

N9/N10 Kilcullen to Waterford Scheme:
Waterford to Sheepstown – Phase 2
Archaeological Resolution
Dunkitt to Knocktopher townlands, Co. Kilkenny

FINAL REPORT
Scheme Reference Number: A032/000
Excavation Registration Number: E3011
Site Name: AR039
Townland: Knockmoylan

Senior Archaeologist:	Maeve Grant
Site Director:	John Channing
Job No.:	1265-06-400
Client:	Kilkenny County Council
Date:	June 2008

Valerie J. Keeley Ltd.

SUMMARY

This report comprises the final results of the archaeological excavation of AR039 in the townland of Knockmoylan, Co. Kilkenny. The excavation was undertaken as part of the archaeological programme for the N9/N10 Kilcullen to Waterford Scheme: Waterford to Knocktopher section. The excavation was conducted by John Channing under Ministerial Direction for Valerie J Keeley Ltd, from 5 to 19 June 2006. Excavations uncovered a curvilinear trench, two post-holes, a pit and a possible hearth.

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	i
List of Figures	iii
List of Plates	iii
1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
2.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND	1
3.0 SITE DESCRIPTION	2
4.0 METHOD	2
5.0 RESULTS	3
6.0 DISCUSSION	3
7.0 CONCLUSION	3
8.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY	4
APPENDIX A: LIST OF CONTEXTS	5
APPENDIX B: LIST OF QUANTITIES	6
APPENDIX C: STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX	7

List of Figures

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Figure 1 | Location of AR039 on Discovery Location Map. |
| Figure 2 | Location of AR039 on OS mapping. |
| Figure 3 | Location of AR039 in relation to mainline chainage. |
| Figure 4 | AR039 features with section locations. |
| Figure 5 | Sections A-A1, B-B1 through fill [c8] of curvilinear trench [c3],
C-C1 through fill [c9] of post-hole [c4] and D-D1 through fill
[c10] of pit [c5]. |

List of Plates

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Plate 1 | Fill [c8] of curvilinear trench [c3]. Looking northeast. |
| Plate 2 | South facing section through fill [c8], of curvilinear trench [c3] |
| Plate 3 | Overview of post-hole [c6]. Looking northwest |
| Plate 4 | South-southwest facing section through fill [c10] of pit [c5] |
| Plate 5 | Overview of post-hole [c4] |
| Plate 6 | Section through deposit [c7] |

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Valerie J. Keeley Ltd. was appointed by Kilkenny County Council to excavate archaeological sites first identified during a programme of centreline testing (Margaret Gowen & Co Ltd 2006).

The scope of the archaeological measures was:

- To strip the topsoil from an area measuring approx 1250 m² along the road corridor and locate the previously identified archaeological features and any other archaeological features that may be present in this area.
- Photograph and plan any archaeological features or potential archaeological features.
- Excavate all archaeological features identified, record their contexts and sections; retaining samples where necessary, in order to resolve them by means of preservation by record.
- Reinstatement of excavated areas where required.

2.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The proposed excavation was carried out following the initial archaeological assessment by Valerie J Keeley Ltd (2005) and completion of the subsequent centreline testing (Margaret Gowan & Co Ltd 2006). The goal of this project was to preserve by record the archaeological site/s exposed within the take of the proposed route.

These works took place in accordance with the Directions issued by the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government under Section 14A(2) of the National Monuments Acts (1930-2004), in accordance with the terms of the Contract between Kilkenny County Council and Valerie J Keeley Ltd and according to the terms of the *Code of Practice* agreed between the National Roads Authority and the Minister of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands. The excavations also complied with the Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation (Govt of Ireland 1999) and were overseen by the Project Archaeologist.

The proposed development will involve the construction of one section of a new N9/N10 road between Kilcullen and Waterford.

3.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site, (A032/000, E3011), was located on flat ground some 700m West of Knockmoylan village in the townland of Knockmoylan, Co.Kilkenny (NGR Easting 254157, Northing 128705), *circa* 425m northwest of Knockmoylan Castle (RMP KK036-025).

Townland	County	Barony	Civil Parish	Poor Law Union
Knockmoylan	Kilkenny	Knocktopher	Kilkeasy	Thomastown

4.0 METHOD

Topsoil was removed from the site utilising a hydraulic excavator under the direction, supervision and monitoring of a qualified archaeologist. Once the topsoil had been removed, the entire site area was cleaned back to reveal the features identified during the previous testing (see above) and to try to identify any new features which may have been exposed.

