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N6 KINNEGAD – ATHLONE SCHEME PHASE 2: KILBEGGAN TO ATHLONE DUAL CARRIAGEWAY



SITE A016/056; E2682: RUSSAGH 1

FINAL REPORT

ON BEHALF OF WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

15 JULY 2009

IAC Irish Archaeological
Consultancy

PROJECT DETAILS

Project Reference No.	WH/00/112
Project	N6 Kinnegad – Athlone Road Scheme: Phase 2, Kilbeggan – Athlone Dual Carriageway
Ministerial Direction Reference No.	A016/056
NMS Registration Number	E2682
Excavation Director	Ellen O’Carroll
Senior Archaeologist	Shane Delaney
Consultant	Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, 120b Greenpark Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow
Client	Westmeath County Council
Site Name	Russagh 1
Site Type	Isolated Pit and Burnt Spread
Townland	Russagh
Parish	Ardnurcher/Horseleap
County	Offaly
NGR (Easting)	226097 (Area A), 226177 (Area B)
NGR (Northing)	237705 (Area A), 237669 (Area B)
Chainage	21260–21360
Height m OD	59m OD (Area A) 58.1m OD (Area B)
RMP No.	N/A
Excavation Start Date	22 February 2006
Excavation Duration	7 days
Report Type	Final
Report Date	15 July 2009
Report By	Ellen O’Carroll

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report has been prepared by Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd on behalf of Westmeath County Council and the National Roads Authority in advance of the construction of the N6 Phase 2: Kilbeggan to Athlone Dual Carriageway Scheme.

The excavation was carried out in accordance with the Directions of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DOEHLG), in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland (NMI) issued under Section 14 of the National Monuments Acts 1930–2004.

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NRDO WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

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ABSTRACT

Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd (IAC), funded by Westmeath County Council (WCC) and the National Roads Authority (NRA), undertook an excavation in the townland of Russagh at the site of Russagh 1 in advance of the proposed N6 Phase 2: Kilbeggan to Athlone Dual Carriageway Scheme (Figure 1). The following report describes the final results of archaeological fieldwork at that site. The area was fully excavated by Ellen O'Carroll under Ministerial Direction (A016/056) and NMS Registration Number E2682 issued by the DOEHLG in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland. The fieldwork took place between 22 February and 2 March 2006.

The site at Russagh 1 covered two areas, each of which contained only one feature.

Area A contained a small pit with evidence for *in-situ* burning at its base and a charcoal rich upper fill. It may represent the remains of a small hearth. An area 10m x 10m was opened up around it but no other further features were identified.

Area B contained a large area of *in-situ* burning 2.5m x 1.6m x 0.03m deep. Radiocarbon dating of this feature returned a 2 Sigma date range of AD 1521–1796 (UBA 8610) placing it within a late medieval to post-medieval date range. It may represent the remains of a bonfire.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This archaeological report describes the final results of the excavation carried out at the site of Russagh 1 in the townland of Russagh, Co. Offaly (Figures 1 and 2), as part of an archaeological mitigation programme associated with the N6 Phase 2: Kilbeggan to Athlone Dual Carriageway Scheme. Archaeological fieldwork was carried out under ministerial direction by Ellen O'Carroll for Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd (IAC Ltd) and was funded by Westmeath County Council and the National Roads Authority under the National Development Plan 2000–2006, 2007–2013 and the EU Structural fund.

Russagh 1 was identified during a test trenching programme undertaken by IAC Ltd in August 2005 (Ministerial Direction No A016/029; NMS Registration No. E3273). All features identified during the assessment phase (two isolated possible hearths) were subsequently re-identified and the site was fully excavated between 22 February and 2 March 2006 with a team of 1 director, 1 supervisor and a maximum of 9 site assistants.

The site was located in sloping pastureland, at a height of 58–59m OD to the south of the existing N6, c. 4.5km north of Clara town (Offaly OS sheet 02). The excavation covered two areas both measuring approximately 10m by 10m totalling approximately 200sqm. Russagh 1 had not been previously identified and was not a Recorded Monument.

The site was assigned the following identification data:

Site Name: Russagh 1; Ministerial Direction No.: A016/056; NMS Registration No.: E2682; Route Chainage (Ch): 21260–21360; NGR: 226097/237705 (Area A), 226177/237669 (Area B).

1.2 Proposed Development

The proposed N6 Kinnegad–Athlone Scheme is to be constructed in two phases. The Phase 2 Kilbeggan–Athlone scheme will consist of a dual carriageway that will run for a distance of approximately 29km. The location of the route is predominantly to the south of the existing N6 and there will be access to the local road network through the seven grade separated junctions located at Athlone, Farnagh, Moate and Kilbeggan. The cross-section of the mainline consists of 2m wide verges, 2.5m wide hard shoulders, 7m wide two-lane carriageways and a 3m wide central reserve. This central reserve will accommodate 1m hard strips and a safety barrier. In addition to the mainline dual carriageway there is a further 0.3km of standard dual carriageway to the south of Athlone Interchange to connect to the existing N6 and 1.2km to the south of Kilbeggan Interchange to connect to the existing N52.

1.3 Archaeological Requirements

The archaeological requirements for the N6 Kilbeggan to Athlone Dual Carriageway Scheme, are outlined in the Ministerial Directions issued to Westmeath 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 Westmeath County Council and Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. These instructions form the basis of all archaeological works undertaken for this development. The archaeological excavation works under this contract are located between the townlands of Tully, Co. Westmeath and Cappydonnell Big, Co. Westmeath.

