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**National Roads
Design Office**



**MEATH
COUNTY COUNCIL**



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
CONSULTANCY
SERVICES LTD.**



M3 Clonee-North of Kells Contract 2 Dunshaughlin – Navan

**Report on the Archaeological Excavation
of
Ardsallagh 4, Co. Meath**

**Ministerial Directions No.
A008/037
E3090**

Linda Clarke

July 2008

Final

PROJECT DETAILS

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Project | M3 Clonee–Kells Motorway |
| Site Name | Ardsallagh 4 |
| Ministerial Direction Number | A008/037 |
| Registration Number | E3090 |
| Site Director | Linda Clarke |
| Excavated | 07 November – 2 December 2005 and 24 March – 6 April 2006 |
| Client | Meath County Council, National Roads Design Office, Navan Enterprise Centre, Navan, County Meath |
| Townland | Ardsallagh |
| Parish | Ardsallagh |
| County | Meath |
| National Grid Reference | 288160, 263695 |
| Chainage | 35200–35400 |
| OD | 50.05m |
| Report Type | Final |
| Report Status | Submitted |
| Date of Report | July 2008 |
| Report by | Linda Clarke |

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report has been prepared by Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd on behalf of Meath County Council National Roads Design Office (NRDO) and the National Roads Authority (NRA). The excavation was carried out under Ministerial Directions issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DOEHLG) in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland (NMI).

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This site at Ardsallagh 4 was excavated by Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd (ACS) as part of the M3 Clonee–North of Kells Motorway Scheme on behalf of Meath County Council NRDO and the NRA. The excavation was carried out between 07 November to 02 December 2005 and 24 March to 06 April 2006 under Ministerial Direction Number A008/037 issued by DOEHLG in consultation with the NMI. The site at Ardsallagh 4 incorporated a series of postholes, a number of pits and one possible hearth. A single sherd of Beaker pottery was recovered from the fill of a posthole. Two fragments of flint were also recovered. No discernable patterns or alignments of the postholes could be discerned.

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1 INTRODUCTION

The site at Ardsallagh 4 (Figures 1–6; Plate 6) was identified during advance testing carried out by Stephen Linnane on behalf of ACS during March 2004 under licence number 04E0421 (Linnane 2004). Topsoil Assessments (including Metal Detection and Test pits) were conducted on this site (Appendix 4). Testing revealed a possible cremation pit, which was presumed to represent an isolated feature (Linnane 2004). During the full archaeological resolution of the site in 2005/6 a series of postholes, several pits and a possible hearth were exposed.

1.1 Development

Meath County Council and the National Roads Authority are constructing 49km of two-lane, dual-carriageway motorway between Clonee and Kells and 10km of single carriageway from Kells to Carnross, 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 (Contract 2) commences at Dunshaughlin (NGR 295633, 253070) and continues to Navan (NGR 287968 263697).

The archaeological components of the Environmental Impact Statement published in 2002 where 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 MGL 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). 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).

2 EXCAVATION

The excavation was carried out between 07 November to 02 December 2005 and 24 March to 06 April 2006 under Ministerial Direction Number A008/037 issued to Meath County Council NRDO. The work was carried out by Linda Clarke on behalf of ACS. The topsoil

(F4), which was a lightly compact, orange-brown, silty clay, was stripped by a machine equipped with a grading bucket. The subsoil (F9) consisted of pale orange-brown silty clay.

All archaeological features exposed were recorded and excavated by hand using the single context method. Each feature was assigned a context number. Where appropriate, samples were retrieved in an attempt to obtain evidence for the date and function of these features (Appendix 3). Unless otherwise stated, the features have been measured length-width-depth. All measurements are in metres. All finds were numbered according to the requirements of the National Museum of Ireland from 1 onwards consistent with licence and feature number.

2.1 Results

Forty three contexts of archaeological interest were identified. Only the principal archaeological features of Ardsallagh 4 will be discussed within this report; full details of all these, and further, contexts are located in Appendix 1.

Postholes

Fourteen postholes were identified at Ardsallagh 4 (F20, F24–F27, F29, F30–F33, F37–F39 and F50; Figures 7–8). These postholes could be divided into two groups – large postholes and small postholes. Four large substantial postholes (F32: 0.62m x 0.53m x 0.52m; F31: 0.73m x 0.58m x 0.55m; F25: 0.46m x 0.34m x 0.54m; and F29: 0.42m x 0.45m x 0.45m) were located in proximity to each other in the west to southwestern extent of the site. The fill of all four postholes was quite similar and consisted of a dark-brown/grey-coloured clay that contained occasional tiny flecks of charcoal. Traces of burnt timber (F28) were recovered from the fill (F6) of the posthole F31 (Plate 3) and would suggest the former presence of a timber (oak, Ellen O’Carroll, pers. comm.) post, burnt in situ. A radiocarbon date was obtained for material derived from this fill and returned a date of 1260–1000 BC (Beta 229297), placing this feature in the Middle Bronze Age. The ten smaller postholes (F33, F20, F27, F24, F26, F30, F37, F38, F50, and F39, Figures 7–8, Plates 1, 2, 4, and 5) were located east to northeast of the aforementioned larger postholes. These were circular/sub-circular in shape and varied in size from 0.17m x 0.15m x 0.24m (F30) to 0.30m x 0.39m x 0.34m (F20). The fill of these postholes was also generally quite consistent – a loose, light/dark-brown-coloured, silty clay that contained occasional tiny flecks of charcoal.

The postholes identified formed no discernable pattern or arrangement and no structure could be identified. The larger postholes F25 and F29 were located close to the possible hearth (F51) (see below) and may be associated with it, and the small posthole F27 was located immediately adjacent to, and therefore may be related to, the pit F19 (see below). Two finds were recovered from the smaller postholes. A ‘much worn sherd from a fine Beaker vessel’

(Grogan, Appendix 6) (A008/037:13:1) was recovered from the fill (F13) of the posthole F24 and a flint blade (A008/037:34:1) was recovered from the fill (F34) of the posthole F37 (Appendix 7).

Pits

Five pits (F19: 0.78m x 0.84m x 0.20m; F41: 0.60m x 0.58m x 0.44m; F47: 0.38m length x 0.16m depth; F48: 0.48m length x 0.20m depth; and F49: 0.80m x 0.58m x 0.19m, Figure 7, Plate 5) were identified and were located in the immediate vicinity of the aforementioned postholes. The pits ranged from circular to oval in shape and from concave to flat based. Occasional flecks of charcoal were present within the fill of these features and no artefacts, animal bone or cremated bone was recovered.

Possible hearth

A possible hearth (F51: 1.00m x 1.67m x 0.30m) was located northwest of the posthole and pit cluster. It is likely that this feature was associated with two of the larger postholes (F25 and F29). F51 was very irregular in shape and was filled with a black/brown, charcoal-stained clay (F45) that contained occasional tiny flecks of charcoal. A radiocarbon date of 3790–3640 BC (Beta 229296) was returned for material (alder (Ellen O’Carroll, pers. comm.) derived from the hearth.

2.2 Finds

In addition to the two abovementioned finds, a flint flake (Appendix 7) was recovered from the topsoil (A008/037:4:1).

3 DISCUSSION

3.1 Form and function

A total of 14 postholes, five pits and one possible hearth were exposed on this site. A structure or structures may have once existed here but the extant evidence is insufficient to suggest what form it may have taken. The radiocarbon dates (see below) recovered from this site and the recovery of a sherd of Beaker pottery (A008/037:13:1) would suggest at least three phases of activity. The inclusion of the Beaker sherd (A008/037:13:1) and the flint blade fragment (A008/037:34:1) in posthole fills would suggest more than a casual loss and they may represent structured deposits. Due to the small nature of the site and the fact that a date was not recovered from each feature, it is impossible to determine the exact form and function of this site. The early date of this feature and its irregular shape, particularly in regards to the base, may suggest that it represented forest clearance.

3.2 Date and sequence

Ardsallagh 4 represents the remains of a multi-period prehistoric site. This is evident from the radiocarbon date of 3790–3640 BC (Beta 229296- Cal BP 5740-5590; Appendix 5) returned from the fill (F45) of the hearth F51 which would place this feature securely within the early Neolithic. The second phase was represented by the sherd of Beaker pottery (A008/037:13:1) discovered within the fill of the small posthole F24, which would suggest that some activity dated from the late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age. A radiocarbon date obtained from the large posthole F31 returned a date of 1260–1000 BC (Beta 229297- Cal BP 3210-2950; Appendix 5) which would place this feature securely within the Middle Bronze Age. It would thus appear that three separate phases of activity occurred on the site.

It is not possible to accurately attribute each of the remaining features on site to a particular period but, given the similarity in shape and size, perhaps the smaller postholes to the east represented an earlier phase of activity (late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age) and the larger postholes to the west are of similar date to F31 (Middle Bronze Age).

The majority of activity carried out on sites in the vicinity of Ardsallagh 4 was significantly later in date – a ringditch and burials at Ardsallagh 1 (A008/034) and a ringditch at Ardsallagh 2 (A008/035) were both dated to the early medieval period. However, prehistoric activity was also evident at both of these sites; (generally Early) Bronze Age activity was evident at the neighbouring site of Ardsallagh 2. An urn burial identified at Ardsallagh 1 did return a similar but slightly later date than the posthole F31 at Ardsallagh 4. The urn burial was dated to 1060–880 BC (Beta 221186, Cal BP 3000–2840; Clarke 2007) and as mentioned above the Ardsallagh 4 posthole was dated to 1260–1000 BC. It is therefore possible that for a short period Ardsallagh 1 and Ardsallagh 4 were used by the same individuals.

The radiocarbon dates recovered from Ardsallagh 4 demonstrate some of the earliest activity within this vicinity and confirm the presence of a population in this area as far back as the early Neolithic and within the late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age.

4 CONCLUSIONS

Ardsallagh 4, (A008/037), was excavated from 07 November to 02 December 2005 and from 24 March to 06 April 2006 by Linda Clarke (ACS) as part of the M3 Clonee–North of Kells Motorway Scheme on behalf of Meath County Council NRDO and the NRA. A series of postholes, pits and a possible hearth were revealed. The retrieval of a sherd of Beaker pottery and radiocarbon dates of 1260–1000 BC and 3790–3640 BC have provided evidence that the

site represents a multi-period prehistoric site. The exact function of the pits and postholes remains elusive as they did not form any discernable pattern.

5 REFERENCES

Clarke, L 2007 *Interim Report on Archaeological Resolution of Ardsallagh 1, Co. Meath*. Unpublished Report prepared for Archaeological Consultancy Services Limited.

Linnane, S J. 2004 *Report on Archaeological Assessment at Testing Area 17, Ardsallagh Co. Meath, 04E0421*. Unpublished report prepared for Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd.

Signed:

