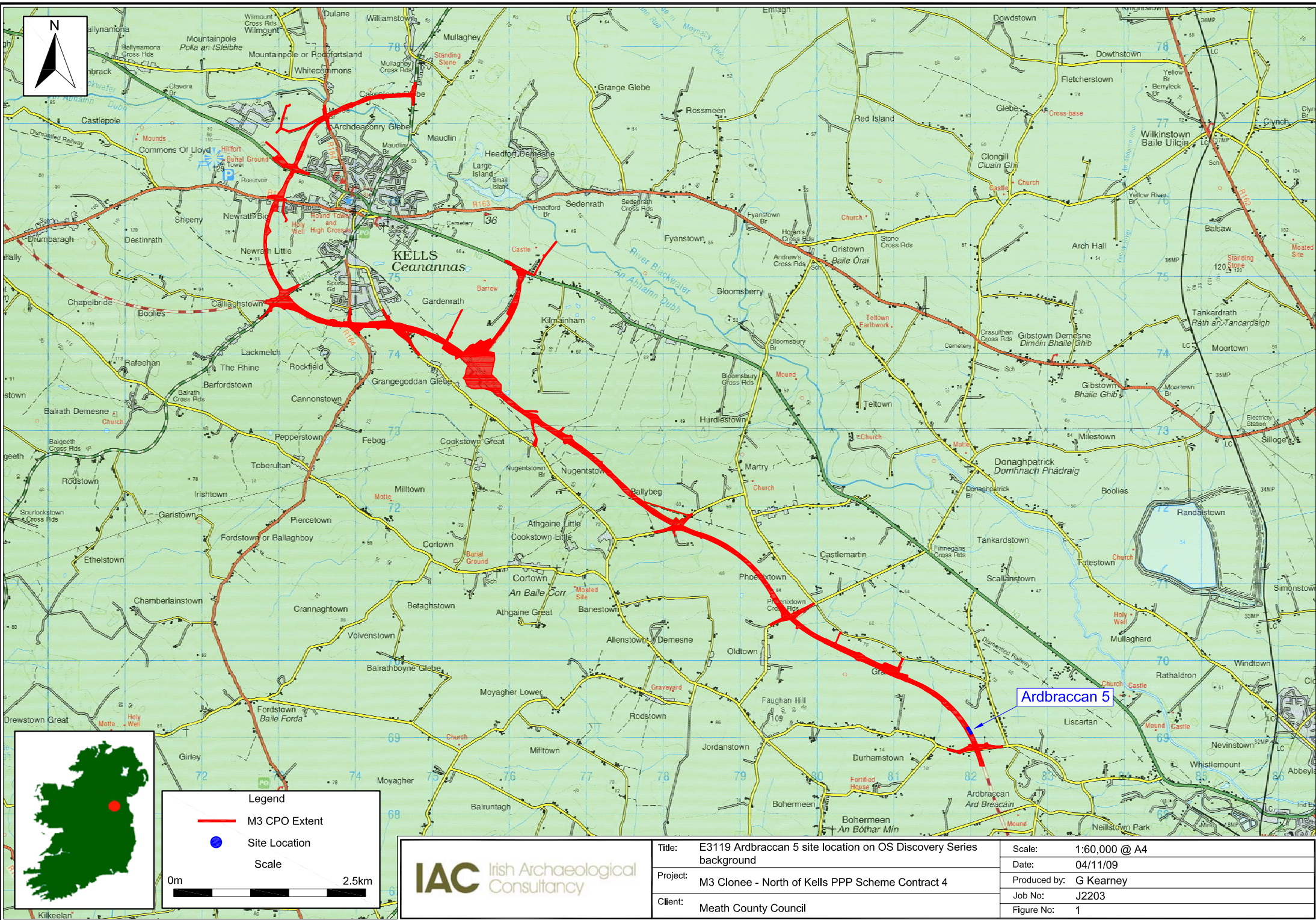
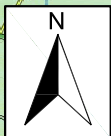
APPENDIX 2 LIST OF RMP SITES IN AREA

RMP No	Description
ME024:003	Enclosure Site
ME024:007	Church Site Possible
ME024:008	Rectilinear Enclosure
ME024:011	Fortified House
ME024:012	Church Site
ME024:013	Tumulus
ME025:022	Church

