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Department of Transport
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An tÚdaráis um Boithre Náisiúnta



Date: July 2009

Client: Kildare County Council

Project code: KWK05

**N9/N10 Kilcullen to Waterford Scheme: Kilcullen to Powerstown.
Archaeological Services Contract No. 4 - Resolution, Prumplestown to
Powerstown. Final Report on archaeological investigations at Site
E2623, in the townland of Cloghrick, Co. Carlow**

By: T.J. O' Connell

National Monuments Section Registration Number: E2623

Director: Linda Hegarty

NGR: 270883/169347

Report Status: Approved



CARLOW
COUNTY COUNCIL
COMHAILLE CHONTAE CHEATHARLOCHA



HEADLAND
ARCHAEOLOGY Ltd



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1 Executive summary

This report presents the results of archaeological investigations carried out on behalf of Kildare County Council and the National Roads Authority as part of Archaeological Services Contract No. 4 - Resolution, Prumplestown to Powerstown, prior to the commencement of construction on this section of the N9/N10 Kilcullen to Waterford Scheme: Kilcullen to Powerstown. The work was undertaken under National Monuments Section Registration Number E2623, in the townland of Cloghrick, Co. Carlow. The Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, following consultation with the National Museum of Ireland, directed that Linda Hegarty of Headland Archaeology Ltd should proceed with archaeological resolution.

Archaeological testing carried out under Archaeological Services Contract, Test Excavations Contract 3, Prumplestown to Powerstown under Ministerial Direction Number A021/065 identified a small number of possible post-holes. No finds of diagnostic dating evidence was recovered from these features. A copper-alloy disc with traces of plating and an off centre perforation (A021/065:4001:035), possibly a button, was recovered from topsoil during the testing phase.

Full archaeological resolution was conducted on this site on 3 - 4 April 2006. Nothing of archaeological significance was identified on this site.

2 Introduction

The N9/N10 Kilcullen to Waterford Road Scheme, of which the Kilcullen to Powerstown Scheme forms part, was proposed as a High Quality Dual Carriageway/Motorway, forming the Major Inter Urban route between Dublin and Waterford. The Kilcullen to Powerstown Scheme was advanced as a single entity up to the Compulsory Purchase Order/Environmental Impact Statement and was subsequently divided into two separate construction contracts: the Carlow By-pass (Phase 1) and the Kilcullen to Carlow Scheme (Phase 3). Kildare County Council, National Roads Design Office, has responsibility for overseeing the project management of these two schemes. The entire road scheme from Kilcullen to Waterford has now been designated as Motorway.

An Environmental Impact Assessment was published in 2003 for the Kilcullen to Powerstown Scheme, with Valerie J Keeley Ltd preparing the Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage Assessment. This formed Chapter 10 of the EIS produced by the Roughan and O'Donovan - Faber Maunsell Alliance. Geophysical prospection was carried out on certain areas of high archaeological potential by Bartlett-Clark Consultancy as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment, on behalf of Valerie J. Keeley Ltd/Kildare County Council.

Construction commenced on Phase 1, the Carlow By-pass, in January 2006 and the road was completed and opened in May 2008. Construction of Phase 3, the Kilcullen to Carlow Scheme, which also includes a new single carriage link road to Athy town, commenced in January 2008.

Archaeological test-trenching was undertaken in advance of Phase 1, the Carlow By-pass, by Headland Archaeology Ltd between June and August 2005 (Archaeological Services Contract 3). This work identified 64 archaeological sites, which required archaeological excavation in advance of road construction. The resolution works for these sites were undertaken by Headland Archaeology Ltd between January and August 2006 (Archaeological Services Contract 4). This report details the results of one of those excavations.

Archaeological test-trenching was undertaken in advance of the construction of Phase 3, the Kilcullen to Carlow Scheme, by IAC Ltd and CRDS Ltd, between October to November 2005 and May to August 2006 (Archaeological Services Contracts 1 and 2, respectively). This work resulted in the identification of 102 archaeological sites, which required resolution in advance of construction. The resolution works for these sites were undertaken by Headland Archaeology Ltd between March and December 2007 (Archaeological Services Contracts 5 and 6).