Linda Clarke

Linda Clarke

July 2008

APPENDIX 1 *Context Details*

| Ardsallagh 4: A008/034 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---|-----------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--|
| No | Type | Fill of/Filled with | Strat above | Strat below | Description | Interpretation | Group | Artefacts | Animal bone | Cremated bone | Samples |
| 1-3 | | | | | used previously during Topsoil Assessment | | | | | | |
| 4 | topsoil | N/A | 9 | N/A | lightly compact, orange-brown, silty clay 0.40 – 0.60m in depth | topsoil | | flint | | | |
| 5 | fill | 31 | 31 | 4 | loosely compact, mid-brown, sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks. 0.76m x 0.59m x 0.50m | fill of posthole 31 | | | | | #1 charcoal #9 #10 #11 #12 #13 soil |
| 6 | fill | 32 | 28, 32 | 4 | moderately compact, dark-brown clay with moderate charcoal inclusions. 0.57m x 0.36m x 0.54m | fill of posthole 32 | | | | | #3 #14 #15 #16 #17 #18 soil |
| 7 | fill | 29 | 29 | 4 | moderately compact, dark-brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks. 0.40m x 0.45m x 0.45m | fill of posthole 29 | | | | | #5 #2 #6 #7 #8 soil |
| 8 | fill | 25 | 25 | 4 | moderately compact, dark-brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks and burnt clay. 0.48m x 0.35m x 0.54m | fill of posthole 25 | | | | | #24 #25 #26 #27 #28 soil |
| 9 | subsoil | N/A | N/A | 4 | pale, orange-brown, silty clay | subsoil | | | | | |
| 10 | fill | 33 | 33 | 4 | loosely compact, mid-brown, sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks. 0.34m x 0.33m x 0.23m | fill of posthole 33 | | | | | #38 #49 #50 soil |
| 11 | fill | 27 | 27 | 4 | loosely compact, dark-brownish-black clay with moderate charcoal flecks. 0.29m x 0.26m x 0.15m | fill of posthole 27 | | | | | #40 soil |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|--------------|--------|----|----|--|---------------------------------------|---------|--|--|--|---|
| 12 | fill | 19 | 22 | 4 | loosely compact, light-brown, sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks. 0.75m x 0.76m x 0.20m | upper (secondary) fill of pit 19 | | | | | #4 charcoal #41 #42 #43 #44 #45 soil |
| 13 | fill | 24 | 24 | 4 | moderately compact, mid-brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks. 0.30m x 0.24m x 0.16m | fill of posthole 24 | pottery | | | | #29 #30 #31 #32 #33 soil |
| 14 | fill | 26 | 21 | 4 | loosely compact, mid-brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks and stone packing. 0.46m x 0.38m x 0.08m | upper (secondary) fill of posthole 26 | | | | | #35 #35 #37 soil |
| 15 | fill | 20 | 20 | 4 | compact, mottled-greyish-dark-brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks and burnt stones. 0.40m x 0.37m x 0.34m | fill of posthole 20 | | | | | #19 #20 #21 #22 #23 soil |
| 16-17 | NOT ASSIGNED | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 | fill | 30 | 30 | 4 | loosely compact, mid-brown, moist clay with occasional charcoal flecks. 0.16m x 0.15m x 0.24m | fill of posthole 30 | | | | | #34 soil |
| 19 | cut | 22, 12 | 9 | 22 | sub-circular cut (0.78m x 0.84m x 0.20m) with a sharp break of slope and steep sides leading to a flat base | pit | | | | | |
| 20 | cut | 15 | 9 | 15 | sub-circular cut (0.36m x 0.39m x 0.34) with a sharp break of slope and steep sides leading to a flat base | posthole | | | | | |
| 21 | fill | 26 | 26 | 14 | loosely compact, dark-brownish-grey soil with occasional charcoal flecks. 0.18m x 0.19m x 0.12m | primary fill of posthole 26 | | | | | #39 soil |
| 22 | fill | 19 | 19 | 12 | moderately compact, dark-brown clay. 0.75m x 0.70m x 0.06m | primary fill of pit 19 | | | | | |
| 23 | NOT ASSIGNED | | | | | | | | | | |
| 24 | cut | 13 | 9 | 13 | oval cut (0.28m x 0.25m x 0.16m) with a sharp break of slope, steep sides and a flat base | posthole | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|------|--------|----|----|---|--|--|-------|--|--|--------------|
| 25 | cut | 8 | 9 | 8 | oval cut (0.46m x 0.34m x 0.54m) with a sharp break of slope, steep sides and a flat, narrow base | posthole | | | | | |
| 26 | cut | 21, 14 | 9 | 21 | oval cut (0.30m x 0.26m x 0.20m) with a gradual break of slope, steep sides and a flat base | posthole | | | | | |
| 27 | cut | 11 | 9 | 11 | circular cut (0.22m x 0.25m x 0.25m) with a sharp break of slope, gradually sloping sides and a concave base | posthole | | | | | |
| 28 | fill | 32 | 32 | 6 | loosely compact, dark-brownish-black charcoal layer. 0.02-0.04m thick, length 0.15m. Only visible in southeast corner of 32 | fill of posthole 32, possible timber remains | | | | | #46 charcoal |
| 29 | cut | 7 | 9 | 7 | circular cut (0.42m x 0.45m x 0.45m) with a sharp break of slope, vertical sides and an undulating base | posthole | | | | | |
| 30 | cut | 18 | 9 | 18 | sub-circular cut (0.17m x 0.15m x 0.24m) with a sharp break of slope, vertical sides and a sharp break of slope leading to a concave base | posthole | | | | | |
| 31 | cut | 5 | 9 | 5 | oval cut (0.73m x 0.58m x 0.55m) with a sharp break of slope, vertical sides and a flat base | posthole | | | | | |
| 32 | cut | 28, 6 | 9 | 6 | oval cut (0.62m x 0.53m x 0.52m) with a sharp break of slope, vertical sides and a flat base | posthole | | | | | |
| 33 | cut | 10 | 9 | 10 | circular cut (0.31m x 0.35m x 0.23m) with a sharp break of slope, vertical sides and a flat base | posthole | | | | | |
| 34 | fill | 37 | 37 | 4 | loosely compact, light-brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks. 0.21m x 0.23m x 0.23m | fill of posthole 37 | | flint | | | #47 #48 soil |
| 35 | fill | 38 | 38 | 4 | loosely compact, mid-brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks. 0.26m x 0.28m x 0.28m | fill of posthole 38 | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|------|----|----|----|---|---------------------|--|--|--|--|----------------------------------|
| 36 | fill | 39 | 39 | 4 | loosely compact, mid-brown, sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks. 0.20m length x 0.21m width | fill of posthole 39 | | | | | |
| 37 | cut | 34 | 9 | 34 | oval cut (0.28m x 0.34m x 0.23m) with a gradual break of slope and convex sides leading to a flat/slightly concave base | posthole | | | | | |
| 38 | cut | 35 | 9 | 35 | sub-circular cut (0.25m x 0.26m x 0.20m) with a sharp break of slope and vertical sides leading to a flat base | posthole | | | | | |
| 39 | cut | 36 | 9 | 36 | sub-circular cut (0.18m x 0.21m x 0.21m) with a sharp break of slope and concave sides leading to a flat base | posthole | | | | | |
| 40 | fill | 41 | 41 | 4 | moderately compact, mid-reddish-brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks and burnt clay. 0.60m x 0.58m x 0.44m | fill of pit 41 | | | | | #51 #52 #53 #54 #55 soil |
| 41 | cut | 40 | 09 | 40 | oval cut (0.60m x 0.58m x 0.44m) with a gradual break of slope, steep sides and a flat base | pit | | | | | |
| 42 | fill | 47 | 47 | 4 | loosely compact, mid-brown moist clay with occasional charcoal flecks and burnt clay. 0.42m length x 0.39m width | fill of pit 47 | | | | | #57 #65 #70 soil |
| 43 | fill | 48 | 48 | 4 | moderately compact, mid-brown, sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks and burnt clay. 0.51m x 0.48m x 0.20m | fill of pit 48 | | | | | #58 - #60 #100 - #103 soil |
| 44 | fill | 49 | 49 | 4 | loosely compact, mid-brown, sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks. 0.48m x 0.88m x 0.19m | fill of pit 49 | | | | | #61 #62 #66 #104- #114 |
| 45 | fill | 51 | 51 | 4 | loosely compact, dark-blackish-brown clay with moderate charcoal flecks and burnt clay. 1.19m x 0.80m x 0.17m | fill of hearth 51 | | | | | #63, #64, #67 #68, #71-#90 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|------|----|----|----|--|---------------------|--|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| 46 | fill | 50 | 50 | 4 | loosely compact, brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks. 0.30m x 0.23m x 0.20m | fill of posthole 50 | | | | | #56 #69 soil |
| 47 | cut | 42 | 9 | 42 | circular cut (0.38m diameter x 0.16m depth) with a sharp break of slope, steep sides and a flat base | pit | | | | | |
| 48 | cut | 43 | 9 | 43 | circular cut (0.48m diameter x 0.20m depth) with a sharp/moderate break of slope, steep sides and a concave base | pit | | | | | |
| 49 | cut | 44 | 9 | 44 | oval cut (0.80m x 0.58m x 0.19m) with a sharp break of slope, steep sides and a flat base | pit | | | | | |
| 50 | cut | 46 | 9 | 46 | oval cut (0.30m length x 0.20m depth) with a sharp break of slope, steep sides and a sharp break of slope leading to a flat base | posthole | | | | | |
| 51 | cut | 45 | 9 | 45 | irregular cut with channels (1.00m x 1.67m x 0.30m) with a sharp break of slope, steep sides and an irregular, uneven base | possible hearth | | | | | #63 #67 #68 #71 to #90 inclusive soil |

APPENDIX 2 *Finds List*

| Finds No | Description |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| | |
| A008/037:4:1 | Flint flake |
| A008/037:13:1 | Sherd of Beaker pottery |
| A008/037:34:1 | Flint blade |

APPENDIX 3 Sample List

| Sample No | Context No | Description |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---|
| 1 | 05 | 5g charcoal |
| 2, 5, 6, 7, 8 | 07 | Some organic remains in flot |
| 3, 14-18 | 06 | Some organic remains in flot |
| 4 | 12 | 3g charcoal |
| 9 to 13 | 05 | <1g charcoal |
| 19 to 23 | 15 | Few flecks of charcoal |
| 24-28 | 08 | Nothing visible in residue |
| 29-33 | 13 | Some organic remains in flot |
| 34 | 18 | Nothing visible in residue |
| 35 | 14 | Some organic remains in flot |
| 36, 37 | 14 | Nothing visible in residue |
| 38, 49, 50 | 10 | Nothing visible in residue |
| 39 | 21 | Nothing visible in residue |
| 40 | 11 | Nothing visible in residue |
| 41, 42, 44, 45 | 12 | Nothing visible in residue |
| 43 | 12 | 3g charcoal |
| 46 | 28 | Flecks of charcoal |
| 47 | 34 | Nothing visible in residue |
| 48 | 34 | Nothing visible in residue |
| 51-55 | 40 | Organic remains/nothing visible in residue |
| 56 | 46 | Nothing visible in residue |
| 57, 65, 70 | 42 | Organic remains/nothing visible in residue |
| 58-60, 100-103 | 43 | Organic remains/nothing visible in residue |
| 61, 62, 66, 104-114 | 44 | Organic remains and flecks of charcoal in flot/nothing visible in residue |
| 63, 64, 67, 68, 71-90 | 45 | Organic remains and charcoal in flot/nothing in residue |

APPENDIX 4 Topsoil Assessment: Maria Lear & Stuart Rathbone**PROJECT DETAILS**

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Project | Metal Detection: M3 Clonee to North of Kells, Contract 2 |
| Archaeologists | Maria Lear & Stuart Rathbone |
| Project Start | 13 June 2005 |
| Report Date | June 2005 |

List of Figures

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| Figure 3 | Field Walking Distribution Map |
| Figure 4 | Test Pit Distribution Map |

1. INTRODUCTION

The proposals for archaeological resolution included an assessment of the potential for finds retrieval from topsoil at archaeological sites. This assessment was achieved by a program of metal detecting at ploughed and pasture fields. As per the *Method Statement for Topsoil Assessment Including Metal Detection*, metal detection of the topsoil began within Contract 2 on June 13, 2005. This report details the results of the two phases of metal detection, the field walking survey and the test pit phase of Ardsallagh 4.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT**2.1 Metal Detection Methodology**

1. A grid was established as follows – a baseline was marked on one side of each site along the long axis. Perpendicular offset lines were marked at 10m intervals along the baseline to form stints and these were subdivided along the offset line to form parallel transects 2m wide.
2. The metal detection commenced at one end of the baseline and provided for a 2m ‘sweep’ along each transect, thus providing for 100% coverage of topsoil deposits at each site.
3. The location of all metal ‘hits’ were marked on the ground with tags.
4. All metal ‘hits’ in the sod or topsoil were tested by careful hand excavation of the sod/topsoil. Stratified artifacts were left *in situ*.
5. All artifacts were bagged and numbered citing DOE record number, context and individual number. Their location was also recorded.

2.2 Field Walking Survey Methodology

1. A grid was established as follows – a baseline was marked on one side of each site along the long axis. Perpendicular offset lines were marked at 10m intervals along the baseline to form stints and these were subdivided along the offset line to form parallel transects 4m wide.
2. Each transect was assigned a letter and each stint a number so that each stint would have a unique reference.
3. The field walking took place along each transect and provided for 2m coverage (i.e.: 1m either side of the walker's path), thus providing 50% coverage of the site.
4. The location of all artefacts were marked on the ground with tags.
5. All artifacts were bagged and numbered citing DOE record number, context and individual number. Their location was also recorded.

2.3 Test Pit Methodology

When deemed necessary, a number of pre-designated test pits were dug at various locations within the site. The test pits measured 1m² and their precise position was surveyed. Each test pit was dug by hand to the depth of subsoil with the resulting loose topsoil sifted on site for the recovery of finds. All finds were bagged and numbered citing DOE record number, context and individual number. Their location was recorded with reference to the specific test pit from where it was collected.

2.4 Results

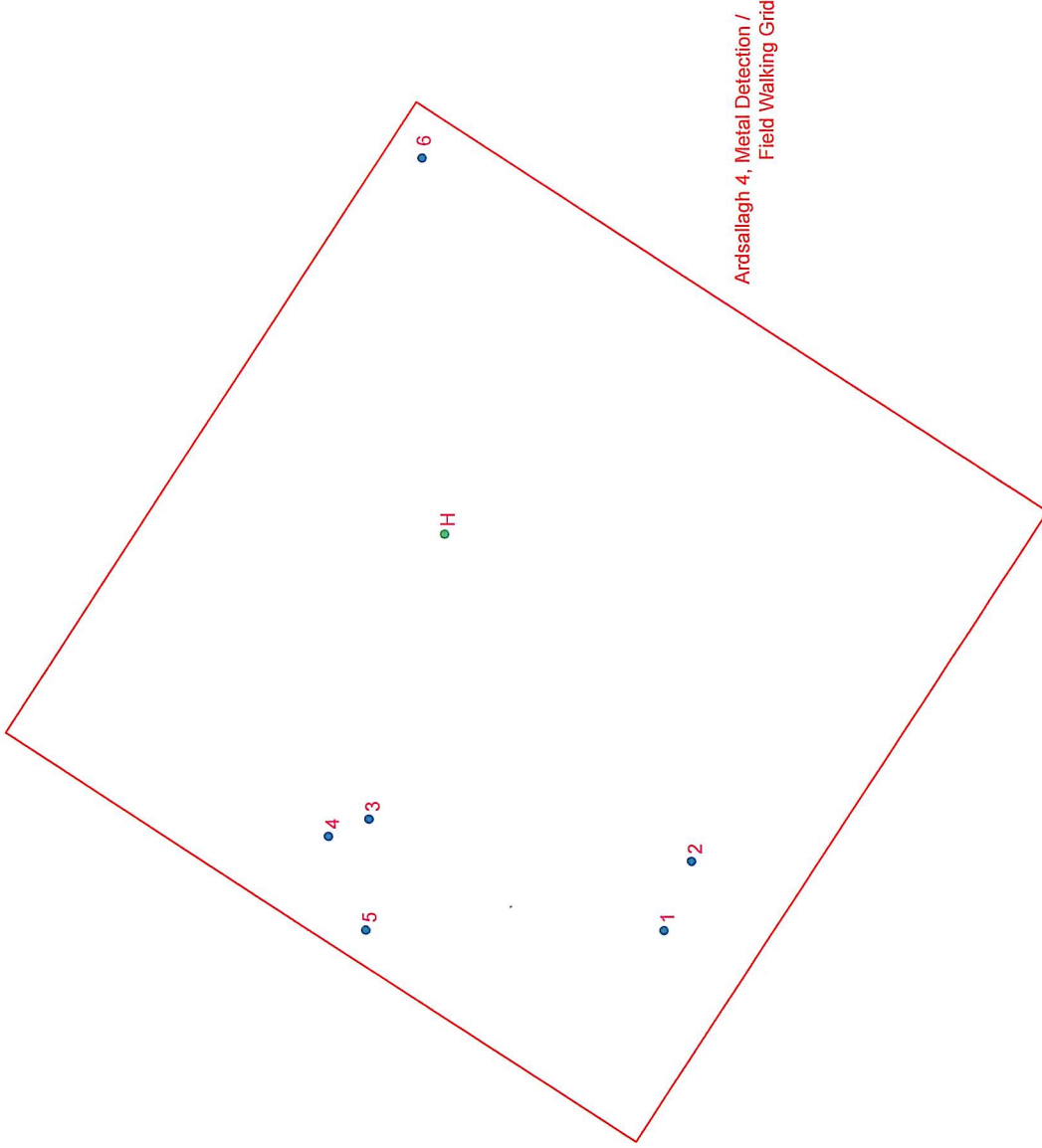
The first phase of metal detection dealt with the sod layer only and finds recovered were labelled as being from context 1. Initial metal detection of the Ardsallagh 4 site produced a small number of 'hits' with a total of 6 'hits' recorded with 5 finds recovered and 1 *in situ* 'hit'. The second phase of metal detection was completed after the sod was removed and dealt with the topsoil layer only. These topsoil finds were recorded under context number 2. This second phase produced a high number of 'hits' with a total of 67 'hits' recorded with 67 finds recovered. All of the finds recovered were of modern date and consisted of items associated with a modern timeframe (nails, nuts/bolts, horseshoes, hinges, etc...). Field walking of Ardsallagh 4 resulted in an additional collection of 49 finds. Five test pits were completed with 7 finds collected.