See Figure 2 for locations

APPENDIX 3 LIST OF M3 CONTRACT 4 SITE NAMES

Site Name	Director	Contract site reference no.	Excavation Registration No.
Ardbraccan 5	Carmel Duffy	A029-001	E3119
Ardbraccan 6	Ciara MacManus	A029-002	E3120
Grange 5	Amanda Kelly	A029-003	E3121
Grange 4	Carmel Duffy	A029-004	E3122
Grange 3	Amanda Kelly	A029-005	E3123
Grange 2	Amanda Kelly	A029-006	E3124
Grange 1	Patricia Lynch	A029-007	E3125
Phoenixtown 5	Tim Coughlan	A029-008	E3126
Phoenixtown 6	Ed Lyne	A029-009	E3127
Phoenixtown 1	Ed Lyne	A029-010	E3128
Phoenixtown 2	Ed Lyne	A029-011	E3129
Phoenixtown 3	Ed Lyne	A029-012	E3130
Phoenixtown 4	Ed Lyne	A029-013	E3131
Ballybeg 1	Patricia Lynch	A029-014	E3132
Ballybeg 2	Patricia Lynch	A029-015	E3133
Nugentstown 3	Patricia Lynch	A029-016	E3134
Nugentstown 2	Patricia Lynch	A029-017	E3135
Nugentstown 1	Patricia Lynch	A029-018	E3136
Cookstown Great 1	Patricia Lynch	A029-019	E3137
Cookstown Great 2	Gill McLoughlin	A029-020	E3138
Cookstown Great 3	Gill McLoughlin	A029-021	E3139
Kilmainham 1A	Ed Lyne	A029-053	E3141
Kilmainham 1B	David Bayley	A029-054	E3142
Kilmainham 1C	Fintan Walsh	A029-022	E3140
Kilmainham 2	David Bayley	A029-023	E3143
Kilmainham 3	Yvonne Whitty	A029-024	E3144
Gardenrath 2	David Bayley	A029-025	E3145
Gardenrath 1	David Bayley	A029-026	E3146
Town Parks 1	Gill McLoughlin	A029-027	E3147
Town Parks 2	Catriona Gleeson	A029-028	E3148
Town Parks 3	Catriona Gleeson	A029-029	E3149
Town Parks 4	Yvonne Whitty	A029-030	E3150
Town Parks 5	Yvonne Whitty	A029-031	E3151
Town Parks 6	Yvonne Whitty	A029-032	E3152
Newrath Little 3	James Kyle	A029-033	E3153
Newrath Little 2	Yvonne Whitty	A029-034	E3154
Newrath Little 1	James Kyle	A029-035	E3155
Town Parks / Commons of Lloyd 1	David Bayley	A029-036	E3156
Commons of Lloyd 1	Yvonne Whitty	A029-037	E3157
Cakestown Glebe 2	Patricia Lynch	A029-038	E3158
Cakestown Glebe 1	Patricia Lynch	A029-039	E3159
Ballybeg 3	Tim Coughlan	A029-040	E3160
Ballybeg 4	Patricia Lynch	A029-041	E3162



IAC Irish Archaeological Consultancy

Title: E3119 Ardbraccan 5 site location on OS Discovery Series background
Project: M3 Clonee - North of Kells PPP Scheme Contract 4
Client: Meath County Council

Scale: 1:60,000 @ A4
Date: 04/11/09
Produced by: G Kearney
Job No: J2203
Figure No: 1