The project was funded by the Irish Government and the European Union through Kildare County Council/National Roads Authority, under the National Development Plan 2000-2006 and 2007-2013.

Construction Phases 2 and 4 relate to the section of road between Powerstown, Co. Carlow and the Waterford city By-pass and are project managed by Waterford County Council, National Roads Design Office.

3 Site description and location

Site E2623 was located approximately 6 km south of Carlow town, in the townland of Cloghrystick and the parish of Cloydagh, Co. Carlow. The site was accessed by a private farm entrance off the N9 Carlow to Kilkenny road National Grid Reference: 270883/169347 (Figures 1-2). The site was situated in a large recently harvested wheat field, which gently sloped from west to east. Located towards the south was the Powerstown landfill site.

4 Aims and methodology

The objective of the work was the preservation by record of any archaeological features or deposits impacted on by the proposed road construction.

Topsoil stripping of the site was conducted using a 360° tracked machine fitted with a 1.9 m wide ditching (toothless) bucket under archaeological supervision. A total area of 130 m² was exposed. The resulting surface was cleaned and all potential features investigated by hand. Archaeological contexts were recorded on *pro forma* record sheets. Registers are provided in the Appendices. The crew on this site consisted of 1 Director.

5 Excavation results and Discussion

When the topsoil was stripped, the exposed natural was orange brown silty clay with pockets of gravel. A number of red brown silty clay zones were identified throughout the natural. One possible feature located 10.8 m from the northeast edge and 5.35 m from the southeast edge of the site was excavated and deemed to be a root bole. It was irregular in plan measuring 1.1 m northeast/southwest, 0.78 m southeast/northwest and 0.29 m deep with gradually sloping sides to the south and east and more sharply sloping sides to the north and west.

The natural varied in composition on this site and was disturbed by root action. The potential postholes identified in testing were non archaeological and were likely to be accounted for by the variation in composition of the natural. Due to the sterile nature of this site and the lack of diagnostic features the site has been interpreted as being of no archaeological significance. The copper alloy object recovered from topsoil during the testing has been interpreted as a post-medieval stray find. It

was disc shaped with traces of tin plating and an off centre perforation which has led to the suggestion it possibly functioned as a button and dates to no earlier than mid-- late 18th century. Further analysis was not required as this would not provide any additional information (pers. comm. Alison Kyle, 2009). It is currently housed in the offices of Headland Archaeology Ltd and will be sent to the National Museum of Ireland for permanent storage.

6 Archive

The site archive is comprised of the following materials:

Item	Quantity
Context Sheets	4
Plans	0
Sections	0
Photographs	0
Registers	2
Notebooks	0

The archive material is contained within 1 box.

Storage of the archive in a suitable format and location is required in order to provide for any future archaeological research. It is proposed that in addition to the paper archive a digital copy is prepared. The archive is currently stored in the offices of Headland Archaeology, Unit 1, Wallingstown Business Park, Little Island, Cork. It is proposed that following completion of post-excavation the archive is deposited with Kildare County Council.

Reference

Hackett, H. and Hughes, J. 1995 *N9/N10 Kilcullen to Waterford Scheme: Kilcullen to Powerstown (A021/004) Archaeological Services Contract, Test-Excavations. Contract 3, Prumplestown to Powerstown Testing Report: Area 4 Ballybar Lower to Powerstown Townlands*. Unpublished testing report, Headland Archaeology Ltd., Cork.