The proposed N6 was subjected to an Environmental Impact Assessment, the archaeology and cultural history section of which was carried out by Sheila Lane and Associates and presented in 2003. The Record of Monuments and Places, the Sites and Monuments Record, Topographical files, aerial photography, the Westmeath Archaeological Urban Survey and literary sources were all consulted. One phase of geophysical survey was also conducted at selected sites along the proposed route by Target Archaeological Geophysics. As a result of the paper survey, field inspections and geophysical survey, a number of potential sites were recorded in proximity to this section of the overall route alignment.

Advance archaeological testing was completed by IAC Ltd and excavation of the sites identified during testing was conducted by IAC Ltd on behalf of Westmeath County Council.

1.4 Methodology

The topsoil was reduced to the interface between natural and topsoil using a 20 tonne mechanical excavator equipped with a flat toothless bucket under strict archaeological supervision. 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 calibrated to the national grid using GPS survey equipment.

All features were subsequently fully excavated by hand and recorded using the single context recording system with plans and sections being produced 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. Where relevant, features exhibiting large amounts of carbonised material were the primary targets.

In the instances where artefacts were uncovered on site they were dealt with in accordance with the guidelines as issued by the NMI and where warranted in consultation with the relevant specialists. All artefacts, ecofacts and paper archive are currently stored in IAC offices, Lismore, Co Waterford and will ultimately be deposited with the National Museum of Ireland.

Radiocarbon dating of the site was carried out by means of AMS (Accelerator Mass Spectrometry) dating of identified and recommended charcoal samples. All calibrated AMS dates in this report are quoted to 2 Sigma.

All excavation and post excavation works were carried out in consultation and agreement with the Project Archaeologist, the National Monuments Section of the DOEHLG and the National Museum of Ireland.

2 EXCAVATION RESULTS

Detailed descriptions of contexts are given in Appendix 1. The site matrix is detailed in Figure 7.

2.1 Phase 1: Natural Drift Geology

The dominant bedrock geology identified along the corridor of the proposed route are Lower Carboniferous rocks, mainly limestone lithologies, which overlay Devonian Old Red Sandstone rocks. Carboniferous volcanic rocks were also identified as being present locally in the form of sills passing through the bedrock sequences (Riada Consult, 2003). The underlying geology of the area is overlain by occasional moraines and small glacial hillocks covered by grey brown podzolic soils.

The subsoil C3, above bedrock, encountered at Russagh 4 was uniform across the site and consisted of mottled grey/brown silty clay with patches of iron panning & pockets of grey sand.

2.2 Phase 2: Primary Archaeological Activity

2.2.1 Area A: Pit/Hearth C7

Context	Fill of	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Basic Description	Interpretation
4	7	0.38	0.4	0.05	Mid-dark grey charcoal-rich clay	Fill
6	7	0.38	0.4	0.08	Mid-light reddish-orange silt clay	<i>In-situ</i> burning
7	N/A	0.38	0.4	0.19	Sub-circular cut, concave base	Cut of hearth/pit

Finds: None.

Interpretation:

This area contained one cut feature (C7) (Figure 4). The bottom fill (C6) was the result of *in-situ* burning while the top (C4) was a charcoal-rich layer (Figure 6; Plate 1). It appeared this feature was a small hearth.

2.2.2 Area B: Burnt Spread

Context	Fill of	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Basic Description	Interpretation
5	8	2.5	1.6	0.03	Reddish-orange clay, occasional pebbles	Fill of C8
8	N/A	2.5	1.6	0.03	Irregular cut, sloping sides, concave base	Shallow cut

Finds: None.

Interpretation:

This area contained only one feature (C8) (Figure 5). This feature was a large irregular shaped area of *in-situ* burning (Figure 6; Plates 2 and 3), which appeared to have been the result of a probable bonfire possibly associated with land clearance. A fragment of charcoal, identified as alder (*Alnus* sp.), retrieved from fill C5 (O'Carroll, Appendix 2.1) returned a date of 268 +/- 27 BP (UBA 8610). The 2 Sigma calibrated result of this sample produced a date range of AD 1521–1796, placing it within the later medieval/post-medieval period (Appendix 2.2).

2.3 Phase 3: Topsoil

2.3.1 Topsoil

Context	Fill of	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Basic Description	Interpretation
1	N/A	Site	Site	Site	Vegetation	Sod layer
2	N/A	Site	Site	Site	Mid brown silty clay	Topsoil

Finds: None

Interpretation:

Phase 3 represents the topsoil that sealed all of the archaeological deposits and features at Russagh 1.

3 SYNTHESIS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Landscape Setting

The new route of the N6 runs from south of Kilbeggan town to east of Athlone Co. Westmeath, crossing through the northern part of Co. Offaly for approximately 7.5km of its entire length. The landscape of this area is comprised of generally flat to undulating terrain. The underlying geology of the area is dominated by carboniferous limestone and is overlain by occasional glacial features such as moraines and eskers. The eskers dominate to the north and south of most of the route, with moraines featuring along parts of the western section toward Athlone. The soil cover varies considerably across the scheme, passing through soil complexes, grey brown podzols, boglands and alluvial deposits. The area is drained by the River Shannon through its tributaries, the Brosna, Boor, Cloghatanny and Gageborough rivers.

The site at Russagh 1 was located 6.5km east of Moate town and 4.5km north of Clara in pasture land which sloped to the west (58–59m OD). The underlying geology of the area is carboniferous limestone, which is overlain with occasional small glacial hillocks, forming a gently undulating low-lying landscape. Soil cover in this area consists of regosols, which would have been subject to occasional flooding. The Gageborough River flows 50m to the north. A small marshy area is located 200m south of the site. Dunard/Newtown bog was located 400m to the north and Ballykilleen bog 1km south of the site. Gageborough House was situated 375m to the east.

