

## **M3 Clonee-North of Kells Contract 5 Kells to North of Kells**

**Report on the Archaeological Excavation  
of  
Castlekeeran 2, Co. Meath**

**Ministerial Directions No.  
A030/015  
E3177**

**Stuart Reilly and Vicky Ginn  
July 2008**

*Final*



## PROJECT DETAILS

<b>Project</b>	M3 Clonee–Kells Motorway
<b>Site Name</b>	Castlekeeran 2
<b>Ministerial Direction Number</b>	A030/015
<b>Registration Number</b>	E3177
<b>Senior Archaeological Consultant</b>	Donald Murphy
<b>Site Director</b>	Stuart Reilly
<b>Excavated</b>	10–14 April 2007
<b>Client</b>	Meath County Council, National Roads Design Office, Navan Enterprise Centre, Navan, County Meath
<b>Townland</b>	Castlekeeran
<b>Parish</b>	Castlekeeran
<b>County</b>	Meath
<b>National Grid Reference</b>	268690 276832
<b>Chainage</b>	85400
<b>OD</b>	75.69m
<b>Report Type</b>	Final
<b>Report Status</b>	Submitted
<b>Date of Report</b>	July 2008
<b>Report by</b>	Stuart Reilly and Vicky Ginn

## **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 Direction Number issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DOEHLG) in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland (NMI).

### **Consulting Engineers - N3 Meath Consult**

Engineer – Peter Thorne and Thomas Meagher

Resident Engineer – Conor Wilkinson

### **Meath County Council, National Roads Design Office**

Senior Engineer – John McGrath

Project Archaeologist – Mary Deevy

Project Liaison Officer – Ambrose Clarke

### **National Monuments, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government**

Archaeologist – Martin Reid

### **Irish Antiquities Division, National Museum of Ireland**

Keeper – Nessa O'Connor

### **NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

This site at Castlekeeran 2 was excavated by Gahan and Long for 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 10 and 14 April 2007 under Ministerial Direction Number A030/015 issued by DOEHLG in consultation with the NMI. A possible cremation pit was identified alongside a further ten pits, a ditch and spreads of charcoal-rich hillwash. The area had been disturbed by quarrying which had occurred previously.



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Plate 6: Post-excavation of the site, looking west

Plate 7: Post-excavation of the site, looking southwest

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The site at Castlekeeran 2 (Figures 1–6; Plates 6–7) was identified during advance testing carried out by Gill McLoughlin on behalf of Irish Archaeological Consultancy during August 2005 (04E1056) when two pits were identified, one of which contained burnt bone and was interpreted as a possible cremation pit (0.40m diameter x 0.50m depth) (McLoughlin 2005). This pit was located approximately 15m northeast of the location of a reputed Bronze Age burial, which had been discovered during gravel extraction in the area in the 19th century (McLoughlin 2005). The geophysical survey of the area revealed a possible enclosure site but no trace of this was discovered during either testing or excavation of the site. Full resolution of the site occurred between 10 and 14 April 2007 and the possible cremation pit was relocated along with a further seven pits and various spreads of charcoal-rich hillwash and upcast material from quarrying.

### *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 5) will commence at the N52 Mullingar Road situated to the southwest of Kells in the townland of Calliaghstown (NGR 272828 274647) and runs to the northwest, crosses the River Blackwater at Balgree and terminates in the townland of Derver at the existing border between counties Meath and Cavan (NGR 266012 280943).

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

Excavation occurred between 10 and 14 April 2007 under Ministerial Direction Number A030/015 issued to Meath County Council NRDO. The work was carried out by Stuart Reilly of Gahan and Long Ltd on behalf of ACS. The topsoil (F65: 0.20m depth) was stripped by machine equipped with a grading bucket. A mid-brown sand comprised the subsoil (F66).

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

Fifty eight contexts of archaeological interest were identified within the excavation area (Figures 7-8). Only the principal archaeological features of Castlekeeran 2 will be discussed within this report; full details of all these, and further, contexts are located in Appendix 1. All of the features that were investigated were concentrated in the western half of the excavation area.

#### *Ditch*

The ditch F16 emerged from the southern limit of the excavation and extended 7m northeast-southwest then altered its orientation to east-west before terminating within 3.50m. It had a maximum width of 1.60m and depth of 0.52m. The ditch contained four fills (F11, F19–20, and F29) of which the main fill (F19) consisted of a dark-grey, silty sand with occasional charcoal flecking and small stones. It produced two pieces of slag and represents the natural silting up of F16.

#### *Pits*

Eleven pits were uncovered on site (Figure 7). F15, the ‘cremation pit’ (0.23m in diameter x 0.07m in depth) was filled by a mid brownish grey sand (F14) with very occasional flecks of charcoal but no cremated bone (this feature had been investigated during monitoring). F23 (0.96m in diameter x 0.16m in depth; Plate 1) had four fills (F6, F24, F25, and F31) all of which were either an orange or mid-brown, silty clay. Charcoal flecks and charred grain were derived from F24 and 5g of charcoal flecks and more charred grain were identified in the