Grange 4

Grange 5

Rectangular Enclosure
ME024:008

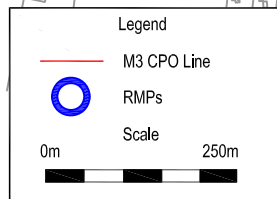
Ardbraccan 5

Ardbraccan 6

Fortified House
ME024:011

Church Site
ME024:012

Church
ME025:022



IAC Irish Archaeological
Consultancy

Title: E3119 Ardbraccan 5 showing RMPs with OS background

Project: M3 Clonee - North of Kells PPP Scheme Contract 4

Client: Meath County Council

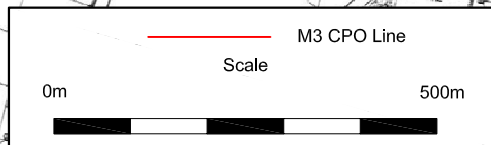
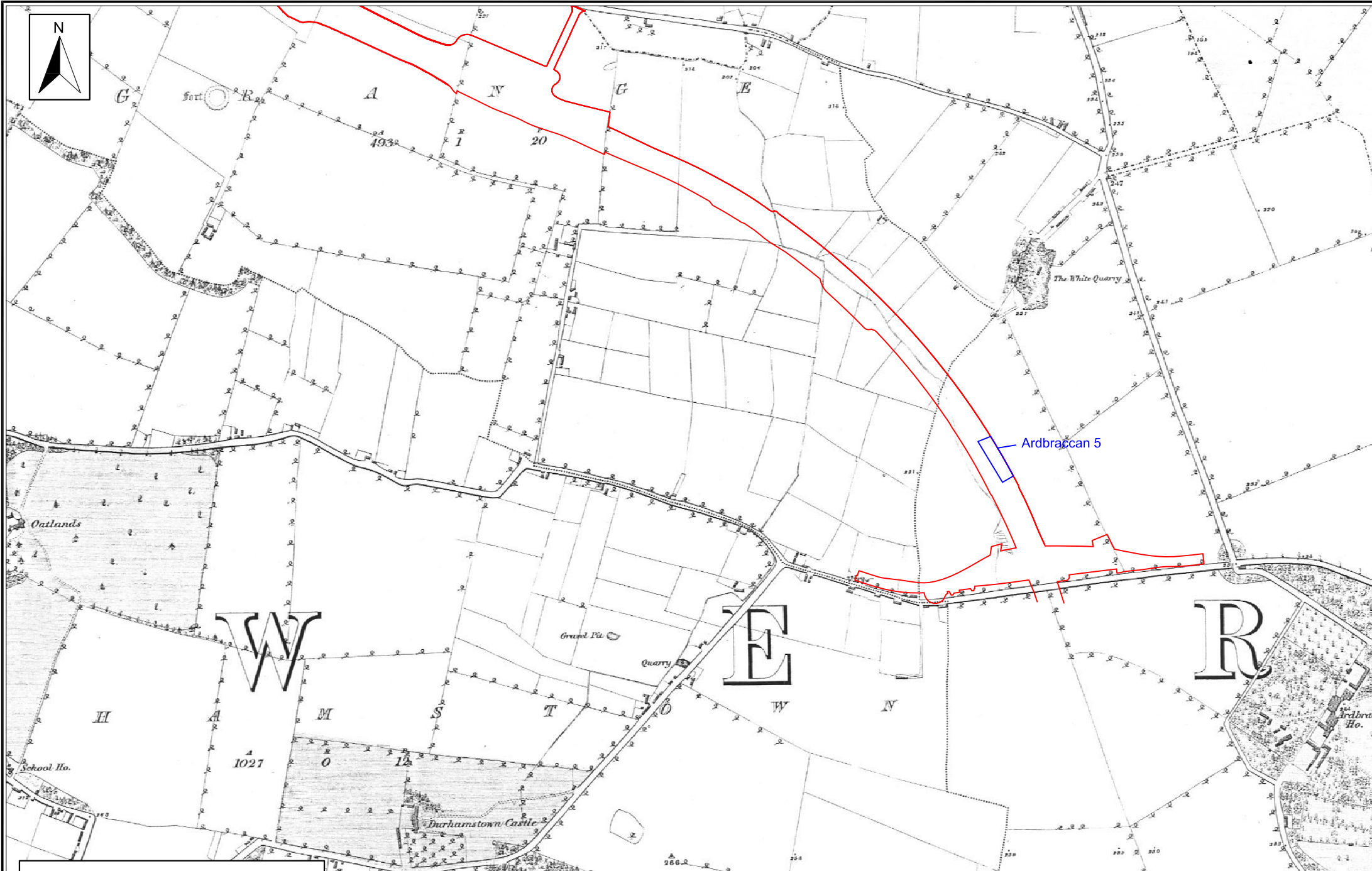
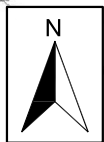
Scale: 1:10,000 @ A4

Date: 04/11/09

Produced by: G Kearney

Job No: J2203

Figure No: 2



IAC Irish Archaeological
Consultancy

Title: E3119 Ardbraccan 5 site location on 1st Edition OS map
Project: M3 Clonee - North of Kells PPP Scheme Contract 4
Client: Meath County Council

Scale: 1:10,000 @ A4
Date: 06/11/09
Produced by: G Kearney
Job No: J2203
Figure No: 3