3.2 Archaeological Landscape

Russagh is located west of the centre of the parish of Ardnurcher/Horseleap within the barony of Kilcoursey, County Offaly. It is known in Irish as Ros Each, meaning 'wood of the horses'. It is also referred to as 'Roskath' in the Down Survey of 1654. The townland consists of c. 363 acres and is bisected by the Gageborough River. Gageborough demesne (CHS 81) is situated in the east of the townland and consists of Gageborough house and its associated demesne features which include a courtyard approached through a large stone arch, demesne walls, ruined outbuildings and the remains of mature parklands. The house is thought to date to the 18th century (Riada Consult, 2003).

There is only one previously recorded archaeological site, which is an enclosure located to the northeast (OF002:12). Kilcoursey is the smallest barony in Offaly and the only one in the county to be impacted upon by the N6. There are no recorded late medieval monuments within Clara but an unclassified castle is described in the townland to the south at Erry (Maryborough) (OF008-018001). This castle formed part of Edward MaGeoghegan's estate in AD 1611 although it was in ruins by this time (O'Brien and Sweetman 1997, 164–5). A tower house (OF008-016) and bawn (OF008-016001) are recorded to the east of Clara at Kilcoursey. The lands of Kilcoursey were granted to Hubert Fox of Lehinch in AD 1600 and shortly after it became the property of Brasill Fox by grant of Charles I (O'Brien and Sweetman 1997, 149). An unclassified castle (OF008-060) is recorded within Lehinch to the east of Kilcoursey, property of Hubert Fox in the late 16th and early 17th centuries (O'Brien and Sweetman 1997, 166).

3.3 Discussion

Two areas of potential archaeology were identified at Russagh 1. This included a probable hearth and the remains of a bonfire.

3.3.1 Phase 1: Natural Deposits

The subsoil C2 above bedrock encountered at Russagh 1 was uniform across the site and consisted of yellow/brown sticky clay. It was truncated by the archaeological activity on site.

3.3.2 Phase 2: Archaeological Activity

Site A contained one cut feature (C7) which measured 0.4m diameter, 0.19m deep. The primary fill (C6) was the result of *in situ* burning while the main fill (C4) was a charcoal-rich layer. It appeared that this feature was a small hearth.

Site B contained only one feature (C8) which measured 2.5m x 1.6m x 0.03m. This feature was a large irregular shaped area of *in-situ* burning (C5) and appears to have been the result of an episode of land clearance. Charcoal from C5 was identified as alder (O'Carroll, Appendix 2.1) and was subsequently submitted for AMS radiocarbon dating where it returned a 2 Sigma date range of AD 1521–1796 (UBA 8610, Appendix 2.2).

3.3.3 Phase 3: Topsoil

This phase represents the topsoil that sealed all of the archaeological deposits and features on site.

4 CONCLUSIONS

Russagh 1 was identified during the test trenching programme and based on the results of that three areas were targeted for excavation. The site was divided between two areas.

Site A contained a small pit with evidence for *in situ* burning at its base and a charcoal rich fill, thought to be a small hearth. Although an area 10m by 10m was opened up around it no further features were found in the surrounding area.

Site B contained a large area of *in-situ* burning that contained no artefacts and may be evidence for post-medieval land clearance. A fragment of charcoal, identified as alder (*Alnus* sp.), retrieved from the fill C5 was sent for AMS radiocarbon dating. It returned a 2 Sigma date range of AD 1521–1796 (UBA 8610, Appendix 2.2) placing it within the late medieval/post-medieval period.

5 BIBLIOGRAPHY

5.1 References

DAHGI (1999a) *Framework & Principles for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage*. Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands.

IAC Ltd 2005 *N6 Kinnegad-Athlone Scheme Phase 2: Kilbeggan to Athlone Dual Carriageway: Archaeological Assessment*. Unpublished report.

NRA (2003) *Archaeological Guidelines for Reporting on Constraint, Route Selection, Environmental Impact Assessment on Archaeological Aspects of NRA Road Schemes*. Draft Consultation Document. National Roads Authority.

O'Brien, C and Sweetman, D 1997 *Archaeological Inventory of Co. Offaly*. Dublin, The Stationary Office.

Riada Consult, Westmeath County Council 2003 *N6 Kinnegad to Athlone Dual Carriageway Environmental Impact Statement*.