Upon location all archaeological materials were cleaned and excavated by hand using methods appropriate to their composition, nature and date. All archaeological contexts were photographed and planned (in relation to the site grid) prior to excavation. Sections were excavated through all features to obtain profiles and to expose the stratigraphic sequences and then fully excavated. Features that proved to be of modern origin tended not to be fully excavated.

The composition, stratigraphic position and interpretation of all contexts were recorded on a context sheet prior to excavation. Contexts have been sampled for palaeobotanical material, radiocarbon dating, petrology and wood identification, where appropriate. All sections and cut features were photographed and drawn. The position of all finds and samples were recorded in three-dimensions (where practicable) in relation to the site-grid.

5.0 RESULTS

The topsoil [c1] consisted of mid-brown humic sandy clay. The subsoil [c2] consisted of light brown sandy clay.

This area contained a curvilinear trench [c3], (10m long, 0.75m wide and 0.13m deep). This feature had a single fill [c8] consisting of yellow/ brown silty sand with inclusions of silty sand and flecks of charcoal (see Figure 1 A-A1 and B-B1, Plates 1 and 2). This trench petered out towards the north and contained a terminus at the south where two post-holes and a pit were situated. These features were on the line of the arc of the trench [c3].

The first post-hole [c4] was circular in plan (Plate 5). The cut profile was tapered with a slightly rounded base. It measured 0.135m in diameter and was 0.43m deep. It was filled with firm, mid-brown sandy silt, stones and pebbles [c9] (see Figure 5, C-C1). The second post-hole, [c6], was sub-circular in plan, with vertical sides and a flat base (Plate 3). It measured 0.165m in diameter and 0.34m deep. It was filled with loose, mid-brown, sandy silt, stones and pebbles [c11]. A shallow pit [c5] was located between these two post-holes. It was sub-circular in plan and contained possible packing stones. It measured 0.35m by 0.30m and was 0.10m deep. It was filled with loose grey/ brown clayey sand and small pebbles [c10] (see Figure 5 D-D1, Plate 4). The scant remains of a hearth [c7] was located to the west of the trench [c3]. It consisted of a deposit of loose mid-grey black sandy silt containing approximately 15% charcoal (Plate 6).

6.0 DISCUSSION

On excavation, these features produced no dateable material or finds and may be modern in origin. They were most likely analogous to features uncovered during pre-excavation testing.

7.0 CONCLUSION

The pre-excavation testing in this area uncovered a ditch and two patches of burnt clay. The assessment report, (Margaret Gowen & Co Ltd, 2006), suggested that they were relics of a field

boundary associated with the present boundary. If this is correct, these features could be relatively modern as the present field boundary located at the northwest end of this site does not appear on the 1836 6" map.

8.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Magaret Gowan & Co Ltd 2006. *Archaeological Assessment Report – N9/N10 Kilcullen to Waterford Scheme, Contract 1: Dunkitt to Knockmoylan Townlands, Co. Kilkenny*. Pages 36 - 37.

Ordnance Survey of Ireland. 2003 *Discovery Series, 2nd Edition*, 1:50,000.

Ordnance Survey of Ireland. 1836 *6" Sheet 36*.