basal fill (F31) (Appendix 3). F26 (2.35m x 0.85m x 0.13m), had a single fill (F69) that was mid-brown, silty sandy gravel upcast material from quarrying. This sort of material occurred frequently throughout the area of excavation. F27 (0.8m x 0.3m x 0.2m) was a heavily truncated pit found at the base of ditch F16 and was filled by a mid-greyish-brown, silty sand with 2g of cremated bone (F28). F32 (2.2m x 1.1m x 0.15m; Plate 2) contained a single sterile fill (F67). F33 (1.7m x 0.65m x 0.2m) was a modern feature as it had been cut into upcast quarry material, a by-product of 19th-century quarrying. F36 (0.45m x 0.25m x 0.15m) was located at the base of F32 and filled by a dark-brown, silty sand (F37) that included 7g of charcoal. F44 (1.4m x 1.2m x 0.36m; Plate 3) contained one sterile fill (F49), had cut through hillwash (F30) and was sealed beneath upcast material (F9). F45 (3m x 1.35m x 0.45m) had three fills (F8, F46, F47) and was a modern cut, as indicated by lumps of mortar and tin glazed earthenware that were extracted from the primary fill (F46). F60 (2.2m x 1.2m x 0.24m) was also a modern feature, as the fill of the pit (F50) produced sherds of earthenware. The upper half of pit F63 (1m x 0.75m x 0.28m) had been cut by the ditch F16 (Plate 4). The pit had been deliberately backfilled by a light-brown sand (F51) mixed with the occasional small stone.

#### *Mettled Surface*

A mettled surface (F64) that covered an area 2.4m by 1m, and consisted of a single layer of rounded and sub-rounded stones (depth of 0.06m), was uncovered beneath a spread (F40) of charcoal-rich, dark-brown, clayey silt and set within an area of hillwash (F30) (Plate 5). It was located immediately northwest of F16.

#### *Quarrying*

As noted above, the excavation site and the immediate area had been used for gravel extraction during the 19th century. This was most evident with F4, F6, F9, and F10, as they were all a mid-brown, silty sand, some of which produced black-glazed earthenware (F4) while others (F6 and F9) had clearly been used to backfill a former quarry pit. Excavation of, for example F6, revealed how the slope of the underlying natural merged with the outline of a hollow located in the adjacent field, beyond the northwest limit of the site.

### **2.2 Finds**

The majority of finds comprised of black-glazed or tin-glazed earthenware, that were retrieved from upcast quarrying material (F4) or pits (F45), that would be associated with the gravel extraction. Two pieces of slag were recovered from F19 of the ditch (F16). In addition, quite large concentrations of cremated bone, including 353g (Appendix 3) from F61, burnt



clay and flecks of charcoal were found but these were taken from insecure contexts such as F68, F54 and F61 that were scattered among or located above upcast quarry material.

### **3 DISCUSSION**

#### ***3.1 Form and function***

As indicated by the archaeological assessment report from 2005, there was Bronze Age activity close to the area of excavation, in the form of a reputed discovery of a Bronze Age burial in an area outside the CPO limits during the 19th century (McLoughlin 2005). Evidence for burials of this date within the area of excavation was limited to the possible cremation burial uncovered during advance testing and concentrations of cremated bone among the upcast material. While there were slight indications of additional burials at Castlekeeran 2, they had been extensively disturbed, or destroyed by later gravel extraction, as shown by the excavation of F68, F6, F52–F54 and F61, in particular, which did contain disturbed cremated bone. It is likely that the area once represented a Bronze Age cremation cemetery.

The site was dominated by the extensive destruction caused by 19th-century gravel extraction.

#### ***3.2 Date and sequence***

The earliest activity on site would appear to have been the possible cremation burial uncovered during advance testing and the metalled surface (F64) that was uncovered beneath F10, a spread associated with quarrying. Also the recovery of cremated bone, burnt clay and flecks of charcoal suggest limited prehistoric, possibly Bronze Age, activity being present within the limits of the excavation. The concentrations of significant amounts of bone would indicate a possible Early Bronze Age date for the cremations; however, the disturbance caused by later activity has rendered any radiocarbon dating analysis unfeasible.

The majority of the features and spreads investigated though would be associated with 19th-century gravel extraction and later activity, which almost completely obliterated any evidence of earlier occupation.

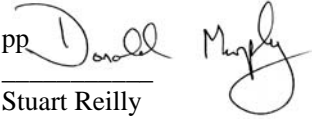

### **4 CONCLUSIONS**

Castlekeeran 2, A030/015, excavated (10–14 April 2007) by Stuart Reilly of Gahan and Long for ACS as part of the M3 Clonee–North of Kells Motorway Scheme on behalf of Meath County Council NRDO and the NRA, represented 19th-century gravel extraction, with a slight indication of earlier, possibly prehistoric activity being present.

## 5 REFERENCES

McLoughlin, G 2005 *Report on Archaeological Assessment at Testing Area 5, Castlekeeran, Co. Meath, Licence Number: 04E1056*. Unpublished report prepared for Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd.

Signed:

pp  

Stuart Reilly  
July 2008



**APPENDIX 1** Context Details

Castlekeeran 2 A030/015											
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	deposit	N/A	66	65	loose, mid-brown, coarse, silty, sandy gravel with frequent stones and root activity. 15.00m to limit of excavation x 4.50m x 0.30m	upcast material from quarrying		pottery		yes	
5	cut and fill	N/A	66	65	remnants of test trench						
6	deposit	N/A	21, 24	65	loose, soft, mid-brown, silty sand with moderate topsoil and stone inclusions. 2.40m width x 0.60m depth	upcast material from quarrying		slag		yes	
7	cancelled										
8	NON-ARCHAEOLOGICAL										
9	deposit	N/A	17, 30, 44, 49, 59	18	loose, mid-brownish-grey, silty sand with occasional charcoal and frequent stones. 14m to limit of excavation x 7.00m x 0.20m	upcast material from quarrying					
10	deposit	N/A	69, 40, 63	16	loose, light-grown, silty sand with moderate stone inclusions	upcast material from quarrying, same episode as 9 and 6					
11	fill	16	29	65	loose, light-brown, silty sand with moderate stones	backfill in 16		metal			
12	cancelled				same as 30						
13	fill	33	41	65	loose, dark-brownish-black, coarse, fine gravel with moderate charcoal flecks and an sandy yellow centre	redeposited natural in 33					
14	fill	15	15	65	loose, mid-brownish-grey sand with occasional charcoal flecks	fill of pit 15					#3 soil
15	cut	14	66	14	circular cut (0.23m diameter x 0.07m depth) with a sharp break of slope, gradually sloping sides and a gradual break of slope leading to a rounded base	possible cremation pit (burnt bone recovered during testing)					