60500.0

60400.0

Ardbraccan 5

60200.0

0m

Scale

100m



Legend

- M3 CPO Line
- Site extents
- Test trench
- Chainage

IAC Irish Archaeological Consultancy

Title: E3119 Ardbraccan 5 site extents showing phase 1 testing results

Project: M3 Clonree - North of Kells PPP Scheme Contract 4

Client: Meath County Council

Scale: 1:2000 @ A4

Date: 09/11/09

Produced by: G Kearney

Job No: J2203

Figure No: 4



281961,
269108
+

Structure
C39

Structure
C18

282001,
269108
+

Limit of Excavation

Structure
C30

+ 282001,
269068

Stream

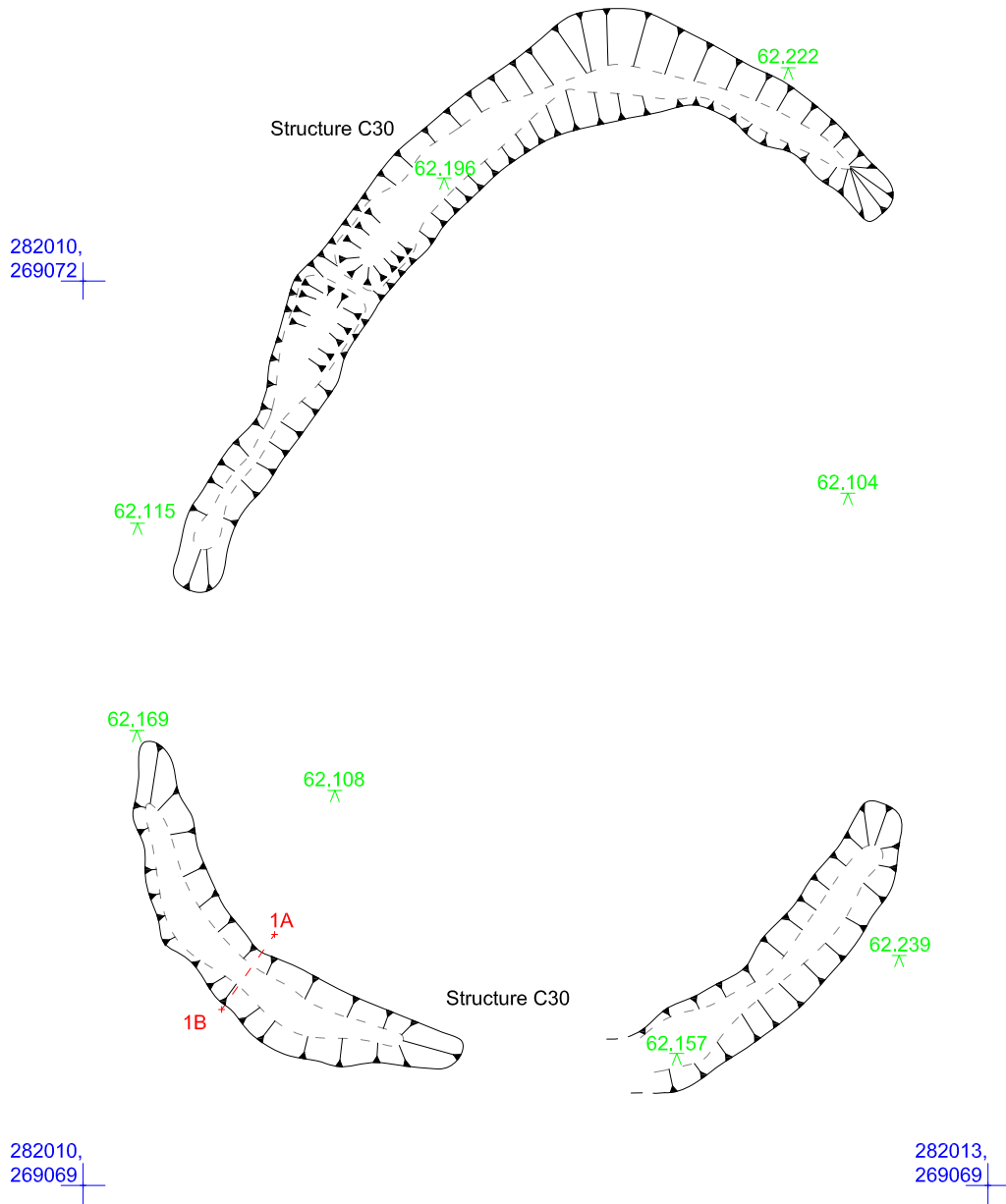
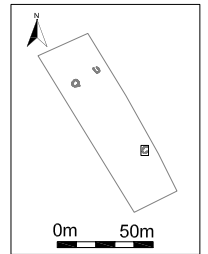
0m Scale 20m

