

N18 Gort to Crusheen Road Scheme

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National Development Plan 2007 - 2013

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EUROPEAN UNION
STRUCTURAL FUNDS

NRA
National Roads Authority
An tUdarás um Báithre Náisiúnta



Site Name: Ballyline 1&2

Ministerial Direction No.: 044
Excavation Registration No.: E3717

Burnt Mounds

Final Report

On behalf of Galway County Council

Site Director: Siobhán McNamara
November 2009

IAC Irish Archaeological
Consultancy

PROJECT DETAILS

Project Reference No.	A044
Project	N18 Gort to Crusheen Road Scheme
Ministerial Direction Reference No.	A044
NMS Registration Number	E3717
Excavation Director	Siobhán McNamara
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Consultant	Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, 120b Greenpark Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow
Client	Galway County Council
Site Name	Ballyline 1 & 2
Site Type	Burnt Mounds
Townland	Ballyline
Parish	Kilraghtis
County	Clare
NGR (Easting)	138473
NGR (Northing)	186446
Chainage	20105
Height m OD	26 m OD
RMP No.	N/A
Excavation Dates	14 January – 12 February 2008
Excavation Duration	22 Days
Report Type	Final
Report Date	18 November 2009
Report By	IAC Ltd

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The excavation was carried out in accordance with the Directions issued to Galway County Council by the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government under Section 14A (2) of the National Monuments Acts 1930–2004 and the terms of the Contract between Galway County Council and Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd.

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ABSTRACT

Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd (IAC), funded by Galway County Council and the National Roads Authority (NRA), undertook the excavation of burnt mounds under Ministerial Directions at the site of Ballyline along the proposed N18 Gort to Crusheen road scheme (Figure 1). The following report describes the results of archaeological fieldwork at that site. The area was fully excavated by Siobhán McNamara under Ministerial Directions A044 and Registration Number E3717 issued by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland. The fieldwork took place between 14 January and 12 February 2008.

Ballyline 1 and 2 were burnt mound sites located on flat land close to the base of a hill in Ballyline townland, in north Co. Clare. The sites were located at NGR 138473/186446 and situated at 26 m OD.

Ballyline 1 was the more northerly of the two sites. It contained an oval pit, which was cut by a trough, both contained heat-shattered stone. A modern drain later truncated this trough. A second pit abutted this group to the north and was also filled with burnt similar burnt material. A further three troughs were also identified at the site. These features were, for the most part, covered by a spread of burnt material which had been disturbed and as a result was extant in several concentrations / patches across the site. The main concentration of this spread material measured 10 m north to south by 9 m east to south by 0.15 m in depth.

The spread of burnt material at Ballyline 2 was less disturbed than that at Ballyline 1. The features identified on site included an oval-shaped trough with a flat base. This was associated with a round, straight-sided, flat-bottomed pit containing similar material of sandy silt and fire-cracked sandstone. Both of these features were covered by the largest, and most southerly, of the two spreads (6.95 m x 5.6 m x 0.15 m). A second, oval-shaped trough with an internal step or shelf was also identified. This trough was filled with burnt stones and charcoal and was covered with the second spread (5.2 m x 3.5 m x 0.15 m).

A series of east to west furrows ran across the site at Ballyline 2. Some of these contained chinaware. A silted up field boundary ran north to south across the site. It ran in the same direction as a second field boundary identified in Ballyline 1 but was parallel and west of it. The fill contained less humic material than the Ballyline 1 example and it may represent an earlier field boundary at that location. It contained chinaware.

The fill of a trough at Ballyline 1 returned a 2 Sigma calibrated dates of 2129–1828 BC while the fill of a trough at Ballyline 2 returned a date of 1897–1692 BC, indicating activity at the site during the early Bronze Age period.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report describes the excavation of Ballyline 1 and 2 (Figures 1–3), in the townland of Ballyline, undertaken by Siobhán McNamara of IAC Ltd, on behalf of Galway County Council and the NRA. It was carried out as part of the archaeological mitigation programme of the N18 Gort to Crusheen road scheme. The excavation was undertaken to offset the adverse impact of road construction on known and potential subsoil archaeological remains in order to preserve the site by record.

The site was not a Recorded Monument but was first identified during testing carried out by James Kyle in summer 2007 (Ministerial Direction No. A044, NMS Licence No. 07E489). All features identified during the assessment phase were subsequently re-identified and excavated during the full excavation phase of the site which took place between 14 January and 12 February 2008 with a team of 1 director, 1 supervisor and 8 assistant archaeologists.

The site was located approximately 2 km to the south of Crusheen and c. 40 m west of the present N18 (Clare OS sheet 26).

The site was assigned the following identification data:

Site Name: Ballyline 1&2 1; Ministerial Direction No.: A044; NMS Registration No.: E3717; Route Chainage (Ch): 20105; NGR: 138473/186446.

1.2 The Development

The N18 Gort to Crusheen scheme involves the construction of a total of 44 km of road to include mainline roadworks (22 km), associated side roads (10 km) and access tracks (12 km). The road will have twin 7 m carriageways, 2.5 m hard shoulders adjacent to the verges and a median with a minimum width of 2.6 m which includes two 1m hard strips. The selected route bypasses the town of Gort to the east and the village of Crusheen to the west.

1.3 Archaeological Requirements

The archaeological requirements for the N18 Gort to Crusheen road scheme were defined in the Ministerial Directions issued to Galway County Council by the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government under Section 14A (2) of the National Monuments Acts 1930–2004 and in the terms of the contract between Galway County Council and Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. These instructions formed the basis of all archaeological works undertaken for this development. The archaeological excavation works under this contract were located between the townlands of Glenbrack, Co. Galway, and Carrowdotia, Co. Clare.

The proposed N18 was subjected to an Environmental Impact Assessment, the archaeology and cultural history section of which was carried out by Babbie Pettit Ltd in 2006. The Record of Monuments and Places, the Sites and Monuments Record, Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland, aerial photography, and documentary sources were all consulted. Two phases of geophysical survey were conducted. The main phase was by RSKENSR (Bartlett 2004) during the preparation of the EIA (Babbie Pettit Ltd 2006). A supplementary survey was carried out in Ballyboy by Target Geophysics Ltd (Target Geophysics Ltd 2007). As a result of the paper survey, field inspections, geophysical survey, archaeological testing and archaeological monitoring, a total of 22 fully recorded manual excavations were carried out on this section of the overall route alignment. In some cases where a

number of sites of similar type were located together in a single townland, the sites were excavated under one excavation number.

Phase 1 archaeological testing was completed by IAC Ltd and Phase 2 excavation of the sites identified during testing was conducted by IAC Ltd on behalf of Galway County Council and the NRA.

1.4 Methodology

The presence of archaeological remains beneath the topsoil layer was confirmed by machine-cut test trenches. Following testing, the topsoil was reduced to the interface between topsoil and natural subsoil using a 20 tonne mechanical excavator equipped with a flat toothless bucket under strict archaeological supervision. The remaining topsoil was removed by the archaeological team with the use of shovels, hoes and trowels in order to expose and identify the archaeological remains. A site grid was set up at 10m intervals and was subsequently calibrated to the national grid using GPS survey equipment.

All features were subsequently fully excavated by hand and recorded using the single context recording system with plans and sections being produced at a scale of 1:50, 1:20 or 1:10 as appropriate.

A complete photographic record was maintained throughout the excavation. Digital photographs were taken of all features and of work in progress.

An environmental strategy was devised at the beginning of the excavations. Features exhibiting large amounts of carbonised material were targeted. Animal bone, unburnt wood and stone samples were all retrieved through both hand and bulk collection and retained for specialist analysis wherever they were encountered during the excavations.

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

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

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

2 EXCAVATION RESULTS

The archaeological activity recorded at Ballyline 1 & 2 was an early Bronze Age period burnt mound site.

Detailed descriptions of all excavated features and deposits are listed in Appendix 1.

2.1 Phase 1: Natural Drift Geology

Most of the low-lying areas along the route are associated with poorly drained, bog and wet marshland areas of glacially formed depressions and seasonal lakes known as turloughs. The higher ground generally comprises well-drained, gently undulating pastureland with some uneven hummocky ridges, formed either of limestone epikarst or glacial features such as drumlins. The two dominant rock types of the region are Carboniferous Limestone, which underlies the entire length of the N18 Gort to Crusheen scheme, and Devonian Old Red Sandstone, which forms the Slieve Aughty Mountains to the east of the proposed route. The road alignment is predominantly underlain by either limestone derived till and sandy till deposited during the last glaciation or organic peat which has generally formed in the low-lying, poorly drained areas where standing water and slow percolation causes thin layers of peaty soil to accumulate.

The sites were located on flat land close to the base of a hill in Ballyline townland, in north Co. Clare. They lay in pasture prone to water logging, drained by drains on both north and south of site. The area sloped toward the Millbrook stream to the south and was flanked by the N18 on the east and hedge to the west. The area had been much altered in the twentieth century as it was once park land associated with Ballyline house. The subsoil comprised a compact sandy silt which varied little between Ballyline 1 and 2.

2.2 Phase 2: Early Bronze Age Activity

The possibly Bronze Age features at Ballyline 1 and 2 consisted of troughs, pits and burnt spread material (Figure 3).

2.2.1 Troughs and Pit at Ballyline 1

Context	Fill of	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Basic Description	Interpretation
4	N/A	2.5	1.5	0.3	Oval cut, concave sides	Cut of a trough
5	C4	2.5	1.5	0.3	Black charcoal rich sandy silt, stones	Fill of a trough
6	N/A	1.8	1	0.35	Oval cut, Straight/concave sides	Cut of a trough
7	C6	1.8	1	0.35	Black brown sandy silt, charcoal, stones	Base fill of a trough
8	C6	0.7	0.3	0.15	Light yellow orange silty clay	Uppermost fill of a trough
9	N/A	2.4	1	0.3	Oval cut, gradual concave sides	Cut of a trough
10	C9	2.4	1	0.3	Black brown yellow silty sand, stones	Fill of a trough
11	N/A	2.4	0.8	0.4	Oval cut, straight to gradual sides	Cut of a trough
12	C11	2.4	0.8	0.4	Brownish grey silt, stones	Fill of a trough
13	N/A	1.8	1.4	0.41	Oval cut, gradual sides	Cut of a trough
14	C13	1.8	1.4	0.41	Mid black grey silty clay, stones, charcoal	Fill of a trough
15	N/A	1.18	1	0.36	Oval cut, sloping inward sides	Cut of a pit
16	C15	1.18	1	0.36	Blackish grey silt, stone, charcoal	Fill of a pit

Finds: None

Interpretation

There were five, oval-shaped troughs, C4, C6, C9, C11, and C13, which contained charcoal-rich soil with fire-cracked stones (Figures 3 and 5; Plate 1). Trough C4

truncated trough C6, which was truncated by a north–south furrow, C17. A thin spread of heat shattered stone and burnt material, C3, sealed the troughs.

One AMS date was obtained from deposit C7, the primary fill of trough C6. A fragment (1.7g) of alder/hazel (*Alnus glutinosa /corylus avellana*) charcoal was identified (Cobain, Appendix 2.2). This charcoal returned an AMS result of 3604±40 BP (UBA 12742). The 2 Sigma calibrated result for this was 2129–1828 BC (Appendix 2.1). Other charcoal also identified from this fill included oak, ash, poplar/willow and *Maloideae* species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple). The stone from this fill was identified as a mixture of quartzite, sandstone, limestone, chert and quartz (Mandal, Appendix 2.3).

An oval-shaped pit C15 contained a single fill, C16, of blackish-grey, silt with stone and charcoal inclusions (Figures 3 and 5). It was sealed by burnt spread C3.

2.2.2 Burnt Spread C3 at Ballyline 1

Context	Fill of	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Basic Description	Interpretation
3	N/A	10	9	0.3	Brown black silty clay, stones, charcoal	Burnt stone spread

Finds: None

Interpretation

This thin spread of heat shattered stone (C3) sealed all the troughs and pits and was present in several concentrations / patches across the site, as it had been disturbed by post-medieval agricultural practices (Figure 3; Plate 2). C3 represents the principal concentration of the burnt mound on the site.

2.2.3 Troughs and Pits at Ballyline 2

Context	Fill of	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Basic Description	Interpretation
23	C22	1.15	0.97	0.39	Dark grey sandy silt, charcoal, stones	Fill of a trough
25	C22	0.95	1.25	0.53	Black charcoal rich silty sand, stones	Fill of a trough
22	N/A	1.95	1.25	0.63	Oval cut, vertical to gradual sides	Cut of a trough
35	N/A	0.6	0.6	0.39	Circular cut, straight sides	Cut of a pit
36	C35	0.6	0.6	0.39	Grey brown sandy silt, stones	Fill of a pit

Finds: None

Interpretation

C22 was an oval-shaped trough containing two fills, C23 and C25, of dark, charcoal-rich silty sand and sandy silt (Figures 4 and 7; Plates 3, 5 and 7). This trough was located under burnt spread C21 (Plate 4). C35 represented a circular pit containing a single fill of silt and stones, C36. This pit was located under burnt spread C21 (Figures 4 and 7; Plate 5).

One AMS date was obtained from deposit C25, the fill of trough C22. A fragment (4 g) of alder/hazel (*Alnus glutinosa /corylus avellana*) charcoal was identified (Cobain, Appendix 2.2). This charcoal returned an AMS result of 3481±38 BP (UBA 12740). The 2 Sigma calibrated result for this was 1897–1692 BC (Appendix 2.1). The fill also contained charcoal from ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and *Maloideae* species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple). The stone from the fill has been identified as a mixture of quartzite and small amounts of limestone (Mandal, Appendix 2.3).

2.2.4 Burnt Spread C21 at Ballyline 2

Context	Fill of	L(m)	W	D(m)	Basic Description	Interpretation
21	N/A	6.95	5.6	0.3	Dark brown grey silty clay, charcoal, stones	Burnt stone spread

Finds: None

Interpretation

This spread, C21, consisted of 50% limestone and 50% sandstone in a charcoal-rich, silty clay matrix (Figures 4 and 6; Plate 4). It sealed trough C22 and pit C35.

2.2.5 Trough C30 at Ballyline 2

Context	Fill of	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Basic Description	Interpretation
30	N/A	2.68	1.9	0.42	Oval cut, concave sides	Cut of a trough
31	C30	2.68	1.9	0.42	Black, dark grey sandy silt, charcoal, stone	Fill of a trough

Finds: None

Interpretation

This trough, C30, was oval and had a step located in its southern extent (Figures 4 and 7; Plates 6–7). It contained one fill, C31, which comprised a dark-grey, sandy silt with charcoal and stones and was sealed by the spread C28.

2.2.6 Trough C37 at Ballyline 2

Context	Fill of	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Basic Description	Interpretation
37	N/A	2.4	0.85	0.36	Sub oval cut, vertical sides	Cut of a possible trough
38	C37	2.4	0.85	0.36	Black charcoal rich sandy silt, stones	Fill of a possible trough

Finds: None

Description

The possible trough (C37) was sub-oval in plan and contained a single fill of black, charcoal-rich, sandy silt (Figures 4 and 7; Plate 7). It was not sealed by any burnt stone spread.

2.2.7 Burnt Spread C28 at Ballyline 2

Context	Fill of	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Basic Description	Interpretation
28	N/A	5.2	3.5	0.15	Black brown sandy silt, charcoal, roots	Small burnt stone spread

Finds: None

Description

This burnt sandstone spread, C28, sealed the trough C30 (Figures 4 and 6; Plate 4).

2.3 Phase 3: Post-Medieval Activity at Ballyline 1 and 2

2.3.1 Furrows, Drain and Field Boundary at Ballyline 1

Context	Fill of	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Basic Description	Interpretation
17	N/A	8	0.8	0.15	Linear cut, concave sides. Black silt	Cut
18	N/A	6-6.5	0.7	0.13	Linear cut, gentle concave sides	Cut
19	N/A	18	0.9	0.15	Linear cut, concave, gradual sides	Cut
20	N/A	30.4	6.3	0.6	Stone wall	Field boundary wall
41	17	8	0.8	0.15	Firm black charcoal rich silt	Fill of furrow
42	18	6-6.5	0.7	0.13	Firm black brown peat	Fill of furrow
43	19	18	0.9	0.15	Firm dark brown silt. 15% pebbles	Fill of drain

Finds

Context	Find No	Material	Period	Description
20	E3717:20:1-145	Pottery	Post-medieval	Chinaware
20	E3717:20:146-147	Pottery	Post-medieval	Earthen ware
20	E3717:20:148	Clay	Post-medieval	Brick
20	E3717:20:149-152	Glass	Post-medieval	Sherd
20	E3717:20:153-155	Iron	Post-medieval	Fragment

Interpretation

C17 represents a furrow that ran north–south and C18 represents a furrow that ran east–west across the site (Figure 3). Both C17 and C18 contained a single fill.

The field drain C19 ran parallel to the field boundary C20, located to its east (Figure 3). The field boundary was present in the form a low, stone wall orientated northwest to southeast which had been covered with bank material. It contained 147 pieces of chinaware in addition to some modern glass and metal finds.

2.3.2 Furrow and Field Boundary at Ballyline 2

Context	Fill of	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Basic Description	Interpretation
24	N/A	2.42	0.8	0.16	Linear cut, gradual sloping sides	Cut of a linear feature
39	N/A	0.25	0.14	0.1	Circular cut, straight sides	Fill of stakeholes or roots
29	C24	2.42	0.8	0.16	Light black silty sand, stones, charcoal	Fill of a linear feature
32	N/A	10.5	1.98	0.34	Linear cut, gradual sides	Cut of a linear feature
33	C32	10.5	1.17	0.15	Mid grey silty clay, stones	Base fill of a linear feature
34	C32	10.5	1.98	0.2	Mid brown orange silty sand, stones, bone	Top fill of a linear feature
40	N/A	5.5	0.4-0.5	0.11	Linear cut, gradual concave sides	East - west running furrows

Finds

Context	Find No	Material	Period	Description
34	E3717:34:1	Pottery	Post-medieval	Chinaware
34	E3717:34:2	Pottery	Post-medieval	Chinaware
40	E3717:40:1	Pottery	Post-medieval	Chinaware
40	E3717:40:2	Pottery	Post-medieval	Chinaware
40	E3717:40:3	Pottery	Post-medieval	Chinaware

A group of furrows (C24) cut the top of trough C22. The cuts were aligned with another series of east/west running furrows, C40. The furrow (C24) contained a black, silty sand, C29, which most likely was derived from the burnt spread. A modern field boundary (C32) ran across the site from the northwest to the southeast. Two pieces of modern chinaware were recovered from its fill, C34. C40 represented

furrows with an east/west orientation. C40 cut through the burnt stone spreads C21 and C28. Three pieces of modern chinaware were recovered from the fill.

A series of east/west running furrows (C40) ran across the site. Some of these contained chinaware. A silted up field boundary ran northwest to southeast. It ran in the same direction as the field boundary in Ballyline 1 but it appeared to be parallel to it and west of it. The fill contained less humic material than the Ballyline 1 example and it may represent an earlier phase of the same field boundary.