16	cut	11, 19, 20, 29	10, 30, 51, 66	20	L-shaped, northeast-southwest then east-west cut (11.50m x 1.60m x 0.52m then 3.50m length) with a sharp break of slope, steep sides and a gradual break of slope leading to an even base. Cut 10	possible drainage ditch					
17	deposit	N/A	30, 59	9, 18, 44	loose, fine, light-brown, silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and small stones	upcast material from quarrying		metal		yes	#2 soil and charcoal
18	deposit	N/A	9, 17, 59	65	loose, soft, dark-brownish-black, clayey silt with frequent charcoal flecks and stones	charcoal-rich hillwash, associated with 9 and 17		clay, slag	yes	yes	
19	fill	16	20	29	loose, fine, dark-grey, coarse, silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and stones	fill of ditch 16		slag	yes	yes	slag
20	fill	16	16	19	loose, light-brownish-orange, coarse sand	primary fill of ditch 16					
21	deposit	N/A	66	06	loose, light-greyish-brown, clayey silt with frequent organic material. 3.20m length x 0.20m depth	hill wash					
22	NON-ARCHAEOLOGICAL										
23	cut	24, 25, 31	66	31	circular cut (0.96m diameter x 0.16m depth) with a sharp break of slope, steep sides and a sharp break of slope leading to a concave base	pit					
24	fill	23	25	6	sticky, soft, orange clay	redeposited natural fill of pit 23					#4 soil
25	fill	23	31	24	sticky, mid-brownish-orange, silty, sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks and clay inclusions. Concentrated along southern edge	fill of pit 23					
26	cut	69	66	69	sub-rectangular, north-south cut (2.35m x 0.85m x 0.13m) with an imperceptible break of slope, gradually sloping sides and a gradual break of slope leading to an even base	pit					
27	cut	28	66	28	sub-rectangular, northwest-southeast cut (0.80m x 0.30m x 0.20m) with a sharp break of slope, steep sides and a sharp break of slope leading to an even base. Cut by 16	pit					
28	fill	27	27	65	loose, mid-greyish-brown, coarse, silty sand	fill of pit 27				yes	

29	fill	16	19	11	loose, orange, coarse, sandy gravel with frequent small stones	redeposited natural fill of ditch 16					
30	deposit	N/A	66	9, 10, 16, 17, 44, 59, 63, 64	compact, light-grey, coarse, sandy clay with moderate small stones and charcoal flecks. Extended across central southern half of site. Cut by 16 and 44	hill wash, associated with 9 and 10					
31	fill	23	23	25	moderately compact, mottled orange and mid-brown, fine, silty clay with frequent small stones and charcoal flecks	fill of pit 23					#5 soil
32	cut	67	37	67	oval, northwest-southeast cut (2.20m x 1.10m x 0.15m) with a sharp break of slope, steep sides and a sharp break of slope leading to an even base	pit					
33	cut	13, 41	66	41	oval, east-west cut (1.70m x 0.65m x 0.20m) with a gentle break of slope, gradually sloping sides and an even base	pit					
34	NON-ARCHAEOLOGICAL			48							
35	deposit	N/A	66	62, 48	loose, orangey-brown, coarse, clayey sand with frequent gravel and stones	modern disturbance		slag			#13 soil
36	cut	37	66	37	oval, north-south cut (0.45m x 0.25m x 0.15m) with a sharp break of slope, vertical sides and a sharp break of slope leading to an even base	pit					
37	fill	36	36	32	loose, dark-brown, coarse, silty sand with occasional small stones and moderate charcoal flecks	fill of pit 36					#6 soil and charcoal
38, 39	NON-ARCHAEOLOGICAL										
40	spread	N/A	64	10	loose, dark-brown, fine, clayey silt with moderate charcoal flecks	charcoal-rich spread				yes	#7 soil and charcoal
41	fill	33	33	13	loose, mottled, brownish-orange and mid-grey, coarse gravel with occasional charcoal flecks and frequent small stones and clayey sand inclusions	fill of pit 33					
42, 43	NON-ARCHAEOLOGICAL										

44	cut	49	17, 30	9, 49	oval cut (1.40m x 1.20m x 0.36m) with a sharp break of slope, steep sides and a gradual break of slope leading to an even base	pit					
45-47	NON-ARCHAEOLOGICAL										
48	fill	34	34, 35, 62	65	loose, dark-brown, coarse, clayey sand with frequent charcoal flecks, small stones, burnt bone, and slag	redeposited fill of N/A 34		slag, burnt seed			#8, #12 soil
49	fill	44	44	9	loose, light-brown, fine, silty sand with occasional small stones	fill of 44					
50	fill	60	60	65	loose, mid-greyish-brown, coarse, silty sand with frequent stones	fill of 60		pottery			
51	fill	63	63	16	loose, light-brown, coarse sand with occasional stones	redeposited natural fill of 63					
52	deposit	N/A	53	68	loose, black, coarse sand with frequent stones	upcast material from quarrying, associated with 68 and 53-57					
53	deposit	N/A	54, 55	68, 52	loose, light-brown, coarse, clayey sand with occasional charcoal flecks	upcast material from quarrying, associated with 68, 52 and 54-57					
54	deposit	N/A	56, 58	68, 53	loose, dark-brownish-black, clayey sand with moderate stones and charcoal flecks	charcoal-rich hill wash		slag			#10 soil
55	deposit	N/A	56	54, 55	loose, light-brown, fine, sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks and moderate stones	deposit, associated with 68, 52-54 and 56-57					
56	deposit	N/A	57	55	fine, mid-brown, sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks, moderate small stones and frequent burnt bone	deposit, associated with 68, 52-55 and 57					
57	deposit	N/A	66	56	loose, light-brown, fine, sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks and moderate stones	deposit, associated with 68 and 52-56					
58	deposit	N/A	66	54	loose, black, coarse sand with frequent stones	deposit, associated with 68 and 54				yes	#9, #11 soil
59	deposit	N/A	30	9, 17, 18	loose, mid-grey, fine, silty sand with moderate stones	hill wash					