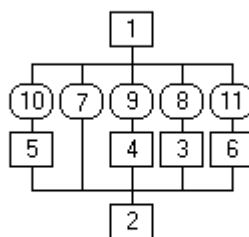
APPENDIX A: LIST OF CONTEXTS

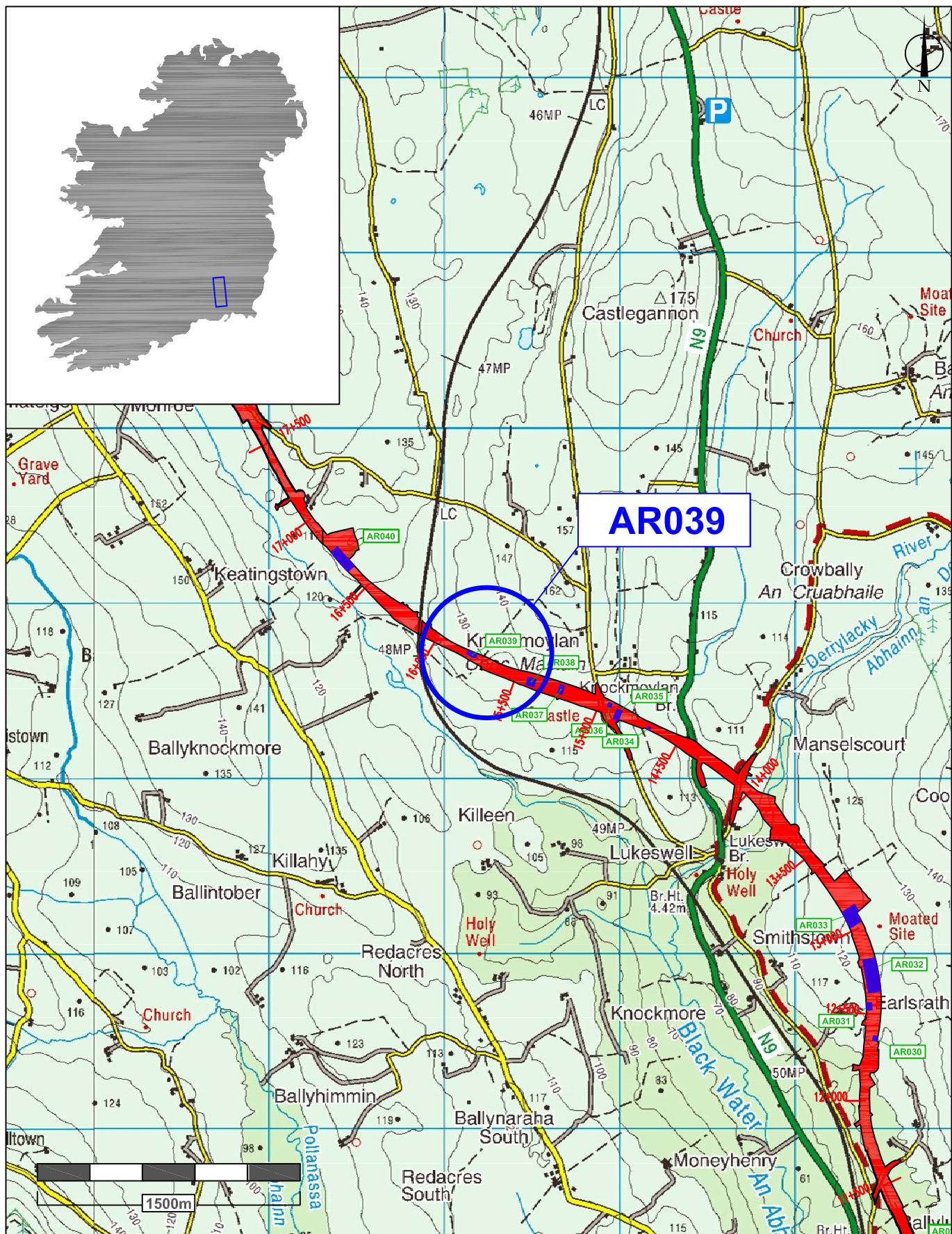
C #	Type	Interpretation	Description	Dimensions
1	Deposit	Topsoil	Mid-brown sandy clay	
2	Deposit	Natural	Light brown sandy clay	
3	Cut		Curvilinear trench with concave profile	L=10.00m W=0.75m D=0.13m
4	Cut	Post-hole	Circular with tapered cut and slightly rounded base	Diameter=0.135m D=0.43m
5	Cut	Pit	Sub-circular in plan	L=0.35m W=0.30m D=0.10m
6	Cut	Post-hole	Sub-circular in plan with vertical sides and flat base	Diameter=0.165 D=0.34m
7	Cut	Deposit	Mid-grey black sandy silt with 15% charcoal	L=0.30m W=0.20m D=0.10m
8	Fill	Fill of trench [c3]	Yellow brown silty sand ,flecks of charcoal, small stones and pebbles	L=10.00m W=0.75m D=0.13m
9	Fill	Fill of post-hole [c4]	Mid-brown sandy silt, small stones with pebbles	Diameter=0.135m D=0.43m
10	Fill	Fill of post-hole [c5]	Light-grey brown clayey sand with pebbles	L=0.35m W=0.30m D=0.10m
11	Fill	Fill of post-hole [c6]	Mid-brown sandy silt with small stones and pebbles	Diameter=0.165 D=0.34m

APPENDIX B: LIST OF QUANTITIES

Context Sheets	Drawings	Samples	Finds	Photos	Registers	Notebooks
11	2	0	0	21	0	0

APPENDIX C: STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX





Title

Fig. 1 Location of AR039 on Discovery series mapping.