5.2 Other Sources

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

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

PLATES



Plate 1: E2682: C7, mid-excavation, Area A, facing southeast

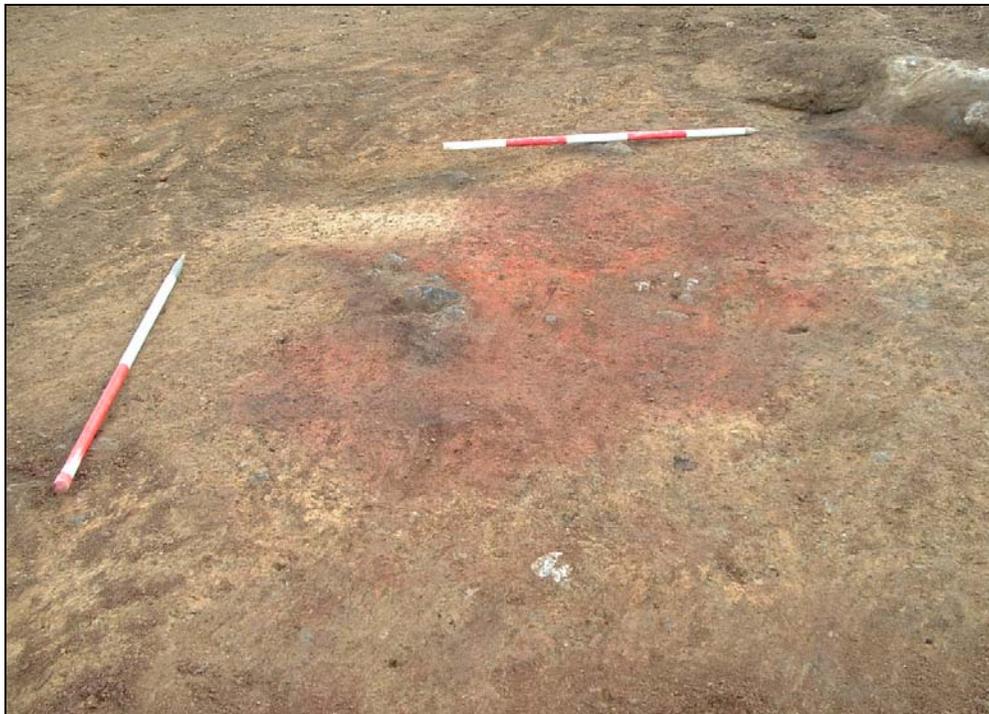


Plate 2: E2682: C5, pre-excavation, Area B, facing northwest



Plate 3: E2682: C5, mid-excavation, Area B, facing east

APPENDIX 1 CATALOGUE OF PRIMARY DATA

Appendix 1.1 Context Register

Context	Fill of	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Interpretation	Description	Finds
1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Topsoil	Sod.	None
2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Topsoil	Mid-brown friable silty clay.	None
3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Natural Subsoil	Yellow/brown sticky clay.	N/A
4	C7	0.38	0.4	0.05	Secondary deposit of C7	Sub-circular in plan, soft compaction of mid-dark grey clay, charcoal rich, over C6.	None
5	C8	2.5	1.6	0.03	Fill of C8	Irregular, sub-oval in plan, reddish-orange clay with occasional pebble inclusions.	None
6	C7	0.38	0.4	0.08	Primary deposit of C7	Firm mid-light reddish-orange silt clay, no inclusions, under C4.	None
7	N/A	0.38	0.4	0.19	Cut of shallow hearth/pit	Sub-circular, E–W orientation, rounded corners, sharp break of slope at top, gentle sloping sides leading onto concave base.	N/A
8	N/A	2.5	1.6	0.03	Cut of C5	Irregular shaped cut, NE–SW orientation, ill defined terminus. Gentle break of slope at top, gradual sloping sides, gentle break of slope at base, irregular concave base.	N/A

Appendix 1.2 Catalogue of Artefacts

There were no artefacts retrieved from the site.

Appendix 1.3 Catalogue of Ecofacts

A total of three bulk soil samples were taken during the course of excavation at this site. Of these all three were processed by means of flotation and sieving through a 250/300µm mesh. The resulting retrieved samples of this process are listed below.

1.3.1 Charcoal

A single sample of charcoal was retrieved as a result of bulk soil sample sieving.

Context number	Sample number	Feature	Sample weight (g)
5	3	Burnt spread	0.1g

Appendix 1.4 Archive Checklist

Project: N6 Kilbeggan – Athlone	Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd	
Site Name: Russagh 1		
NMS Number: E2682		
Ministerial Directive: A016/056		
Site director: Ellen O'Carroll		
Date: 29 September 2008		
	Items (quantity)	Comments
Field Records		
Site drawings (plans)	3	Digitised
Site sections, profiles, elevations	2	Digitised
Other plans, sketches, etc.	1	Site Matrix
Timber drawings	0	
Stone structural drawings	0	
Site diary/note books	8	Digitised
Site registers (folders)	1	Digitised
Survey/levels data (origin information)	9	
Context sheets	8	Checked & digitised
Wood Sheets	0	
Skeleton Sheets	0	
Worked stone sheets	0	
Digital photographs	13	On IAC Server
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	1	On IAC Server

Appendix 1.5 Copy of Registration No. Document from DoEHLG

National Monuments Acts (1930-2004) Ministerial Directions Record Number for archaeological activity	 <p>AN ROINN COMHSHAOIL, OSHREACHTA AGUS HALTAS AITHE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT</p>
File:	Direction No. A16
Registration Number: E2682	
<p>Directions have been issued to Murty Hanly on behalf of Westmeath County Council in order to regulate archaeological activities carried out on N6 Kilbeggan to Athlone (Phase 2).</p>	
<p>Application having been duly made to me by Ms. Ellen O'Carroll of Archaeological Consultant, 12 St. Peters Terrace, Adelaide Rd, Glenageary, Co. Dublin.</p>	
<p>For a registration number to record excavation at the site of Russagh 056 being part of the townland of RUSSAGH in the County of Westmeath.</p>	
<p>This registration is not an archaeological licence or consent but it is issued solely for archive purposes and to allow for the material from the activity to be registered with the National Monuments Service and the National Museum.</p>	
Signed 	31 October 2006

Appendix 1.6 Copy of Ministerial Direction Document

Section 14A(2) National Monuments Acts 1930-2004

Directions to Westmeath County Council for the carrying out of archaeological works on the N6 Kinnegad to Athlone dual carriageway road scheme (Phase 2 * Kilbeggan to Athlone).

1. Introduction

The project is an approved road development, having been approved by An Bord Pleanála on 26th March 2004.

The development will consist of a dual carriageway that will run for a distance of approximately 57.5km.

In line with recommendations in the Environmental Impact Assessment for the scheme, archaeological investigations included site specific testing followed by a centreline test trench with staggered offsets. The request for directions has an attached strategy document that covers the proposed resolution works

These directions relate to Phase 2 works and are issued following the receipt by the Minister of reports on the testing work carried out in Phase 1.