Legend

Cxx Cut numbers
— CPO Line
XXXXXXE National Grid Reference
XXXXXXN



Location of plan

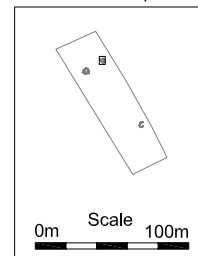


Legend

- Break of slope
- - - Sections
- CXX Cut numbers
- XXXXXXE National Grid Reference
- XXXXXXN National Grid Reference
- XX.XX Levels - metres OD

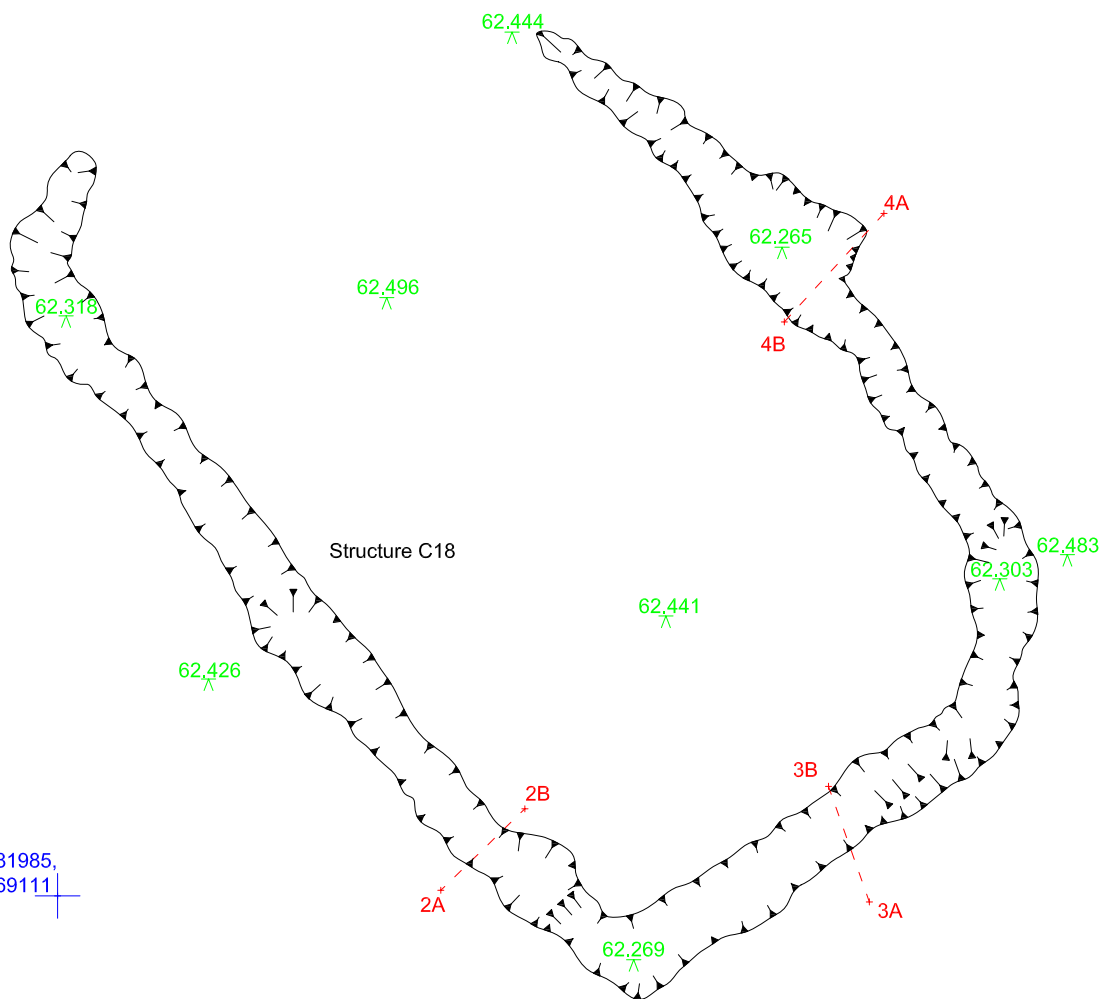


Location of plan



281985,
269114

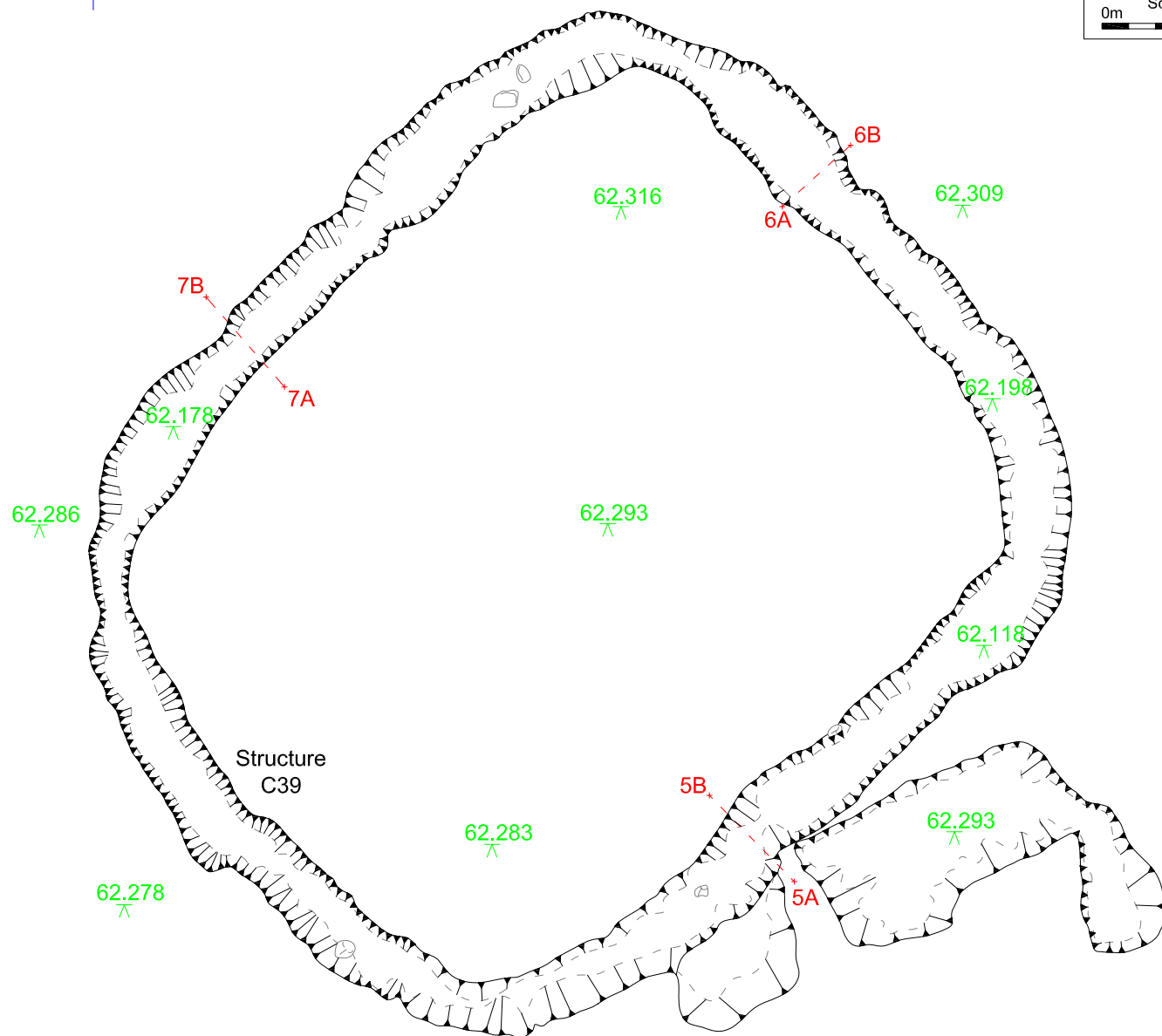
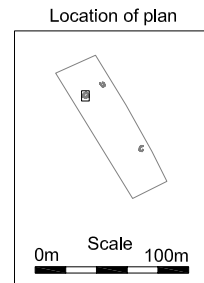
281988,
269114