60	cut	50	66	50	sub-rectangular, east-west cut (2.20m x 1.20m x 0.24m) with a gradual break of slope, gradually sloping sides and an uneven base	cut					
61	deposit	N/A	62	68, 54	moderately compact, yellow, silty clay with frequent burnt bone and small stones	deposit, probably related to 62				yes	
62	deposit	N/A	35	48, 61	loose, yellow, sandy silt with occasional stone, charcoal flecks and burnt bone	deposit, probably related to 61					
63	cut	51	30, 66	10, 51	sub-circular cut (1.00m x 0.75m x 0.28m) with a sharp break of slope, steep sides and a sharp break of slope leading to a concave base	pit					
64	deposit	N/A	30	40	mettled surface of small stones. 2.40m x 1.00m x 0.06m	mettled surface					
65	topsoil	N/A	66	N/A	0.20m depth grey brown loam	Topsoil					
66	subsoil	N/A	N/A	65	Mid-brown sandy subsoil	subsoil					
67	fill	32	32	65	loose, mid-brown, coarse, silty sand with frequent stones. 1.90m length x 1.40m width	fill of pit 32				yes	
68	spread	N/A	52-55	65	loose, fine, brown, silty, sand/gravel with dark-brown-black, soft, clayey silt with occasional oxidised clay, frequent charcoal flecks and stones. Burnt bone	upcast material from quarrying, associated with 52-57		clay		yes	#1 soil and charcoal
69	fill	26	26	65	loose, soft, light-mid-brown, silty, sandy gravel with small stones	fill of 26		metal, slag		yes	

**APPENDIX 2 Finds List**

<b>Find Number</b>	<b>Description</b>
A030/015:4:1	Brown glazed earthenware sherd
A030/015:4:2	Brown glazed ceramic
A030/015:4:3	Cream glazed ceramic
A030/015:4:4	Cream glazed ceramic
A030/015:4:5	Brown glazed earthenware sherd
A030/015:4:6	Brown glazed earthenware sherd
A030/015:4:7	Brown glazed earthenware sherd
A030/015:4:8	Brown glazed earthenware with white strip
A030/015:11:1	Iron nail
A030/015:17:1	Iron nail
A030/015:50:1	Cream glazed ceramic
A030/015:50:2	Blue/brown and white striped ceramic
A030/015:50:3	Yellow and brown glazed ceramic
A030/015:69:1	Iron fragment
A030/015:69:2	Iron nail

**APPENDIX 3 Sample List**

<b>Sample No</b>	<b>Context No</b>	<b>Results</b>
1	2	91g cremated bone flecks
2	17	31g cremated bone flecks
3	14	nothing
4	24	charcoal flecks, charred grain
5	31	5g charcoal, seeds
6	37	7g charcoal
7	40	nothing
10	54	charcoal flecks, 48g cremated bone
13	35	52g cremated bone
8, 12	48	29g charcoal and 67g cremated and uncremated bone fragments, seeds
9, 11	58	45g charcoal, 18g cremated bone, uncremated bone fragments
14	1	3g cremated bone
15	3	2g charcoal, <1g cremated bone
16	4	3g cremated bone
17	6	8g cremated bone
18	18	11g burnt clay, 11g cremated bone
19	19	7g cremated bone
20	28	2g cremated bone
21	43	32g cremated bone
22	61	353g cremated bone
23	65	1g charcoal, 4g cremated bone