2. Directions

All aspects of the archaeological works should be conducted in accordance with provisions of the policy and advice notes on archaeological excavations issued by the Department and in line with the provisions of the Code of Practice agreed with the National Roads Authority. Archaeological works shall be carried out in accordance with the Strategy for Proposed Works submitted with the application seeking Directions.

3. Project Archaeologist

The Project Archaeologist appointed for the road development should ensure that the archaeological works are carried out in accordance with the terms of the directions.

- Any changes to the agreed method statement for the excavations should be submitted to the National Monuments Section for approval.
- Any proposal to change any named director of a specific excavation should firstly be notified to the National Monuments Section for approval.

4. Conduct of Archaeological Excavations:

- a) The archaeological excavations should be carried out in accordance with the specifications set out in the strategy document submitted to the Minister.
- b) The National Monuments Section should be notified of the commencement date of the works on site.
- c) The names of the archaeological consultants, including site directors should be submitted to the National Monuments Section in advance of the works commencing.
- d) Where necessary the layout of the archaeological trenches should be adjusted to include additional archaeological features and deposits or areas of archaeological potential.
- e) All archaeological objects recovered in the course of the test excavations should be treated and conserved in line with the advice notes and guidelines issued by the National Museum of Ireland.
- f) A report on the progress of the archaeological works shall be submitted to the National Monuments Section every 4 weeks.

5. Record Number for the scheme:

The record number for the recording of archaeological works is A016/000. Sub-numbers may be allocated by the Project Archaeologist to the additional works. These numbers should be notified to the National Monuments Section for agreement with full details of the archaeological works involved.

6. Detection Device:

Detection devices may be used as appropriate in the course of archaeological works to recover archaeological objects. Details of proposed methodologies should be notified to the National Monuments Section.

7. Reports:

1. A report on the results of the archaeological excavations should be submitted to the National Monuments Section within 4 weeks of the completion of the works on site. Should additional time be required to complete the report the National Monuments Section should be notified before the expiration of the 4-weeks period. A copy of the report should be sent to the National Museum of Ireland.
2. A summary of the excavation results for the site should be published in the Excavations Bulletin for the year when works are undertaken.

8. National Monuments (Subsection 14A(4)):

If during the carrying out of the archaeological excavations a site should prove to be a National Monument within the meaning of the National Monuments Acts (1930-2004) all works should stop and the National Monuments Section should be informed immediately.

9. Inspection of Works

Officers, servants or agents of the Minister may inspect the archaeological works at any time and full co-operation should be given to them in carrying out the inspections.

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

Appendix 2.1 Charcoal and Wood ID Report – Ellen O’Carroll

Appendix 2.2 Radiocarbon Dating Results – QUB Laboratory

CHARCOAL IDENTIFICATIONS

N6 KINNEGAD – ATHLONE SCHEME
PHASE 2: KILBEGGAN TO ATHLONE
DUAL CARRIAGEWAY

MINISTERIAL DIRECTION NUMBER: A016/056
NMS REGISTRATION NUMBER: E2682
RUSSAGH 1

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E-number	Context no.	Sample no.	Species	Comment	Alder weight	Alder fragments
E2682	5	3	Alder	Really tiny fragments. All identified	0.1	1

RADIOCARBON DATING RESULTS
RUSSAGH 1

CHRONO LABORATORY, QUEENS UNIVERSITY BELFAST

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¹⁴CHRONO

¹⁴CHRONO Centre
Queens University Belfast
42 Fitzwilliam Street
Belfast BT9 6AX
Northern Ireland

Radiocarbon Date Certificate

Laboratory Identification: UBA-8610
Date of Measurement: 2008-04-04
Site: A016/56 Russagh
Sample ID: S3 C5
Material Dated: Alder
Pretreatment: Acid Only
Submitted by: IAC

¹⁴C Date: 268±27
AMS δ¹³C: -27.8

Information about radiocarbon calibration

RADIOCARBON CALIBRATION PROGRAM*
CALIB REV5.0.2
Copyright 1986-2005 M Stuiver and PJ Reimer
*To be used in conjunction with:
Stuiver, M., and Reimer, P.J., 1993, Radiocarbon, 35, 215-230.
Annotated results (text) - -
Export file - cl4res.csv

S3 C5 UBA-8610 Radiocarbon Age BP 268 +/- 27 Calibration data set: intcal04.14c	% area enclosed	cal AD age ranges	# Reimer et al. 2004 relative area under probability distribution
68.3 (1 sigma)	cal AD 1528- 1551		0.283
	1634- 1662		0.717
95.4 (2 sigma)	cal AD 1521- 1591		0.377
	1620- 1667		0.562
	1783- 1796		0.062

References for calibration datasets:
PJ Reimer, MGL Baillie, E Bard, A Bayliss, JW Beck, C Bertrand, PG Blackwell,
CE Buck, G Burr, KB Cutler, PE Damon, RL Edwards, RG Fairbanks, M Friedrich,
TP Guilderson, KA Hughen, B Kromer, FG McCormac, S Manning, C Bronk Ramsey,
RW Reimer, S Remmele, JR Southon, M Stuiver, S Talamo, FW Taylor,
J van der Plicht, and CE Weyhenmeyer (2004), Radiocarbon 46:1029-1058.

Comments:

* This standard deviation (error) includes a lab error multiplier.
** 1 sigma = square root of (sample std. dev.^2 + curve std. dev.^2)
** 2 sigma = 2 x square root of (sample std. dev.^2 + curve std. dev.^2)
where ^2 = quantity squared.
[] = calibrated range impinges on end of calibration data set
0* represents a "negative" age BP
1955* or 1960* denote influence of nuclear testing C-14

NOTE: Cal ages and ranges are rounded to the nearest year which may be too precise in many instances. Users are advised to round results to the nearest 10 yr for samples with standard deviation in the radiocarbon age greater than 50 yr.