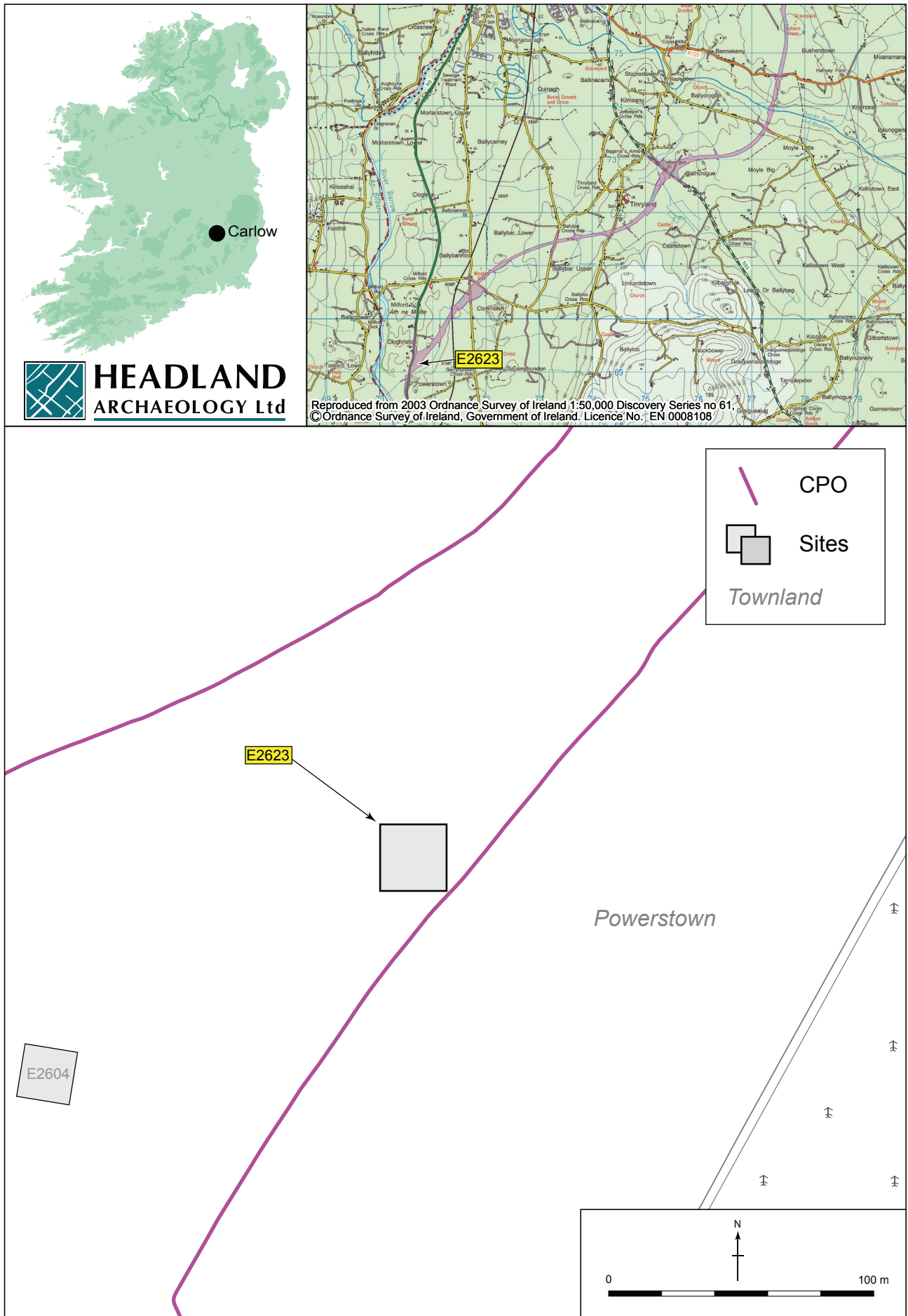


Figure 1 - N9/N10 Kilcullen to Waterford Scheme: Kilcullen to Powerstown.
 Archaeological Services Contract No. 4 - Resolution, Prumplestown to Powerstown:
 E2623, Site Location.