2.4 Phase 4: Topsoil

Context	Fill of	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Basic Description	Interpretation
1	N/A			0.30	Peat	Topsoil

Finds

Context	Find No	Material	Period	Description
1	E3717:1:1-6	Clay	Post medieval	Pipe fragments
1	E3717:1:7	Stone		Butt of an axe?

The topsoil at Ballyline 1 and 2 was a peaty layer with a maximum depth of 0.30 m. Six clay pipe fragments and one worked stone, possibly a stone axe (Sternke, Appendix 2.4) were recovered from the topsoil.

3 SYNTHESIS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Landscape Setting

Most of the low-lying areas along the route were associated with poorly drained bog and wet marshland which have developed within glacially formed depressions and seasonal lakes known as turloughs. The higher ground generally comprised well-drained, gently undulating pastureland with some uneven hummocky ridges, formed either of limestone epikarst or glacial features such as drumlins. The two dominant rock types of the region were Carboniferous Limestone, which underlay the entire length of the N18 Gort to Crusheen scheme, and the Devonian Old Red Sandstone, which formed the Slieve Aughty Mountains to the east of the project. The road alignment was predominantly underlain by either limestone and sand derived till deposited during the last glaciation or organic peat which has generally formed since then in the low-lying, poorly drained areas where standing water and slow percolation caused thin layers of peaty soil to accumulate.

Ballyline 1 and 2 were burnt mound sites located on flat land close to the base of a hill in Ballyline townland, in north Co. Clare. They lay in pasture prone to water logging, drained by drains on both north and south of site. The area sloped toward the Millbrook stream to south and was flanked by the N18 on the east and hedge to the west. The sites were located at NGR 138473/186446 and were situated at 26 m OD. The nearest Recorded Monuments are two earthworks (CL026-009 and CL026-010) located c. 360 m northwest and 226 m west respectively of Ballyline 1.

3.2 Bronze Age Archaeological Landscape

Following the test excavation phase of the project it was apparent that most of the archaeological sites identified were located to the south of the scheme in county Clare. This trend appears to have resulted from landscape management in the recent past where the better drained lands to the north have been improved and the fields enlarged which would have had a negative effect on any buried archaeological sites. However, the area to the south, which coincides with crossing the county border, was of more marginal land prone to flooding and in this area the route of the new road tended to follow wet valley floors and steep valley slopes. The landscape encountered in County Clare was much the same as it was depicted on the first edition Ordnance Survey maps (1842).

As with the transition from the Mesolithic to Neolithic periods, the transition to the Early Bronze Age period brought with it many changes to society. In County Clare and particularly in the northwest of the county in the Burren, where there is a highly visible prehistoric landscape due to the exposed bare rock nature of the terrain, the large number of prehistoric sites, including c. 80 wedge tombs (Jones 2004, 65), indicates a well organised late Neolithic/early Bronze Age landscape. The transition from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age reflects a continued and somewhat intensified population in north and east Clare. It is during this period that megalithic monuments were abandoned in favour of individual cist or pit burials, either located in isolation or in small cemeteries. Different forms of barrow monuments were also being constructed during the period, as well as ceremonial monuments such as circular henges, standing stones, stone rows and stone circles. A current research project in the Burren has also recorded middle and late Bronze Age ritual funerary deposition in Glencurran Cave, Co. Clare (Dowd 2007).

In recent years Bronze Age habitation sites have come more to the fore as they have been uncovered as part of development-led or infrastructural projects. They are well documented elsewhere but two interesting, recently excavated sites include Bronze Age roundhouses at Tober 1, County Offaly (Walsh 2009) and Barnhill, Dromoland,

Co. Clare (Moore Group 2009). An important academic study of the spatial organisation of Bronze Age society and landscape has been undertaken of the north Munster area and in County Clare this is defined by the work undertaken by Grogan on the Bronze Age trivallate hillfort at Mooghaun (Grogan 2005). This study identified and mapped a Bronze Age landscape dominated by the hillfort which may have influenced a catchment area of up to 450 km sq (Grogan 2005, 95). Identified within the area of influence were ceremonial monuments, house sites, burnt mound sites and other more mundane features such as fish traps and trackways in the Fergus estuary (O'Sullivan and Dillon 2005). The Mooghaun study area is outside the sphere of influence of sites identified on the Gort to Crusheen scheme but indicates nonetheless that a similar societal organisation of the landscape may have existed for them too. A hoard of gold objects discovered at Mooghaun during the construction of the Limerick – Ennis railway in 1854 is one of the largest single discoveries of Bronze Age gold in Europe (Grogan 2005, 70). Another significant gold find from the north of the county was the Gleninsheen gorget, a large collar of hammered gold discovered by a farmer in 1932 (Jones 2004, 74).

The most widespread domestic sites from the Bronze Age are burnt mounds (also known as *fulachta fiadh*) with over 4500 sites of this type recorded in the country (Waddell 1998, 174). They survive as low mounds of charcoal-rich soil mixed with heat-shattered stones. They are usually horseshoe shaped, located in low-lying areas near a water source and are often found in clusters. While it is generally thought that they were probably used as cooking places (Ó Drisceóil 1988), finds from excavated examples where there is a noteworthy absence of animal bone does not easily support this theory. Lucas (1965) suggested that burnt mounds might have been used for processes such as bulk washing, dyeing and leather working while Barfield and Hodder (1987) have suggested that such sites were covered by light structures and used as sweat houses. Radiocarbon dates for this monument type have generally placed them in the Bronze Age (Brindley et al. 1990, 55) though evidence from early Irish texts (Ó Drisceóil 1988) suggest use of this type of site up until the 16th century AD.

Burnt mounds make up a significant number of the Recorded Monuments within the immediate vicinity of the Gort to Crusheen road scheme and following examination of a one kilometre wide corridor, using the road as the centreline, of the scheme, these classic elements of the Bronze Age landscape became apparent. Within this defined corridor there were no recorded burnt mounds in south County Galway, whereas north County Clare was rich in the monument-type RMP sites CL018-069, CL018-071, CL018-072, CL018-077, CL018-084, CL018-082, CL018-083, CL018-086, CL026-143, CL026-130, CL026-131, CL026-136, CL026-138, CL026-137, CL026-134, CL026-135, 02E1284 partly excavated as part of the Bord Gáis Éireann's pipeline to the west at Bearnafunshin (Dennehy 2002a), 02E0342 excavated as part of the Bord Gáis Éireann's pipeline to the west at Bearnafunshin (Halpin 2002), CL026-149, CL026-150, CL026-151, CL026-156, CL026-157, CL026-158, CL026-165, CL026-164, and Site AR25 Carrowdotia (Taylor 2006a). There appeared to be a tendency in the sites identified for clustering, often within 100 m or less of each other.

Single upright standing stones are a common feature of the Irish landscape and, though they may date to different periods and serve different functions, excavation has shown that some may mark prehistoric burials, while some may signify a route-way, a boundary, or serve a commemorative role. Generally speaking, it is likely that a large number date to the Bronze Age. The orientation of a stone may have had significance, with their long axes aligned to another stone or toward a cairn on a

mountain top, although the latter is difficult to prove. A standing stone (RMP CL026-035) has been identified c. 150 m southeast of the southern end of the route.

Ring barrows consist of a low, usually circular mound or level area enclosed by a fosse and external bank, the diameter of the earthwork usually ranging between 4 m and 12 m and rarely exceeding 1 m in height or depth. Excavation has demonstrated that they usually sealed a burial deposit, often a cremation. Such forms of burial have a long tradition and individual examples have been assigned to the Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Ages. A ring barrow (Dennehy 2002b) was identified during monitoring of Bord Gáis Éireann's pipeline at Cloonagowan, Co. Clare. The archaeological remains represented a cremation pit with a ring ditch. Pits, stakeholes and a slot trench were identified within the ring ditch, with some pits indicating a probable domestic function. A second cremation pit was identified c. 75 m to the northeast, with an isolated posthole, which may have acted as a marker for the cremation pits, located further to the northeast. A single thumbnail scraper was recovered from the site, enabling the rough dating to the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age period (Dennehy 2002c). A single possibly Bronze Age cremation pit and industrial pits were identified during the monitoring of Bord Gáis Éireann's pipeline in Gortaficka (Dennehy and Sutton 2002). A wedge tomb (CL026-015) is located less than 500 m northeast of a concentration of burnt mounds and spreads which surround a peat bog, and were excavated as part of the N18 Gort to Crusheen road scheme, in Caheraphuca townland. The wedge tomb is also likely to date to the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age.

Our appreciation of the wider Bronze Age landscape in counties Clare and Galway is continually being expanded as more sites are being uncovered during research, development-led and infrastructural projects such as the N18 road scheme. Excavations connected with construction of the N18 to the north (Gort to Oranmore) which is entirely within County Galway has also recently produced evidence for the Bronze Age with eight burnt mound sites identified, one at Ballyglass West, a cluster in Caherweelder townland and further examples in Moyveela and Coldwood (Eachtra 2009).

Excavations undertaken by TVAS (Ireland) Ltd in 2003 in advance of construction of the N18 Ennis Bypass and N85 Western Relief Road, which terminated at the southern end of the N18 Gort to Crusheen road scheme revealed similar archaeological sites. This area was generally better drained and the variety of Bronze Age sites encountered during that project reflects the change in terrain. The marginal lands and areas closest to wetlands, rivers and streams produced evidence for burnt mounds such as the four burnt mound sites identified at Clare Abbey (Hull 2006a and b, Taylor 2006c and d) close to the Ardsollus river (a tributary of the Fergus). Burnt mound sites were also excavated at Killow (Taylor 2006b), Cahircalla More (Taylor 2006e) and Carrowdotia (Taylor 2006a) to the south of the Gort to Crusheen project. Apart from the burnt mound sites a number of funerary sites were also identified on the N18 Ennis Bypass and N85 Western Relief Road.. Two cremation cemetery sites were identified in Manusmore townland (Hull 2006c and 2006d), both were located on slightly elevated free draining gravel ridges. A third site with cremation pits was identified at Killow (Taylor 2006b) in close proximity to a burnt mound; it was located on a low but well drained-gravel drumlin.

The landscape of County Clare is rich in sites dating to the Bronze Age, indicating that the area was widely inhabited during that period. Burnt mounds are the most frequent site of Bronze Age date encountered in this area of Clare, with twenty seven identified within the immediate area of the road scheme. There are no burnt mounds recorded within the tight constraints of the study area for Co. Galway but there are examples in the wider surrounding area and they were also located in the

excavations on the N18 contract further to the north. The archaeological evidence to date indicates that the study area and indeed its wider landscape was inhabited throughout the entire Bronze Age period.

Bronze Age Ballyline 1 and 2

Ballyline 1 and 2 were burnt mound sites located on flat land, which was prone to flooding, close to the base of a hill in Ballyline townland. The sites were very badly disturbed and the three spreads of heat shattered stone sealing the features were very thin. Despite this evidence for six troughs of varying sizes was identified from the two areas. This site returned a 2 sigma calibrated date range of between 2129–1828 BC (3604±40: UBA 12742) and 1897–1692 BC (3481±38: UBA 12740) placing the activity at the site in the early Bronze Age period.

Similar parallels in terms of morphology and dating to the Bronze Age were identified and excavated across the project. Sites excavated across the scheme were generally identified as simple spreads or mounds of burnt and heat-shattered stone. While some of these, like the one at Drumminacloghaun 1 (McNamara 2009c), had evidence for a simple earth-cut trough, other sites such as those at Gortavoher 1 (Delaney 2009b) and Caheraphuca 10 (Bayley 2009c) were represented simply by spreads of heat-shattered stone.

Isolated burnt mound sites identified along the project were Rathwilladoon 4 (Lyne 2009), Drumminacloghaun 1 (McNamara 2009a) and Clooneen 1 (Bayley 2009a). As the route travelled further south it tended to follow marginal wetland and stream valleys and the burnt mounds appeared to become more clustered. This clustering of sites was identified at Curtaun 1 and 2 (Delaney 2009a), Gortavoher/Monreagh (Delaney 2009b and McNamara 2009b), Derrygarriff (Nunan 2009a and 2009b), Sranagalloon/Gortaficka (Nunan 2009c, 2009d and 2009e), Caheraphuca and Ballyline. A similar pattern of clustered burnt mounds to the south in county Clare and a paucity of examples of burnt mounds in county Galway was also encountered during the construction of the Bord Gáis Éireann pipeline (Grogan et al. 2007). The AMS dating indicates however that the sites were not necessarily contemporary but rather spanned the entire Bronze Age period and extended into the Iron Age (with one example at Derrygarriff 1 possibly indicating a medieval date) illustrating how the process of this pyrolithic technology remained the same across thousands of years.

More elaborate examples of troughs and pits from across the project (though serving the same function) displayed evidence for timber lining through the identification of stakeholes for upright supports at Curtaun (Delaney 2009a), Caheraphuca 1 (Bayley 2009b) and Gortaficka 1 and 2 and in some cases the actual remains of timber lining as at Clooneen 1 (Bayley 2009a), Caheraphuca 4 (Bayley 2009c), Sranagalloon 1 (Nunan 2009c) and Sranagalloon 3 (Nunan 2009d). Although the primary function of these sites was to heat water through the use of hot stones the actual purpose remains unknown. The sites at Caheraphuca 1 and Gortaficka 2 both displayed evidence for numerous troughs, drains, hearths and possibly preparation areas with stake-lined pits suggesting that they may have been used for some more formal industrial function than the other sites.

The sites at Ballyline 1 and 2 were located approximately 800 m south of the burnt mound cluster at Caheraphuca 3–12 (Bayley 2009c). They were also located in an area with a high concentration of known burnt mounds. These are located approximately 500 m to the northeast in Carrahil townland (CL026–137 and CL026–138) and within 800 m to the north and northwest in Caheraphuca (CL026–143, 128, 134 and 136) and Ballyline (CL026–133), 800 m to the southwest in Ballyline (CL026–144) and 700 m to the south in Bearnafunshin townland (CL026–149 and

CL026–179). Clusters of burnt mounds were excavated on the project to the north in Monreagh and Derrygarraff, Sranagalloon/Gortaficka and Caheraphuca townlands.

A review of the RMP records and the sites excavated as part of the N18 Gort to Crusheen road scheme indicate that the number of known or suspected burnt mounds increased towards the south of the project. In relation to Ballyline 1 and 2 a wedge tomb and two unclassified megalithic tombs are located approximately 4 km to the northeast in Knockmael East (CL016–026, CL016–027) and a wedge tomb is located within Caheraphuca (CL26–015) townland approximately 1.20 km to the northeast. A wedge tomb is located approximately 3.75 km to the south of Ballyline at Ballymaconna (CL026–054) and a standing stone is located approximately 3.80 km south southwest in Carrowdotia (CL026–035) townland. There is a high concentration of tombs (unspecified) and standing stones approximately 9 km to the southeast close to Tulla.

3.3 Typology of Burnt Mounds

Burnt mound sites (also commonly referred to as *fulachta fiadh*) are one of the most common field monuments found in the Irish landscape. The last published survey (Power et al. 1997), carried out over a decade ago, recorded over 7,000 burnt mound sites and in excess of 1,000 sites have been excavated in recent years through development led archaeological investigations. In spite of this no clear understanding of the precise function of these sites has been forthcoming.

Burnt mound sites are typically located in areas where there is a readily available water source, often in proximity to a river or stream or in places with a high water table. In the field burnt mounds may be identified as charcoal-rich mounds or spreads of heat-shattered stones however, in many cases the sites have been disturbed by later agricultural activity and are no longer visible on the field surface. Nevertheless even disturbed spreads of burnt mound material often preserves the underlying associated features, such as troughs, pits and gullies, intact.

Ó Néill (2003–2004, 82) has aptly identified these sites as the apparatus and by-product of pyrolithic technology. This technology involved the heating or boiling of water by placing fire-heated stones into troughs of water. Small shallow round-bottomed pits, generally referred to as pot boiler pits or roasting pits, are often associated with burnt mound sites. The purpose of these pits remains unclear. Occasionally large pits are also identified and may have acted as wells or cisterns. Linear gullies may extend across the site, often linked to troughs and pits, and demonstrate a concern with onsite water management. Post and stakeholes are often found on burnt mound sites and these may represent the remains of small structures or wind breakers.

Burnt mound sites are principally Bronze Age monuments and reach their pinnacle of use in the middle/late Bronze Age (Brindley et al. 1989–90; Corlett 1997). Earlier sites, such as Enniscoffey Co. Westmeath (Grogan et al. 2007, 96), have been dated to the Neolithic and later sites, such as Peter Street, Co. Waterford (Walsh 1990, 47), have been dated to the medieval period. Thus although burnt mound sites generally form a components of the Bronze Age landscape, the use of pyrolithic technology has a long history in Ireland.

Although there is a general consensus that burnt mound sites are the result of pyrolithic technology for the heating or boiling of water, the precise function of these sites has, to date, not been agreed upon. Several theories have been proposed but no single theory has received unanimous support. The most enduring theory is that burnt mounds sites were used as cooking sites. O’Kelly (1954) and Lawless (1990)

have demonstrated how joints of meat could be efficiently cooked in troughs of boiling water. The use of burnt mound sites for bathing or as saunas has been suggested as an alternative function (Lucas 1965; Barfield and Hodder 1987; Ó Drisceóil 1988). This proposal is largely influenced by references in the early Irish literature to sites of a similar character and is very difficult to prove, or disprove. Others, such as Jeffrey (1991), argue that they may have been centres of textile production for the fulling or dyeing of cloth. More recent demonstrations by Quinn and Moore (2007) have shown that troughs could have been used for brewing, however, this theory has been criticised by specialist environmentalists due to the absence of cereal remains from most burnt mound sites (McClatchie et al. 2007).

3.4 Discussion

3.4.1 Phase 1: Natural Drift Geology

This phase represents the natural subsoil, which was cut or sealed by all subsequent archaeological features. For the purposes of recording on-site this phase of activity was allocated the context number C2. The subsoil comprised a compact sandy silt which varied little between Ballyline 1 and 2.

3.4.2 Phase 2: Early Bronze Age Activity

Five oval-shaped troughs were identified within the area of Ballyline 1 (C4, C6, C9, C11, and C13), all of which contained charcoal-rich soil with fire-cracked stones. Trough C4 truncated trough C6. A thin spread of heat shattered stone and burnt material sealed all of the troughs.

One AMS date was obtained from the primary fill of trough C6 and returned a date of 3604±40 BP (UBA 12742). The 2 Sigma calibrated result for this was 2129–1828 BC (Appendix 2.1). Other charcoal identified from this fill included oak, ash, poplar/willow and Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple). This indicates that the primary wood burnt was oak and ash, possibly from a nearby wood. The other timber types represent deadwood that would have been collected in the immediate area for kindling and expedient firewood.

Lab code	Context / sample	Sample material	Years BP	1 sigma	2 sigma
UBA 12742	C7 / S9	Charcoal Alder/ Hazel	3604±40	Cal 2023–1913 BC	Cal 2129–1828 BC

The stone from the fill of this trough was identified as a mixture of quartzite, sandstone, limestone, chert and quartz (Mandal, Appendix 2.3). This would be a typical mix of stone expected from a burnt mound or trough. Quartzite and sandstone are coarse rock types and absorb heat well and repeatedly before fracturing or shattering.