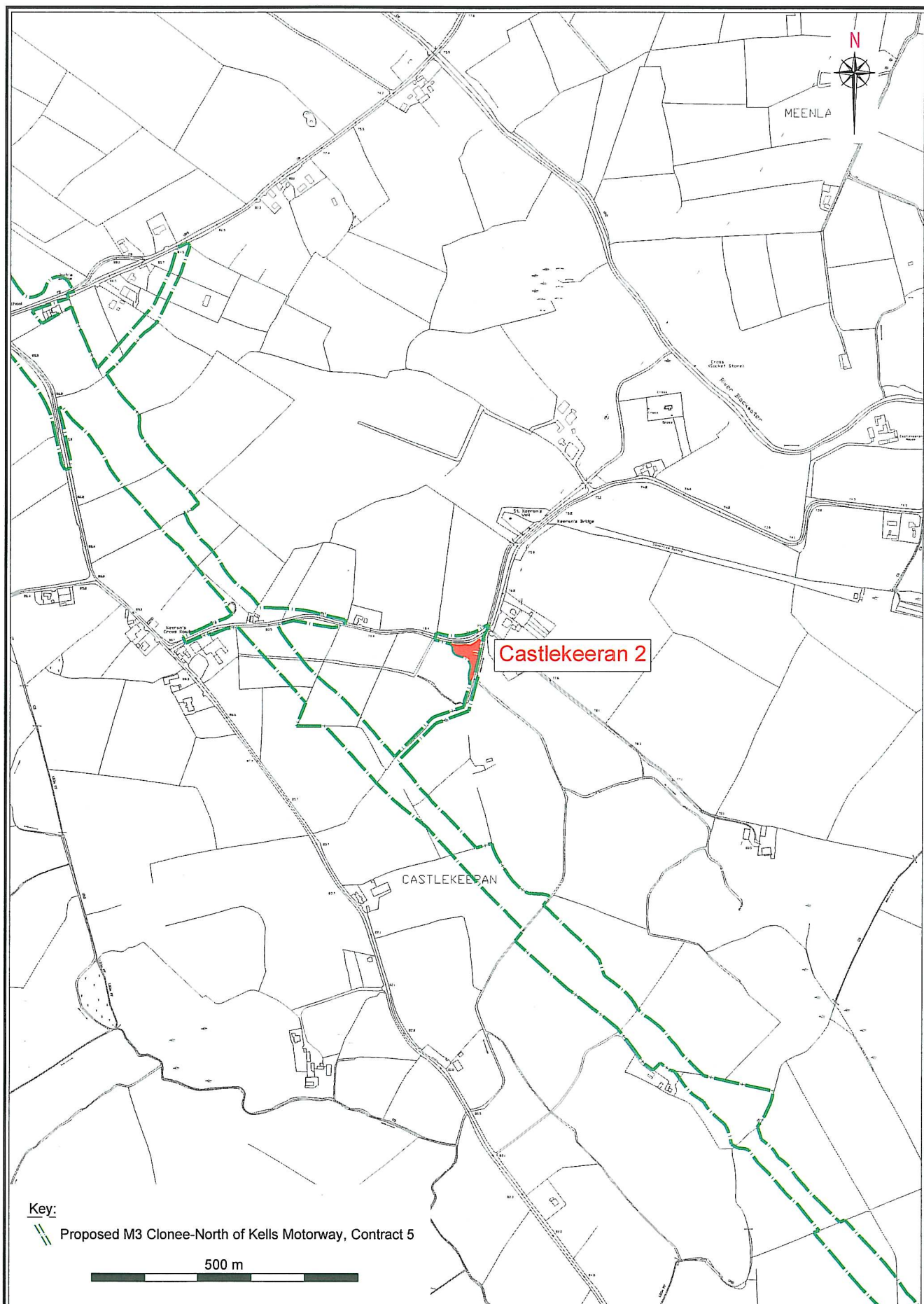
**APPENDIX 4 Faunal Report: Rachel Sloane****04\_01, M3 Clonee to North of Kells Road Scheme****Analysis of mammalian bone remains from Castlekeeran 2,  
Co. Meath****(A030/015)****22<sup>nd</sup> January 2008****Rachel Sloane****04\_01, Castlekeeran 2 (A030/015), results of mammal bone analysis:**

Two small samples of animal bone remains from F18 and two similarly small samples from F19 were presented for analysis. The remains were in a very fragmented state and following thorough inspection no recordable material was identified amongst this collection. A number of fragments of cattle teeth were observed but under the criteria of the methodology applied to all animal bone assemblages of the M3 Road Scheme, the Castlekeeran 2 assemblage consists entirely of low-grade material. Consequently no animal bone remains from this site are worthy of recording. One very small fragment of cremated bone was found amongst the F18 remains and this has been bagged separately to be sent to a cremated bone analyst.