Notes

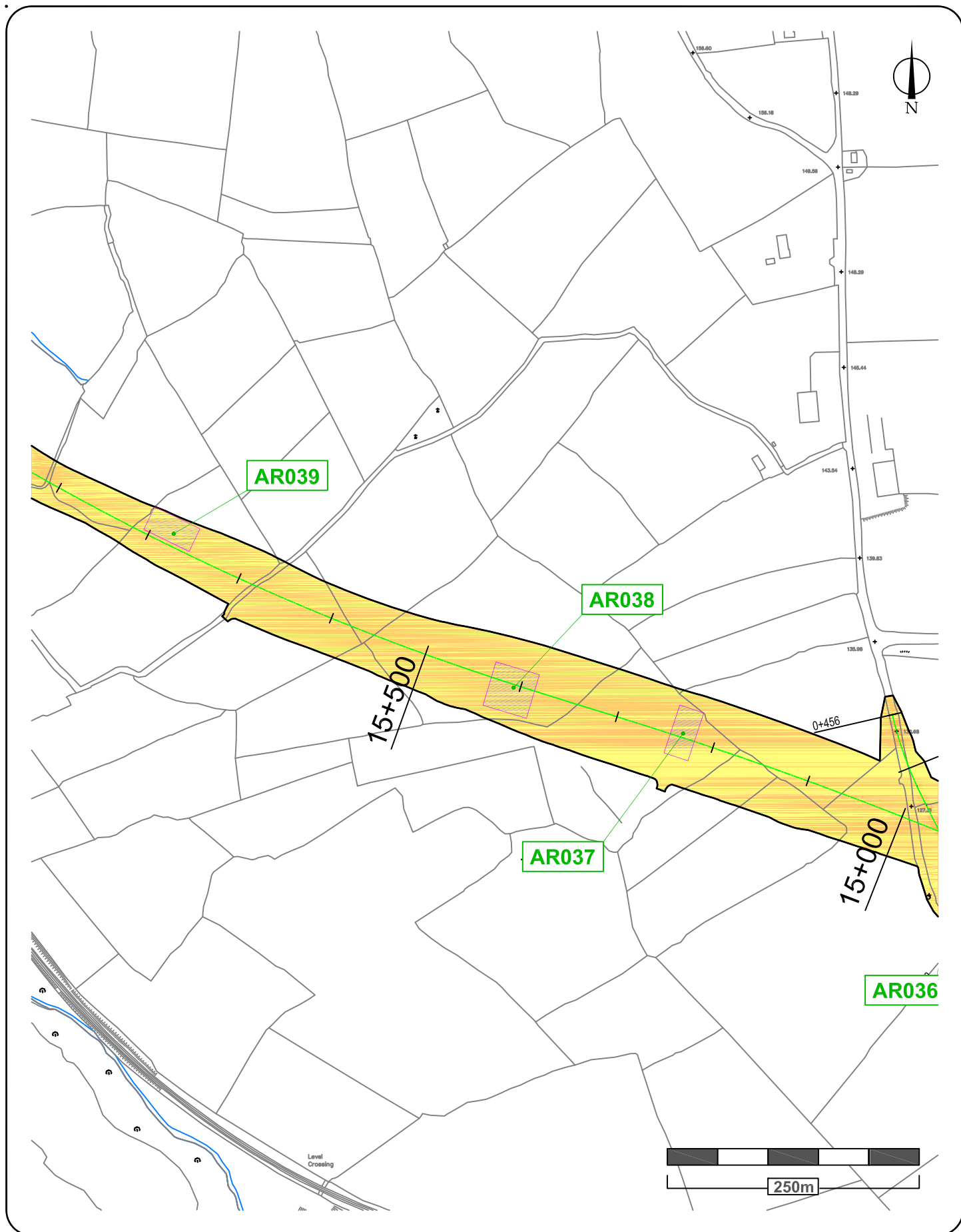



Brehon House
Kilkenny Road
Castlecomer
Co. Kilkenny.