An oval-shaped pit, C15, was situated central to the troughs at Ballyline 1 and may have had a specific function that differed to the troughs. A very thin spread of heat shattered stone and charcoal sealed all the troughs and pit at Ballyline 1.

Three troughs, a pit and two spreads of heat shattered stone were identified at Ballyline 2. The largest spread of heat shattered stone (C22) at this site sealed an oval-shaped trough (C22) and a circular pit (C35).

One AMS date was obtained from the fill of the trough and returned an AMS result of 3481±38 BP (UBA 12740). The 2 Sigma calibrated result for this was 1897–1692 BC (Appendix 2.1). The fill also contained ash and Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple) which is quite similar to the results from the earlier

trough at Ballyline 1. The stone from the fill has been identified as a mixture of quartzite and small amounts of limestone, again similar to the fill of the earlier trough.

Lab code	Context / sample	Sample material	Years BP	1 sigma	2 sigma
UBA 12740	C25 / S1	Charcoal Alder/ Hazel	3481±38	Cal 1878–1750 BC	Cal 1897–1692 BC

A second spread of burnt stones at this site sealed an oval trough (C30) which had a step located in its southern extent; this may have been to allow for easier access to retrieve material from the trough or to empty it. A third sub oval trough C37, which was not sealed beneath a burnt mound, was located to the north of the site.

Ballyline 1 and 2 represents the archaeological remains of a burnt mound site with associated troughs and pits. Its date range indicates a site that was returned to on a number of occasions over a long period in the early Bronze Age period. It was ideally located in wetland at the base of a steep slope in an area close to a stream. No animal bone was retrieved from the fills of the troughs and there is nothing to indicate a precise function for the site. The coarse stone is typical of the type of stone usually found at burnt mound sites. The charcoal indicates that there was an oak/ash forest close by and that there was healthy woodland in the marginal areas of the wetland surrounding the site which provided the deadwood used for kindling in the fires.

3.4.3 Phase 3: Post-Medieval Activity at Ballyline 1 and 2

The area of the site is depicted as wooded parkland on the Ordnance Survey first edition mapping. The parkland formed part of the demesne landscape of Ballyline House. The house and demesne are particularly associated with Sir Theobald (Toby) Butler, a lawyer who drafted the Jacobite articles in the Treaty of Limerick. The parkland appears to have been substantially altered during the twentieth century and the woodland removed. The house is also gone but the gates, walled garden and farmyard buildings all survive. The site was transected by agricultural furrows, field drains and a field boundary. The field boundary consisted of a low, stone wall orientated northwest to southeast which had been covered with bank material. It contained 147 pieces of chinaware in addition to some modern glass and metal finds.

3.4.4 Phase 4: Topsoil

The topsoil at Ballyline 1 and 2 was a peaty layer with a maximum depth of 0.30 m. Six clay pipe fragments and one worked stone, possibly a crude stone axe (Sternke, Appendix 2.4) were recovered from the topsoil.

4 CONCLUSIONS

Ballyline 1 and 2 was a collection of troughs and pits associated with early Bronze Age burnt mounds (c. 2129–1828 BC to at least 1897–1692 BC, 2 Sigma calibrations). The site was located within a low lying, wet, marginal landscape and is part of a distinct cluster of burnt mounds identified in this area. The lack of butchered bone from the site does not enforce a picture of meat production at the site. The charcoal assemblage suggests that the site was surrounded by primary woodland comprising of a combination of oak-hazel-ash with a hazel under-storey with scrub-land type taxa such as hawthorn/rowan/crab apple. Willow is also indicative of the wetland surrounding the site.

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PLATES



Plate 1 Post-excitation view of trough C4, facing east, Ballyline 1



Plate 2 Pre-excitation view of spread C3, facing north, Ballyline 1



Plate 3 Post-excitation view of C22 trough, facing east, Ballyline 2



Plate 4 Mid-excitation view of spreads C21 and C28, facing south, Ballyline 2



Plate 5 Post-excitation view of pit C35, to the foreground, and trough C22, to the rear, facing north, Ballyline 2

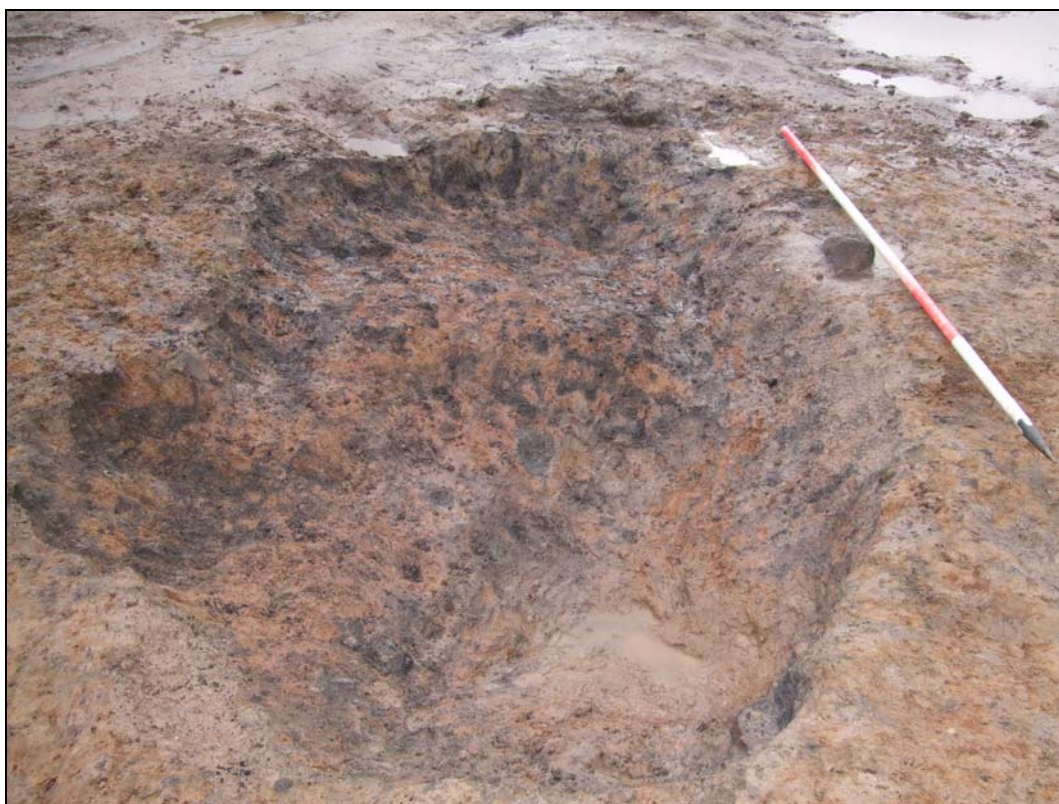


Plate 6 Post-excitation view of stepped trough C30, facing south, Ballyline 2



Plate 7 Post-excitation view of Ballyline 2, facing south.

APPENDIX 1 CATALOGUE OF PRIMARY DATA

Appendix 1.1 Context Register

Context	Fill of	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Basic Description	Interpretation	Description	Finds	Context Above	Context Below
1	N/A					Topsoil	Firm orangey brown clay silt	6 clay pipe fragments, 1 stone (Possibly butt of an axe)		
2	N/A					Natural subsoil	a compact sandy silt			
3	N/A	10	9	0.3	Brown black silty clay, stones, charcoal.	Burnt stone spread	Firm to medium brown black silty clay. Charcoal and sandstone inclusions.		C1	C2
4	N/A	2.5	1.5	0.3	Oval cut, concave sides.	Cut of a trough.	Oval in plan. N-S cut. No corners. Moderate break of slope at top. Concave sides. Moderate break of slope at base. Rounded base. Cuts c8 and cut 6.		C5	C8
5	C4	2.5	1.5	0.3	Black charcoal rich sandy silt, stones.	Fill of a trough.	Hard compaction black, charcoal rich sandy silt. 30% stone inclusions.		C3	C4
6	N/A	1.8	1	0.35	Oval cut, Straight/concave sides.	Cut of a trough.	Oval in plan. N-S cut. No corners. Sharp break of slope at top. Straight/concave sides. Sharp to moderate break of slope at base. Rounded flat base.		C7	C2
7	C6	1.8	1	0.35	Black brown sandy silt, charcoal, stones.	Base fill of a trough.	Hard compaction black brown sandy silt with gravel. 33% sandstone, burnt gravel and frequent charcoal inclusions.		C8	C6
8	C6	0.7	0.3	0.15	Light yellow orange silty clay.	Uppermost fill of a trough.	Firm light yellow, with orange patches, silty clay. Cut by C4.		C4	C7
9	N/A	2.4	1	0.3	Oval cut, gradual concave sides.	Cut of a trough.	Oval in plan. NW-SE cut. No corners. Gradual concave break of slope at top. Gradual concave sides. Gradual concave break of slope at base. Oval base.		C10	C2
10	C9	2.4	1	0.3	Black brown yellow silty sand, stones.	Fill of a trough.	Hard compaction black brown yellow silty sand. 10% clay, 20% gravel, 50% redeposit clay and charcoal inclusions.		C3	C9
11	N/A	2.4	0.8	0.4	Oval cut, straight to gradual sides.	Cut of a trough.	Oval in plan. NW-SE cut. No corners. Sharp break of slope at top to S, Gradual break of slope at top to other sides. Straight to gradual sloping sides. Gradual concave break of slope at base. Oval base.		C12	C2

Context	Fill of	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Basic Description	Interpretation	Description	Findings	Context Above	Context Below
12	C11	2.4	0.8	0.4	Brownish grey silt, stones.	Fill of a trough.	Soft to moderate brownish grey silt with 20% clay. 50% stone inclusions.		C3	C11
13	N/A	1.8	1.4	0.41	Oval cut, gradual sides.	Cut of a trough.	Oval in plan. E-W cut. No corners. Sharp break of slope at top. Gradual sides. Sharp break of slope at base. Concave base.		C14	C2
14	C13	1.8	1.4	0.41	Mid black grey silty clay, stones, charcoal.	Fill of a trough.	Crumbly mid black with a grey hue silty clay. Stone and charcoal inclusions.		C3	C13
15	N/A	1.18	1	0.36	Oval cut, sloping inward sides.	Cut of a pit.	Oval in plan. N-S cut. No corners. Gradual break of slope at top. Sloping inward sides. Gradual concave break of slope at base. Circular base.		C16	C2
16	C15	1.18	1	0.36	Blackish grey silt, stone, charcoal.	Fill of a pit	Mid compaction blackish grey silt with 20% clay. 10% coarse sand, 50% fire cracked stone and charcoal inclusions.		C1	C15
17	N/A	8	0.8	0.15	Linear cut, concave sides. Black silt.	Cut and fill of a furrow.	Linear in plan. N-S cut. No corners. Concave break of slope at top. Concave sides. Concave break of slope at base. Concave base. Firm black charcoal rich silt.		C1	C2
18	N/A	6-6.5	0.7	0.13	Linear cut, gentle concave sides.	Cut and fill of a furrow.	Linear in plan. E-W cut. No corners. Gently concave break of slope at top. Gently concave sides. Gently concave break of slope at base. Gently concave base. Firm black brown peat. 60% sandstone, 40% peat.		C1	C2
19	N/A	18	0.9	0.15	Linear cut, concave, gradual sides.	Cut and fill of a drain.	Linear in plan. NW-SE cut. No corners. Concave gradual break of slope at top. Concave gradual sides. Concave gradual break of slope at base. Concave gradual break of slope at base. Firm dark brown silt. 15% pebbles.		C1	C2
20	N/A	30.4	6.3	0.6	Stone wall.	Field boundary wall.	N-S wall of uncut limestone. Contains mixed layers of silt, branches and chinaware.	147 pottery (PM), 1 brick, 4 glass sherds, 3 iron pieces.	C1	C2
21	N/A	6.95	5.6	0.3	Dark brown grey silty clay, charcoal, stones.	Burnt stone spread	Loose dark brown with a grey hue, silty clay. Stone inclusions. Charcoal flecks.		C1	C23, 25
22	N/A	1.95	1.25	0.63	Oval cut, vertical to gradual sides.	Cut of a trough.	Oval in plan. E-W cut. No corners. Gradual break of slope at top. Vertical sides on most sides, gradual at SW. Sharp to gradual break of slope at base. Flat base.		C23, C25	C2

Context	Fill of	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Basic Description	Interpretation	Description	Findings	Context Above	Context Below
23	C22	1.15	0.97	0.39	Dark grey sandy silt, charcoal, stones.	One of two abutting fills of a trough.	Loose, crumbly dark grey sandy silt. Small stone inclusions. Charcoal flecks.		C21	C22
24	N/A	2.42	0.8	0.16	Linear cut, gradual sloping sides.	Cut of a linear feature.	Linear in plan. E-W cut. No corners. Gradual break of slope at top. Gradual sloping sides. Non perceptible break of slope at base. The base is sloping to the W. Cutting c25.		C29	C25
25	C22	0.95	1.25	0.53	Black charcoal rich silty sand, stones.	One of two abutting fills of a trough.	Loose black silty sand. Frequent charcoal and some stone inclusions.		C21	C22
26	N/A				Non-archaeological	Non-archaeological	Non-archaeological			
27	N/A				Non-archaeological	Non-archaeological	Non-archaeological			
28	N/A	5.2	3.5	0.15	Black brown sandy silt, charcoal, roots.	Small burnt stone spread	Mid compaction, mottled black brown sandy silt. 10-15% clay. Root, peat and charcoal fleck inclusions.		C1	C31, C2
29	C24	2.42	0.8	0.16	Light black silty sand, stones, charcoal.	Fill of a linear feature.	Loose light black silty sand. Stone and charcoal inclusions.		C21	C24
30	N/A	2.68	1.9	0.42	Oval cut, concave sides.	Cut of a trough.	Oval in plan. NW-SE cut. No corners. Sharp to moderate break of slope at top. Concave sides. Moderate break of slope at base. Flat base.		C31	C2
31	C30	2.68	1.9	0.42	Black, dark grey sandy silt, charcoal, stone.	Fill of a trough.	Black/dark grey sandy silt. Burnt and unburnt stone and frequent charcoal inclusions.		C28	C30
32	N/A	10.5	1.98	0.34	Linear cut, gradual sides.	Cut of a linear feature.	Linear in plan. N-S cut. No corners. Sharp break of slope at top. Gradual break of slope at top. Gradual break of slope at base. Concave base.		C33	C2
33	C32	10.5	1.17	0.15	Mid grey silty clay, stones.	Basal fill of a linear feature.	Soft crumbly mid grey silty clay. Charcoal inclusions.		C34	C32
34	C32	10.5	1.98	0.2	Mid brown orange silty sand, stones, bone.	Uppermost fill of a linear feature.	Compacted mid brown with an orange hue silty sand. Stone and bone inclusions.	2 pottery (PM)	C1	C33
35	N/A	0.6	0.6	0.39	Circular cut, straight sides.	Cut of a pit.	Circular cut. No corners. Steep sharp break of slope at top. Straight sides. Curved break of slope at base. Circular base.		C36	C2
36	C35	0.6	0.6	0.39	Greyish brown sandy silt, stones.	Fill of a pit.	Loose to mid compaction greyish brown sandy silt. 20% small gravel stones.		C35	C21

Context	Fill of	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	Basic Description	Interpretation	Description	Finds	Context Above	Context Below
37	N/A	2.4	0.85	0.36	Sub oval cut, vertical sides.	Cut of a possible trough.	Sub oval in plan. NE-SW cut. No corners. Medium break of slope at top. Vertical sides. Medium break of slope at base. Flat base.		C38	C2
38	C37	2.4	0.85	0.36	Black charcoal rich sandy silt, stones.	Fill of a possible trough.	Stiff black sandy silt. Frequent charcoal and stone inclusions.		C1	C37
39	N/A	0.18-0.25	0.12-0.14	0.09-0.1	Circular cut, straight sides.	Cut fill of stakeholes or roots	Circular cut. No corners. Sharp break of slope at top. Sloped, straight sides. Curved break of slope at base. Curved, circular base. Black silty clay fill.		C24, C40	C2
40	N/A	5.5	0.4-0.5	0.11	Linear cut, gradual concave sides.	East to west furrow	Linear in plan. E-W cut. No corners. Gradual break of slope at top. Gradual, concave sides. Gradual break of slope at base. Gradual concave base. Light brown silt. Stone inclusions.	3 pottery (PM)	C1	C21

Appendix 1.2 Catalogue of Artefacts

Registration Number	Context	Item No.	Simple Name	Full Name	Material	No. of Parts	Description
E3717:1:	1	1	Clay pipe	Pipe fragments	Ceramic	1	Post
E3717:1:	1	2	Clay pipe	Pipe fragments	Ceramic	1	Post
E3717:1:	1	3	Clay pipe	Pipe fragments	Ceramic	1	Post
E3717:1:	1	4	Clay pipe	Pipe fragments	Ceramic	1	Post
E3717:1:	1	5	Clay pipe	Pipe fragments	Ceramic	1	Post
E3717:1:	1	6	Clay pipe	Pipe fragments	Ceramic	1	Post-medieval
E3717:1:	1	7	Mudstone	Mudstone axe?	Mudstone	1	Possible prehistoric axe blank
E3717:20:1	20	1	Pottery	Rim	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:2	20	2	Pottery	Base	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:3	20	3	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Transfer printed ware
E3717:20:4	20	4	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Transfer printed ware
E3717:20:5	20	5	Pottery	Base	Ceramic	1	Pearlware
E3717:20:6	20	6	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:7	20	7	Pottery	Rim	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:8	20	8	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Transfer printed ware
E3717:20:9	20	9	Pottery	Base	Ceramic	1	Pearlware
E3717:20:10	20	10	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:11	20	11	Pottery	Base	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:12	20	12	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:13	20	13	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:14	20	14	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:15	20	15	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:16	20	16	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Mochaware
E3717:20:17	20	17	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:18	20	18	Pottery	Rim	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:19	20	19	Pottery	Rim	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:20	20	20	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:21	20	21	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:22	20	22	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:23	20	23	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Creamware

Registration Number	Context	Item No.	Simple Name	Full Name	Material	No. of Parts	Description
E3717:20:24	20	24	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Shell-edged ware
E3717:20:25	20	25	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:26	20	26	Pottery	Base	Ceramic	1	Pearlware
E3717:20:27	20	27	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:28	20	28	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Transfer printed ware
E3717:20:29	20	29	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:30	20	30	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:31	20	31	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:32	20	32	Pottery	Base	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:33	20	33	Pottery	Base	Ceramic	1	Pearlware
E3717:20:34	20	34	Pottery	Base	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:35	20	35	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Shell-edged ware
E3717:20:36	20	36	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:37	20	37	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Shell-edged ware
E3717:20:38	20	38	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:39	20	39	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:40	20	40	Pottery	Base	Ceramic	1	Stoneware
E3717:20:41	20	41	Pottery	Base	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:42	20	42	Pottery	Rim	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:43	20	43	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:44	20	44	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:45	20	45	Pottery	Rim	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:46	20	46	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:47	20	47	Pottery	Base	Ceramic	1	Stoneware
E3717:20:48	20	48	Pottery	Rim	Ceramic	1	Shell-edged ware
E3717:20:49	20	49	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:50	20	50	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:51	20	51	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Shell-edged ware
E3717:20:52	20	52	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Mochaware
E3717:20:53	20	53	Pottery	Base	Ceramic	1	Pearlware
E3717:20:54	20	54	Pottery	Base	Ceramic	1	Shell-edged ware
E3717:20:55	20	55	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware

Registration Number	Context	Item No.	Simple Name	Full Name	Material	No. of Parts	Description
E3717:20:56	20	56	Pottery	Base	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:57	20	57	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:58	20	58	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:59	20	59	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:60	20	60	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:61	20	61	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:62	20	62	Pottery	Base	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:63	20	63	Pottery	Base	Ceramic	1	Pearlware
E3717:20:64	20	64	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:65	20	65	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:66	20	66	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Shell-edged ware
E3717:20:67	20	67	Pottery	Rim	Ceramic	1	Shell-edged ware
E3717:20:68	20	68	Pottery	Rim	Ceramic	1	Shell-edged ware
E3717:20:69	20	69	Pottery	Base	Ceramic	1	Pearlware
E3717:20:70	20	70	Pottery	Rim	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:71	20	71	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:72	20	72	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:73	20	73	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:74	20	74	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:75	20	75	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:76	20	76	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:77	20	77	Pottery	Base	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:78	20	78	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:79	20	79	Pottery	Base	Ceramic	1	Transfer printed ware
E3717:20:80	20	80	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:81	20	81	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:82	20	82	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:83	20	83	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:84	20	84	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:85	20	85	Pottery	Base	Ceramic	1	Transfer printed ware
E3717:20:86	20	86	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Transfer printed ware
E3717:20:87	20	87	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Creamware

Registration Number	Context	Item No.	Simple Name	Full Name	Material	No. of Parts	Description
E3717:20:88	20	88	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:89	20	89	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:90	20	90	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Transfer printed ware
E3717:20:91	20	91	Pottery	Base	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:92	20	92	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:93	20	93	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:94	20	94	Pottery	Rim	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:95	20	95	Pottery	Base	Ceramic	1	Pearlware
E3717:20:96	20	96	Pottery	Base	Ceramic	1	Pearlware
E3717:20:97	20	97	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:98	20	98	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:99	20	99	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:100	20	100	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:101	20	101	Pottery	Base	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:102	20	102	Pottery	Rim	Ceramic	1	Porcelain
E3717:20:103	20	103	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:104	20	104	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Transfer printed ware
E3717:20:105	20	105	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:106	20	106	Pottery	Base	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:107	20	107	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Shell-edged ware
E3717:20:108	20	108	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Transfer printed ware
E3717:20:109	20	109	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:110	20	110	Pottery	Base	Ceramic	1	Pearlware
E3717:20:111	20	111	Pottery	Rim	Ceramic	1	Shell-edged ware
E3717:20:112	20	112	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:113	20	113	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:114	20	114	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:115	20	115	Pottery	Rim	Ceramic	1	Shell-edged ware
E3717:20:116	20	116	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:117	20	117	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:118	20	118	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:119	20	119	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware

Registration Number	Context	Item No.	Simple Name	Full Name	Material	No. of Parts	Description
E3717:20:120	20	120	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:121	20	121	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:122	20	122	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:123	20	123	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:124	20	124	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Shell-edged ware
E3717:20:125	20	125	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:126	20	126	Pottery	Rim	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:127	20	127	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:128	20	128	Pottery	Base	Ceramic	1	Pearlware
E3717:20:129	20	129	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:130	20	130	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Shell-edged ware
E3717:20:131	20	131	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:132	20	132	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:133	20	133	Pottery	Rim	Ceramic	1	Transfer printed ware
E3717:20:134	20	134	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Shell-edged ware
E3717:20:135	20	135	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:136	20	136	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:137	20	137	Pottery	Base	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:138	20	138	Pottery	Rim/Base	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:139	20	139	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:140	20	140	Pottery	Rim	Ceramic	1	Shell-edged ware
E3717:20:141	20	141	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:143	20	143	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Painted pearlware
E3717:20:144	20	144	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:20:145	20	145	Pottery	Base	Ceramic	1	Transfer printed ware
E3717:20:146	20	146	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Glazed red earthenware
E3717:20:147	20	147	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Unglazed red earthenware
E3717:20:148	20	148	Brick	Body	Ceramic	1	Modern brick
E3717:20:149	20	149	Glass	Sherd	Glass	1	Modern bottle
E3717:20:150	20	150	Glass	Sherd	Glass	1	Modern bottle
E3717:20:151	20	151	Glass	Sherd	Glass	1	Modern bottle
E3717:20:152	20	152	Glass	Sherd	Glass	1	Modern bottle

Registration Number	Context	Item No.	Simple Name	Full Name	Material	No. of Parts	Description
E3717:20:153	20	153	Iron	Fragment	Iron	1	Modern iron fragment
E3717:20:154	20	154	Iron	Fragment	Iron	1	Modern iron fragment
E3717:20:155	20	155	Iron	Fragment	Iron	1	Modern iron fragment
E3717:34:1	34	1	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:34:2	34	2	Pottery	Body	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:40:1	40	1	Pottery	Rim	Ceramic	1	Creamware
E3717:40:2	40	2	Pottery	Base	Ceramic	1	Pearlware
E3717:40:3	40	3	Pottery	Base	Ceramic	1	Pearlware

Appendix 1.3 Catalogue of Ecofacts

These results relate to the processed samples taken at the excavation. A full list of these samples was supplied with the preliminary reports lodged with Galway NRDO. A total of seven bulk soil samples were taken during the course of excavation at these sites. Of these five were processed by means of flotation and sieving through a 250/300µm mesh. The resulting retrieved samples of this process are listed below. In addition to this, a total of two animal bone samples were hand retrieved on site.

1.3.1 Animal bone

Two samples of animal bone were hand retrieved from site. As one was from a modern context and the other from a disturbed context it was decided not to process them.


Context number	Sample number	Feature	Sample weight (g)
34	3	Linear gully	-
21	10	Spread	-

1.3.2 Charcoal

Two charcoal samples were recovered following flotation.

Context number	Sample number	Feature	Sample weight (g)
25	1	Trough	139.3g
7	9	Trough	13.1g

Appendix 1.4 Archive Checklist

Project:	N18 Gort to Crusheen	Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd	
Site Name:	Ballyline 1 and 2		
NMS Number:	E3717		
Site director:	Siobhán McNamara		
Date:	03/01/08		
Field Records		Items (quantity)	Comments
Site drawings (plans)		4	
Site sections, profiles, elevations		27	6 sheets
Other plans, sketches, etc.		0	
Timber drawings		0	
Stone structural drawings		0	
Site diary/note books		0	
Site registers (folders)		1	
Survey/levels data (origin information)		0	
Context sheets		40	
Wood Sheets		0	
Skeleton Sheets		0	
Worked stone sheets		0	
Digital photographs		330	
Photographs (print)		0	
Photographs (slide)		0	
Finds and Environ. Archive			
Flint/chert		0	
Stone artefacts		1	
Pottery (specify periods/typology)		152 (Mod)	
Ceramic Building Material (specify types eg daub, tile)		0	
Metal artefacts (specify types - bronze, iron)		3 (Iron)	
Glass		4	
Other find types or special finds (specify)		6 clay pipe	
Timber and trough material		0	
Human bone (specify type eg cremated, skeleton, disarticulated)		0	
Animal bone		2	
Metallurgical waste		0	
Enviro bulk soil (specify no. of samples)		7 (175L)	+1 charcoal
Enviro (specify number of samples and number of tins per sample)		0	
Security copy of archive		Yes	IAC Digital

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

Appendix 2.1 Radiocarbon Dating Results – QUB Laboratory

Appendix 2.2 Charcoal Remains– Sarah Cobain

Appendix 2.3 Petrological Analysis – Stephen Mandal

Appendix 2.4 Lithics Report – Dr Farina Sternke

Appendix 2.5 Modern Pottery Report – Clare McCutcheon

Appendix 2.6 Catalogue of Clay Pipe and Metal Finds – Maeve Tobin

RADIOCARBON DATING RESULTS
BALLYLINE 1 & 2, CO. CLARE, E3717

CHRONO LABORATORY, QUEENS UNIVERSITY BELFAST

Colette Rynhart
Irish Archaeological
Consultancy Ltd
120b Greenpark Road
Bray
Co. Wicklow, Ireland
Rep. of Ireland
VAT No. IE8288812U



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

Radiocarbon Date Certificate

Laboratory Identification: UBA-12740
Date of Measurement: 2009-10-20
Site: E3717 Ballyline 1 & 2
Sample ID: C25S1
Material Dated: charcoal
Pretreatment: AAA
Submitted by: IAC

¹⁴C Date: 3481±38
AMS δ¹³C: -25.4

Information about radiocarbon calibration

RADIOCARBON CALIBRATION PROGRAM*
CALIB REV5.0.2

Copyright 1986-2005 M Stuiver and PJ Reimer

*To be used in conjunction with:
Stuiver, M., and Reimer, P.J., 1993, Radiocarbon, 35, 215-230.
Annotated results (text) - -
Export file - cl4res.csv

C25S1
UBA-12740
Radiocarbon Age BP 3481 +/- 38
Calibration data set: intcal04.14c # Reimer et al. 2004
% area enclosed cal AD age ranges relative area under
probability distribution

68.3 (1 sigma)	cal BC	1878- 1840	0.359
		1827- 1792	0.319
		1785- 1750	0.322
95.4 (2 sigma)	cal BC	1897- 1729	0.940
		1720- 1692	0.060

References for calibration datasets:

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

Comments:

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

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

Colette Rynhart
Irish Archaeological
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120b Greenpark Road
Bray
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¹⁴CHRONO Centre
Queens University
Belfast
42 Fitzwilliam Street
Belfast BT9 6AX
Northern Ireland

Radiocarbon Date Certificate

Laboratory Identification: UBA-12742
Date of Measurement: 2009-10-20
Site: E3717 Ballyline 1 & 2
Sample ID: C7S9
Material Dated: charcoal
Pretreatment: AAA
Submitted by: IAC

¹⁴C Date: 3604±40
AMS δ¹³C: -24.2

Information about radiocarbon calibration

RADIOCARBON CALIBRATION PROGRAM*
CALIB REV5.0.2

Copyright 1986-2005 M Stuiver and PJ Reimer

*To be used in conjunction with:

Stuiver, M., and Reimer, P.J., 1993, Radiocarbon, 35, 215-230.
Annotated results (text) - -
Export file - cl4res.csv

C7S9
UBA-12742
Radiocarbon Age BP 3604 +/- 40
Calibration data set: intcal04.14c # Reimer et al. 2004
% area enclosed cal AD age ranges relative area under
probability distribution

68.3 (1 sigma)	cal BC 2023- 1991	0.289
	1984- 1913	0.711
95.4 (2 sigma)	cal BC 2129- 2088	0.053
	2046- 1878	0.938
	1839- 1828	0.009

References for calibration datasets:

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

Comments:

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

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

THE CHARCOAL REMAINS
BALLYLINE 1 & 2, CO. CLARE, E3717
SARAH COBAIN

*De Faoite Archaeology,
Unit 10 Riverside Business Centre,
Tinahely, Co Wicklow*

Introduction

The survival of seed and charcoal macrofossils from dryland archaeology sites is dependent upon the water table being high enough to keep the archaeological features in damp/wet and anoxic conditions. This does not usually occur on archaeological sites in Ireland, unless they are located on riverine flood plains or close to lakes. Seeds and charcoal are however preserved abundantly in the form of charcoal and carbonised plant remains as a result of burning activities in features such as hearths, kilns, furnaces, burnt structures and as waste material disposed in ditches and pits.

There were 24 burnt mound sites spanning from the early to late Bronze Age period in date on the N18 Gort to Crusheen road scheme. The burnt mound activity from Caheraphuca 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, Ballyline 3, Drumminacloghaun, Clooneen and Gortavoher dated from the early Bronze Age. Ballyline 1 and 2 and Gortaficka 1 and 2 were from the early to mid Bronze Age and Sranagalloon 1, 3 Caheraphuca 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 12, Rathwilladoon 4, Monreagh, Monreagh 3 and Derrygarriff 3 were dated to the mid to late Bronze Age. These sites consisted of archaeological features associated with *fulacht fiadh* activity and included burnt mounds, spread, troughs, pits and gullies. Plant macrofossil and charcoal remains provide valuable information to determine socio-economic activity on archaeology sites. It is the aim of this report to identify the seed and charcoal species recovered from all these sites and to use this information to:

- 1) provide additional information regarding the function of features sampled
- 2) interpret the diet and living conditions of the occupants of the site
- 3) interpret socio-economic and industrial activities on the site
- 4) infer the composition of the local flora and woodland.

Methodology

There were 2 samples to be analysed for charcoal remains. The following methodology was used to identify the charcoal fragments.

Charcoal

The number of charcoal fragments to be identified is dependent on the diversity of the flora. A study by Keepax (1988:120–124) has indicated that depending on the location of the archaeology site, 100–400 fragments of charcoal would need to be identified in order to obtain a full range of species diversity. As Britain and Ireland have a narrow flora diversity in comparison to that of mainland Europe, an identification limit of 100 fragments has been deemed sufficient for samples from either of these two countries (Keepax 1988; cited in Austin 2005:1). As the majority of the samples contained more than 100 fragments, in accordance with Keepax (1988), a maximum of 100 fragments were identified. Of the samples which contained greater than 100 fragments these were sieved through a 10 mm, 4 mm and 2 mm sieve and an equal proportion of each sieve were identified. This is to prevent any bias that may occur if only larger pieces are identified (thereby ensuring any potential smaller species are equally represented).

Each charcoal fragment was fractured by hand to reveal the wood anatomy on radial, tangential and transverse planes. The pieces were then supported in a sand bath and identified under an epi-illuminating microscope (Brunel SP400) at magnifications from x40 to x400. The sand bath allows the charcoal pieces to be manipulated into the flattest possible position to aid identification. As fragments less than 2 mm in size cannot be accurately identified (it is not possible to get a wide enough field of vision to encompass the necessary anatomical features for identification) only fragments above this size were examined. During identification, any notable growth-ring

characteristics, evidence of thermal and biological degradation and any other unusual microscopic features were recorded. Identifications were carried out with reference to images and descriptions by Cutler and Gale (2000) and Heller et al. (2004) and Wheeler et al. (1989). Nomenclature of species follows Stace (1997).

Plant macrofossils

Plant macrofossil remains were retrieved by standard flotation procedures by IAC Ltd using 1mm and 250 micron sieves. The floated material was sorted and seeds identified using a low-power stereo-microscope (Brunel MX1) at magnifications of x4 to x40. Identifications were made with reference to Cappers et al. (2006), Berggren (1981) and Anderberg (1994). Nomenclature follows Stace (1997).

Results

The plant macrofossil and charcoal results are fully tabulated in Tables 9-39 in the Appendix at the end of the report.

Charcoal identification notes

The anatomical similarities between (a) the Maloideae species (hawthorn, rowan, crab apple); (b) alder/hazel; (c) sessile/pedunculate oak; (d) wild/bird cherry and (e) poplar/willow mean that it was not possible to identify these taxa to species level (Cutler and Gale, 2000).

E3653 Caheraphuca 1

There were five samples retrieved from Caheraphuca 1. Sample 15 (C29) was recovered from pit C100, C101 and contained hazel, oak, ash, cf hawthorn, and poplar/willow charcoal inclusions. The fill (C58-sample 18) of pit/trough, C57 contained alder/hazel and Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple) charcoal fragments. Burnt spread material C95 (sample 30) contained alder/hazel, birch, ash, Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple) and elm charcoal inclusions. Two samples were retrieved from pit C102. Secondary fill C106 (sample 39) contained alder/hazel charcoal fragments and tertiary fill C107 (sample 35) contained alder/hazel, oak, Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple), poplar/willow and elm charcoal inclusions.

E3653 Caheraphuca 3

Five samples were analysed from Caheraphuca 3. Burnt spread C327 contained no charcoal inclusions and pit/tree hole pit C332 (sample 21-C333, samples 20 and 32--C334 and sample 38 C344) contained hazel, alder/hazel oak and ash charcoal inclusions. Sample 20 (fill C334) also contained a single carbonised hazelnut shell.

E3653 Caheraphuca 4

Burnt spreads C404 and C405 were retrieved as samples 2 and 3, respectively. C405 contained hazel, alder/hazel, oak, ash, cf hawthorn, blackthorn/sloe, poplar/willow and elm charcoal inclusions. Burnt spread C405 contained alder, hazel, alder/hazel, birch, oak, ash, cf hawthorn, cf crab apple and blackthorn/sloe charcoal inclusions.

E3653 Caheraphuca 5

A single sample (sample 1) was retrieved from the burnt spread C504 at Caheraphuca 5. This sample contained hazel, alder/hazel, birch, oak, ash, *Maloideae* species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple), poplar/willow and yew charcoal inclusions.

E3653 Caheraphuca 6

Three samples were retrieved from burnt mound material at Caheraphuca 6. Deposit C604 (sample 3) contained alder and hazel charcoal inclusions, deposit C605 (sample 1) contained alder/hazel, oak, cf hawthorn, blackthorn/sloe and elm charcoal fragments and deposit C608 (sample 12) contained hazel, birch, oak, ash, Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple) and wild/bird cherry charcoal inclusions. Sample 7 was retrieved from fill C617, which was a packing fill supporting timber C612. This fill contained alder, hazel, oak and ash charcoal inclusions.

E3653 Caheraphuca 7

Samples 2 and 7 were retrieved from burnt spread deposits C708 and C709 (respectively). Sample 2 (C708) contained hazel, alder/hazel, birch, oak, Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple) and wild/bird cherry charcoal fragments. Deposit C709 contained alder/hazel, ash, Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple) and elm charcoal inclusions. Trough C715 contained fill C713 (sample 8), which contained alder/hazel, birch, oak and ash charcoal inclusions. Sample 5 was retrieved from the fill (C710) of pit C711. This pit contained alder/hazel, oak, Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple), wild/bird cherry and blackthorn/sloe charcoal inclusions. Pit C712 contained fill C704 (sample 3), which included alder/hazel, oak, ash, Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple), wild/bird cherry and blackthorn/sloe charcoal inclusions.

E3653 Caheraphuca 8

Five samples were analysed from burnt mound activity at Caheraphuca 8. Sample 10, 39, 48 and 54 were retrieved from burnt mound spreads C810, C827, C829 and C835 respectively. Sample 10 (C810) contained alder and oak charcoal inclusions and a single carbonised hazelnut shell fragment. Burnt mound spread C827 (sample 48) included alder/hazel and ash charcoal fragments. Alder, hazel, alder/hazel, birch, oak, ash, Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple), cf hawthorn and poplar/willow were recovered from burnt mound spread C829 (sample 54). Sample 88 (C835) contained alder/hazel, oak, ash, Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple), cf hawthorn, cf crab apple and yew charcoal fragments. One additional sample (sample 39) was retrieved as a packing fill (C825) located under timber plank C814. This packing fill (C825) contained hazel, alder/hazel, oak, ash and Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple) charcoal inclusions.

E3653 Caheraphuca 9

Sample 2 was retrieved from the fill (C906) of pit C904 and contained alder and ash charcoal inclusions.