2.5 List of Finds

| Find Number | Description |
|--------------|--------------|
| A008/037:1:1 | Bolt/nail |
| A008/037:1:2 | Machine part |

| | |
|------------------|---|
| A008/037:1:3 | Wire |
| A008/037:1:4 | Large bolt/nail or fixture |
| A008/037:1:5 | Hinge |
| A008/037:2:1-6 | 6 Nails |
| A008/037:2:7 | Modern iron object, probable machine part |
| A008/037:2:8-9 | 2 Nails |
| A008/037:2:10 | Modern iron object, probable machine part |
| A008/037:2:11-12 | 2 Nails |
| A008/037:2:13 | Bolt |
| A008/037:2:14 | Wire |
| A008/037:2:15 | Nail |
| A008/037:2:16 | Modern iron object |
| A008/037:2:17-18 | 2 Nails |
| A008/037:2:19 | Horseshoe fragment |
| A008/037:2:20 | Nail |
| A008/037:2:21 | Barbed wire |
| A008/037:2:22-30 | 9 Nails |
| A008/037:2:31 | Modern coin |
| A008/037:2:32 | Modern metal object |
| A008/037:2:33 | Nail |
| A008/037:2:34 | Modern iron object |
| A008/037:2:35 | Modern metal object |
| A008/037:2:36 | Bolt |
| A008/037:2:37 | Machine part |
| A008/037:2:38 | Fragment of chain link |
| A008/037:2:39 | Staple |
| A008/037:2:40 | Chain link |
| A008/037:2:41 | Nail |
| A008/037:2:42 | Brace/fixture |
| A008/037:2:43 | Nail |
| A008/037:2:44 | Modern metal object |
| A008/037:2:45 | Nail |
| A008/037:2:46 | Washer |
| A008/037:2:47-48 | 2 Nails |
| A008/037:2:49 | Modern iron object |
| A008/037:2:50 | Pendant |
| A008/037:2:51-52 | Modern iron objects |
| A008/037:2:53 | Bolt |
| A008/037:2:54 | Nail shaft |
| A008/037:2:55 | Nail |
| A008/037:2:56 | Nail |
| A008/037:2:57 | Nail |
| A008/037:2:58 | Nail head |
| A008/037:2:59 | Nail |
| A008/037:2:60 | Hook |
| A008/037:2:61 | Machine part |
| A008/037:2:62 | Nail |
| A008/037:2:63-72 | Various sherds of modern pottery |
| A008/037:2:73 | Modern pottery |
| A008/037:2:74-75 | 2 sherds of modern pottery |
| A008/037:2:76-77 | Nails |
| A008/037:2:78-79 | 2 sherds of modern pottery |
| A008/037:2:80 | Nail |
| A008/037:2:81-89 | 9 Various sherds of modern pottery |

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| A008/037:2:90 | Plastic |
| A008/037:2:91-98 | 8 sherds of modern pottery |
| A008/037:2:99 | Glass |
| A008/037:2:100-101 | 2 sherds of modern pottery |
| A008/037:2:102 | Glass shard |
| A008/037:2:103 | Unworked flint debitage |
| A008/037:2:104-106 | 3 sherds of modern pottery |
| A008/037:2:107 | Number not used |
| A008/037:2:108 | Sherd of modern pottery |
| A008/037:2:109 | Glass shard |
| A008/037:2:110 | Modern pottery |
| A008/037:2:111 | Glass shard |
| A008/037:2:112-113 | 2 sherds of modern pottery |
| A008/037:2:114 | Modern metal/iron clasp |
| A008/037:2:115 | Modern pottery |
| A008/037:2:116 | Flint |
| A008/037:2:117 | Musket Ball |
| A008/037:3:1 | Flint flake |
| A008/037:3:2 | Metal fragment |
| A008/037:3:3-5 | 3 machine part fragments |
| A008/037:3:6-7 | 2 sherds of Modern pottery |

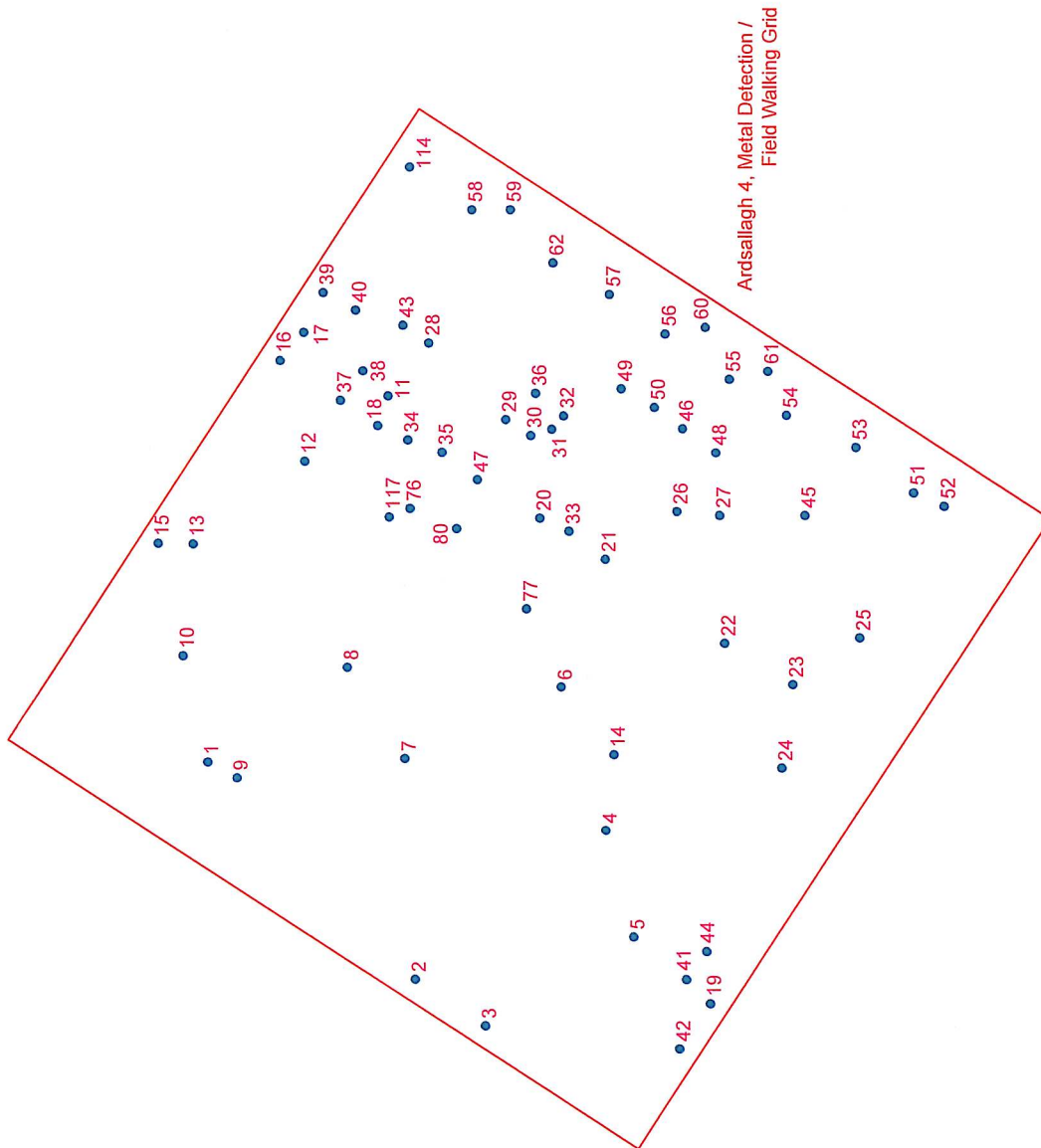


Key:
● 1 A008/037: 1: 1 etc.
● H Hit



| | | | |
|--|--|---|----------------------------------|
| Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd. | | Site: M3 Clonee - North of Kells PPP Scheme Contract 2, Ardsallagh 4 | Scale: 1: 200 A4 |
| Unit 21, Boyne Business Park, Greenhills, Drogheda, Co. Louth | | Issued for: Excavation Report | Date: Jul '08 |
| | | Client: Meath County Council | Origin: Courtesy of client / ACS |
| | | | Drawing no.: 04_01_C79021i |

Appendix 4, Topsoil Assessment, Figure 1: Metal Detection (Phase 1) Distribution Map



Key:
● 1 A008/037: 2: 1 etc.