APPENDIX 3 LIST OF RMP SITES IN THE AREA

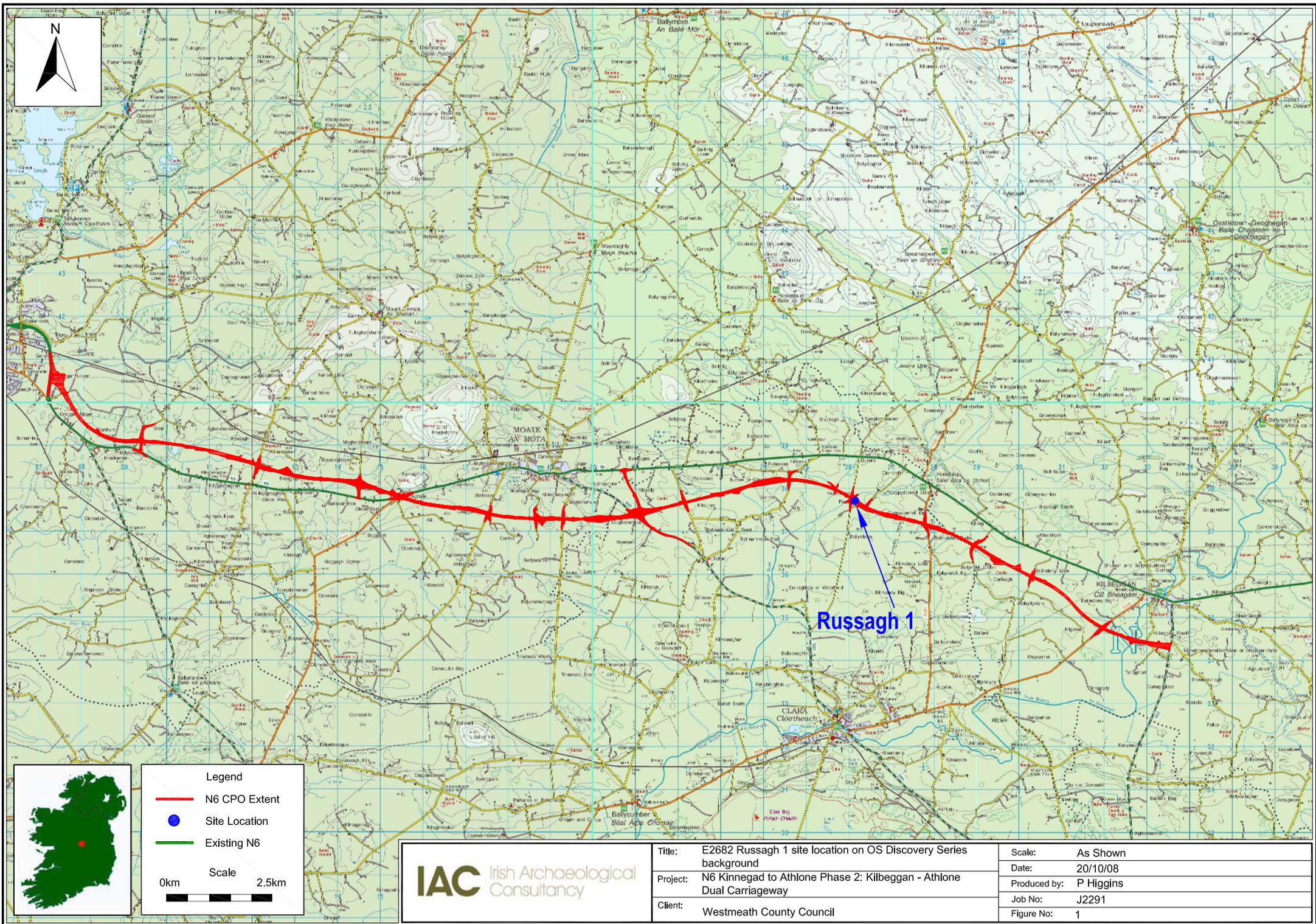
RMP No	Description
OF002-009	Earthwork site
OF002-012	Enclosure site
OF002-018	Enclosure site
OF002-019	Horizontal watermill site

See Figure 2 for location.