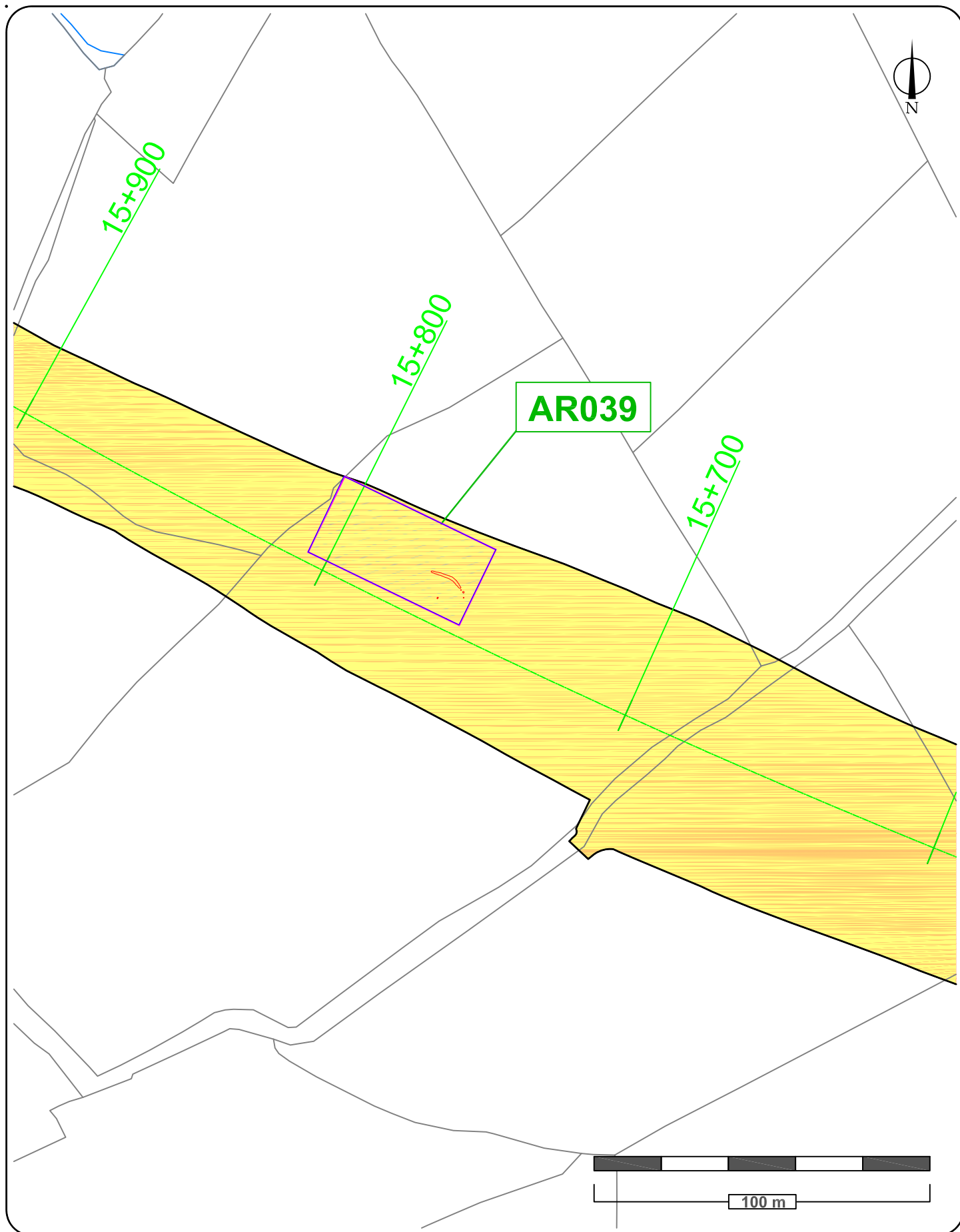
Tel: (+353) 056 4440236
Fax: (+353) 056 4440237
Email: vjk@vjk.ie
Website: www.vjk.ie