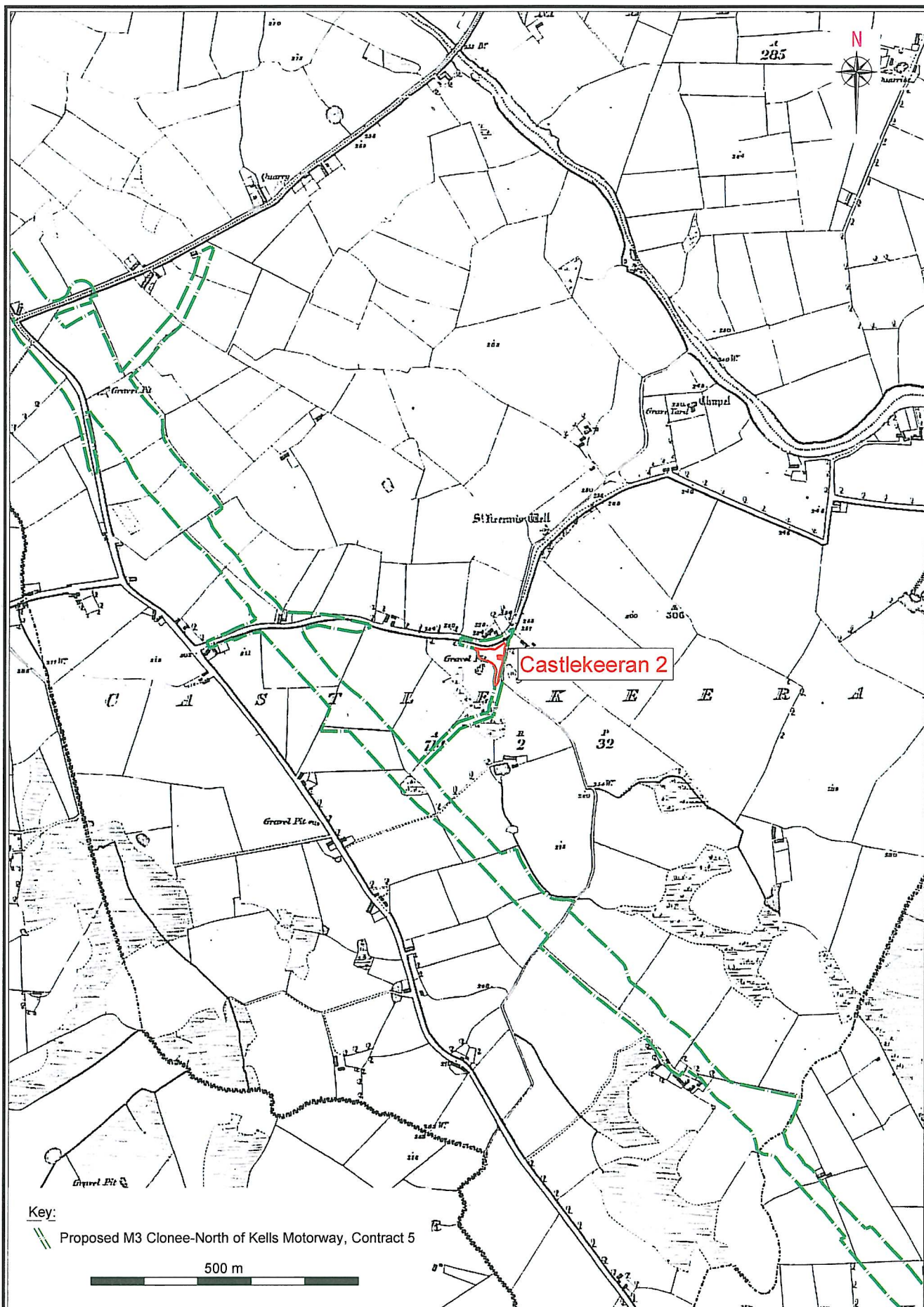


**Archaeological Consultancy  
Services Ltd.** Unit 21, Boyne Business Park,  
Greenhills, Drogheda, Co. Louth

Site: M3 Clonee-North of Kells PPP Scheme  
Contract 5, Castlekeeran 2  
Issued for: Excavation Report  
Client: Meath County Council

Scale: 1: 10,000 A4  
Date: Jul '08  
Origin: Client/ACS Ltd.  
Drawing no.: 04\_01\_C9332i

Figure 2: Location of Castlekeeran 2 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  
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Issued for: Excavation Report

Client: Meath County Council

Scale: 1:10,000 A4

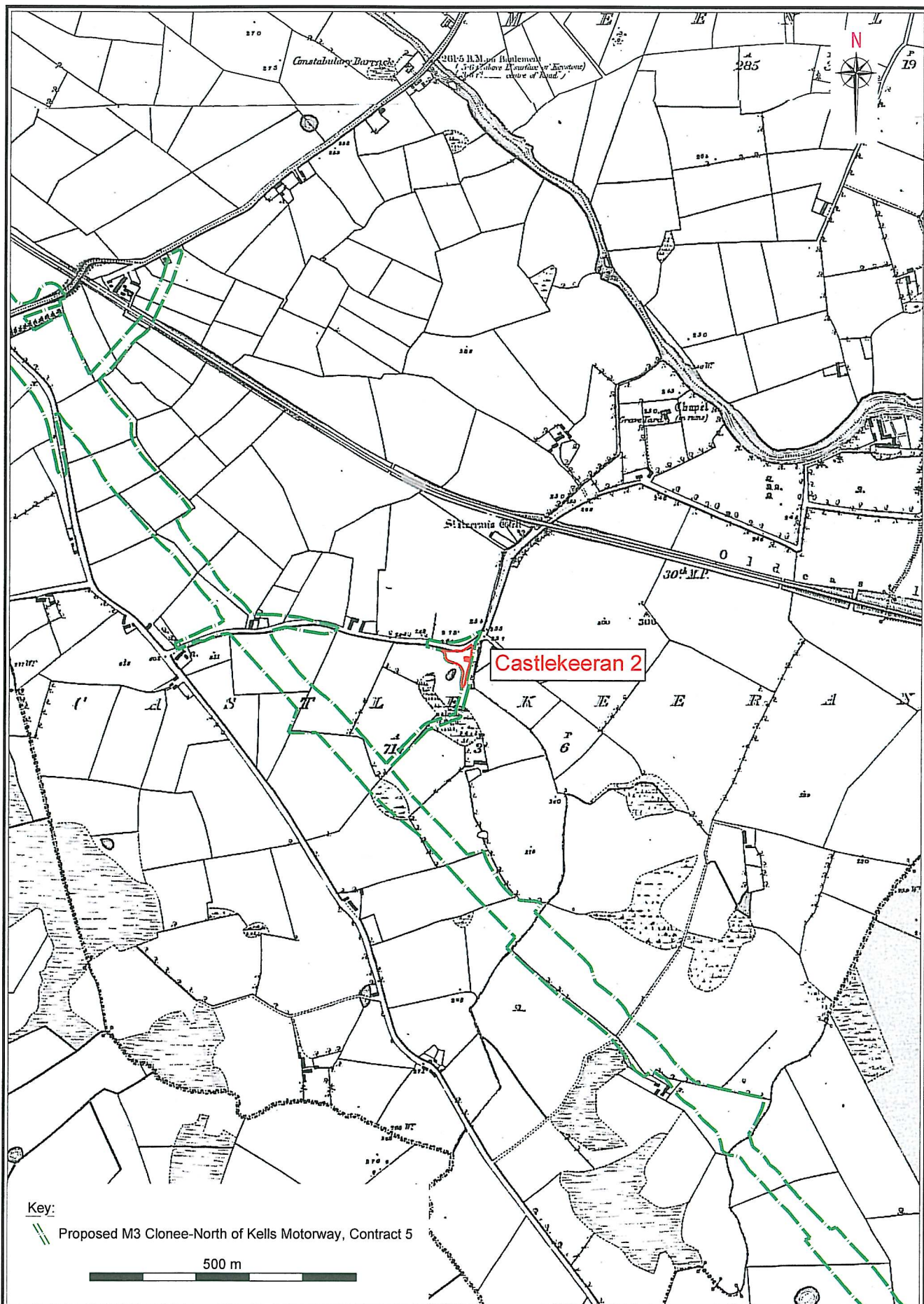
Date: Jul '08

Origin: OSI (1836)