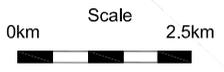
APPENDIX 4 LIST OF N6 SCHEME SITE NAMES

Site Name	Ministerial Direction No.	NMS Registration Number
Seeoge 2	A016/007	E2635
Moyally 7	A016/015	E2643
Kilcurley 1	A016/019	E2647
Cappydonnell Big 1	A016/025	E2653
Ardballymore 2	A016/028	E2656
Creggan lower 1	A016/030	E2658
Creggan lower 2	A016/031	E2659
Williamstown 1	A016/032	E2660
Williamstown 3	A016/033	E2661
Williamstown 4	A016/034	E2662
Boyanaghcalry 1	A016/035	E2663
Seeoge 1	A016/036	E2664
Aghafin 1	A016/037	E2665
Cregganmacar 1	A016/038	E2666
Cregganmacar 2	A016/039	E2667
Cregganmacar 3	A016/040	E2668
Curries 1	A016/041	E2669
Curries 2	A016/042	E2670
Culleenagower 1	A016/043	E2671
Moyally 2	A016/044	E2672
Moyally 1	A016/046	E3274
Moyally 3	A016/047	E2674
Moyally 5	A016/048	E2675
Moyally 6	A016/049	E2676
Tober 1	A016/051	E2677
Burrow or Glennanummer 1	A016/052	E2678
Burrow or Glennanummer 2	A016/053	E2679
Burrow or Glennanummer 3	A016/054	E2680
Russagh 4	A016/055	E2681
Russagh 1	A016/056	E2682
Russagh 2	A016/057	E2683
Russagh 3	A016/058	E2684
Kilbeg 1	A016/059	E2688
Kilbeg 2	A016/060	E2689
Kilbeg 4	A016/062	E2691
Kilbeg 5	A016/063	E2692
Kilbeg 6	A016/064	E2693
Kilbeg 7	A016/065	E2694
Correagh 1	A016/066	E3374
Ballinderry Little 1	A016/067	E2695
Ardballymore 1	A016/068	E2696
Kilgaroan 1	A016/069	E2697
Kilgaroan 2	A016/070	E2698
Kilgaroan 3	A016/071	E2699
Kilgaroan 4	A016/072	E2700
Kilgaroan 6	A016/074	E2702
Ballinderry Big 1	A016/076	E3275
Ballinderry Big 2	A016/077	E3276
Ballinderry Big 3	A016/078	E3277
Tonaphort 1	A016/079	E3278
Tonaphort 2	A016/080	E3279
Tonaphort 3	A016/081	E3280

Site Name	Ministerial Direction No.	NMS Registration Number
Kilbeggan South 1	A016/082	E3281
Kilbeggan South 2	A016/083	E3282
Kilbeggan South 3	A016/084	E3283
Cregganmacar 4	A016/085	E2703
Williamstown 2	A016/086	E2704
Kilbeg 8	A016/087	E3966



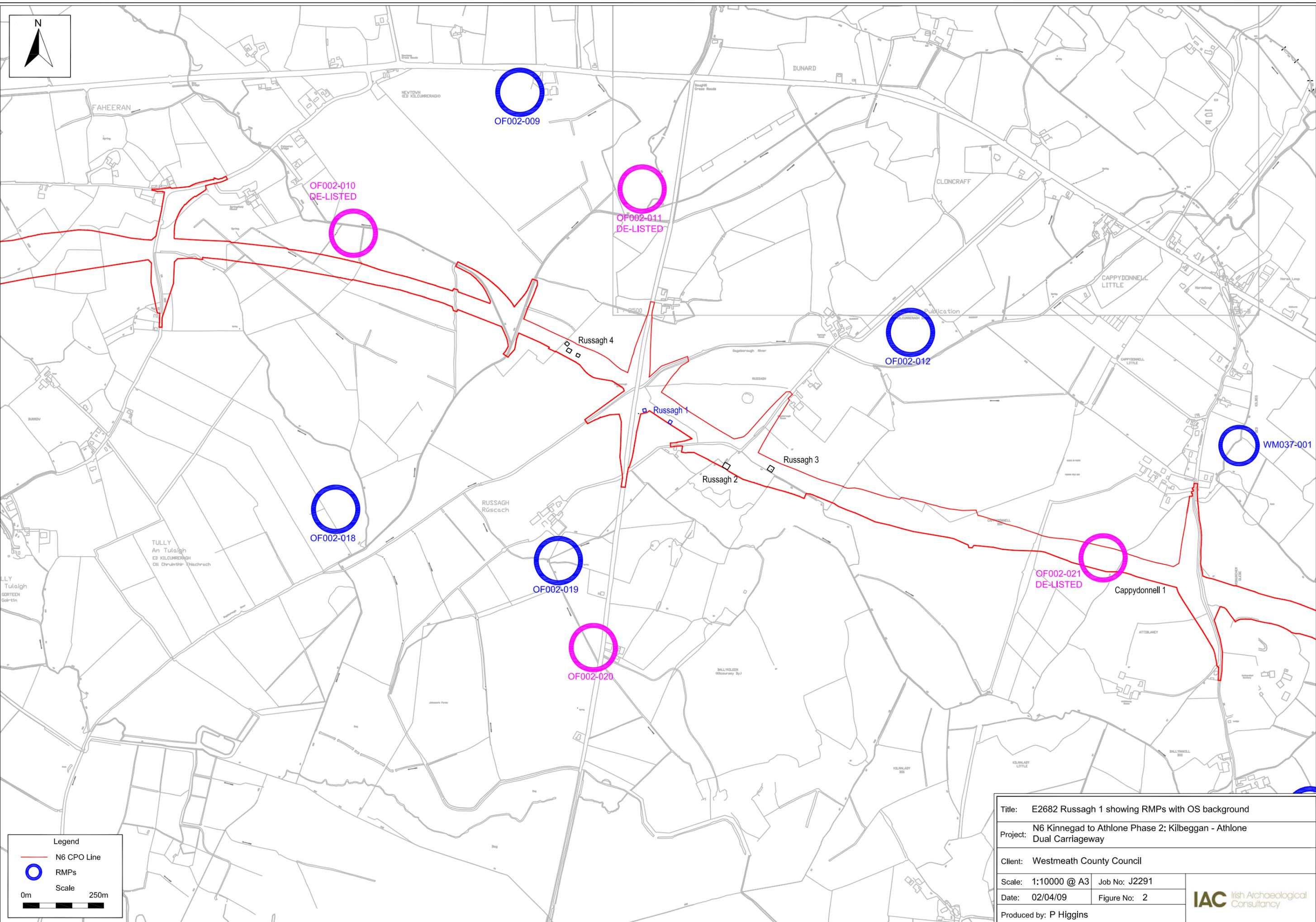
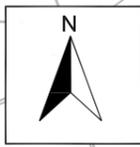
- Legend**
- N6 CPO Extent
 - Site Location
 - Existing N6