Client
Kilkenny County Council

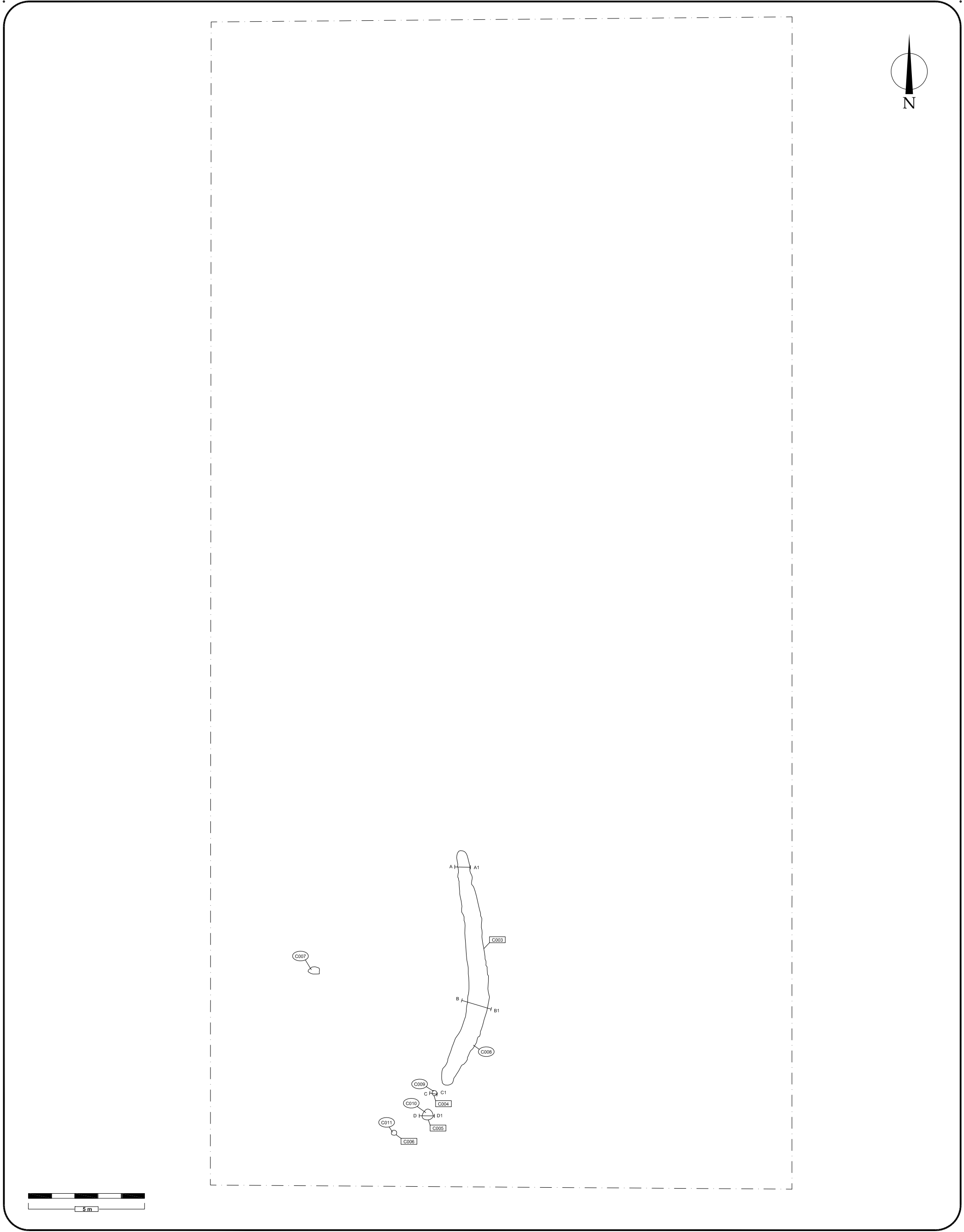
Works No. A032/023 E3011	Drawn by BOF	CAD reference 1265-06-400/TERA3	Date Mar 2007	Scale 1:30000	Drawing No. Fig. 1	Project N9 / N10 Dunkitt to Sheepstown Resolution Contract
---------------------------------------	------------------------	---	-------------------------	-------------------------	------------------------------	--