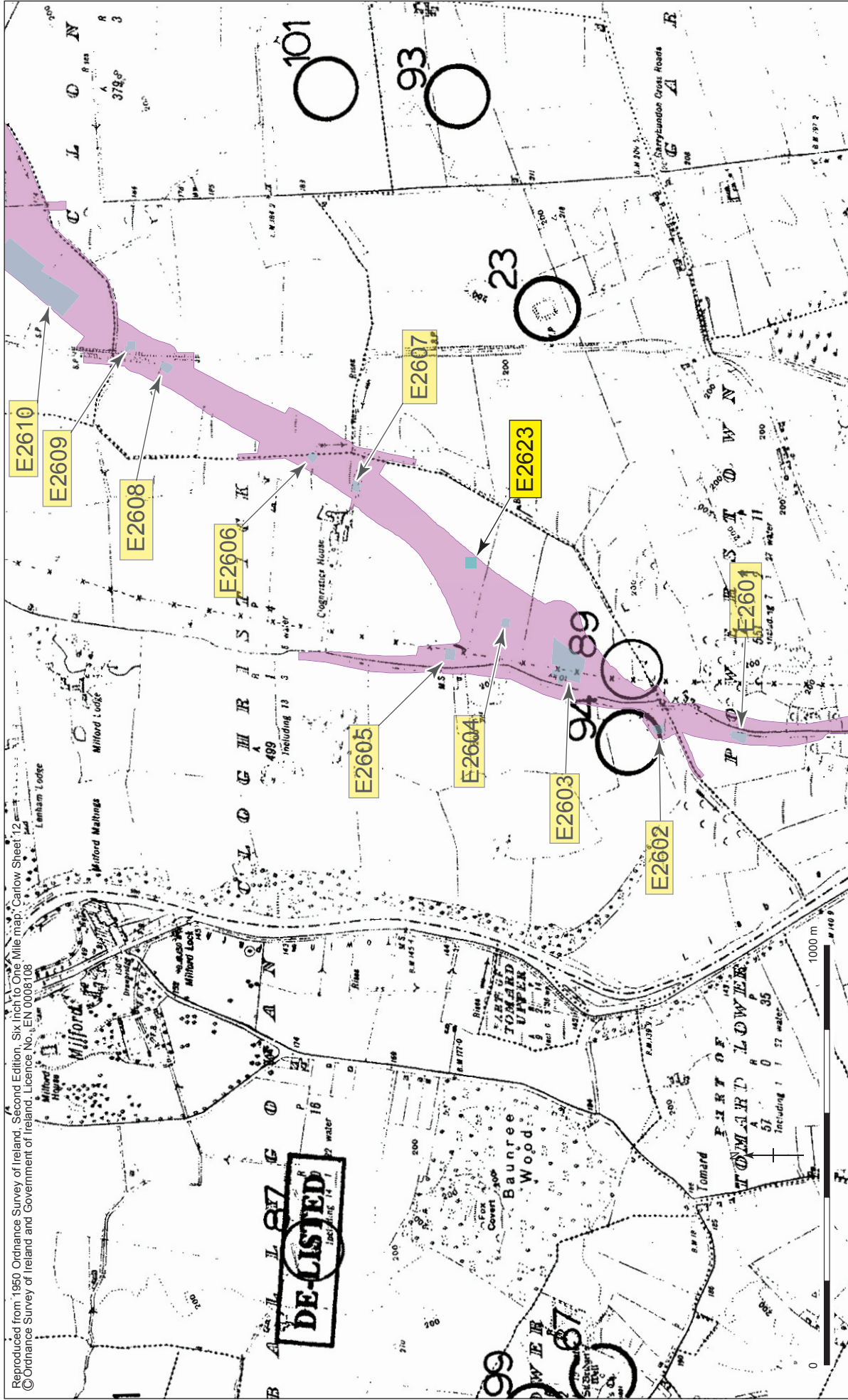


Figure 2 - N9/N10 Kilcullen to Waterford Scheme: Kilcullen to Powerstown.
 Archaeological Services Contract No. 4 - Resolution, Prumplestown to Powerstown:
 E2623, extract from RMP, showing site location.

Appendix 1: Context Register for Site E2623

Context no.	Type	Fill of:	Filled by:	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Description	Interpretation
001	Deposit	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.3	Mid-brown silty clay	Topsoil
002	Deposit	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Orange brown silty clay with gravel deposits gravel	Subsoil
003	Fill	4	n/a	1.1	0.78	0.29	Red brown silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal and occasional medium sub-angular stones towards the base of the feature	Fill of root bole
004	Cut	n/a	3	1.1	0.78	0.29	Irregular in plan with gradually sloping sides to the south and east and more sharply sloping sides to the north and west.	Cut of root bole

Appendix 2: Testing Finds Register for Site E2623

Find No.	Material	Description
A021/065:4001:035	Copper Alloy	Disc with traces of tin plating and off centre perforation, possible button dated to no earlier than mid— late 18 th century

Appendix 3: Site Matrix for Site E2623