10 m



Archaeological Consultancy

Services Ltd. Unit 21, Boyne Business Park,
Greenhills, Drogheda, Co. Louth

Site: M3 Clonee - North of Kells PPP Scheme
Contract 2, Ardsallagh 4

Issued for: Excavation Report

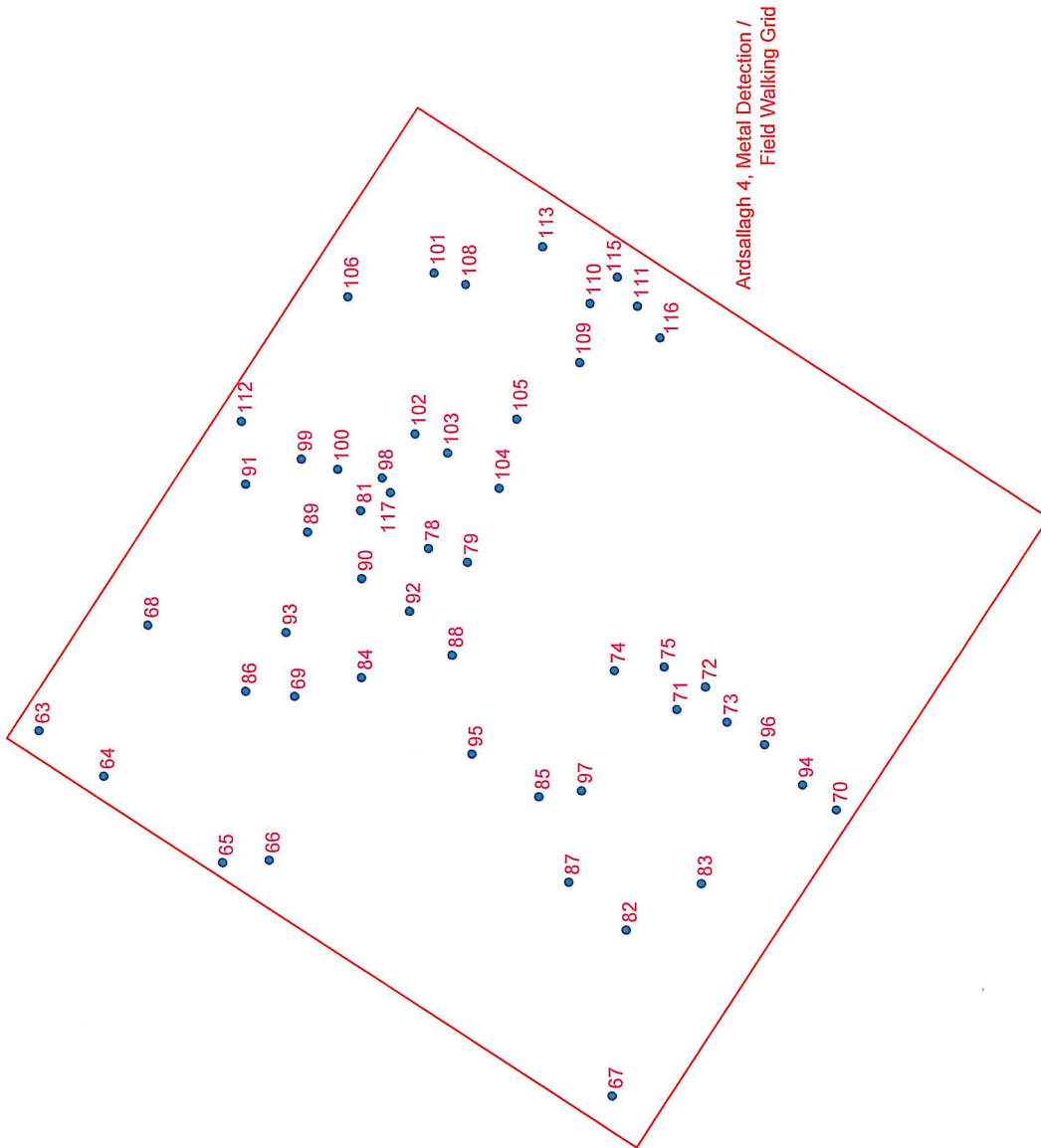
Client: Meath County Council

Scale: 1: 200 A4

Date: Jul '08

Origin: Courtesy of client / ACS

Drawing no.: 04_01_C79022i

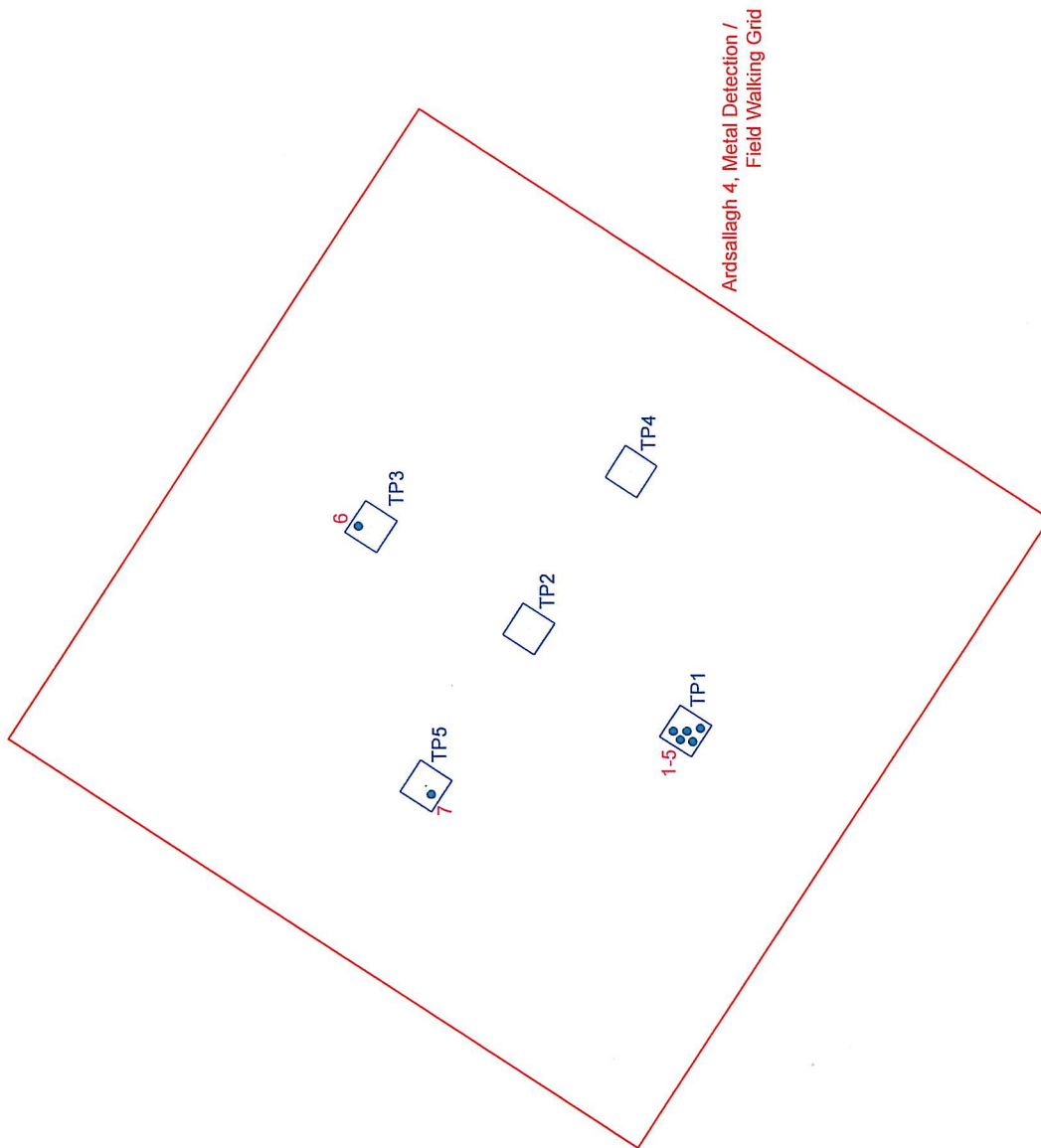


Key:
• 1 A008/037: 2: 1 etc.

10 metres



| | | | |
|---|--|--|----------------------------------|
| Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd. Unit 21, Boyne Business Park, Greenhills, Drogheda, Co. Louth | | Site: M3 Clonee - North of Kells PPP Scheme Contract 2, Ardsallagh 4 | Scale: 1: 200 A4 |
| | | Issued for: Excavation Report | Date: Jul '08 |
| | | Client: Meath County Council | Origin: Courtesy of client / ACS |
| | | | Drawing no.: 04_01_C79023i |



Key:
● 1 A008/037: 3: 1 etc.

7 FINDS RECOVERED (1-7)

10 metres



Archaeological Consultancy

Services Ltd. Unit 21, Boyne Business Park,
Greenhills, Drogheda, Co. Louth

Site: M3 Clonee - North of Kells PPP Scheme

Contract 2, Ardsallagh 4

Issued for: Excavation Report

Client: Meath County Council

Scale: 1: 200 A4

Date: Jul '08

Origin: Courtesy of client / ACS

Drawing no.: 04_01_C79024i

APPENDIX 5 *Radiocarbon dates*

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----|----------|------------|------|--------|-----------|--------------|
| 5: fill of pit | 1 | Charcoal | Oak (5g) | Beta | 229297 | AMS (Std) | 1260–1000 BC |
| 45: fill of spread/hearth | 72 | Charcoal | Alder (1g) | Beta | 229296 | AMS (Std) | 3790–3640 BC |

Preliminary charcoal identification was supplied by Ellen O’Carroll on a personal communication level.

APPENDIX 6 Pottery Report

The prehistoric pottery assemblages from the M3 Clonee – North of Kells, Co. Meath

Ardsallagh 1, Ardsallagh 2, Ardsallagh 4, Johnstown 3, Pace 1 and Dunboyne 4

Eoin Grogan and Helen Roche

Summary

The sites on the M3 produced a small assemblage of 58 sherds (plus three fragments) from at least 13 vessels. This material came from five sites and weighed a total of 1,455g. There were small quantities of final Neolithic/early Bronze Age Beaker (four vessels), early Bronze Age pots of the vase tradition (one vase and three vase urns), a collared urn, a cordoned urn and a middle to late Bronze Age domestic pot. Collectively the sites indicate intensive prehistoric settlement in the Tara area.

Ardsallagh 1

Ardsallagh is on the summit of a low knoll (51m OD) overlooking the River Boyne and with clear views to the Hill of Tara c. 4.5km to the southeast. The knoll, and the areas to the southeast at Ardsallagh 2, appears to have been the focus of an extensive early Bronze Age cemetery that was returned to as an important burial site in the late Iron Age.

The site produced the truncated base of a late Bronze Age domestic vessel that appears to have been deposited upright in a pit accompanied by a cremation. The site also produced a much worn sherd of probable prehistoric origin. An increasing number of late Bronze Age burial sites have been identified: many of these consist of unaccompanied cremations or those with just a few sherds from domestic pots, such as several in the flat cemeteries at Mitchelstowndown North, Co. Limerick, and Killoran 10, Co. Tipperary (Gowen 1988, 98-102; Stevens 2005), and inurned burials in intact pots. The domestic vessels in these burials frequently show evidence for previous use in cooking food (see Grogan 2004; Grogan *et al.* forthcoming). Several large cemeteries, such as Ballyconneely, Co. Clare (Read 2000), Priestsnewtown, Co. Wicklow, and Kilbane, Co. Limerick (Grogan and Roche 2004a; 2004b), and Killoran have been excavated recently but there is also a large number of apparently isolated graves, including examples at Kilgobbin, Co. Dublin (Hagen 2004), Sarsfieldstown, Co. Meath (Lynch 1998), Knockaholet, Co. Antrim (Henry 1934), and Athgarret, Co. Kildare (Sleeman and Cleary 1987).

Ardsallagh 2

The site consisted of a ringditch (No. 3), of probable final Iron Age date, and two smaller early Bronze Age enclosures one of which (No. 1) may have been defined by a plank palisade: these smaller enclosures produced unaccompanied pit cremations and may be small ringditches rather than structures (Clarke and Carlin 2006a; 2006b; forthcoming). A scatter of other burials in pits also came from the vicinity and included those associated with a collared urn (No. 1), a cordoned urn and vase food vessel (Nos 2 and 3), another cordoned urn (No. 4), and several unaccompanied cremations. The site is at the foot, and 720m to the southeast, of the knoll on which Ardsallagh 1 is located.

The upper portion of a collared urn (Vessel 1) came from a pit 75m northwest of Ringditch 3. This is a large, mainly plain vessel with cord impressed ornament on the flat rim top. Collared urns are invariably found with burials and this disturbed vessel appears to have been inverted over a cremation. There is no use evidence on the pot. Plain, or virtually plain, vessels like Ardsallagh are an occasional feature of the tradition although most of these, such as Ballymacaldrack, Co. Antrim, and Maze Course, Co. Down, are from the northern part of the country (Kavanagh 1976, 339, 348, figs 15.2, 20.30). Although there is a scattering of collared urns in Leinster the only previously known example in Meath came from the secondary mantle at the Mound of the Hostages, Tara (O'Sullivan 2005)(see Table 1).

Ardsallagh 2 produced two cordoned urn burials: both vessels appear to have been inverted over cremations. The form of Vessel 2, with a sharply incut underside to the lower of two low applied cordons, may indicate a reflection of the collared urn tradition. The association of a vase

food vessel (No. 3) is unusual although vases, or vase sherds, were associated with cordoned urns at Corkagh, Co. Tyrone, and Laheen, Co. Donegal (Waddell 1990, 138). At Tara burial 38 contained a cordoned urn and a vase (both inverted) accompanied by a stone battle axe and a bronze dagger: the urn in this case has been misidentified as belonging to the collared tradition¹ (O’Sullivan 2005, 191-5, fig. 163-4; see also Kavanagh 1976, 350). The vase is very similar, and with identical decoration, to Ardsallagh Vessel 3.

The occasional interaction between the ceramic traditions is also demonstrated by Vessel 4 from Ardsallagh. This has the typical form of a cordoned urn. However, the decorative treatment, incised chevron patterns that are applied to the upper portion of the pot but also extend towards the base is unusual and is more readily paralleled on vase urns. Indeed, a very close comparison for this ornament is provided by the vase urn (No. 5) from nearby Johnstown 3 (see below). As with the collared urns the cordoned variety is rare in this region although a few occur at Tara and there is a small cluster in Louth including the Hill of Rath, Monasterboice and Carn More 5 (Kavanagh 1976, 368-9; Bayley 2005; Grogan and Roche 2006a). At Carn More one of the cists produced a cordoned and an encrusted urn: sherds of a bowl may indicate that these disturbed an earlier burial. It is possible that in this area the limited impact of these types allowed for more extensive interaction between them, and with the vase tradition, than is generally apparent elsewhere. In this regard the occurrence of both vase and cordoned urns at Johnstown is particularly interesting although the mixed context precludes any more detailed assessment of the association.

At a broader scale Ardsallagh 1 and 2 clearly form part of the same cemetery complex. The inception is indicated by Ringditch 1 and a number of unaccompanied cremations including one in the ringditch entrance. The presence of collared and cordoned urns, and the unusual vase Vessel 3, suggests that burial continued well into a developed stage of the early Bronze Age. Another pit contained unburnt animal bone and tiny fragments of cremated bone and a single sherd of early–middle Bronze Age pottery (148.1). This indicates a later beginning than the initiation of the cemetery at Tara which is dated to before c. 3600 BP by some of the bowl burials (O’Sullivan 2005). It is possible therefore, that Ardsallagh indicates the establishment of an important burial centre that reflects the widening of the Tara ritual landscape in the period after c. 3500 BP. Continuity of prehistoric funerary activity in the cemetery is attested by the late Bronze Age burial at Ardsallagh 1.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|------|--------------------|--------|------|------|----|------------|--|
| Ardsallagh 1 | Mh. | 1 | Flat cemetery | Pit | Cr | © | ↑ | 1 ind. | |
| Ardsallagh 2 | Mh. | 1 | Flat cemetery | Pit | Cr | © | ↓ | ? | |
| Ardsallagh 2 | Mh. | 2, 3 | Flat cemetery | Pit | Cr | © | ↓ | A | v sh |
| Ardsallagh 2 | Mh. | 4 | Flat cemetery | Pit | Cr | © | ↓ | H? | |
| Johnstown 3 | Mh. | 4 | Flat cemetery | Pit | Cr | v | ? | ? | Burial ? |
| Johnstown 3 | Mh. | 5 | Flat cemetery | Pit | Cr | © | ? | ? | Burial ? |
| Johnstown 3 | Mh. | 8 | Flat cemetery | Pit | Cr | © | ? | ? | Burial ? |
| Aghfarrell | D. | 2 | Flat cemetery | Pit | Cr | © | ↓ | YA | |
| Ballinvally | Mh. | | Single grave | Cist | Cr | v | ? | A | Concentric circles on capstone |
| Ballyeally | D. | 1 | Flat cemetery? | ? | ? | ©sh | ? | ? | Found in sherds, disturbed? |
| Ballyeally | D. | 2 | Flat cemetery? | ? | ? | ©sh | ? | ? | Found in sherds, disturbed? |
| Castleboy, Tara | Mh. | 28 | Passage tomb mound | Pit | Cr | v | ↓ | ? | m. av |
| Castleboy, Tara | Mh. | 29 | Passage tomb mound | Pit | Cr | © | ↓? | ? | |
| Castleboy, Tara | Mh. | 34 | Passage tomb mound | Cist P | Cr | © | ↓ | ? | Quartz pebble, slab floor and capstone |
| Castleboy, Tara | Mh. | 35 | Passage tomb mound | Pit | Cr | © | ↓ | ? | v ↓, ψ, flint scraper, flake |
| Castleboy, Tara | Mh. | 38 | Passage tomb mound | Cist P | Cr | © | ↓ | A? | v ↓, B, ▲ |
| Castleboy, Tara | Mh. | 39 | Passage tomb mound | Pit | Cr | © | ↓ | A? | ψ fr, cu fr., pumice stone |
| Castleboy, Tara | Mh. | 40b | Passage tomb mound | Pit? | Cr | v | → | A? | |
| Castleboy, Tara | Mh. | 41 | Passage tomb mound | Pit | Cr | © | ↓ | 2A? | ▲ |
| Castleboy, Tara | Mh. | 42 | Passage tomb mound | Cist | Cr | ©© | ↓↓ | 3-4A? | ψ fr, flint flake |
| Castleboy, Tara | Mh. | 43 | Passage tomb mound | Pit | Cr | ©© | ↓↓ | 2A, A♀, ch | 2 v ↓ |
| Cruagh | D. | | Single grave | Cist | ? | ©sh | ? | ? | |
| Drinnagh | D. | | Linkardstown mound | Pit? | Cr | © | ↓ | A♂ | |
| Edmondstown | D. | 11 | Flat cemetery | Pit | Cr | © | ? | ch, 2 inf? | Disturbed context |
| Edmondstown | D. | 3 | Flat cemetery | Pit | Cr | ©pl | ↓ | A | |
| Edmondstown | D. | 12 | Flat cemetery | Pit | Cr | © | ↑ | ? | With ★sh? v sh |
| Farrandreg | Lh. | | Pit | Pit | - | 2©sh | | | Burial site? |
| Fourknocks 1 | Mh. | 7 | Passage tomb mound | Pit | Cr | © | ↓ | A | |
| Fourknocks 1 | Mh. | 8 | Passage tomb mound | Pit | Cr | © | ↓ | A | Stones on base |
| Fourknocks 2 | Mh. | 6 | Neolithic mound | Pit | Cr | © | ↓ | A | v ↓, slab cover |
| Fourknocks 3 | Mh. | | Mound | Pit? | Cr | © | ↑ | Ch | slab cover |
| Glassamucky | D. | 2 | Flat cemetery | ? | Cr | © | ? | ? | |
| Glassamucky | D. | 1 | Flat cemetery | Cist | cInh | v | ↑ | ? | |

¹ As was the cordoned urn from burial 41 (O’Sullivan 2005, 201-3, fig. 174).