Drawing no.: 04\_01\_C9333i

Figure 3: Castlekeeran 2, extract from 1st edition OS map, Meath sheets 10 & 16





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

Site: M3 Clonee-North of Kells PPP Scheme  
Contract 5, Castlekeeran 2  
Issued for: Excavation Report  
Client: Meath County Council

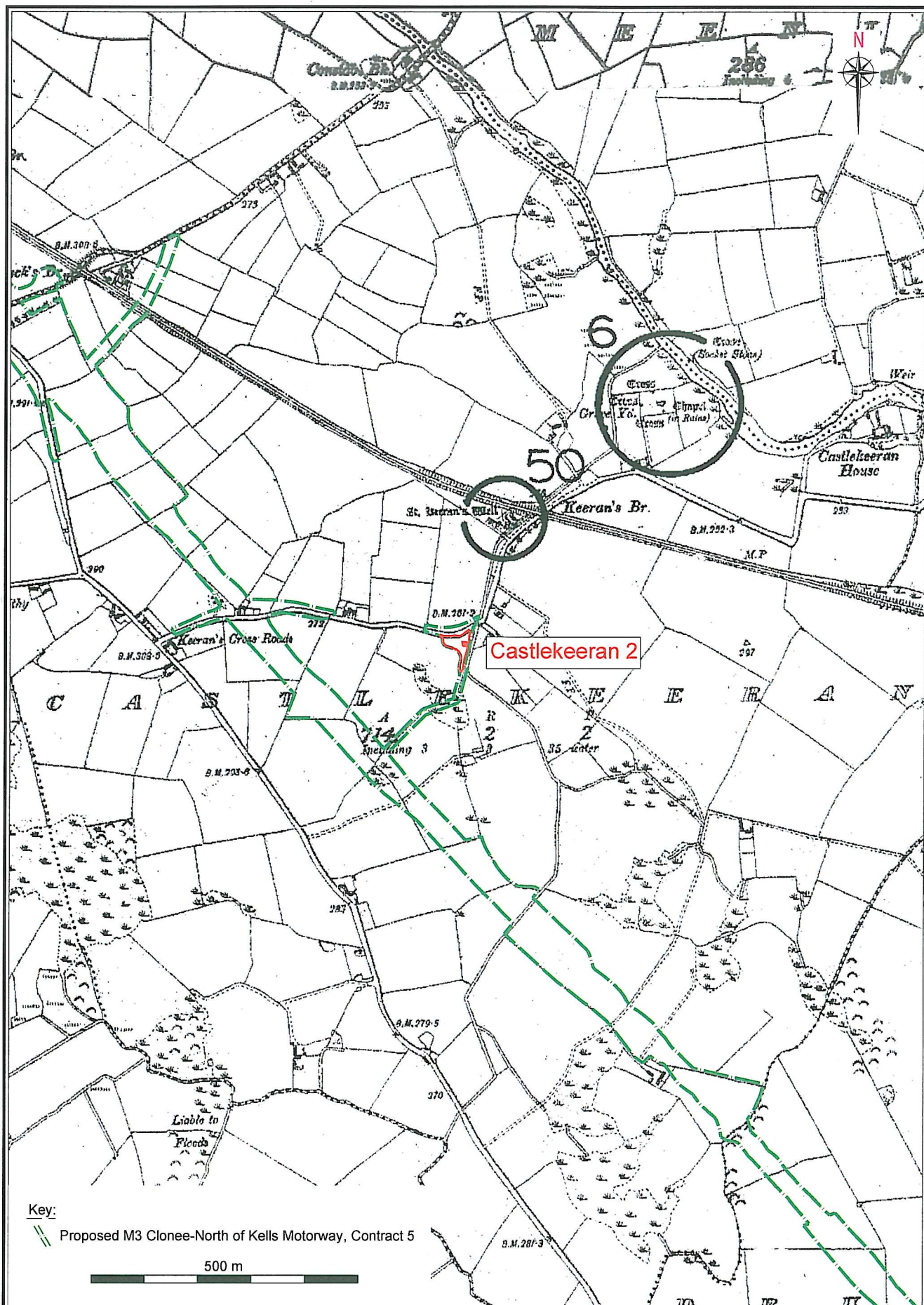
Scale: 1:10,000 A4  
Date: Jul '08

Origin: OSI (1882)

Drawing no.: 04\_01\_C9334i

Figure 4: Castlekeeran 2, extract from 2nd edition OS map, Meath sheets 10 & 16





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

Site: M3 Clonee-North of Kells PPP Scheme  
Contract 5, Castlekeeran 2  
Issued for: Excavation Report  
Client: Meath County Council

Scale: 1: 10,000 A4  
Date: Jul '08  
Origin: OSI (1910)  
Drawing no.: 04\_01\_C9335i