E3653 Caheraphuca 10

Two samples were retrieved from burnt mound activity at Caheraphuca 10. Burnt mound spread C1008 was retrieved as sample 4 and contained alder/hazel and oak charcoal fragments. The spread of unburnt stones C1005 (sample 1) contained alder/hazel, ash and Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple) charcoal inclusions.

E3653 Caheraphuca 11

Trough C1109 contained the fill C1118 (sample 5) which included alder/hazel, oak and elm charcoal fragments.

E3653 Caheraphuca 12

Two samples were retrieved from Caheraphuca 12. Sample 1 was taken from burnt mound spread C1203 and contained alder, hazel, oak, ash, Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple), wild/bird cherry, yew and elm charcoal fragments.

Sample 2 was retrieved from the fill (C1204) of trough C1204. This fill contained elder, alder, hazel, alder/hazel, oak, ash and wild/bird cherry charcoal inclusions.

E3655 Rathwilladoon 4

The burnt mound spread (C3 – sample 1) at Rathwilladoon 4 contained hazel, alder/hazel, oak, ash, Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple) and elm charcoal inclusions and a single carbonised hazelnut shell inclusion. The fill (C6) of boundary ditch, C5 contained hazel, alder/hazel, oak and ash charcoal inclusions.

E3712 Monreagh 1 and 2

Four samples were retrieved from Monreagh 1 and 2. Sample 13 was recovered from the fill (C25) of trough C24 and contained alder, hazel, alder/hazel, birch, oak, ash, Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple), blackthorn/sloe and yew charcoal fragments. Fill C36 (sample 18) from trough C35 contained alder/hazel, ash and Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple) charcoal fragments. Sample 21 was retrieved from fill C41 within pit C40. This fill contained ash and Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple) charcoal inclusions. Sample 14 was retrieved from fill C27 within well C26. This sample contained elder, hazel, oak, cf hawthorn and wild/bird cherry.

E3713 Sranagalloon 1

Sample 2 was retrieved from burnt mound spread C5 and contained alder/hazel, oak, ash, Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple), poplar/willow and elm charcoal inclusions. Trough C8 contained fills C11, C12, C9 which were retrieved as sample 22. This sample contained hazel, alder/hazel, birch, oak, ash, traveller's joy and Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple) charcoal fragments.

E3715 Ballyline 3

Sample 1 (C4) was retrieved from pit C3. This pit contained hazel, alder/hazel, birch, oak, ash and Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple) charcoal fragments. The sample (sample 2) retrieved from burnt mound material, C5, contained hazel, alder/hazel, oak, ash, cf hawthorn and elm charcoal inclusions.

E3716 Derrygarriff 3

Three samples were retrieved from burnt mound activity at Derrygarriff 3. Sample 8 was recovered from burnt mound material (C3) and contained alder/hazel, ash, Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple), cf hawthorn and poplar/willow charcoal fragments. Hazel, alder/hazel, birch, ash, Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple), wild/bird cherry, poplar/willow and elm charcoal inclusions were obtained from fill C5 (sample 1) within trough C4. Sample 6 was retrieved from the fill (C8) of trough C6 and contained alder/hazel, oak, ash, Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple) and wild/bird cherry charcoal fragments.

E3717 Ballyline 1 and 2

Troughs C22 and C6 were analysed for charcoal remains from burnt mound activity at Ballyline 1 and 2. The fill (C25-sample 1) of trough C22 contained alder/hazel, ash and Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple) charcoal fragments. Sample 9 was recovered from fill C7 within trough C6. This fill contained alder, hazel, alder/hazel, oak, ash, Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple) and poplar/willow charcoal inclusions.

E3720 Drumminacloghaun 1

Burnt spread material C3 (sample 2) from Drumminacloghaun 1 contained alder/hazel, oak, ash, yew and elm charcoal fragments and a single carbonised

yellow water lily seed. The fill (C6-sample 5) from trough C4 only contained three ash charcoal fragments.

E3722 Clooneen 1

There were three samples retrieved from burnt mound activity at Clooneen 1. Sample 6 was recovered from burnt spread material C3 and contained alder, hazel, alder/hazel, ash and poplar/willow charcoal inclusions. A packing fill layer (C15 – sample 10) which was located under the wooden base of trough C8 contained alder and ash charcoal inclusions. The fill C7 (sample 3) from pit C7 contained alder, hazel, alder/hazel and ash charcoal inclusions.

E3897 Sranagalloon 3

There were eight samples recovered from burnt mound activity at Sranagalloon 3. The spread (C34-sample 40) from possible up cast material contained birch, ash and Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple) charcoal inclusions. Burnt spread material C3 (sample 38) contained hazel, alder/hazel, cf hawthorn, cf crab apple, blackthorn/sloe and elm charcoal inclusions. Two fills (C30 and C35 –samples 28 and 27 respectively) were recovered from trough C28. Fill C30 contained alder, hazel, alder/hazel, cf hawthorn, cf crab apple, blackthorn/sloe and elm charcoal inclusions and a single carbonised hazelnut shell. Fill C35 contained hazel, alder/hazel, oak, ash, Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple) and poplar/willow charcoal fragments and a single carbonised hazelnut shell. Trough C50 contained fill C8 (sample 41). This fill included alder, hazel, alder/hazel, ash and cf hawthorn charcoal fragments. Two fills were sampled from pit C19. Sample 10 was taken from fill C22 and contained hazel, ash, wild/bird cherry and poplar/willow charcoal inclusions. Sample 12 (C27) contained alder/hazel and poplar/willow charcoal fragments.

E3898 Gortaficka 1 and 2

A single sample (sample 1) was recovered from burnt spread material C3 at Gortaficka 1. This sample contained hazel, alder/hazel, ash and wild/bird cherry charcoal inclusions. Two samples were taken from burnt mound material at Gortaficka 2. Sample 5 was retrieved from deposit C10 and contained alder, hazel, alder/hazel, birch, oak, ash, Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple), poplar/willow and yew charcoal inclusions. Deposit C20 (sample 8) contained hazel, alder/hazel, oak, ash and yew charcoal fragments. Fill C41 (sample 35) from within trough C39 and contained wayfaring tree, alder/hazel, traveller's joy and Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple) charcoal fragments. Sample 20 was retrieved from fill 29 within pit C21. This sample contained hazel, alder/hazel, oak, ash, Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple), poplar/willow, yew and elm charcoal inclusions. Drainage gully C53 contained fill C55. The sample from this fill (sample 37) contained two fragments of wayfaring tree charcoal.

E3984 Gortavoher 1

There were two samples recovered from burnt mound material deposits from Gortavoher 1. Sample 1 was recovered from deposit C3 and contained wayfaring tree, hazel, birch, oak, ash, Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple), cf crab apple, blackthorn/sloe, poplar/willow, yew and elm charcoal fragments and carbonised mustard/cabbage, tufted vetch and water pepper seeds. Deposit C6 (sample 2) contained hazel, alder/hazel, birch, oak, Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple), poplar/willow, yew and elm charcoal inclusions.

E4037 Monreagh 3

Three samples were retrieved from burnt mound activity at Monreagh 3. Sample 2 was recovered from burnt mound material C3 and contained alder, hazel,

alder/hazel, oak, ash and elm charcoal inclusions and two carbonised hazelnut shell inclusions. The fill C11 (sample 3) from trough C10 contained alder/hazel, oak, ash and Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple) charcoal fragments and uncharred blackberry and stone bramble seeds. The fill from pit C8 contained alder/hazel, birch, oak, ash and Maloideae species (hawthorn/rowan/crab apple) charcoal inclusions.

Discussion

Burnt mound/spreads

Table 1: Burnt mounds, spreads and deposits excavated on the N18 road scheme (exclusively those analysed for plant macrofossils and charcoal)

Site Name	Details	Context Number
E3653 Caheraphuca 1	Burnt spread material	C95
E3653 Caheraphuca 3 *	Burnt spread material	C327
E3653 Caheraphuca 4	Burnt mound material	C404, C405
E3653 Caheraphuca 5	Burnt spread material	C504
E3653 Caheraphuca 6	Burnt mound material	C604, C605, C608
E3653 Caheraphuca 7	Burnt deposit	C708, C709
E3653 Caheraphuca 8*	Burnt spread	C810
E3653 Caheraphuca 8	Shallow burnt spread	C827, C835
E3653 Caheraphuca 8	Burnt spread material	C829
E3653 Caheraphuca 10	Burnt mound material	C1008
E3653 Caheraphuca 10	Spread of unburnt stones	C1005
E3653 Caheraphuca 12	Burnt mound material	C1203
E3655 Rathwilladoon 4*	Burnt mound material	C3
E3713 Sranagalloon 1	Burnt spread material	C5
E3715 Ballyline 3	Burnt spread material	C5
E3716 Derrygarriff 3	Burnt spread material	C3
E3720 Drumminacloghaun 1 *	Burnt spread material	C3
E3722 Clooneen 1	Burnt mound material	C3
E3897 Sranagalloon 3	Spread – up cast from trough	C34
E3897 Sranagalloon 3	Burnt spread material	C3
E3898 Gortaficka 1	Burnt spread material	C3
E3898 Gortaficka 2	Burnt mound material	C10, C20
E3984 Gortavoher 1 *	Burnt mound material	C3, C6
E4037 Monreagh 3 *	Burnt mound material	C3

* - also contained plant macrofossils

Table 1 shows context numbers of the burnt mound deposits/burnt spreads from each site sampled on the N18. This activity involved heating stones on a hearth and then placing these into troughs filled with water, thereby heating or boiling the water. The stones were then raked out of the trough and ultimately piled as waste material into a horseshoe-shaped mound around the working area. The mounds usually contain burnt stones along with frequent charcoal inclusions which represent the remains of the firing debris used within the hearth/s to heat the stones. All of the burnt spreads/mounds along the N18 route (with the exception of C317 Caheraphuca 3) contained moderate to frequent charcoal inclusions which would represent the firing debris from fuel used within the hearths. The burnt spread samples from Caheraphuca 3 (C327), Caheraphuca 8 (C810), Rathwilladoon 4 (C3), Gortavoher 1 (C3) and Monreagh 3 (C3) also contained carbonised hazelnut shells which may

represent either remains of food consumed during burnt mound activities or hazelnuts still attached to the hazel branches which used as fuel.

The spread of unburnt stones (C1005) at Caheraphuca 10 and spread of uncast material (C34) at Sranagalloon 3 both contained only occasional charcoal inclusions as a result no further information about the use/function of these two spreads can be deduced from palaeoenvironmental activity.

Troughs

Table 2: Troughs excavated on the N18 road scheme (exclusively those analysed for plant macrofossils and charcoal)

Site Name	Details	Context Number
E3653 Caheraphuca 1	Fill of pit/trough C57	C58
E3653 Caheraphuca 6	Fill of trough – fill supporting timber C612	C617
E3653 Caheraphuca 7	Fill of trough, C715	C713
E3653 Caheraphuca 11	Top fill of waste pit/trough, C1109	C1118
E3653 Caheraphuca 12	Fill of trough C1205	C1204
E3712 Monreagh 1 and 2	Fill of trough C24	C25
E3712 Monreagh 1 and 2	Fill of trough C35	C36
E3713 Sranagalloon 1	Fill of trough, C8	C9, C11, C12
E3716 Derrygarriff 3	Fill of trough C4	C5
E3716 Derrygarriff 3	Fill of trough, C6	C8
E3717 Ballyline 1 and 2	Fill of trough, C22	C25
E3717 Ballyline 1 and 2	Fill of trough, C6	C7
E3720 Drumminacloghaun 1	Fill of trough, C4	C6
E3722 Clooneen 1	Layer under wooden base of trough, C8	C15
E3897 Sranagalloon 3 *	Fill of trough C28	C30, C35
E3897 Sranagalloon 3	Fill of trough, C50	C8
E3898 Gortaficka 2	Fill of trough, C39	C41
E4037 Monreagh 3 *	Fill of trough C10	C11

* - also contained plant macrofossils

The troughs outlined in Table 2 from Sranagalloon 1, Caheraphuca 1, 7, 11, 12, Monreagh, 1 and 2, Derrygarriff 3, Ballyline 1 and 2 and Drumminacloghaun 1 all contained a mixture of silty material, burnt stones and charcoal indicating that they were backfilled with burnt mound material soon after use, either deliberately or through collapse or animal treading whereas the troughs from Sranagalloon 3 Gortaficka 2 and Monreagh 3 contained less charcoal and burnt stones which suggests they silted in naturally. Fill C15 was located under the wooden base of trough C8 at Clooneen 1 and C617 was located under timber plank C612 at Caheraphuca 6. These fills have been interpreted as deliberately placed packing fills for their respective trough structures. The charcoal within these fills is most likely intrusive and was derived from the charcoal/stones being deposited into the trough above.

The hazelnut shells recovered from fills C30 and C35 within trough C28 at Sranagalloon 3 were most likely deposited through disposal of hazelnut shells into the fire after consumption on the site, or through hazelnuts attached to branches used as fuel in the fires. The blackberry and stone bramble seeds were uncharred

and most likely silted into or deposited by birds/ small mammals into trough C10 at Monreagh after it went out of use.

Pits

Table 3: Pits excavated on the N18 road scheme (exclusively those analysed for plant macrofossils and charcoal)

Site Name	Details	Context Number
E3653 Caheraphuca 1	Fill of pits C100 and C101	C29
E3653 Caheraphuca 1	Secondary (C106) and tertiary (C107) fill of pit C102	C106 and C107
E3653 Caheraphuca 3	Fills of pit/tree root C332	C333, C334, C344
E3653 Caheraphuca 7	Fills of pits C711 and C712	C710 and C704
E3653 Caheraphuca 9	Secondary fill of pit C904	C906
E3712 Monreagh 1 and 2	Fill of pit, C40	C41
E3715 Ballyline 3	Fill of pit, C3	C4
E3722 Clooneen 1	Fill of pit C12	C7
E3897 Sranagalloon 3	Fill of pit, C19	C22, C27
E3898 Gortaficka 2	Fill of pit, C21	C22, C29
E4037 Monreagh 3	Fill of pit	C8

The pits at Caheraphuca 1 (pit C29), Ballyline 3, Clooneen 1, Caheraphuca 3, Caheraphuca 7, Caheraphuca 9, Monreagh 3 and Monreagh 1 and 2 as outlined in Table 3 were all deliberately backfilled with burnt mound material and contained frequent charcoal inclusions. This charcoal can be attributed to residual firing debris from hearths used to heat stones. The pits at Sranagalloon 3, Gortaficka 2, Caheraphuca 1 (C102) and Caheraphuca 3 silted up naturally and the charcoal within these features was most likely residual from firing debris.

Well

Table 4: Well excavated on the N18 road scheme (exclusively those analysed for plant macrofossils and charcoal)

Site Name	Details	Context Number
E3712 Monreagh 1 and 2	Fill of a well C26	C27

The fill (C27) from well C26 at Monreagh sites 1 and 2 contained frequent charcoal inclusions. There was no burning *in situ* recorded around the edges of this cut and this, together with the burnt stone inclusions, indicates that the well was deliberately backfilled after its final use with charcoal-rich burnt mound material.

Linear features

Table 5: Linear feature excavated on the N18 road scheme (exclusively those analysed for plant macrofossils and charcoal)

Site Name	Details	Context Number
E3898 Gortaficka 2	Fill of drainage gully C53	C55

The fill (C55) from drainage gully C53 at Gortaficka 2 contained only two fragments of charcoal. It is most likely this residual charcoal accumulated from nearby through natural silting into the drainage gully after the gully went out of use.

Platform/Timber features

Table 6: Timber feature excavated on the N18 road scheme (exclusively those analysed for plant macrofossils and charcoal).

Site Name	Details	Context Number
E3653 Caheraphuca 8	Burnt material under timber plank, C814	C825

The fill (C825) from under timber plank C814 at Caheraphuca 8 contained only occasional fragments of charcoal. It is most likely this residual charcoal accumulated from nearby burnt mound activity and silted under the timber plank during the use of the structure.

Economic and Industrial Activities

Burnt Mound Activity

The plant macrofossil evidence from the samples recovered from burnt mound activity from sites Gortavoher 1, Monreagh 3, Sranagalloon 1, 3, Rathwilladoon 4, Caheraphuca 3, 8, 12 not provide any definitive explanation for the use of these features. The hazelnut shells recovered are indicative of a food source being consumed, perhaps as a snack during burnt mound use or they could have been attached to hazel branches which were subsequently burnt. The vetch, mustard/pepper, yellow water lily, blackberry and water pepper can all be consumed (discussed below), although they were recovered in very small quantities from these sites suggesting they were accidental inclusions (accidental losses during harvesting, the burning of weeds or they were dropped by animals/birds) rather than an indication of food production.

Fuel use

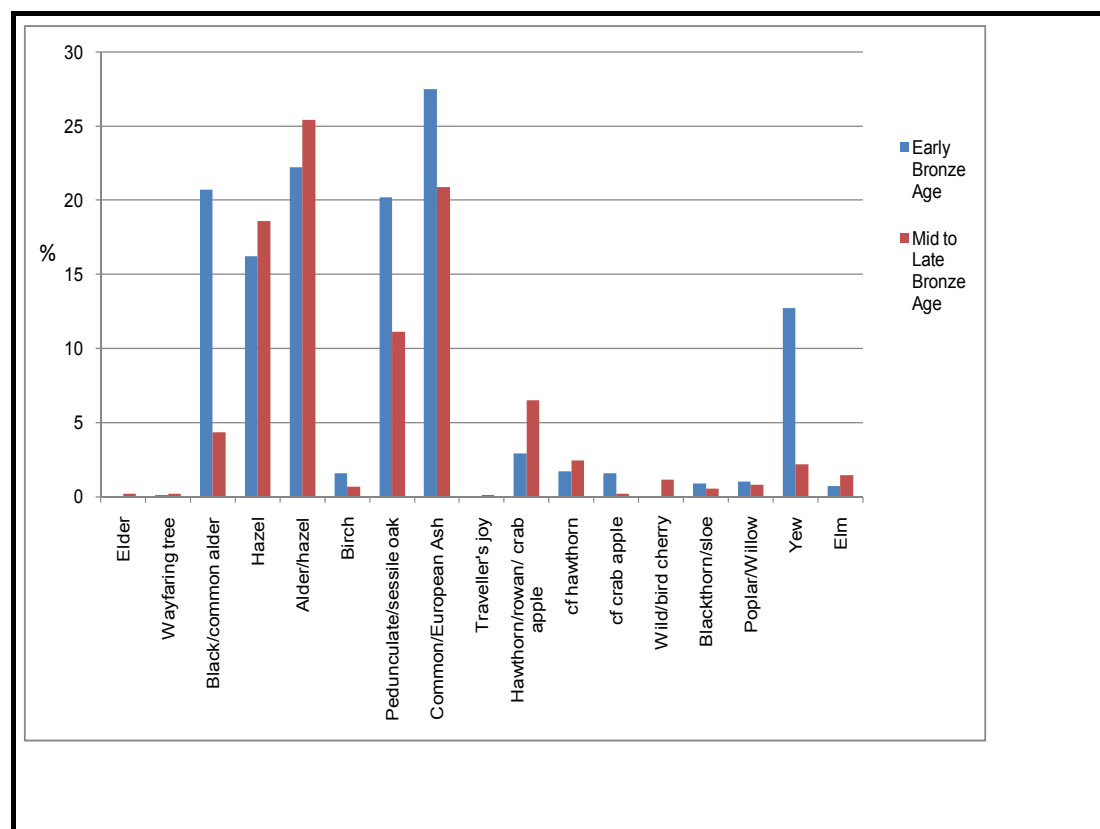
The woodland species exploited for fuel for burnt mound activities was similar throughout the Bronze Age period. The main fuels used as firing material for burnt mound activity on the N18 were ash, oak and elm. There was a high proportion of oak, ash and elm charcoal fragments which did not show obvious curved growth rings: therefore it is likely the wood was derived from larger branches or stem (trunk) wood which would have been deliberately cut with the intention of burning (rather than opportunistic gathering of brushwood). There was also a proportion of the oak and ash charcoal which did exhibit curved growth rings, which is likely to represent smaller branches. Ash, oak and elm would have been chosen as they have dense heartwood and with good ventilation, and burn slowly, maintaining an even temperature (Cutler and Gale, 2000:120, 205, Stuijts, 2005:145). This is essential for a fire being used to heat up stones as it would require constant heat for relatively long periods of time; and as collection of wood is a labour intensive activity, selection of species according to their burning properties would have been commonplace. There was also a high percentage of hazel and alder/hazel charcoal from all the N18 sites. Hazel is recorded as a reasonable fuel wood and was widely available within oak woodlands, particularly on the fringes of cleared areas (Grogan et al. 2007:30). It is possible that the hazel was used as a dominant fuel wood where oak and ash was not available.