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|---------------|--------|-----|------|----|--------|---|
| Glassamucky | D. | ? | | ? | ? | v | ? | ? | |
| Greenhills | D. | 1 | Flat cemetery | Cist | Cr | Ⓢ | ↓ | ? | v ↑, m. v |
| Greenhills | D. | 4 | Flat cemetery | Cist | Cr | Ⓢ | ↓ | ? | m. av, on slab, slab edged pit |
| Greenhills | D. | 5 | Flat cemetery | Cist | Cr | Ⓢ | ↓ | ? | ψ perf, on slab, slab edged pit |
| Hill of Rath | Lh. | 1 | Flat cemetery | Pit | ? | Ⓢ | ↓ | ? | ▲ ψ flint scraper, whetstone, flat polished stone |
| Jamestown | D. | 2 | Flat cemetery | ? | Cr | v | ? | ? | |
| Keenoge | Mh. | 2 | Flat cemetery | Cist P | Cr | ⓈⓈ | ↓↓ | ? | Ⓢ sh |
| Kilmashogue | D. | 3 | Wedge tomb | Cist P | Cr | Ⓢ | ↓ | ? | on slab |
| Martinstown | Mh. | 1 | Flat cemetery | ? | ? | Ⓢsh | ? | ? | Disturbed |
| Monasterboice | Lh. | | Single grave | Cist | ? | Ⓢsh | ? | ? | Tievebulliagh axe |
| Nevinstown | Mh. | | Single grave | Pit | Cr | Ⓢ | ↓ | 2A, ch | v ↓ |
| Newtown | Mh. | | Mound? | Pit | Cr | Ⓢ | ? | ? | |
| Oakate | Lh. | | Cairn | Cist | ? | Ⓢsh | ? | ? | 2 v, v sh |
| Oldtown | D. | | ? | ? | Cr | Ⓢ | ↓ | ? | ▲ |
| Palmerstown | D. | 1 | Flat cemetery | Cist? | Cr | Ⓢ | ↓ | ? | + |
| Ticknock | D. | | Single grave | Pit | Cr | Ⓢ | ↓ | ? | sh of another vessel? on slab |
| Carn More 5 | Lh. | 96 | Cairn | Cist | Cr. | ⓈⓈ | | N/A | b sh disturbed |
| Carn More 5 | Lh. | 389 | Cairn | Pit | Cr. | Ⓢ | ↑ | N/A | Domestic variant |
| Carn More 5 | Lh. | 12 | Cairn | Pit | Cr. | Ⓢ | ↑ | N/A | |
| Carn More 5 | Lh. | 257 | Cairn | Pit | Cr. | Ⓢ | ↑ | N/A | |
| Carn More 5 | Lh. | | Ringbarrow | Pits? | Cr. | 3Ⓢsh | | N/A | |

v vase Ⓢ vase urn Ⓢ collared urn Ⓢ domestic pot Ⓢ cordoned urn Ⓢ encrusted urn m. miniature vessel
 av accessory vessel ◆ plano-convex flint knife
 • bead (stone or bone) ▲ bronze dagger ▲ bronze razor/knife ψ bone pin B stone battleaxe/macehead
 ↓ inverted ↑ upright Cr cremation Inh inhumation N/A Identification not available
 A = Adult eld = elderly A♀ = Adult female A♂ = Adult male Ad = Adolescent ch = Child ne = Neonate H = human?

Table 1. Early Bronze Age burials in the north Leinster region excluding those with bowl associations (sources: Kavanagh 1973; 1976; Mount and Hartnett 1993; O'Sullivan 2005; Waddell 1990).

Ardsallagh 4

The site produced a much worn sherd from a fine Beaker vessel.

Johnstown 3

This site produced a mixed assemblage representing at least nine vessels – three fine Beakers, a vase food vessel, three vase urns and at least one cordoned urn. This material cannot have been in contemporary use. Furthermore, the condition of this material, the presence of burnt accretions on several vessels indicating domestic use and the small quantities of sherds representing most of the pots suggest that most represent residual material that was incorporated, perhaps deliberately, into the later kiln associated activities. One vessel, the vase urn No.5, was sufficiently well represented to suggest it may have been disturbed from a burial.

Pace 1

There is a small quantity of clay mould fragments of probable late Bronze Age date from this site. These are waste from the production of a bladed implement, possibly a sword. Surprisingly, given the quantity of metalwork that survives from this period evidence for production is rare. There are a few major bronze working sites, such as Site F, Lough Gur, Co. Limerick, and Rathgall, Co. Wicklow (Ó Ríordáin 1954; Raftery 1976), and a small number of examples with small quantities of material. These include several that produced evidence for sword production such as Dalkey Island, Co. Dublin, Lough Eskragh, Co. Tyrone, and Circle K, Lough Gur (Liversage 1968; Collins and Seaby 1960; Grogan and Eogan 1987; see also Eogan 1965, 176-9, figs 95-97). The casting of swords was one of the most complex industrial undertakings requiring considerable skill and experience. This demanding process would not be carried out in isolation so the mould fragments indicate the possible presence nearby of a bronze workshop.

Dunboyne 4

This produced just two sherds from a middle or late Bronze Age domestic pot.

Discussion

Collectively these sites indicate an extensive range of prehistoric settlement in the area. Not surprisingly the hill at Ardsallagh, the next prominent rise to the north of Tara and overlooking the Boyne, was a centre for prehistoric activity extending from the final Neolithic/early Bronze Age to the early medieval period (Clarke and Carlin 2006a; 2006b). The mixture of pottery at Johnstown represents material of different periods although the vase and the vase urns are probably contemporary. While vase urns are reasonably common in this region vases are

surprisingly rare and the only example, apart from their use as accessory vessels at Tara, is from Ballinvally, Co. Meath (Table 1). Beaker is well represented but mainly to the northeast in the Boyne Valley and the coastal areas such as at Rathmullan, Co. Meath, Mell, Newtownbalregan and the Hill of Rath, Co. Louth (Eogan 1984; Cleary 1983; Bolger 2002; McQuade 2005; Roche and Grogan 2005; Bayley 2004; Grogan and Roche 2005a; 2005b; Duffy 2002). More locally Beaker has been identified at Berrillstown (04E0417) and Dunboyne 3 (A017/013) (Grogan and Roche 2006b).

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CATALOGUE

Where the pottery is listed in the catalogue the context numbers are in bold: e.g. bodysherds: **195.1**.

Numbers in square brackets (e.g. **128**,[1-4]) indicate that the sherds are conjoined.

The thickness refers to an average dimension; where relevant a thickness range is indicated. Vessel numbers have been allocated to pottery where some estimation of the form of the pot is possible, or where the detailed evidence of featured sherds (e.g. rims, shoulders), fabric or decorative treatment indicates separate vessels.

ARDSALLAGH 1 (A008/035)

The excavation number A008/035 is omitted throughout; only the context number, followed by the find number, is included.

Vessel 1. There is represented by a substantial, slightly distorted, portion of the flat base (**100.1**) of a late Bronze Age coarse domestic vessel. The pot appears to have been upright in a pit containing the cremated remains of a single individual. The cream- to red-buff fabric has a dark red-buff core and a medium content of crushed shale ($\leq 5.5 \times 5.5 \times 4\text{mm}$), dolerite ($\leq 6 \times 5\text{mm}$) and quartzite ($\leq 3 \times 2\text{mm}$) inclusions. The flat, unfooted, possibly domed base splays out sharply into the lower body. Body thickness: 13-15mm; weight: 410g; base diameter: c. 11.5cm.

195.1 is a small, much worn, sherd of red- to red-buff fabric with crushed quartzite inclusions. Probably prehistoric.

ARDSALLAGH 2 (A008/034)

The excavation number A008/035 is omitted throughout; only the context number, followed by the find number, is included.

Vessel 1. This collared urn came from a disturbed burial on the northern side of the site: the vessel appears to have been deposited in an inverted position. There are 4 rim/necksherds (**128**,[1-4]) from the upper part of a large, mainly plain, collared urn. The compact smooth grey-buff fabric has a medium content of crushed shale inclusions ($\leq 8 \times 5 \times 2\text{mm}$). There are very deep pronounced coil breaks that indicate the vessel was made with substantial coils. There is a broad, flat-topped, slightly inward sloping rim with a pronounced internal lip. The high, very gently curved, collar is separated from the deeply curved neck by a sharp applied cordon. Rim thickness: 13.8mm; neck: 12.8mm.

Decoration This is confined to the rim top which is ornamented with discontinuous circumferential lines of fine impressed cord.

Maximum external diameter at rim: 29cm

Weight: 475g

A cremation pit beside this burial was radiocarbon dated to 1940–1740 BC.

148.1 came from a cremation pit c. 28m north of Ringditch 3. This is a compact bodysherd (or possibly basesherd) from a cinerary urn similar to Vessel 1.

Vessels 2 and 3 came from a disturbed pit cremation to the west of Ringditch 2. The cordoned urn (No. 2) was deposited in an inverted position and the vase may be an accessory vessel in the grave. The urn contained the part of the efficiently cremated remains of an adult.

Vessel 2. This is represented by about 2/3 of the rim and neck of a vessel (**105.9**) with a rounded outwardly expanded rim with a broad steeply sloping internal bevel; the neck is upright and defined by a sharply defined applied horizontal cordon. The smooth buff to cream-buff fabric has a dark grey-buff core. There is a medium content of mainly finely crushed shale inclusions ($\leq 2 \times 2\text{mm}$) and some dolerite ($\leq 4 \times 3\text{mm}$). Body/neck thickness: 9.8–10.5mm.

External decoration There is a pair of closely spaced horizontal lines of whipped cord immediately beneath the rim and along the upper face of the cordon. These frame a chevron filled panel of opposed oblique lines formed by whipped cord impressions applied with an implement measuring 21.5mm long by 2–3mm wide. Although most of the outer surface is worn another sherd (**105.8**) has the upper part of a panel of inverted triangles, (or a zigzag pattern) formed by the same whipped cord implement, on the body beneath the cordon.

Internal There is a single circumferential lined or whipped cord along the inner and outer edges of the rim bevel. The area between these is filled with off-vertical to oblique whipped cord impressions.

Comment The effect of the cordon is emphasised by having a sharply in cut underside that may mimic a collar.

Maximum external diameter at rim: 19cm

Weight: 320g

Vessel 3. There are seven sherds (3 rimsherds: **105.1-3**; 2 necksherds: **105.4-5**; 2 fragments: **105.6-7**) from the rim area of a vase food vessel. The slightly expanded rim is flat topped and the neck is upright. The red-

buff fabric has a dark grey core and a low content of fine quartzite inclusions ($\leq 2 \times 1\text{mm}$). Neck thickness: 8.2mm.

External decoration There are 5 closely spaced horizontal lines of fine twisted cord on the neck beginning immediately beneath the rim.

Rim There are 3 evenly spaced lines of twisted cord set circumferentially on the rim top.

Maximum external diameter at rim: c. 14cm

Weight: 50g

These remains gave a radiocarbon determination of 1950–1700 BC.

Vessel 4. This cordoned urn came from a pit burial 10m to the southwest of Ringditch 3. This is represented by about 3/4 of the rim and upper portion of a vessel (9.1) with a simple flat internally bevelled rim and a biconical profile. There are two horizontal external cordons, one applied to the upper neck and the other slightly example pinched-up at the junction with the body. The surfaces were originally very smooth and finished with a fine slurry but the outer is now much worn. The vessel had been inverted over a highly fragmented cremation deposit. The red-buff fabric has a dark grey core and a medium content of finely ($\leq 3 \times 2\text{mm}$) and some more coarsely crushed ($\leq 5 \times 4\text{mm}$) shale inclusions. Body/neck thickness: 9.3–9.8mm.

Decoration A much worn lattice pattern of finely incised lines occurs on the neck between the rim and the upper cordon. This forms narrow elongated vertical lozenges. On the upper surface of the cordon is a fringe of deeply incised, oblique, possibly finger nail, impressions. Between the cordons is a zigzag pattern of deep scores forming equal sized triangles. Below the second cordon is a finely incised lattice pattern mirroring that on the upper part of the vessel.

Maximum external diameter at rim: 18cm

Weight: 490g

This burial was radiocarbon dated to 1870–1620 BC.

ARDSALLAGH 4 (A008/037)

The excavation number A008/037 is omitted throughout; only the context number, followed by the find number, is included.

Vessel 1. This is represented by a single much worn necksherd (13.1) from a fine Beaker. The smooth buff fabric has a grey core and a low content of sandgrade quartzite inclusions ($\leq 0.5\text{mm}$). Neck thickness: 6mm+.

Decoration consists of 2 deeply incised horizontal lines in the lower curve of the neck.

JOHNSTOWN 3 (A017/021)

The excavation number A017/021 is omitted throughout; only the context number, followed by the find number, is included.

Beaker pottery

There are 5 sherds of fine Beaker representing at least 3 separate vessels (total weight 90g). The small quantity of sherds representing each vessel and the worn condition of the pottery suggests that this had been disturbed from a domestic context.