IAC Irish Archaeological Consultancy

Title:	E2682 Russagh 1 site location on OS Discovery Series background
Project:	N6 Kinnegad to Athlone Phase 2: Kilbeggan - Athlone Dual Carriageway
Client:	Westmeath County Council

Scale:	As Shown
Date:	20/10/08
Produced by:	P Higgins
Job No:	J2291
Figure No:	1



Legend

- N6 CPO Line
- RMPs

Scale
0m 250m

Title: E2682 Russagh 1 showing RMPs with OS background	
Project: N6 Kinnegad to Athlone Phase 2: Kilbeggan - Athlone Dual Carriageway	
Client: Westmeath County Council	
Scale: 1:10000 @ A3	Job No: J2291
Date: 02/04/09	Figure No: 2
Produced by: P Higgins	





21100.000

Gageborough
Bridge

21200.000

Area A



21300.000

Russagh 1



Area B

21400.000

21500.000

21600.000

CF

UND

EF

Russagh 2

CF

Legend

— N6 CPO Line

— Chainage

■ Site Extents

Scale

0m 50m



IAC Irish Archaeological
Consultancy

Title: E2682 Russagh 1 location of site within development

Project: N6 Kinnegad to Athlone Phase 2: Kilbeggan - Athlone
Dual Carriageway

Client: Westmeath County Council

Scale: 1:2000 @ A4

Date: 02/04/09

Produced by: P Higgins

Job No: J2291

Figure No: 3



+ 226095E
237707N

+ 226100E
237707N

58.958
^



+ 226100E
237702N

Limit of excavation



Legend

- Break of slope
- Sections
- Limit of Excavation
- C## Cut numbers
- ###.## Levels
- ^

IAC Irish Archaeological
Consultancy

Title:	E2682 Russagh 1 post-excavation plan area A
Project:	N6 Kinnegad to Athlone Phase 2: Kilbeggan - Athlone Dual Carriageway
Client:	Westmeath County Council

Scale:	1:50 @ A4
Date:	05/11/08
Produced by:	G Kearney
Job No:	J2291
Figure No:	4



Limit of excavation

226176E
237673N

226181E
237673N

58.148
^

2A

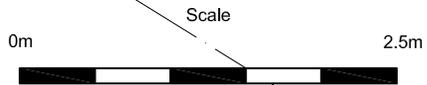


58.048
^

2B

Area of
burning C5

226181E
237668N



Legend

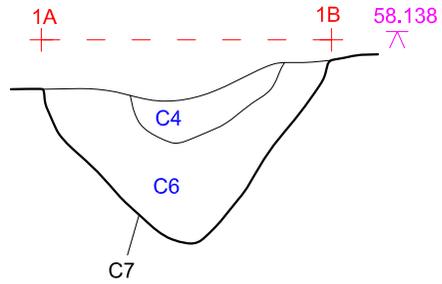
-  CPO
-  Sections
-  Limit of Excavation
-  Stone
-  Levels

IAC Irish Archaeological
Consultancy

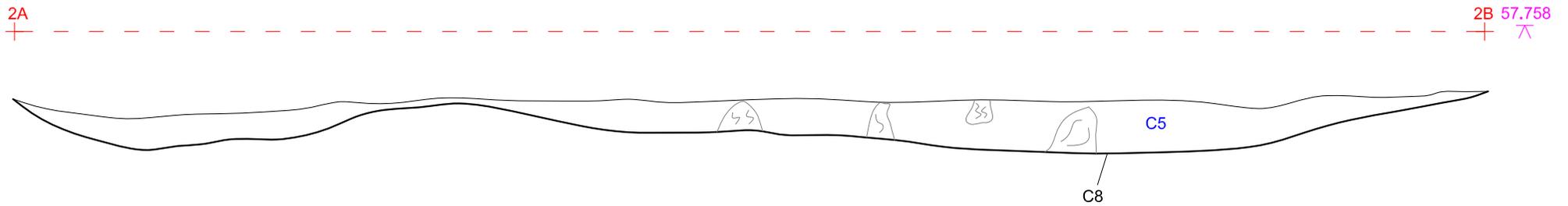
Title:	E2682 Russagh 1 pre-excavation plan area B
Project:	N6 Kinnegad to Athlone Phase 2: Kilbeggan - Athlone Dual Carriageway
Client:	Westmeath County Council

Scale:	1:50 @ A4
Date:	05/11/08
Produced by:	G Keareny
Job No:	J2291
Figure No:	5

Russagh 1
Northwest facing section of pit C7



Russagh 1
West facing section of C8



Legend	
C##	Cut numbers
C##	Fill Numbers
	Stone
###.##	Reduced Levels

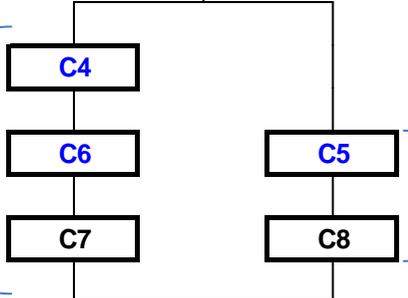
IAC Irish Archaeological Consultancy

Title:	E2682 Russagh 1 sections	Scale:	1:10 @ A4
Project:	N6 Kinnegad to Athlone Phase 2: Kilbeggan - Athlone Dual Carriageway	Date:	02/04/09
Client:	Westmeath County Council	Produced by:	G Kearney
		Job No:	J2291
		Figure No:	6

PHASE 3: TOPSOIL

C1

C2



PHASE 2: PRIMARY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACTIVITY

PHASE 1: NATURAL
DRIFT GEOLOGY

C3

CXXX = SPREADS AND FILL CONTEXTS
CXXX = CUT CONTEXTS