Figure 5: Castlekeeran 2, extract from 3rd edition OS map, Meath sheets 10 & 16



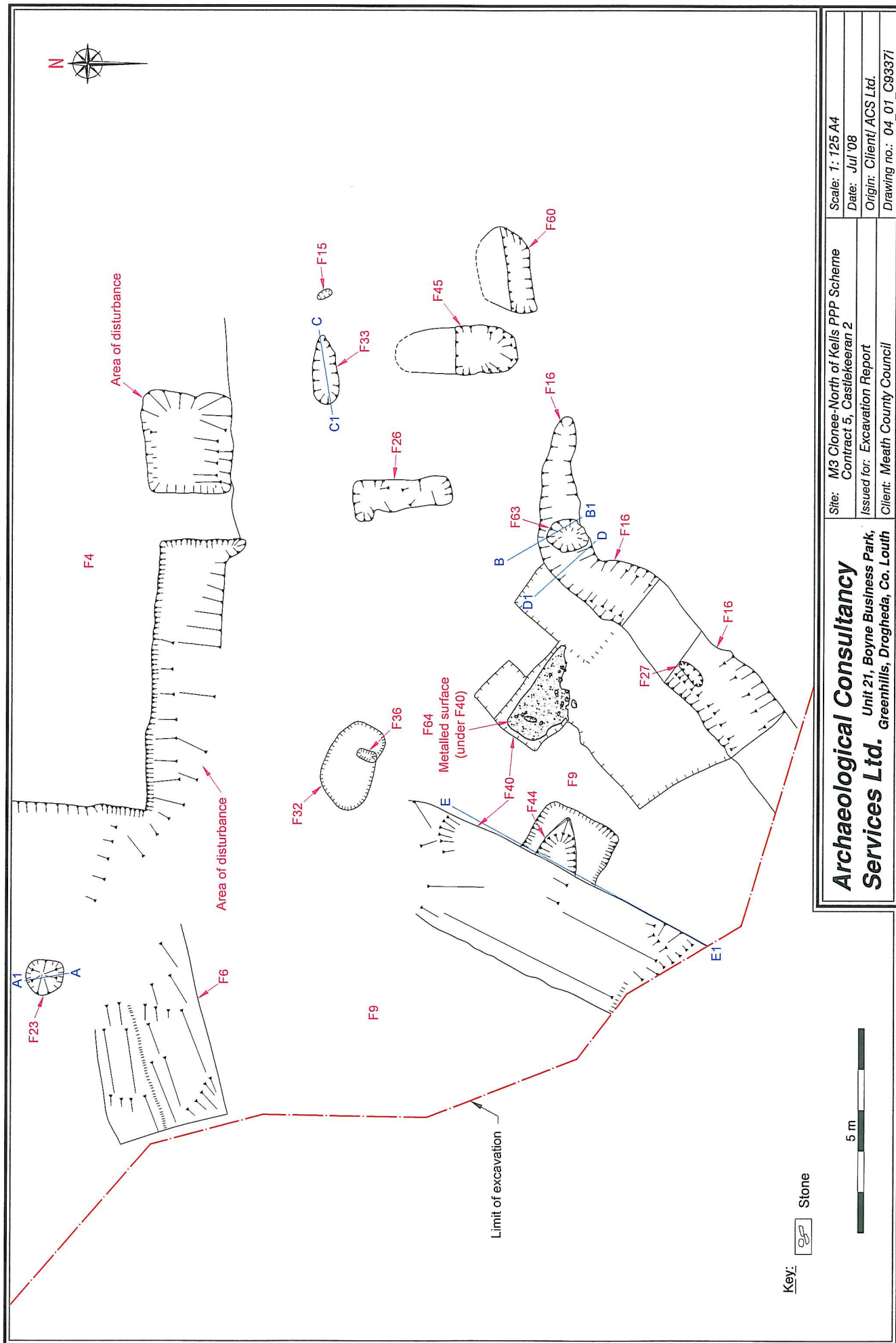
**Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd.** Unit 21, Boyne Business Park, Greenhills, Drogheda, Co. Louth

Site: M3 Clonée-North of Kells PPP Scheme Contract 5, Castlekeeran 2  
 Issued for: Excavation Report  
 Client: Meath County Council

Scale: 1: 5,000 A4  
 Date: Jul '08  
 Origin: Client/ACS Ltd.  
 Drawing no.: 04\_01\_C9336i

Figure 6: Detailed location of Castlekeeran 2





<b>Archaeological Consultancy</b>		Site: M3 Clonee-North of Kells PPP Scheme	Scale: 1: 125 A4
<b>Services Ltd.</b>		Contract 5, Castlekeeran 2	Date: Jul '08
Unit 21, Boyne Business Park,		Issued for: Excavation Report	Origin: Client/ ACS Ltd.
Greenhills, Drogheda, Co. Louth		Client: Meath County Council	Drawing no.: 04_01_C9337i

Figure 7: Post-excavation plan of Castlekeeran 2







Plate 1: Pit F23, east-facing section (04\_01\_Castlekeeran 2\_CP17\_19)



Plate 2: Post-excavation of pit F32, looking southwest (04\_01\_Castlekeeran 2\_CP19\_16)





Plate 3: Post-excavation of pit F44, looking south (04\_01\_Castlekeeran 2\_CP19\_11)



Plate 4: Post-excavation of ditch F16 and pit F63, looking south (04\_01\_Castlekeeran 2\_CP19\_24)





Plate 5: Metalled surface F64 under F40, looking southeast (04\_01\_Castlekeeran 2\_CP19\_9)



Plate 6: Post-excavation of the site, looking west (04\_01\_Castlekeeran 2\_CP20\_9)





Plate 7: Post-excavation of the site, looking southwest (04\_01\_Castlekeeran 2\_CP20\_11)