Vessel 1. There are 2 neck/bellysherds (135.1-2) from a fine Beaker of smooth grey-buff fabric with a low content of finely crushed quartzite inclusions ($\leq 1\text{mm}$). The vessel appears to have had a soft S-shaped profile. There is a blackened accretion on the inner surface indicating its use in a domestic context. Neck thickness: 6.3–6.5mm.

Decoration consists of a band of closely spaced oblique lines of fine cord impressed lines on the neck with, below, a band of horizontal cord lines on the belly. Beneath this is a further band of oblique cord lines.

Vessel 2. There are 2 worn rounded topped rimsherds (131.1, 4) from a fine Beaker with an upright rim and probably a soft S-shaped profile. The smooth cream- to grey-buff fabric has a grey core and a very low content of finely crushed quartzite ($\leq 1\text{mm}$) and occasional sandstone inclusions. Neck thickness: 8mm.

External decoration Opposed oblique clusters of incised lines form a broad chevron pattern immediately beneath the rim. Below is a low pinched-up cordon bordered above by a horizontal incised line.

Internal 2 much worn horizontal lines occur beneath the rim: these may be cord impressed.

Vessel 3. This is represented by a single necksherd (135.3) from a vessel of smooth buff fabric with a grey core and a low content of finely crushed quartzite inclusions ($\leq 2 \times 1\text{mm}$). Neck thickness: 8mm.

Decoration There is a band of 9 closely spaced incised horizontal lines.

134.6 is a plain bodysherd from a fine vessel.

Vase food vessel

Vessel 4. This is represented by a single necksherd (**133.4**) from a vessel of smooth buff to red-buff fabric with a low content of sandstone inclusions ($\leq 6 \times 5\text{mm}$). Neck thickness: 8.4mm.

Decoration There is a narrow chevron band formed of two rows of opposed and closely spaced incised horizontal lines. This is bordered by horizontal lines and divided by a median line.

135.8 is a bodysherd with worn incised lines possibly from Vessel 4.

Vase urns

Vessel 5. There are 27 sherds (3 bellysherds: **134.2-3**, **135.4**; 24 bodysherds: **135.5-7**, **136.1**, **6**, **133.1-3**, **5-6**, **8-12**, **14**, **131.5-6**, **8**, **132.2-4**, **6**, **134.5**; 1 fragment: **133.7**; there are 5 conjoined sherds: **134.2-3**, **135.5-6**, **136.1**) from a large vessel of smooth buff-brown fabric a grey-buff interior and a dark grey core. There is a medium content of crushed coarse grained dolerite ($\leq 4 \times 3\text{mm}$), shale ($\leq 3 \times 3\text{mm}$) and quartzite inclusions ($\leq 2 \times 2\text{mm}$). The vessel has a constricted neck, and a sharp rounded belly that tapers sharply towards a narrow base. Thickness: 11-12mm.

Decoration consists of tightly spaced incised lines. There is a pair of closely spaced horizontal lines in the curve of the neck and another along the belly that border a tight lattice panel forming elongated lozenges. Beneath are pendant triangles filled with vertical lines bordered below by 3 horizontal lines containing a loose band of lozenges and triangles. The body below this has a high band of narrow lozenges formed by a tight lattice. The lowermost part of the body is undecorated.

Maximum external diameter at belly: 22.5cm

Weight: 550g

13315 is a bodysherd with external decoration of deeply scored and closely spaced vertical lines. Internally there is a panel of off vertical scores bordered (at the top?) by a curved line. This might be from the upper part of Vessel 5.

Vessel 6. There are 8 necksherds (**72.3-8**) from a vessel of smooth buff fabric with a grey core. The outer surface has been smoothed with fine slurry. The better preserved sherds (e.g. **72.4-5**, **12**) have a burnt accretion on the inner face. There is a low to medium content of crushed coarse grained dolerite ($\leq 6 \times 4\text{mm}$), shale ($\leq 9 \times 6$) and some finely crushed quartzite inclusions ($\leq 1\text{mm}$). Neck thickness: 10-12.2mm. Total weight of sherds: 130g.

Decoration consists of elongated lozenges formed by a widely spaced lattice of lines formed by an implement like a flattened reed.

Vessel 7. This is represented by a single bodysherd (**136.2**) from a pot similar to but lighter and smaller than Vessel 5. The smooth buff fabric has a grey core and a high content of crushed coarse grained dolerite inclusions ($\leq 8 \times 5\text{mm}$). There is a burnt accretion on the inner surface.

Decoration consists of vertical or near vertical incised lines occasionally forming elongated lozenges transversed by some horizontal lines.

Cordoned urn

Vessel 8. This is represented by a single rimsherd (**134.4**) from a tub-shaped vessel with a rounded rim and a convex profile that tapers gently to the base. Very compact grey-buff fabric with a very smooth external surface that has narrow smoothing striations. There is a medium content of crushed coarse grained dolerite and finely crushed quartzite inclusions ($\leq 0.5\text{mm}$). Thickness: 9.2-12mm.

External decoration there is a broad applied horizontal cordon beneath the rim. 30mm below this is a darker, rougher, strip that marks the position of a second cordon: short wavy lines along the top edge of this indicate where this cordon had been pinched onto the vessel wall.

Internal There is a loose incised lattice on the upper part of the inner face that extends to at least 69mm below the rim.

Maximum external diameter at rim: 28cm+

Weight: 130g

Vessel 9. There are 3 small sherds (only the outer surface survives) (**72.1-3**) of smooth buff fabric from close to the rim of a small fine vessel.

Decoration consists of small closely spaced pinched up horizontal cordons. Weight 10g.

Other sherds

There are two small fragments (**1319**, **132.5**).

DUNBOYNE 4 (A017/002)

The excavation number A017/002 is omitted throughout; only the context number, followed by the find number, is included.

190.1-2 are 2 bodysherds of red- to cream-buff fabric with a medium content of crushed coarse grained dolerite ($\leq 5 \times 4\text{mm}$). From a middle or late Bronze Age coarse domestic vessel. Thickness: 12mm.

PACE 1 (A017/009)

The excavation number A017/009 is omitted throughout; only the context number, followed by the find number, is included.

Mould fragments

168.1-5 are fragments from a clay mould. One large fragment (**168.1**: 80 x 60 x 18.5mm thick) retains the two typical layers. The outer casing is buff with fine inclusions of 00 while grey the inner is finer and more compact with 00 and 00 inclusions.

| <i>Site</i> | <i>Vessel</i> | <i>Context/feature</i> | <i>No. of sherds</i> | <i>Rim</i> | <i>Base-, baseangle, shoulder</i> | <i>Neck</i> | <i>Body</i> | <i>Frgs</i> | <i>Inclusions</i> | <i>Vessel size</i> | <i>Decorated</i> | <i>Pottery type</i> |
|--------------|---------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Ardsallagh 1 | 1 | 195 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Q | - | - | LBA |
| Ardsallagh 1 | 2 | 195 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | Q | - | - | Prehistoric |
| Ardsallagh 2 | 1 | 128 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | Sh | 29 | ✓ | Collared |
| | | 148 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | - | | | Collared |
| Ardsallagh 2 | 2 | 105 | M | ✓ | 0 | ✓ | 0 | 0 | Sh D | 19 | ✓ | Cordoned |
| Ardsallagh 2 | 3 | 105 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | Q | 14 | ✓ | Vase FV |
| Ardsallagh 2 | 4 | 9 | M | V | 0 | ✓ | 0 | 0 | Sh | 18 | ✓ | Cordoned |
| Ardsallagh 4 | 1 | 13 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | Q | | ✓ | Beaker |
| Johnstown 3 | 1 | 135 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | Q | - | ✓ | Beaker |
| | 2 | 131 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Q S | - | ✓ | Beaker |
| | 3 | 135 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | Q | - | ✓ | Beaker |
| | | 134 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | - | - | - | Beaker |
| | 4 | 133 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | S | - | ✓ | VfV |
| | | 135 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | - | - | ✓ | VfV |
| | 5 | 131-6 | 27 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 24 | 1 | D Sh Q | 22.5 | ✓ | Vase Urn |
| | | 133 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | - | | ✓ | Vase Urn |
| | 6 | 72 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | D Sh Q | | ✓ | Vase Urn |
| | 7 | 136 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | D | | ✓ | Vase Urn |
| | 8 | 134 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | D Q | 28 | ✓ | Cordoned |
| | 9 | 72 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | - | | ✓ | Cordoned? |
| | | 131-2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | | | | |
| Dunboyne 4 | | 190 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | D | | - | M-LBA |
| | | | 58 | 5 | 3 | 17 | 33 | 3 | | | | |

Table 2. Vessels and sherds from M3 sites (Batch 2).

| <i>Site</i> | <i>Vessel</i> | <i>Context</i> | <i>Sherds to draw</i> | <i>Sherds to section only</i> | <i>Photograph</i> | <i>Decorated</i> |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Ardsallagh 1 | 1 | 100 | | 100.1 | ✓ | - |
| Ardsallagh 2 | 1 | 128 | R/N. 128.[1-4] | | | |
| Ardsallagh 4 | 1 | 13 | N. 13.1 | | | ✓ |
| Johnstown 3 | 1 | 85 | N. 135.1 | | | ✓ |
| | 2 | 131 | R. 131.1 | | | ✓ |
| | 3 | 135 | N. 135.3 | | | ✓ |
| | 4 | 133 | N. 133.4 | | | ✓ |
| | 5 | | [N/B. 134.2-3, 135.5-6, 136.1] | | | ✓ |
| | 6 | 72 | N. 72.8-10 | | | ✓ |
| | 7 | 136 | B. 136.2 | | | ✓ |
| | 8 | 134 | R. 134.4 | | | ✓ |
| | 9 | 72 | N. 72.3 | | | ✓ |

Table 3. Sherds for drawing.

APPENDIX 7 Lithics Report*Dr Eimear Nelis***Ardsallagh 4 (A008/037)****Introduction**

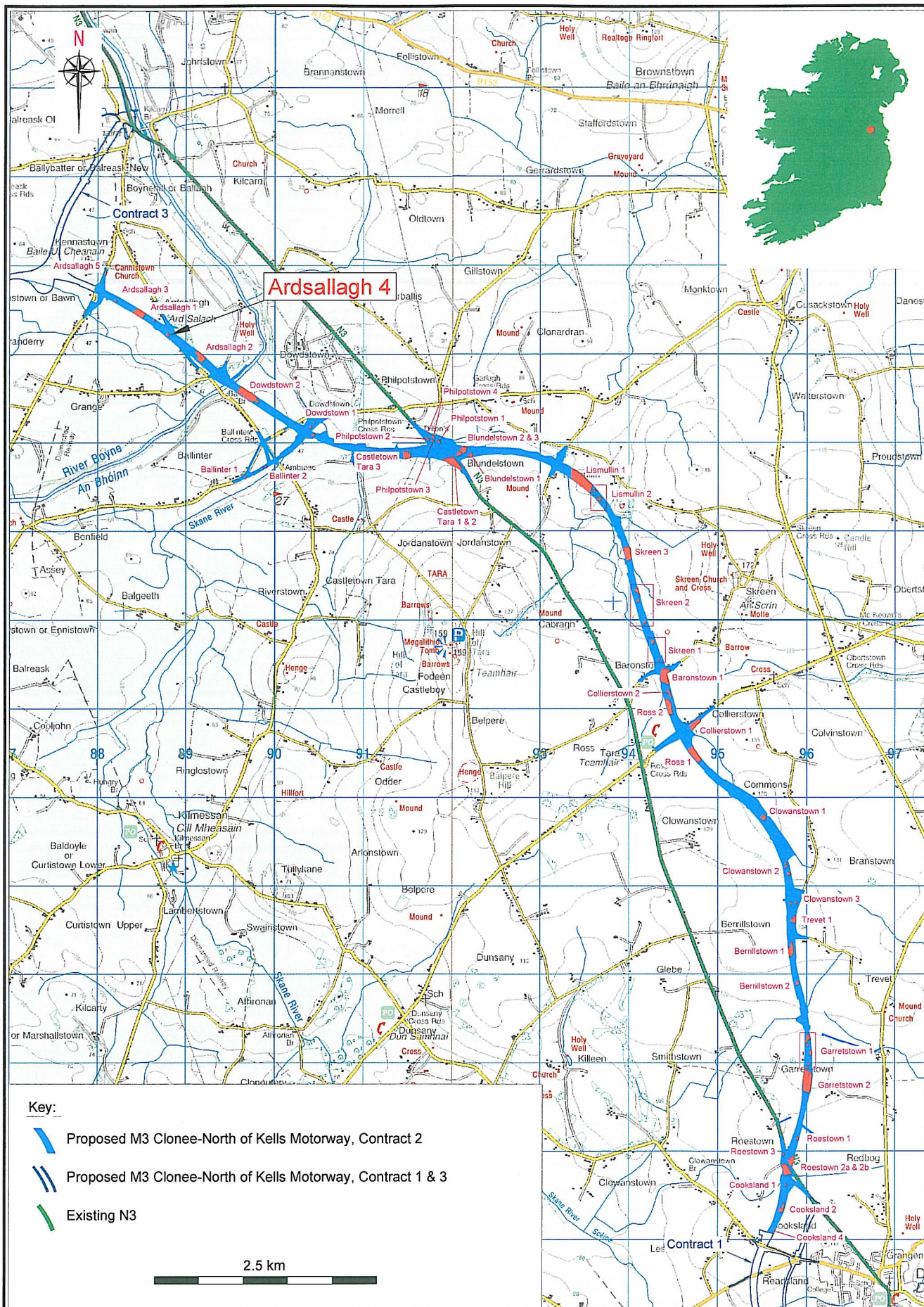
Excavations at Ardsallagh 4 (A008/037) uncovered a possible cremation pit, a series of large post holes and pits.