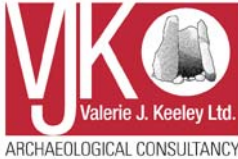


Title Fig. 2 Location of AR039 on OS mapping.			Notes <div><div></div>Site Extents</div>			<div><div></div><div><div>Brehon House Kilkenny Road Castlecomer Co. Kilkenny.</div><div>Tel: (+353) 056 4440236 Fax: (+353) 056 4440237 Email: vjk@vjk.ie Website: www.vjk.ie</div></div></div>		
						Client Kilkenny County Council		
Works No. A032/023 E3011	Drawn by BOF	CAD reference 1265-06-400/TERA3	Date Mar 2007	Scale 1:5000	Drawing No. Fig. 2	Project N9 / N10 Dunkitt to Sheepstown Resolution Contract		

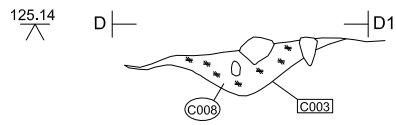


Title Fig. 3 Location of AR039 in relation to mainline chainage.			Notes <div><div></div>Site Extents</div>			<div><div><div>Valerie J. Keeley Ltd. ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY</div></div><div>Client Kilkenny County Council</div></div> <div><div>Brehon House Kilkenny Road Castletomer Co. Kilkenny.</div><div>Tel: (+353) 056 4440236 Fax: (+353) 056 4440237 Email: vjk@vjk.ie Website: www.vjk.ie</div></div>		
Works No. A032/023 E3011	Drawn by BOF	CAD reference 1265-06-400/TERA3	Date Mar 2007	Scale 1:2000	Drawing No. Fig. 3	Project N9 / N10 Dunkitt to Sheepstown Resolution Contract		

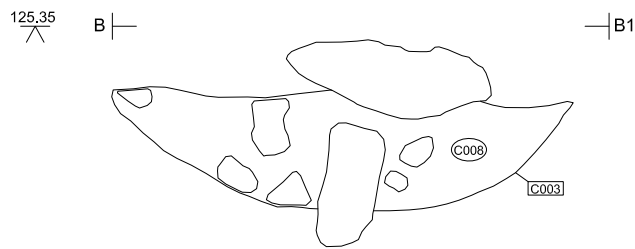


Title Fig. 4 Post - excavation plan of AR039.			Notes			 <div>Brehon House Kilkenny Road Castlecomer Co. Kilkenny.</div> <div>Tel: (+353) 056 4440236 Fax: (+353) 056 4440237 Email: vjk@vjk.ie Website: www.vjk.ie</div>
Client Kilkenny County Council						
Works No. AR032/023 E3011	Drawn by BOF	CAD reference 1265-06-400/TERA3	Date Mar 07	Scale 1:150	Drawing No. Fig. 4	Project N9 / N10 Dunkitt to Sheepstown Resolution Contract

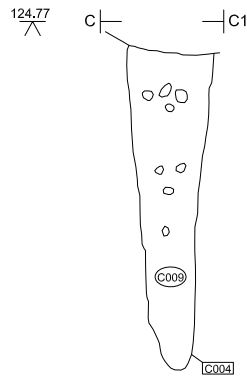
North Facing Section



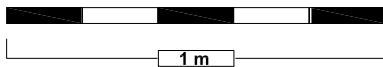
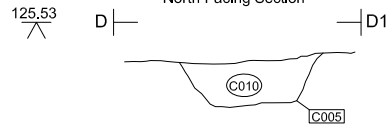
Northeast Facing Section



Northeast Facing Section



North Facing Section



Title
Fig. 5 Section drawings AR039.

Notes



Brehon House
Kilkenny Road
Castlecomer
Co. Kilkenny.
Tel: (+353) 056 4440236
Fax: (+353) 056 4440237
Email: vjk@vjk.ie
Website: www.vjk.ie

Client
Kilkenny County Council

Works No.
A032/023
E3011

Drawn by
BOF

CAD reference
1265-06-400/TERA3

Date
JAN 07

Scale
1:10

Drawing No.
Fig. 5

Project
N9 / N10 Dunkitt to Sheepstown Resolution Contract



Plate 1: E3011. 03. Fill [c8] of curvilinear trench [c3]. Looking northeast



Plate 2: E3011. 015. South-facing section through fill [c8] of trench [c3].



Plate 3: E3011. 06. Overview of post-hole [c6].



Plate 4: E3011. 07. South-southwest facing section through fill [c10] of pit [c5].



Plate 5: E3011. 08. Overview of post-hole [c4].



Plate 6: E3011. 017. Section through deposit [c7]