The remaining charcoal recorded from the N18 sites consisted of elder, wayfaring tree, alder, hazel, birch, traveller's joy, hawthorn, rowan, crab apple, wild/bird cherry, blackthorn/sloe, poplar/willow and yew. The majority of the charcoal from these species exhibited curved growth rings, which suggests they derived from round wood lateral branches rather than stem/trunk wood. It is therefore likely that these branches were collected as deadwood and used within brushwood bundles as kindling for the fire. Alder, elder, birch, poplar/willow are species that are ideal to use for kindling. They are all anatomically less dense than for example, oak and ash, and burn quickly at relatively high temperatures (Cutler and Gale, 2000:34, 50, 236, Grogan et al. 2007:29, 31). This property makes them good to use as kindling, as the high temperatures produced would encourage the oak and ash to ignite and start to burn.

The hawthorn, rowan, crab apple, yew, wild/bird cherry, blackthorn/sloe have a closer grain anatomical structure, and as a result make reasonable firewood (Grogan et al. 2007:30-31; Cutler and Gale, 2000:196; Stuijts, 2005:144); however, the majority of charcoal from these species originated from small twigs which indicates that rather than being the dominant fuels, these were kindling used to ignite the oak, ash and elm. Wild/bird cherry and blackthorn/sloe can be slow to ignite and burn therefore they need assistance from other species such as alder or birch which burn at high temperatures in order to continue to burn. Travellers joy and wayfaring tree have both been recorded as good fuel woods, however as these species are both small shrub species, and because of their small representation within the charcoal assemblage, it is most likely they were collected inadvertently while gathering other twigs/roundwood for brushwood bundles (Stuijts, 2005:145, Cutler and Gale, 2000:80).

There were several slight percentage changes in species used in the early compared to mid to late Bronze Age as indicated by Figure 1. While these trends have been observed, they must be interpreted with caution because the percentage fragment count cannot be used to deduce the actual abundance of these species within the woodland (see composition of local woodlands section below for a more detailed discussion). Therefore the percentages outlined below can only realistically be used to indicate a 'presence'/'absence' variable for each species within the environment.

Figure 1: Percentage change (fragment count) in species used as fuel in the early to late Bronze Age period.



The most noticeable percentage change was the decrease in the presence of oak and ash from the early to late Bronze Age period. This can be attributed to the increase in deforestation throughout the Bronze Age period to make way for settlement, agriculture and industrial activities, which resulted in oak and ash becoming less widely available. This trend is mirrored in the pollen core results obtained from Sheeauns Lough in Connemara. Research by Molloy and O'Connell (1991:79) demonstrated a similar trend with a decrease in oak and ash pollen occurring during the late Bronze Age period. The other large percentage change to occur was the drop in yew between the early and late Bronze Age period. Yew was one of the dominant trees along with oak during the late Neolithic period; however the increase in forest clearance led to a sharp decrease in its presence within oak woodlands. This is again observed in Molloy and O'Connell's (1991:102) research which shows an increase in yew tree pollen until the early Bronze Age, when its abundance starts to decrease. In tandem with the N18 Gort to Crusheen scheme an environmental study has been carried out in the vicinity of the burnt mound sites at Caheraphuca townland. Unfortunately the analysis was not complete by the time that the final excavation reports were compiled.

Management of the local environment

Fuel wood has been a valuable commodity throughout history and has been systematically cleared for settlement, agricultural and industrial activities from the Neolithic period onwards. There are at least 7000 known examples of burnt mounds in Ireland (Power et al. 1997 cited in Grogan et al. 2007, 81) which indicates that their use was widespread throughout the Bronze Age period and subsequently this would have had a huge impact on woodland. Bronze Age communities would have been

aware of the impact of deforestation, and coppicing would have been introduced to manage and retain this valuable resource. The high volume of hazel and alder roundwood within the charcoal is indicative of woodland management by coppicing. This type of woodland management would have been undertaken by cutting the tree to a stump every five to seven years and allowing it to re-generate. The new stems produced were harvested and used for fuel and construction of other wooden structures. This management ensured that the woodland resource was maintained for future generations (Van der Verf 1991, 97; Rackham 1980, 103).

Herbaceous taxa and diet

Herbaceous plants were often exploited to be used as herbs in cooking, vegetables or eaten raw in salads, all of which would have helped add flavour to food and to provide vitamins, minerals and additional fibre. Cabbage/mustard has been recorded as being eaten raw as salad, boiled down and used as pottage in stews and soups and as a vegetable similar to spinach (Behre 2008:67-8). Vetches were also retrieved on the site and are recorded to have been used to thicken stews. Water pepper is also present. It has a very acrid taste and for this reason, its seeds have been used for spices in food (Timson 1966:817). There is also evidence of fruit seeds and nuts – stone bramble and blackberries. These berries would have provided additional vitamin C and were possibly eaten raw or added into tarts/cakes (Pearson 1997: 14). Hazelnut shells were also recovered from various sites. The consumption of hazelnuts would have provided a valuable source of vitamins and minerals and would be eaten raw or could be crushed and added to stews (Pearson 1997:13).

All these species have been recorded as food through documentary sources, analysis of archaeological ecofacts and also information based on foods we eat today. Macrofossil analysis of the stomach contents of bog bodies from Kayhausen (Oldenburg, Germany), the Grauballe man (Jutland, Denmark), the Tollund man (Jutland, Denmark) and Lindow man (Lindow Moss, Cheshire, Britain) have shown indicated the presence of species such as cabbage/mustard and various fruits and nuts within the stomach contents of these people when they died. As these taxa were all found in Ireland during the prehistoric period, it can be assumed that they would have been selected and consumed (or processed to use in/or with cooking food) in Ireland. Their inclusion within the plant macrofossil record from the N18 may purely be indicative of weed species establishing in disturbed areas of the site, however it cannot be disregarded that some of these species were being exploited and consumed.

Composition of local woodlands and flora

All the archaeological sites within this report were located in areas of wetland, peat or that were prone to flooding as described in Table 7 below.

Table 7: Location of Burnt mound sites on the N18 Gort to Crusheen road scheme.

Site Name/Code	Description of present day ecological setting
E3653 Caheraphuca 1	A hollow between two peat basins
E3653 Caheraphuca 3–12	Located around a peat basin formed on the site of the now drained Caheraphuca Lough
E3655 Rathwilladoon 4	Located on the edge of a wetland area
E3712 Monreagh 1 and 2	Undulating peat covered land
E3713 Sranagalloon 1	Located on an area of flat pasture land, prone to flooding
E3715 Ballyline 3	

E 3716 Derrygarriff 3	Raised ground in a wetland area
E3717 Ballyline 1 and 2	Low lying flat land, close to the base of a hill
E3720 Drumminacloghaun 1	Raised area of pasture land with a natural spring and wetland area to the north
E3722 Clooneen 1	Located in a peat basin on drained bog land
E3897 Sranagalloon 3	Located between pasture and peat covered area along the base of a steeply sloping N-S orientated stream valley
E3898 Gortaficka 1 and 2	Marginal land between a pasture and peat covered area, adjacent to a N-S orientated stream
E3984 Gortavoher 1	Located at the base of a slope, positioned where the slope ended and an area of peat land began, close to the Scarriff stream
E4037 Monreagh 3	Located on the edge of a wetland area.

Local flora - Evidence from plant macrofossils

Submerged water plants

There were no submerged water plants retrieved from the N18 burnt mound sites.

Marsh/fen species

Water-pepper and yellow water lily are both species which grow in marshy, waterlogged areas and were found at Gortavoher 1 and Drumminacloghaun 1 (respectively) Water-pepper may possibly have been hand selected to use in foods (as discussed above), however it is most likely that both these species were transported by birds or other small animals and dropped/disposed of on the site.

Opportunistic/ruderal species

Cabbage/mustard, blackberry, stone bramble are all opportunistic species which grow well on cleared/waste ground. These species all could have grown easily within the N18 burnt mound sites (Gortavoher 1 and Monreagh 3 respectively) taking advantage of drier cleared areas and waste ground around the site and adjacent to tracks leading the site. While these are all considered 'weed' species, it cannot be disregarded that these were also food sources during this time, so their inclusion within the archaeological features could indicate their consumption. However as so few were recovered, it most likely signifies their accidental collection with brushwood fuel or was an indication of local flora growing in and around the site.

Dryland species

Vetch was the only dryland species recovered from the burnt mound sites (Gortavoher 1) (Holland 1919:9-10). As these were recovered in small quantities it is most likely they were either dropped by birds or small animals or were inadvertently collected with brushwood and burnt in the fires.

Local woodlands – Evidence from charcoal remains

As asserted by Scholtz (1986) cited in Prins and Shackleton (1992:632), the "Principle of Least Effort" suggests that communities of the past collected firewood from the closest possible available wooded area. If this theory were to be used it would assume that from the species collected the woodland surrounding the site would consist of oak-ash woodland in dryland areas (usually away from the sites) and alder-carr fen in areas close to the sites. Whilst this can be used as the basic theory, other variables affecting wood collection must be taken into account (Prins and Shackleton 1992:632). These include:

- 1) *Selection of particular species in favour of others within the woodland*

Oak, ash and elm were likely to have been deliberately selected as fuel to use in a hearth/furnace (used to heat stones for burnt mound activity) as they are considered long lasting and effective fuels (Stuijts 2005:141 and 143) so it is likely they were preferentially searched for and harvested and would have a higher percentage representation within the charcoal assemblage.

2) *Deliberately cultivated species*

The evidence of hazel and alder coppicing during the Bronze Age is another variable, which by altering and managing the environment would have increased the amount of available wood therefore its representation within the charcoal assemblages.

3) *Differential preservation of charcoal/non-uniform survival of charcoal over time*

Preservation rate of charcoal can be affected by a number of variables, for example

- a) Mechanical abrasion on a site with stony subsoil may cause the charcoal fragments to be broken into smaller unidentifiable fragments.
- b) Two identical pieces of wood may fragment into different numbers of charcoal fragments when burnt. Some, all or none of these may be recovered from the archaeological record which would affect possible woodland reconstructions.
- c) The overall heat of the fire may cause the wood to turn to ash and not be represented at all in the archaeological record (Asouti and Austin, 2005:1-5).

As a result of these variables it is not possible to infer from the fragment counts obtained the percentages/numbers of each of these species within the local environment. However, based on the assumption that communities will collect wood from the closest possible source (Scholtz 1986) and, in particular, the collection of economically less important kindling fuel wood (which was most likely obtained from the area close to the site), the charcoal assemblage does suggest that the local vegetation throughout the Bronze Age would have consisted of alder-carr fen in the immediate vicinity of the sites due to their wetland location. There was, however, a large assemblage of charcoal from species indicative of dryland areas which indicate the presence of oak-ash woodland on raised areas/slopes close to the sites.

Alder-carr woodland

The evidence of alder-carr fen woodland indicates a damp to waterlogged environment close to the burnt mound sites. This type of woodland would have consisted of alder, willow and poplar are all trees which thrive in waterlogged and damp soils, particularly in areas close to streams or with a high water table (McVean 1953:451, Stuijts 2005:143 and Cutler and Gale 2000:190). Viburnum and elder are both understory shrubby plants/small trees which grow in damp, waterlogged soils again adjacent to streams, lakes and in areas with a high water table (Stuijts 2005:145; Aitkinson and Aitkinson 2002:897). Birch is a tree which can tolerate both dry and damp soils and would most likely be located in marginal areas between the damp, waterlogged soil and drier areas, upslope from the burnt mound sites (Stuijts 2005:140).

Oak-Ash woodland

The large assemblage of dryland wood species indicates the presence of an oak-ash woodland, close to the burnt mound sites. This would have consisted of oak, ash and elm trees which would be the dominant large tree species (Cutler and Gale 2000:120, 205, Stuijts 2005:145). On the marginal areas of oak-ash woodlands or in clearings, yew, rowan, hazel, hawthorn, crab apple, wild/bird cherry and blackthorn all thrive. These species are all lower level woodland species and will grow in shaded conditions, however, they are usually located where there is a higher light availability to allow flowers and fruits to develop (Stuijts 2005:142, 144; Cutler and

Gale 2000:88, 183, 196). Traveller's joy is an understory shrub plant which clings to trees within oak woodlands to grow (Cutler and Gale 2000:80).

Conclusion

The archaeological features excavated from the N18 burnt mound sites have provided a rich assemblage of charcoal which allows an interesting insight into the industrial activities of the Bronze Age community. The charcoal remains identified from all burnt mound features (troughs, burnt mounds, burnt spreads, pits, gullies, wooden structures) represented firing debris from the fuel used in hearths to heat stones. These stones would then have been used either to heat/boil water within troughs on site.

The fuel used to heat the stones appears to have been exploited from alder-carr fen woodland consisting of alder, willow, poplar, viburnum and birch, and oak-ash woodland consisting of oak, ash, elm, hazel, yew, rowan, hawthorn, crab apple, wild/bird cherry, blackthorn and traveller's joy. The oak, ash and elm would most likely have provided the main fuels for the fire as they provide long-lasting heat at relatively high temperatures. The remaining species were likely to have been used as kindling material for the fire.

There are several variables that affect the reconstruction of local woodland using charcoal assemblages; however, if the charcoal were to be used as a 'presence' indicator it can be assumed that as the fuel wood (in particular kindling material) was usually selected from local woodlands. These charcoal remains have also made it possible to suggest that the woodland in the close vicinity to the N18 burnt mound sites would have consisted of both alder-carr fen in waterlogged areas close to the sites and oak-ash climax community woodland upslope/on higher ground.

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Appendix

Table 8: Charcoal species identified from E3717 Ballyline 1 and 2, Co Clare.

Sample Number			1	9
Fill Number			C25	C7
Cut Number			C22	C6
Family	Species	Common Name		
Betulaceae	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Black/common alder		7
	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel		28
	<i>Alnus glutinosa /Corylus avellana</i>	Alder/Hazel	37	40
Fagaceae	<i>Quercus robur/ petraea</i>	Pedunculate/Sessile oak		2
Oleaceae	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Common/European Ash	62	18
Roseaceae	<i>Maloideae spp (Crateagus monogyna/Sorbus spp/Malus sylvestris)</i>	Hawthorn/rowan/ crab apple	1	2
Salicaceae	<i>Populus spp/Salix spp</i>	Poplar/Willow		3
		Indeterminate	0	1
Total fragments identified:			100	100

PETROGRAPHICAL REPORT ON STONE SAMPLES TAKEN
DURING ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AT
BALLYLINE 1 & 2, CO. CLARE, E3717

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Introduction

This report is based on the macroscopic (hand specimen) examination of stone samples taken during archaeological excavations in advance of the N18 Gort to Crusheen Road Improvement Scheme. The purpose of the study was to identify the rock types from which the stone objects were made, to highlight potential sources for them, and to comment on their possible function. It is important to note that macroscopic petrographical studies have been considered of limited value in comparison to microscopic (thin section and geochemical analysis) studies. On the other hand, macroscopic studies provide an excellent preliminary assessment tool and have proven to be of considerable value in petrographical studies (e.g. see Mandal 1997; Cooney and Mandal 1998).

Solid Geology and Soils of the Site (see Figure 1)

The bedrock under the site consists of Lower Carboniferous Waulsortian Limestone (see below).

The geology of the area is predominantly made up of Lower Carboniferous Age rocks. However, older rocks make up the west and southwest of the area; the oldest rocks in the area occur as inliers (areas of older rocks surrounded by younger rocks) of Ordovician age tuff, lavas and clastic sediments, known as the Caher Hill Formation (shown as CH on Figure 1). Silurian Age rocks also occur as inliers in the area, in the form of the Derryfadda Formation (DF), consisting of greywackes, siltstones and mudstones. These are stratigraphically overlain unconformably by the Upper Devonian to Lower Carboniferous Ayle River Formation (AR) of mudstones, siltstones and conglomerates. This formation marks the start of a conformable sequence making up much of the study area, comprising: the Lower Limestone Shale (LLS), sandstone, siltstone and thin limestone; the Ballysteen Formation (BA), fossiliferous dark-grey muddy limestone which includes in this area the Ballynash Member (BAbn), wavy-bedded cherty limestone and this shale; and the Waulsortian Limestones (WA), massive bedded lime-mudstone.

There is a minor gap in the sequence in this area, the next youngest rocks belonging to the Tubber Formation (TU), consisting of crinoidal and cherty limestone and dolomite and the Burren Formation (BU), consisting of pale grey clean skeletal limestone. Both of these formations contain numerous distinct members, all represented in the area. Each of the members consist of a distinctive type of limestone, for example, the Aillwee Member (lower) (BUal) of bedded and massive fossiliferous limestones.

These Lower Carboniferous rocks, which make up much of the Midlands of Ireland, represent the northward return of the sea at the end of the Devonian, c. 360 million years ago, owing to the opening of a new ocean to the south called the Palaeo-Tethys in what is now central Europe.

Bedrock is not generally exposed in the area, instead it is covered by boulder clay, which are the result of glacial action during the last glaciation. Drumlins - an elongated hill formed by glacial action - are common in the area. The soils of the area consist of shallow brown earths (Aalen et al. 1997).

Results

Site	Sample	Context	Notes		
Ballyline 1	9	7	Not altered / not burnt	Angular to sub-rounded cobbles	Quartzite; sandstone, yellow red quartz rich; limestone; chert; vein quartz
Ballyline 2	1	25	Altered	Angular to sub-angular blocks	Quartzite, coarse grained yellow; minor amounts of limestone, cherty

Potential Sources

It is likely that the sources for all of the samples are local. There are abundant sources for limestone of all varieties in the Carboniferous succession. Sandstone, quartz sandstone and quartzite are most likely sourced within the Caher Hill Formation and / or Ayle River Formation. It is, however, important to note that these rock types were not necessarily sourced from bedrock, but could also have come from secondary sources, such as in the glacial tills / sub-soils at the site.