Analysis and Discussion

Two flint artefacts, in a fresh condition, were found in the upper fill of a pit (C34) and within a naturally occurring deposit (C4). One of these is a medial fragment of a flake (C4:1), with the remaining piece being a complete blade, with a corticated platform (C34:1). It is probable that they relate to separate knapping episodes. In such isolation, it is not possible to suggest a specific chronological context for these artefacts, other than to say that they probably relate to prehistoric knapping activity.

| Unique No | Context | Material | Condition | Cortex | Character | Classification | Fragment size (mm) | Length (mm) | Breadth (mm) | Thickness (mm) | Mass (g) |
|---------------|---------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|----------|
| A008/037:4:1 | 4 | Flint | Abraded | Fresh | Flake | Platform medial shatter | 31 | - | 15 | 5 | 2.33 |
| A008/037:34:1 | 34 | Flint | Abraded | Fresh | Flake | Platform blade complete | - | 25 | 11 | 4 | 1.06 |

Table 1: Ardsallagh 4 (A008/037): showing basic catalogue of assemblage.

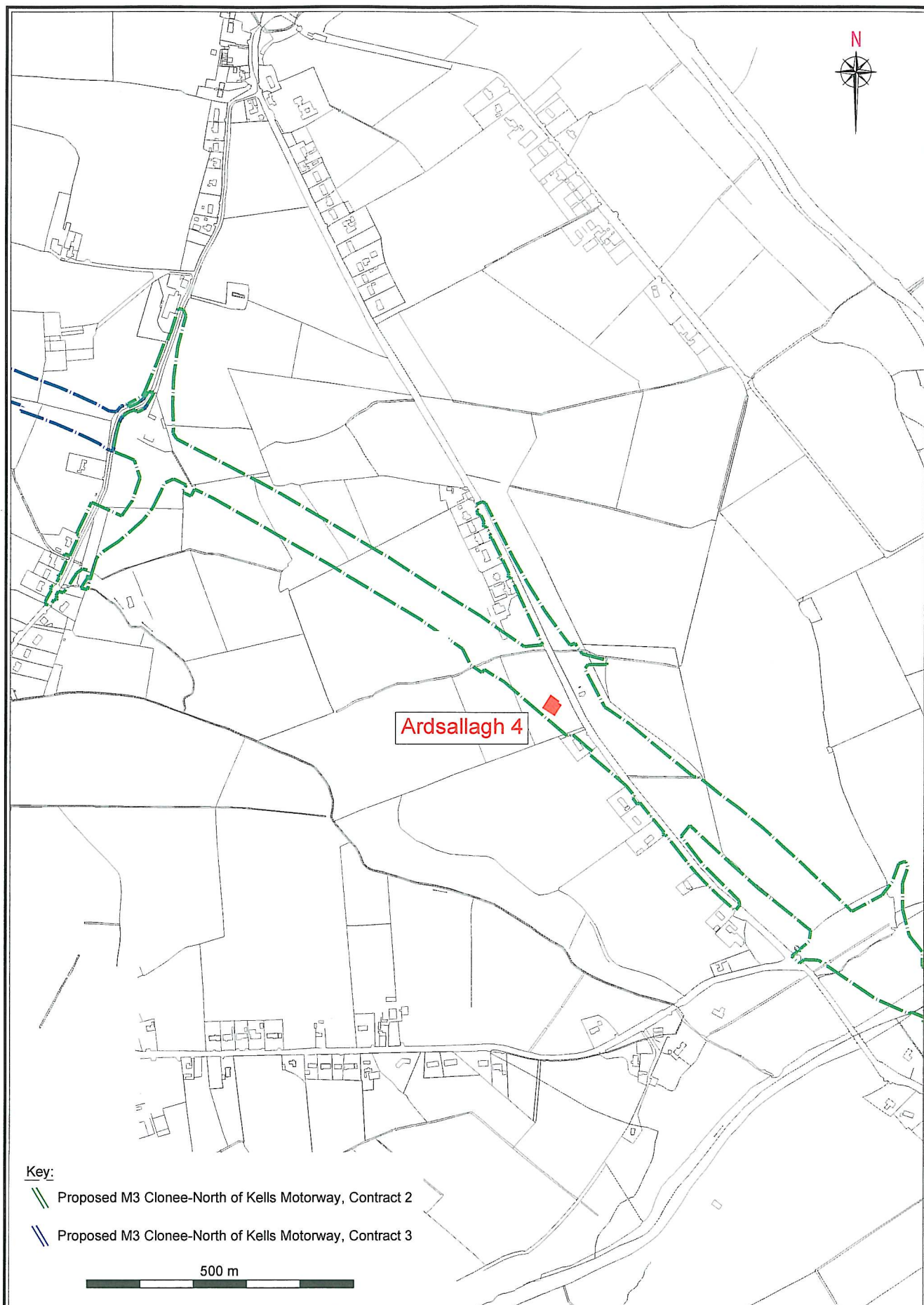


Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd. Unit 21, Boyne Business Park, Greenhills, Drogheda, Co. Louth

Site: M3 Clonee-North of Kells PPP Scheme
Contract 2, Ardsallagh 4
Issued for: Excavation Report
Client: Meath County Council

Scale: 1:60,000 A4
Date: Jul '08
Origin: OSI Discovery Series
Drawing no.: 04_01_C3125i

Figure 1: Location of Ardsallagh 4



**Archaeological Consultancy
Services Ltd.** Unit 21, Boyne Business Park,
Greenhills, Drogheda, Co. Louth

Site: M3 Clonee-North of Kells PPP Scheme
Contract 2, Ardsallagh 4

Issued for: Excavation Report

Client: Meath County Council

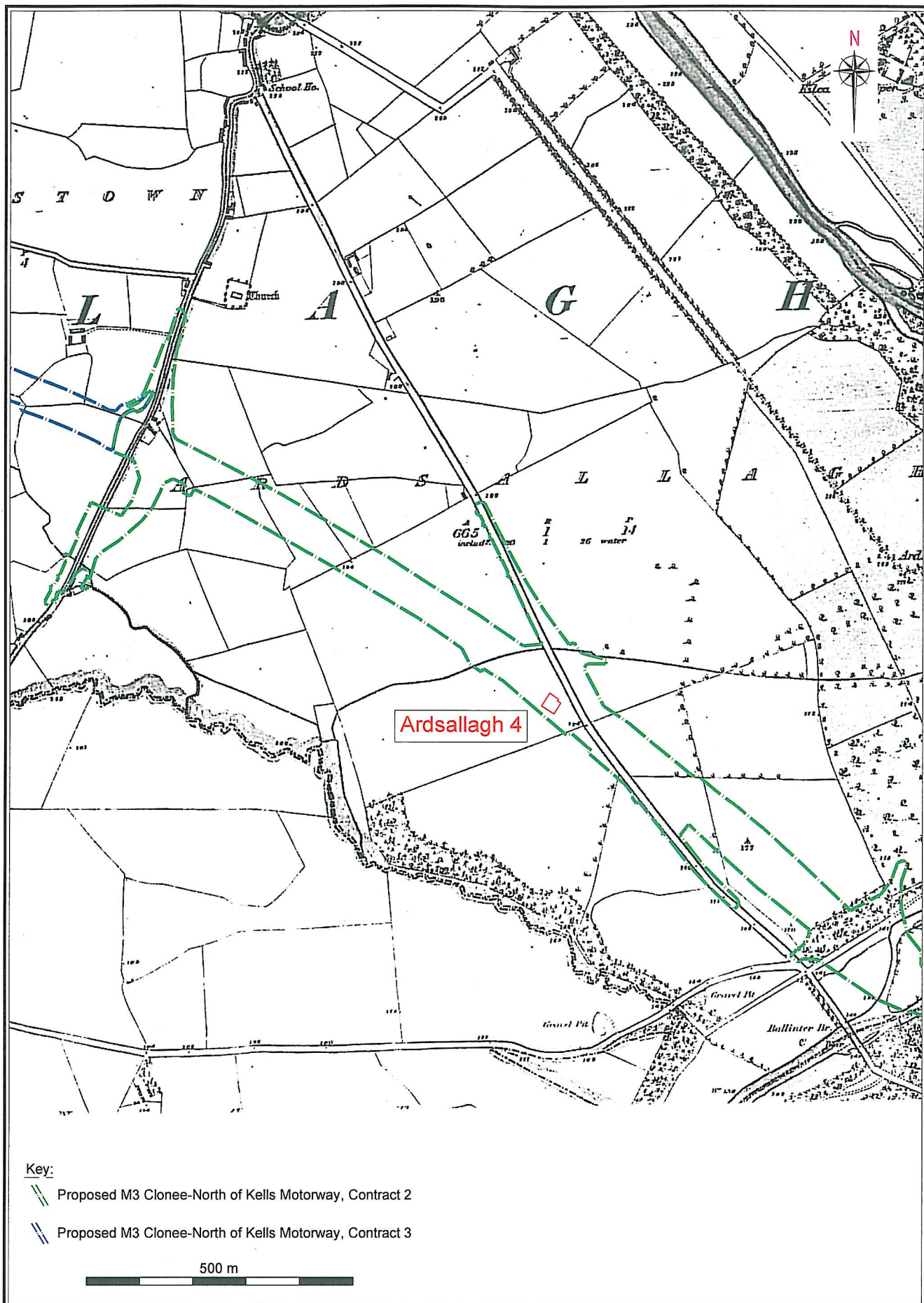
Scale: 1:10,000 A4

Date: Jul '08

Origin: Client/ACS Ltd.

Drawing no.: 04_01_C3126i

Figure 2: Location of Ardsallagh 4 on current OS background



**Archaeological Consultancy
Services Ltd.** Unit 21, Boyne Business Park,
Greenhills, Drogheda, Co. Louth

Site: M3 Clonee-North of Kells PPP Scheme
Contract 2, Ardsallagh 4
Issued for: Excavation Report
Client: Meath County Council

Scale: 1:10,000 A4
Date: Jul '08
Origin: OSI (1836)
Drawing no.: 04_01_C31271

Figure 3: Ardsallagh 4, extract from 1st edition OS map, Meath sheet 31

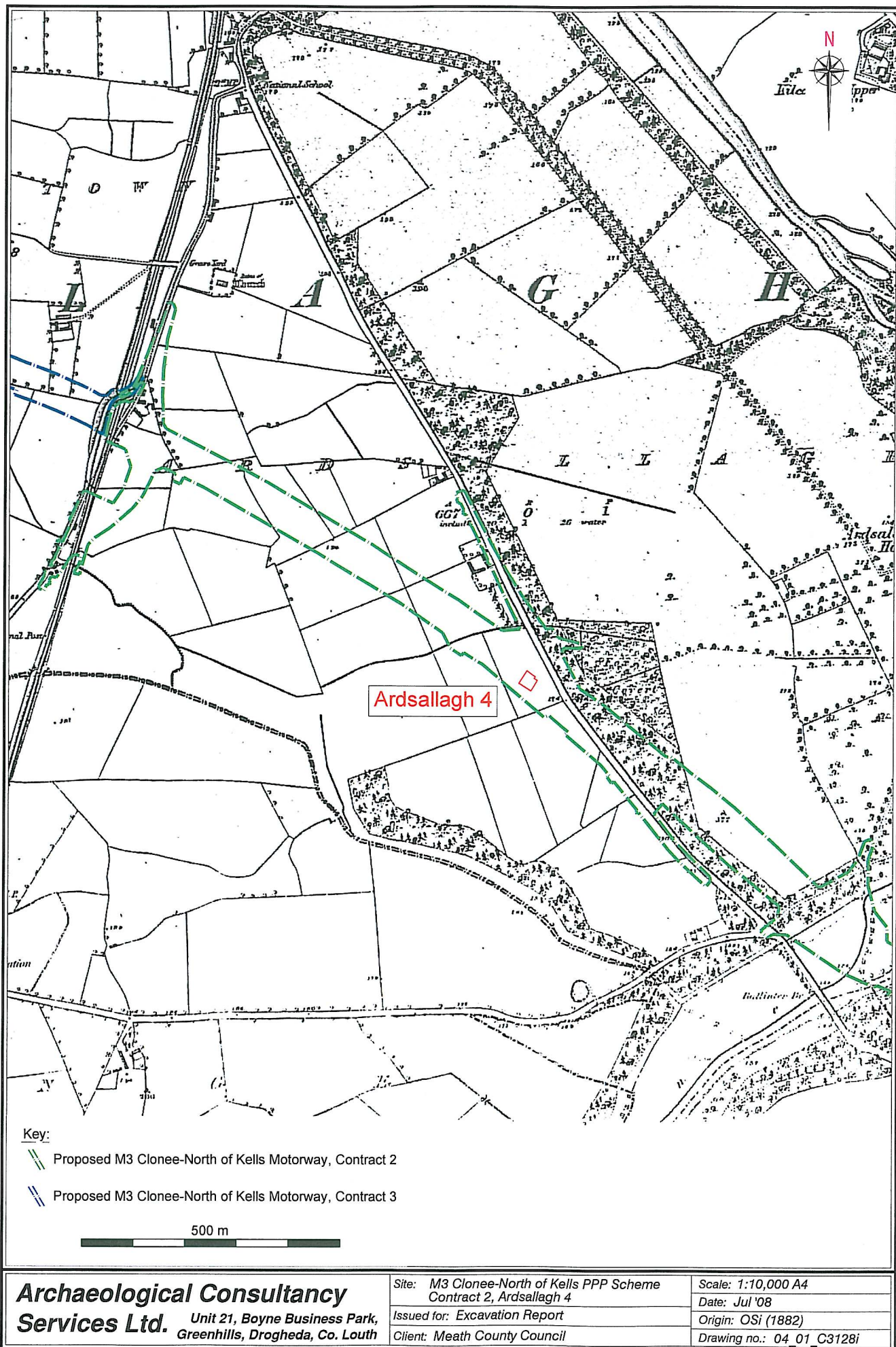
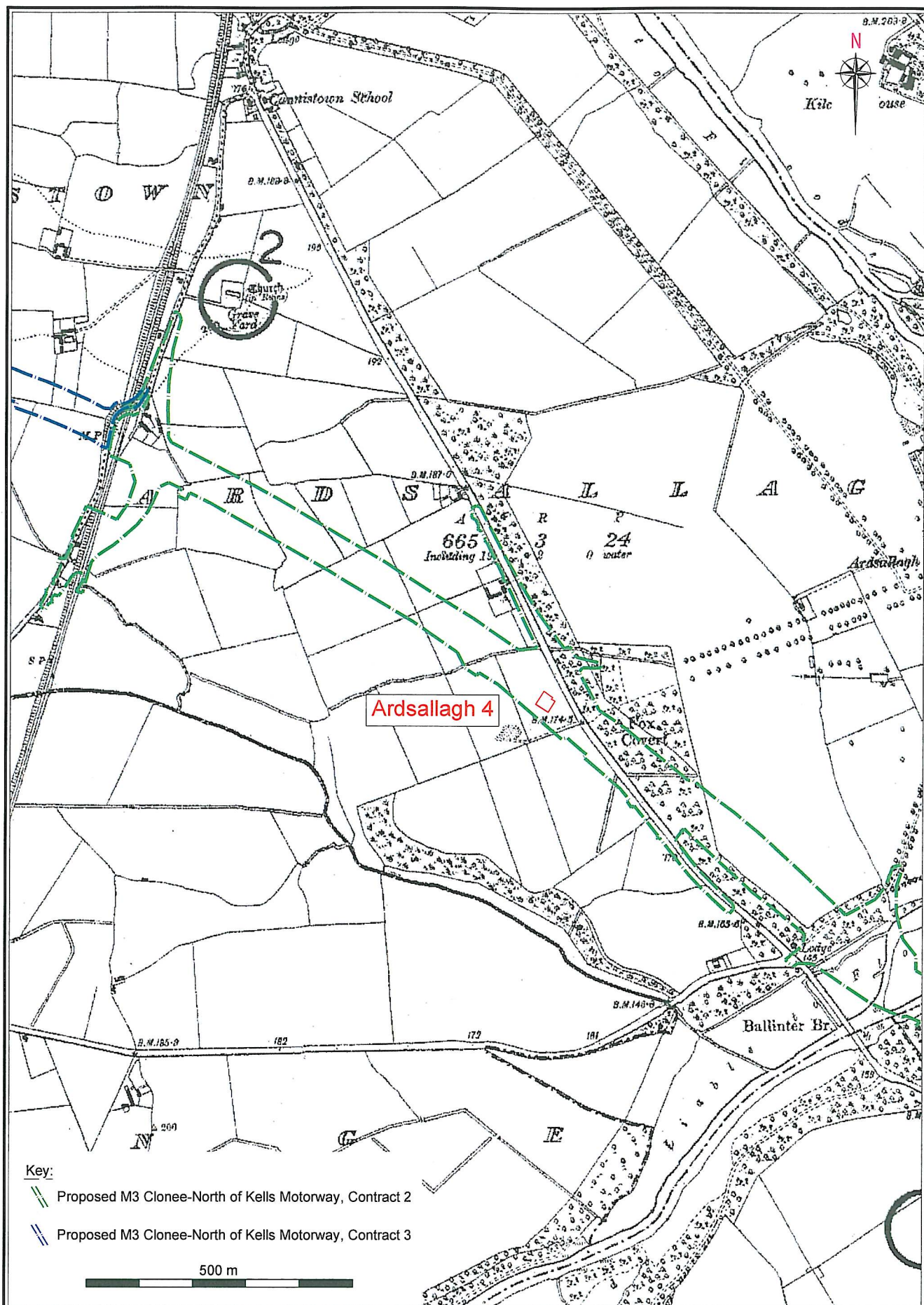