0m Scale 1m

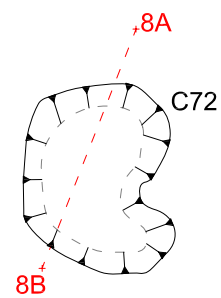
Legend

- Break of slope
- - - Sections
- CXX Cut numbers
- XXXXXXE National Grid Reference
- XXXXXXN National Grid Reference
- XX.XX Levels - metres OD



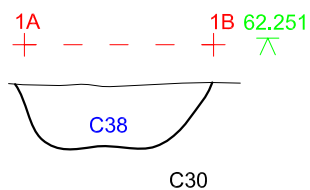
281974,
269103

281977,
269103

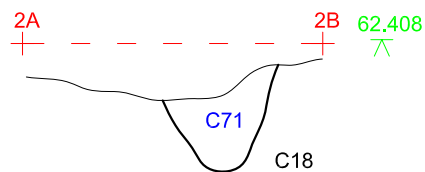


Legend	
---	Break of slope
---	Sections
CXX	Cut numbers
xxxxxxE	National Grid Reference
xxxxxxN	National Grid Reference
XX.XX	Levels - metres OD

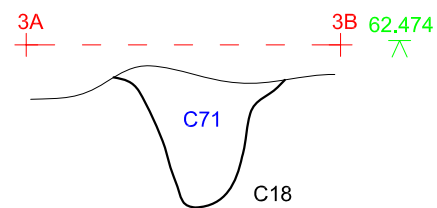
Northwest facing section of C30



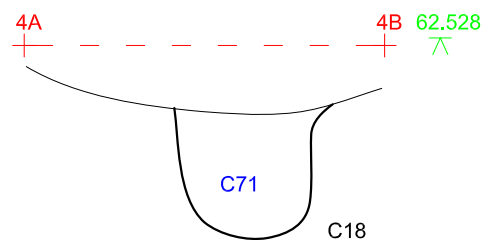
Southeast facing section of C18



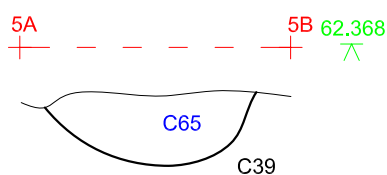
East- facing section of C18



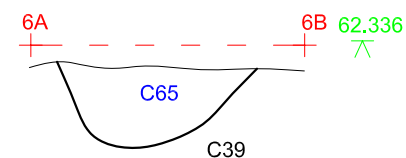
Northwest facing section of C18



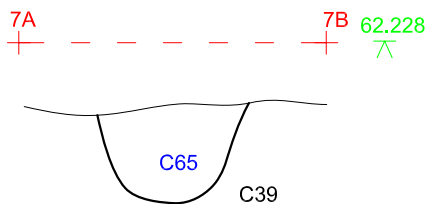
Northeast facing section of C39



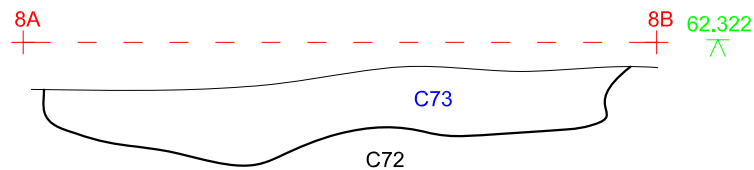
Southeast facing section of C39



Northeast facing section of C39



Northwest facing section of C72



Legend

CXX Cut Numbers
 CXX Fill Numbers
 XX.XXX Levels - metres OD

IAC Irish Archaeological
 Consultancy

Title:	E3119 Ardbraccan 5 sections 1-8	Scale:	1:10 @ A4
Project:	M3 Clonlee - North of Kells PPP Scheme Contract 4	Date:	15/10/09
Client:	Meath County Council	Produced by:	G Kearney
		Job No:	J2203
		Figure No:	9



Plate 1: E3119 Ardbraccan 5 post-excavation photograph of structure C30, facing south-west.



Plate 2: E3119 Ardbraccan 5 post-excavation photograph of structure C18, facing north.



Plate 3: E3119 Ardbraccan 5 post-excavation photograph of structure C18, facing south.



Plate 4: E3119 Ardbraccan 5 structure C39 with pit C72 in the foreground, pre excavation, facing north-west.



Plate 5: E3119 Ardbraccan 5 structure C39, post excavation, facing west.



Plate 6: E3119 Ardbraccan 5 post-excavation, facing south-east (Hawkeye).