Discussion

While it is not possible to determine a definitive source for these stone samples based on macroscopic examination alone, it can be stated that these rock types are available locally in outcrop and within the glacial tills / sub-soils. It is therefore highly probable that the material in these samples were sourced in the immediate vicinity of the site.

A total of 38 samples were examined from sites across the N18 Gort to Crusheen scheme (see Table 1). Of these 30 are clearly decayed; only 13 are clearly burnt. A total of 33 contain angular to sub-angular blocks of stone; 28 contain rounded to sub-rounded cobbles / pebbles. It is not possible to determine with a degree of certainty whether the material was used in its broken state, or if large blocks were deliberately broken. A total of 24 samples contain limestone and / or cherty limestone as their principal stone type. Of these, one (from Caheraphuca 3; E3653 sample 12) also contains quartzite and sandstone; eight others contain quartzite and three others contain sandstone. A total of 11 samples contain quartzite as their primary stone source; of these three contain limestone, one sandstone, and three both. Finally, three samples contain sandstone as the primary stone type, one (Gortaficka 1; E3898 sample 1) containing chert and one (Gortaficka 2; E3898 sample 8) containing limestone. Coarse grained sandstone and quartzite of these types are typical of *fulacht fiadh* material. Limestone is however atypical of burnt mound material – fine grained rock types such as limestone do not absorb heat in the same manner as coarse rock types such as sandstone and dolerite (e.g. see Mandal 2004).

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Table1: Results of the Assessment of Samples for the Scheme

Site	License	Sample	Context	Notes		
Caheraphuca 10	E3653	1	1005	Not altered	Angular blocks	Limestone; chert
Caheraphuca 10	E3653	4	1008	Altered	Angular (cherty limestone) to sub-angular (limestone) blocks	Limestone, cherty; limestone; some sandstone, coarse grained red quartz rich
Caheraphuca 10	E3653	5	1009	Not altered (limestone) altered (quartzite)	Angular (limestone) to sub-rounded (quartzite)	Limestone; chert; some quartzite, yellow
Caheraphuca 12	E3653	2	1204	Not altered / not burnt	Shattered blocks and rounded cobbles	Quartzite, very coarse
Caheraphuca 3	E3653	12	327	Altered / burnt soil	Rounded to angular pebbles	Limestone; quartzite; chert; sandstone
Caheraphuca 4	E3653	2	4	Heat altered	Angular blocks and broken rounded cobbles	Quartzite / sandstone; red-yellow-grey, coarse grained
Caheraphuca 4	E3653	3	5	Not altered / not burnt	Rounded to sub-rounded cobbles	Limestone; some quartzite
Caheraphuca 5	E3653	1	504	Altered / burnt	Sub-angular blocks	Quartzite, very coarse grained yellow
Caheraphuca 6	E3653	1	605	Heat altered	Rounded / fractured cobbles	Limestone; some quartzite, coarse
Caheraphuca 6	E3653	3	604	Not altered / not burnt	Rounded to sub-rounded cobbles	Limestone; some quartzite
Caheraphuca 6	E3653	7	617	Heat altered	Rounded to sub-rounded cobbles	Limestone; some quartzite
Caheraphuca 6	E3653	12	608	Heat altered	Angular to rounded cobbles	Quartzite, very coarse; sandstone, red quartz rich; minor amounts of limestone, calcite and chert
Caheraphuca 7	E3653	2	708	Decayed / burnt	Angular to sub-rounded blocks	Limestone; sandstone, coarse grained red
Caheraphuca 7	E3653	7	709	Not altered / not burnt;	Angular blocks	Limestone, cherty; sandstone, coarse grained red quartz rich
Caheraphuca 8	E3653	48	827	Heat altered	Angular to rounded pebbles	Sandstone, coarse grained yellow
Caheraphuca 8	E3653	54	829	Altered / decayed	Angular (limestone) & sub-rounded (sandstone)	Limestone, cherty; sandstone, coarse grained red quartz rich
Caheraphuca 8	E3653	88	835	Altered / decayed	Angular	Quartzite, coarse grained yellow; limestone; chert
Caheraphuca 1B	E3654	15	29	Altered / decayed	Angular blocks	Limestone; chert
Rathwilladoon 4	E3655	1	3	Heat altered	Sub-angular to sub-rounded blocks	Limestone
Rathwilladoon 4	E3655	4	6	Decayed (angular blocks)	Angular blocks to rounded pebbles	Limestone; chert; quartzite, very coarse grained; vein quartz; sandstone
Monreagh 2	E3712	13	25	Not altered / not burnt	Rounded to sub-rounded cobbles;	Limestone; some quartzite
Monreagh 2	E3712	14	27	Not altered / not burnt	Rounded cobbles	Limestone; some quartzite
Sranagaloon 1	E3713	2	5	Altered /	Angular to sub-	Limestone

				decayed	rounded cobbles	
Ballyline 3	E3715	1	4	Altered	Rounded to sub-angular blocks and fractured cobbles	Quartzite, coarse grained red-yellow-grey
Ballyline 3	E3715	2	5	Altered	Rounded to sub-angular blocks and fractured cobbles	Quartzite, coarse grained red-yellow-grey
Ballyline 1	E3717	9	7	Not altered / not burnt	Angular to sub-rounded cobbles	Quartzite; sandstone, yellow red quartz rich; limestone; chert; vein quartz
Ballyline 2	E3717	1	25	Altered	Angular to sub-angular blocks	Quartzite, coarse grained yellow; minor amounts of limestone, cherty
Drumminacloghaun	E3720	2	3	Altered / decayed	Sub-rounded cobbles	Limestone
Clooneen 1	E3722	10	15	Heat altered / shattered	Angular cobbles	Quartzite, very coarse grained white; some limestone, cherty
Sranagaloon 3	E3897	1	3	Altered / decayed	Sub-rounded cobbles	Limestone
Sranagaloon 3	E3897	6	9	Decayed	Sub-angular blocks	Limestone
Sranagaloon 3	E3897	38	3	Heat altered	Sub-angular to sub-rounded blocks	Limestone
Sranagaloon 3	E3897	40	34	Altered / decayed	Sub-rounded cobbles	Limestone; some chert
Sranagaloon 3	E3897	41	8	Heat altered	Sub-angular to sub-rounded blocks	Limestone
Gortaficka 1	E3898	1	3	Altered / burnt	Angular to sub-rounded cobbles	Sandstone, coarse grained yellow-red quartz rich; some chert
Gortaficka 2	E3898	8	20	Altered / decayed	Sub-angular to sub-rounded blocks	Sandstone, coarse grained yellow quartz rich; some limestone; chert
Gortaficka 2	E3898	9	8	Altered / decayed	Angular blocks	Quartzite, very coarse grained; sandstone, yellow quartz rich; limestone, cherty
Derrygarriiff 3	E3710	8	3	Altered	Sub-rounded to sub-angular cobbles	Limestone

LITHICS REPORT
BALLYLINE 1&2, CO. CLARE, E3717

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Introduction

One lithic find from the archaeological excavation of a prehistoric site at Ballyline 1, Co. Clare was presented for analysis (Table 1). The find is associated with the remains of two burnt mounds and five associated troughs.

Find Number	Context	Material	Type	Condition	Cortex	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Complete	Retouch
E3717:1:7	1	Mudstone	Polished Stone Axe?	Weathered	No	76	80	18	No	No

Table 1 Composition of the Lithic Assemblage from Ballyline 1 (E3717)

Methodology

All lithic artefacts are examined visually and catalogued using Microsoft Excel. The following details are recorded for each artefact which measures at least 20mm in length or width: context information, raw material type, artefact type, the presence of cortex, artefact condition, length, with and thickness measurements, fragmentation and the type of retouch (where applicable). The technological criteria recorded are based on the terminology and technology presented in Inizan et al. 1999. The general typological and morphological classifications are based on Woodman et al. 2006. Struck lithics smaller than 20 mm are classed as debitage and not analysed further. The same is done with natural chunks.

Quantification

The lithic is a possible worked piece of mudstone. The artefact is larger than 20 mm in length and width and was therefore recorded in detail.

Provenance

The artefact was recovered from the topsoil.

Condition

The lithic survives in weathered, incomplete condition.

Technology/Morphology

The artefact (E3717:1:7) is possibly a polished stone axe and may represent an early abandoned manufacturing attempt. The natural square slab may have been shaped into an axe shape through grinding. This attempted axe is a rather crude example and measures 76 mm long, 80 mm wide and 18 mm thick.

Dating

The possible attempted polished stone axe from Ballyline 1 may date to the Neolithic period.

Conservation

Lithics do not require specific conservation, but should be stored in a dry, stable environment. Preferably, each lithic should be bagged separately and contact with other lithics should be avoided, so as to prevent damage and breakage, in particular edge damage which could later be misinterpreted as retouch. Larger and heavier items are best kept in individual boxes to avoid crushing of smaller assemblage pieces.

Discussion

The size and composition of the flaked assemblage is typical for Irish burnt mounds. Recent excavations in the south-east of Ireland revealed a similar pattern of very small assemblages found with burnt mounds, e.g. the N25 Waterford By-Pass (Woodman 2006), a pattern that is replicated elsewhere in Ireland. In fact, many burnt mounds are devoid of lithic artefacts.

Summary

The lithic find from the archaeological excavation at Ballyline 1 and 2, Co. Clare represents a possible attempt to produce a polished stone axe from a natural slab of mudstone through grinding. The axe attempt may date to the Neolithic period and represents a residual find at this site.

This site makes a minor contribution to the evidence for prehistoric settlement in Co. Clare.

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THE MODERN POTTERY
BALLYLINE 1, CO. CLARE, E3717
CLARE MCCUTCHEON MA MIAI

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Introduction:

A total of 152 sherds of pottery were presented for study. Following identification and some reassembly, this was reduced to 102 sherds. The assemblage dates from the later 18th to the 19th century.

Fabric	Sherds	MNV	MVR	Form	Date
Glazed red earthenware	1	-	1	Bowl	19th
Unglazed red earthenware	1	-	1	Bowl?	19th
Porcelain	1	-	1	Bowl	19th
Creamware	57	-	4	Plates	18th
Pearlware	12	-	2	Plate, bowl	L18th/19th
Shell-edged ware	9	-	3	Bowl, plates	L18th/19th
Painted pearlware	8	-	3	Bowl, plate, cup	L18th/19th
Transfer printed ware	9	-	3	Jug, plates	19th
Mochaware	2	-	2	Mugs	19th
Stoneware	2	-	1	Bowl	19th
Total	102	-	21		

Table 1: Pottery identification, Ballyline 1 (E3717)

Glazed red earthenware:

Glazed red earthenware or 'brownwares' were made widely in Britain and Ireland from the later 17th century through to the 19th century (Dunlevy 1988, 24-5). Because of the standardisation of the clay and vessel form it is always difficult to specify a particular production site but a typical kiln was excavated at Tuam, Co. Galway with milk pans and dishes comprising a majority of the vessels (Carey & Meenan 2004). The fabric is generally sandy earthenware, usually oxidised buff to light orange through to brown. The clear lead glaze takes its colour from the fabric with variations due to firing conditions (Jennings 1981, 157).

Porcelain:

Vast quantities of porcelain were imported into Europe from China in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Creamware:

In the 1760s, cream coloured earthenware with a creamy glaze was developed by Josiah Wedgwood to combat the overwhelming influx of blue and white Chinese Porcelain. Instead, it only succeeded in putting tin glazed earthenwares out of business and creamware became known as English faïence on the continent.

Pearlware:

Wedgwood's development of creamware was further refined as pearlware, with a harder-fired clay and a blue rather than a green tinge in the collected glaze (Savage & Newman 2000, 216). This formed the basis for many decorative forms of the later 18th and 19th centuries such as shell-edged, mochaware and banded ware, transfer printed and sprigged wares.

Mochaware can also be called banded ware as concentric bands of colour were often added to complete the design.

Transfer printing is commonly associated with the so-called 'Willow pattern', but the variety of patterns is wide with landscapes, particularly English and Italianate very popular as well as many varieties of Chinese style or Chinoiserie. While the principal colour used is a deep blue, decoration also comes in red, grey, brown, purple, green

and black. The decoration consists of the application of a coloured tissue paper design.

An interesting group of transfer printed sherds (20:3+28+86, 20:8 & 20:90) are from a mid-19th century jug commemorating Daniel O'Connell's election as MP. The illustration is taken from a half-length portrait by J. Gubbins dated to 1829 (http://multitext.ucc.ie/d/Drawings_and_lithographs_of_OConnell). The scroll in O'Connell's right hand on the jug is inscribed with the words [Cath]olic Rent 1823, a reference to the campaign to raise money for the expenses of the Catholic Association and Catholic Emancipation campaign. Above the head are the words [O'CO]NNEL M[P] and ...'the people' a reference to his popular title of 'Liberator of the People'. While O'Connell was elected MP for Clare in June 1828, it was not until the passage of the Roman Catholic Relief Act in 1829 that he was entitled to take his seat in Parliament. He was subsequently elected for Kerry in 1830 and for Dublin in 1841.

A total of 35 sherds of painted pearlware were reconstructed to form a semi-complete bowl (H.90mm, D.165mm). This was painted in the centre of the base with a stylised flower in dark blue, four sets of three petals, with a single ginger-yellow leaf between the petals. An internal ring of blue just below the rim completes the internal decoration. A series of seven slightly smaller flowers decorate the outside with two sets of four blue dots between the flowers, possibly representing an insect.

Stoneware

The term is used here to cover all English stonewares, made of a clay and fusible stone, which can be fired to partial vitrification, not then requiring a glaze to make it impervious to liquids (Savage & Newman 2000, 275).

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http://multitext.ucc.ie/d/Drawings_and_lithographs_of_OConnell

CATALOGUE OF CLAY PIPE AND METAL FINDS
FROM BALLYLINE 1&2, CO. CLARE, E3717

MAEVE TOBIN MA

*Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd,
120b Greenpark Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow*

Find number	Object Type	Material	Description	Dimensions
E3717:1:1	Clay pipe bowl	Ceramic	A cream fragment of a clay pipe bowl, which curves and would have formed part of a tapering cylinder	L 35mm, min. W 19mm, min D 3mm
E3717:1:2	Clay pipe stem	Ceramic	Small fragment of clay pipe stem, cream in colour. One end splays where it originally met the bowl and a flat based ovular stand is present. The stem is circular in section with an off centre internal hole	L 23.5mm, diam 8mm, hole diam 2mm, H of stand 5mm
E3717:1:3	Clay pipe stem	Ceramic	A straight fragment of clay pipe stem, cream in colour. Circular in section with an off centre internal hole	L 23mm, diam 6mm, hole diam 2mm
E3717:1:4	Clay pipe stem	Ceramic	A small straight fragment of clay pipe stem, cream in colour. Oval in section with an off centre internal hole	L 19mm, diam 6mm, hole diam 2mm
E3717:1:5	Clay pipe stem	Ceramic	A slightly tapering fragment of clay pipe stem, cream in colour. Circular in section with a central internal hole	L 47mm, diam 7mm, hole diam 2mm
E3717:1:6	Clay pipe bowl	Ceramic	Base fragment of clay pipe bowl which is attached to a small section of oval stand showing joint with circular stem. White in colour.	L 19mm, min. W 11.5mm, H of stand 4mm
E3717:20:153	Iron nail	Iron	A very large but badly corroded iron nail. It does not appear to possess its head but not clear due to corrosion. The shaft tapers to a point	L 173mm, W 11mm, D 10mm
E3717:20:154	Fragment of unidentifiable iron	Iron	A corroded piece of iron, cylindrical in shape. At one end it joins with a curved fragment rectangular section. No obvious indication as to original use, bent out of form.	L 170mm, W 9mm, D 10mm, L of curved section 55mm
E3717:20:155	Possible iron sickle blade	Iron	Curved badly corroded shaft of iron, sub-rectangular in section, tapering to a point on one side. May represent sickle type blade	L 200mm, W 22mm, D 9mm

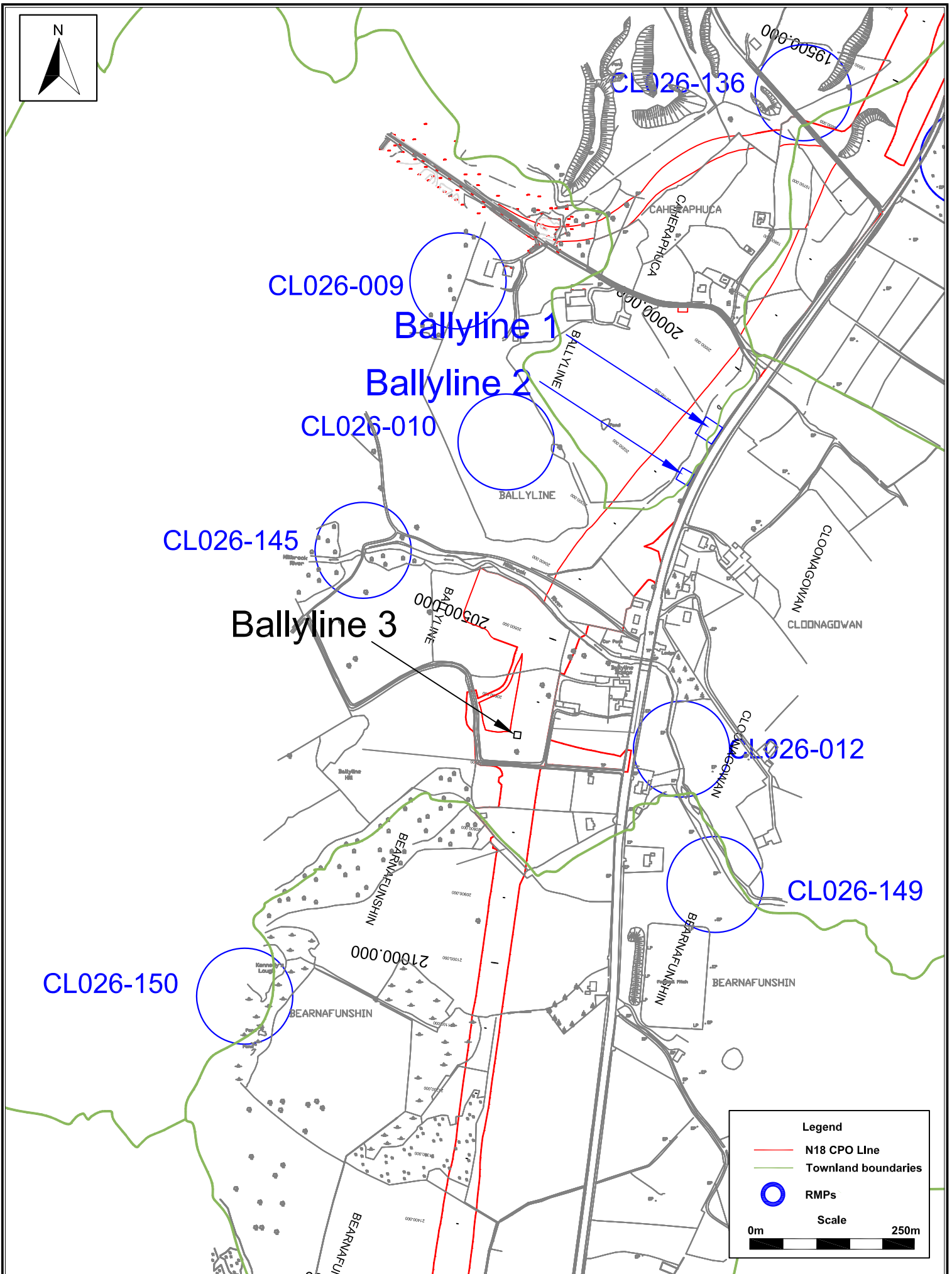
APPENDIX 3 LIST OF RMP SITES IN AREA

RMP No	Description
CL026-009	Earthwork
CL026-010	Earthwork
CL026-012	Mill unclassified
CL026-013001	Ringfort
CL026-013002	House unclassified
CL026-136	<i>Fulacht fiadh</i>
CL026-137	<i>Fulacht fiadh</i>
CL026-145	Water mill
CL026-149	Burnt Mound
CL026-179	Burnt Mound
CL026-180	Excavation miscellaneous*
CL026-186001	Ringditch
CL026-186002	Cremation pit
CL026-186003	Excavation miscellaneous*
CL026-186004	Cremation pit

See Figure 2 for location.