Figure 4: Ardsallagh 4, extract from 2nd edition OS map, Meath sheet 31

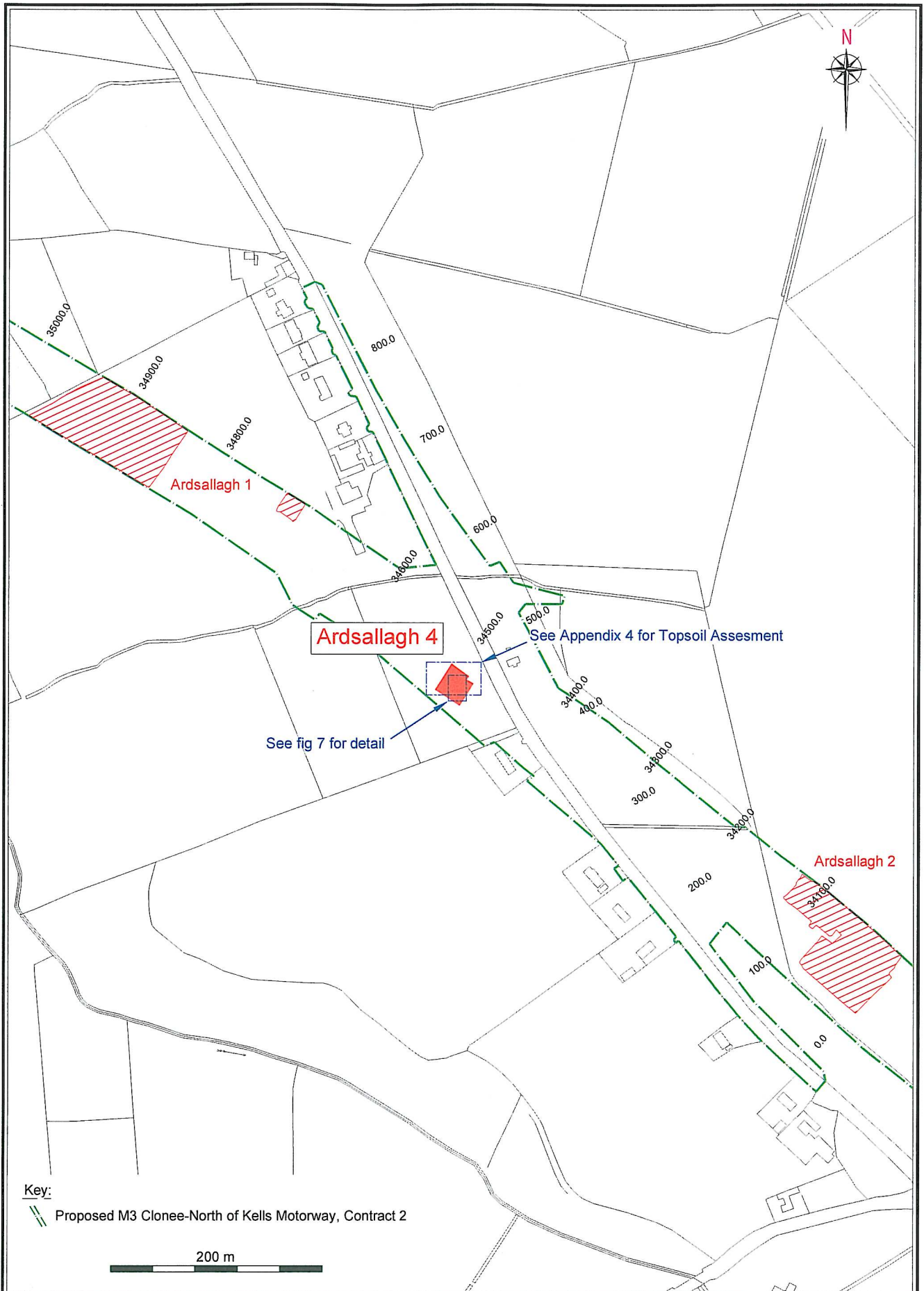


Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd. Unit 21, Boyne Business Park, Greenhills, Drogheda, Co. Louth

Site: M3 Clonee-North of Kells PPP Scheme
Contract 2, Ardsallagh 4
Issued for: Excavation Report
Client: Meath County Council

Scale: 1:10,000 A4
Date: Jul '08
Origin: OSI (1909)
Drawing no.: 04_01_C3129i

Figure 5: Ardsallagh 4, extract from 3rd edition OS map, Meath sheet 31

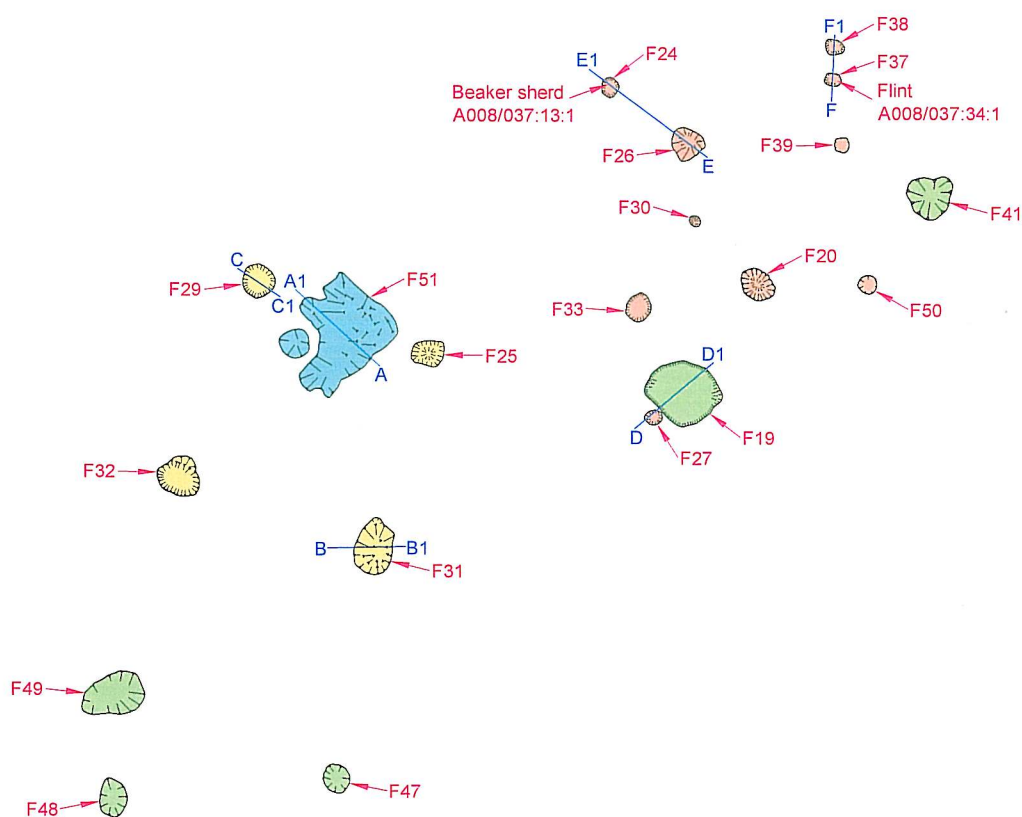


**Archaeological Consultancy
Services Ltd.** Unit 21, Boyne Business Park,
Greenhills, Drogheda, Co. Louth

Site: M3 Clonee-North of Kells PPP Scheme
Contract 2, Ardsallagh 4
Issued for: Excavation Report
Client: Meath County Council

Scale: 1:5,000 A4
Date: Jul '08
Origin: Client/ACS Ltd.
Drawing no.: 04_01_C3130i

Figure 6: Detailed location of Ardsallagh 4



Limit of excavation

5 m

Key:

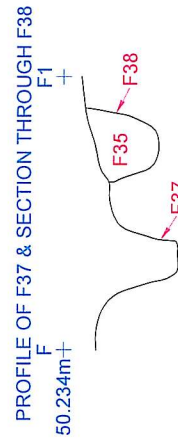
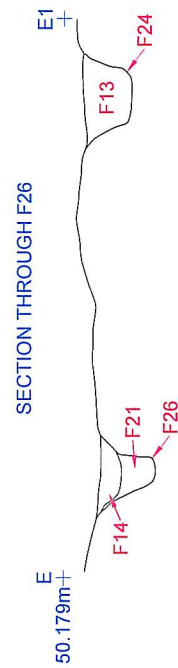
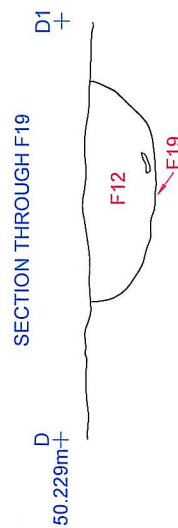
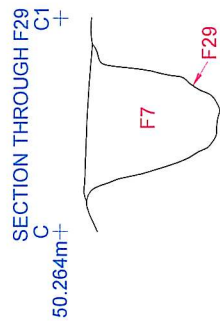
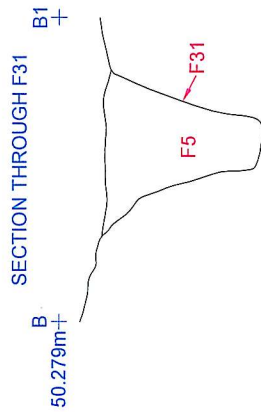
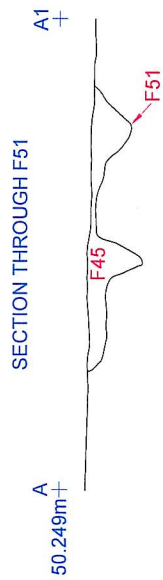
- Pits
- Postholes (large)
- Small postholes
- Hearth

**Archaeological Consultancy
Services Ltd.** Unit 21, Boyne Business Park,
Greenhills, Drogheda, Co. Louth

Site: M3 Clonee-North of Kells PPP Scheme
Contract 2, Ardsallagh 4
Issued For: Excavation Report
Client: Meath County Council

Scale: 1:100 A4
Date: Jul '08
Origin: Client/ACS Ltd.
Drawing no.: 04_01_C3131i

Figure 7: Post-excavation site plan



Key:  Stone



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 Unit 21, Boyne Business Park,
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| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Site: M3 Clonee-North of Kells PPP Scheme | Scale: 1:25 A4 |
| Contract 2, Ardsallagh 4 | Date: Jul '08 |
| Issued for: Excavation Report | Origin: ACS Ltd. |
| Client: Meath County Council | Drawing no.: 04_01_C3132i |

Figure 8: Sections of F51, F31, F29, F19, F24, and F37



Plate 1: Posthole F20 from the south (04_01_Ardsallagh 4_CP1009_13)



Plate 2: Posthole F24 from the north (04_01_Ardsallagh 4_CP1009_10)



Plate 3: Posthole F31 from the north (04_01_Ardsallagh 4_CP1009_4)



Plate 4: Irregular cut F51 from the north-east (04_01_Ardsallagh 4_CP1027_16)



Plate 5: Pit F49 from the south-east (04_01_Ardsallagh 4_CP1027_22)



Plate 6: Aerial view of site from the west (04_01_Ardsallagh 4_A031166_153)