APPENDIX 4 LIST OF N18 GORT TO CRUSHEEN SCHEME SITE NAMES

Site Name	Ministerial Direction No.	NMS Registration Number	Site Type
Drumminacloghaun 1	A044	E3720	Burnt mound
Ballyboy 1	A044	E3719	Ringditch
Ballyboy 2	A044	E3718	Ringditch
Curtaun	A044	E3721	Burnt mounds and early medieval cereal kilns
Rathwilladoon 2 & 3	A044	E3656	Prehistoric settlement
Rathwilladoon 4	A044	E3655	Burnt mound
Rathwilladoon 5	A044	E3657	Charcoal production kiln
Gortavoher 1	A044	E3904	Burnt mound
Monreagh 1 & 2	A044	E3712	Burnt mound
Monreagh 3	A044	E4037	Burnt mounds
Derrygarraff 1	A044	E3716	Burnt mound
Derrygarraff 2	A044	E3711	Metal production site
Derrygarraff 3	A044	E3710	Burnt mound
Sranagalloon 1	A044	E3713	Burnt mound
Sranagalloon 2/Site 146	A044	E3714	Enclosure
Sranagalloon 3	A044	E3897	Burnt mound
Gortaficka 1 & 2	A044	E3898	Burnt mounds
Clooneen 1	A044	E3722	Burnt mound
Caheraphuca 1	A044	E3654	Burnt mound
Caheraphuca 3 - 12	A044	E3653	Burnt mounds
Ballyline 1 & 2	A044	E3717	Burnt mounds
Ballyline 3	A044	E3715	Prehistoric pit



Legend

- N18 CPO Line
- Townland boundaries
- RMPs

Scale

0m 250m

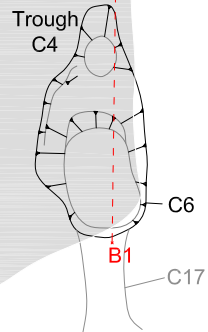
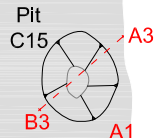
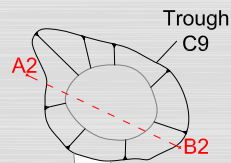
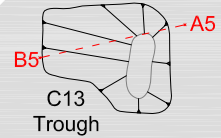
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	Project:	N18 Gort to Crusheen	Date:	18/11/09
	Client:	Galway County Council	Produced by:	G Kearney
			Job No.:	J2440
			Figure No.:	2



27.532
^

27.480
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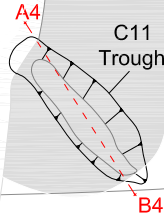
Limit of
burnt
spread C3



C17 Furrow

Field drain
C19

Stone wall
C20



C18 Furrow

C18 Furrow

Limit of excavation

27.376
^

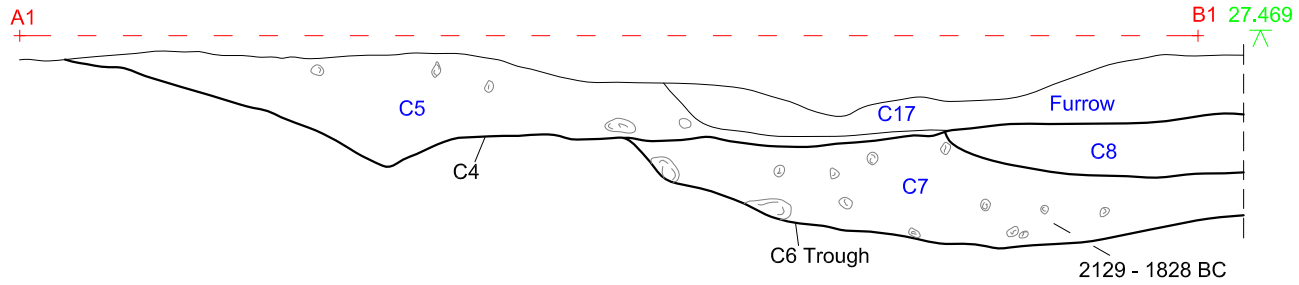
27.286
^

0m Scale 5m

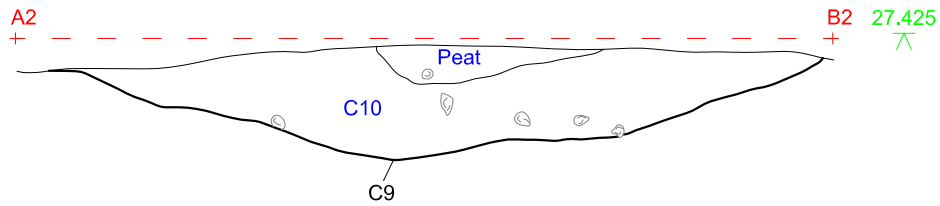
Legend

- Break of slope
- Sections
- Cxx** Cut numbers
- Burnt mound deposits
- Stone
- Levels - metres OD

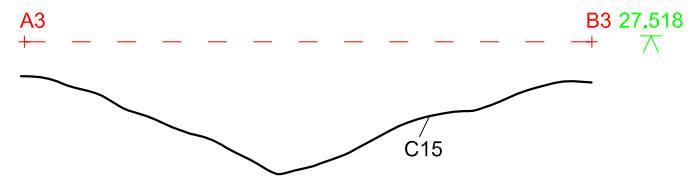
West facing section of C4, C6



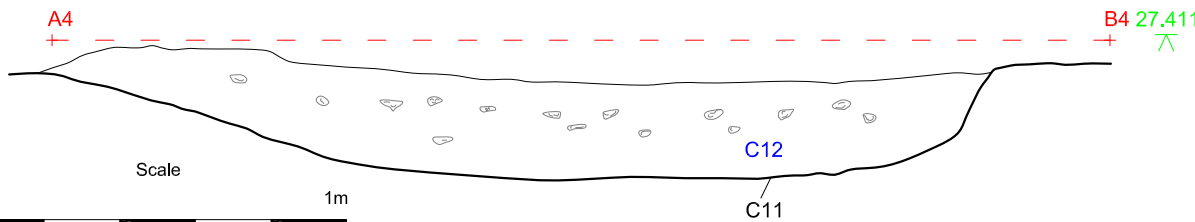
Southwest facing section of C9 trough



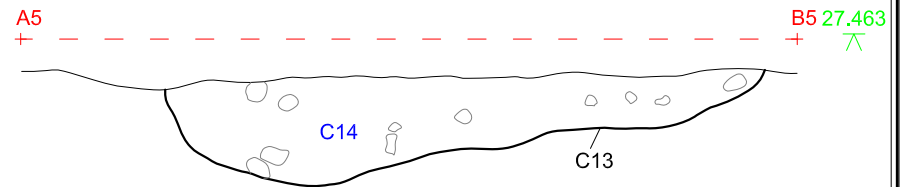
Northeast-Southwest profile of C15 pit



Southwest facing section of C11 trough



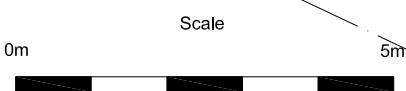
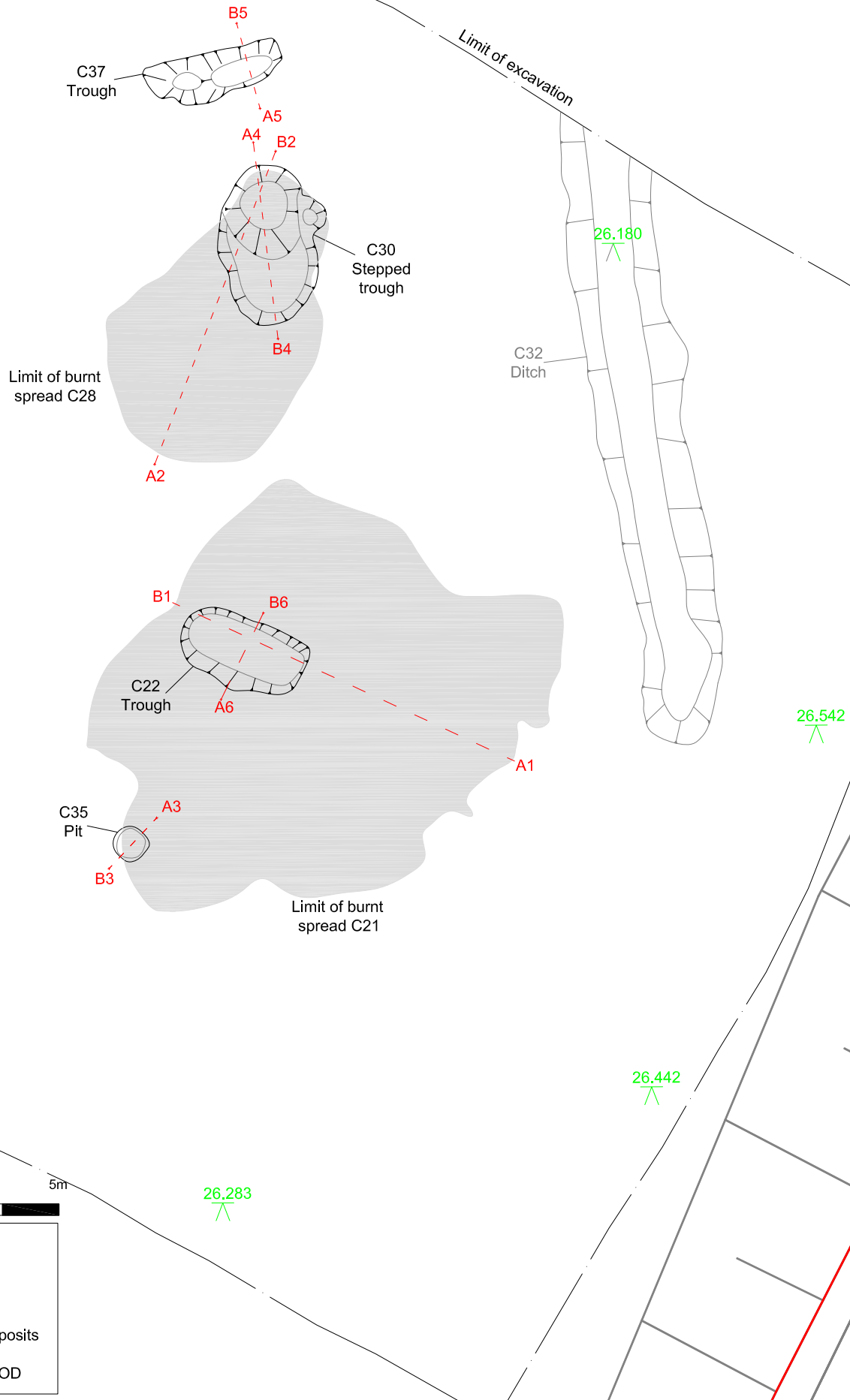
North facing section of C13 trough



Legend	
Cxx	Cut numbers
Cxx	Fill numbers
	Stone
	Charcoal
xx.xx	Levels - metres OD

IAC Irish Archaeological Consultancy

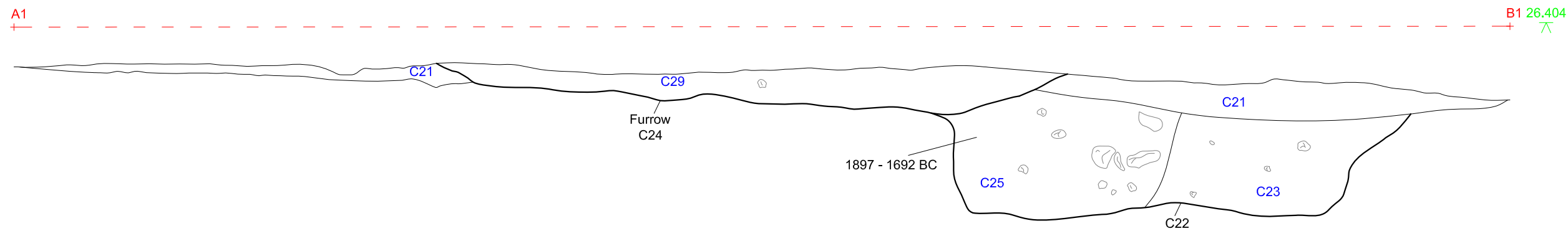
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Project:	N18 Gort to Crusheen	Date:	18/11/09
Client:	Galway County Council	Produced by:	G Kearney
		Job No:	J2440
		Figure No:	4



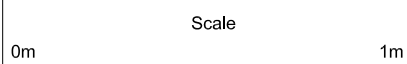
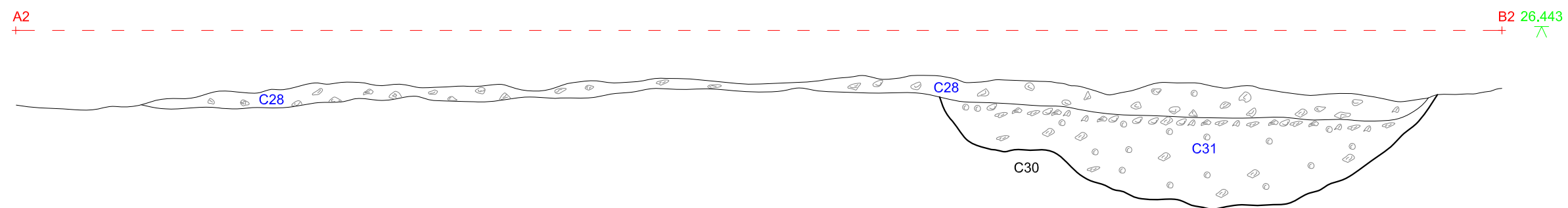
Legend	
---	Break of slope
---	Sections
Cxx	Cut numbers
■	Burnt mound deposits
⊞	Stone
xx.xx	Levels - metres OD

Title:	E3717 Ballyline 2 post-excavation plan	Scale:	1:100 @ A4
Project:	N18 Gort to Crusheen	Date:	18/11/09
Client:	Galway County Council	Produced by:	G Kearney
		Job No:	J2440
		Figure No:	5

North facing section of C22,C24




East facing section of C28

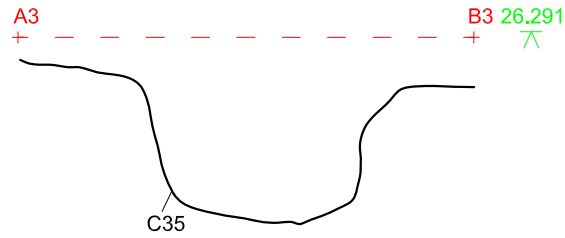


Legend	
Cxx	Cut numbers
Cxx	Fill numbers
	Stone
	Levels - metres OD

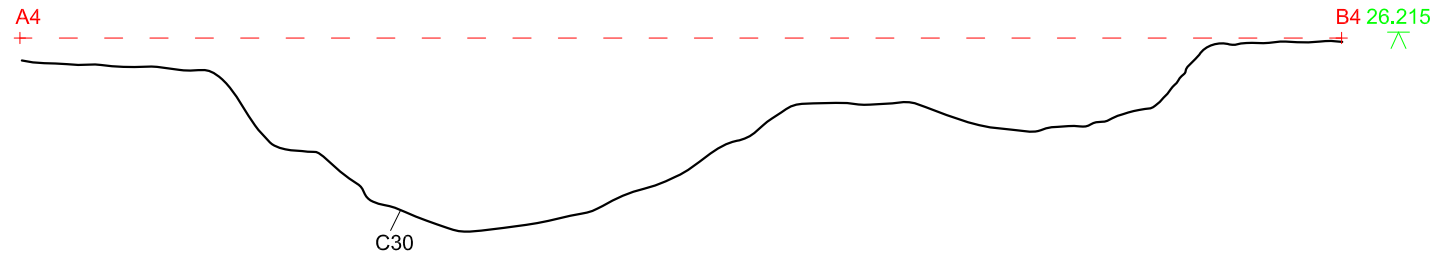
Title: E3717 Ballyline 2 sections	
Project: N18 Gort to Crusheen	
Client: Galway County Council	
Scale: 1:20 @A3	Job No: J2440
Date: 18/11/09	Figure No: 6
Produced by: G Kearney	



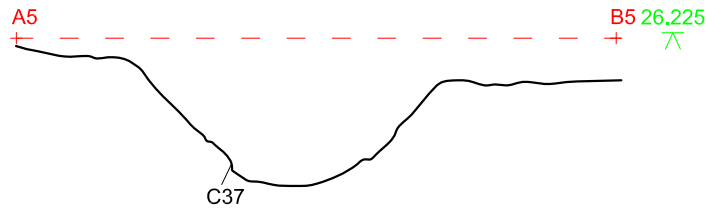
Northeast-Southwest profile of C35 pit



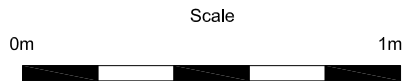
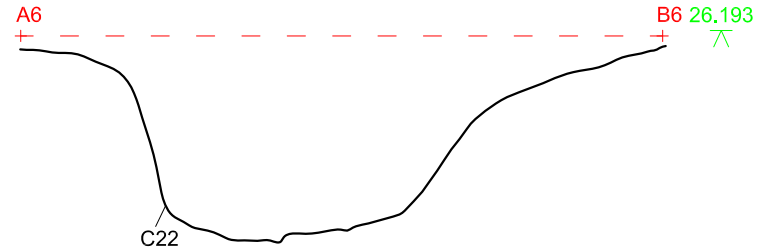
North-South profile of C30 trough



Northwest-Southeast profile of C37 trough



North-South profile of C22 trough



Legend	
Cxx	Cut numbers
Cxx	Fill numbers
	Stone
	Charcoal
xx.xx ^	Levels - metres OD

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Title:	E3717 Ballyline 2 sections and profiles	Scale:	1:20 @ A4
Project:	N18 Gort to Crusheen	Date:	18/11/09
Client:	Galway County Council	Produced by:	G Kearney
		Job No:	J2440
		Figure No:	7