

## ATTACHMENT 11

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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Archaeological Impact  
Assessment  
of a Proposed Development at  
Carranstown,  
Co. Meath.

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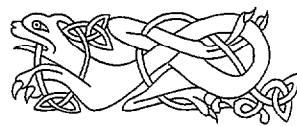
*By*

Christina Keogh  
&  
James Eogan

*Client*

**Project Management Ltd.**

May 2000



Archaeological  
Development Services Limited

**Archaeological Impact Study of  
Proposed Development at  
Carranstown, Co. Meath.**

*Author:* Christina Keogh &  
James Eogan  
*Client:* Project Management  
Group  
*Date:* May 2000

**1. Introduction**

The proposed development is located in the townland of Carranstown, County Meath. The site is bounded to the south by the R152, the main Drogheda-Duleek road, and to the north by the Drogheda-Navan railway-line (fig.1). There are no archaeological sites in the close vicinity.

Application is being made to Meath County Council for planning permission for an industrial development. An Archaeological Impact Assessment of the site was requested for inclusion in an Environmental Impact Statement, to be submitted as additional information with the planning application. This study is based on field walking and desk-based research. The aim of the study is to address the potential archaeological impact of the industrial development in order to address in advance any archaeological matters that might arise in the course of the development.

**2. Methodology**

This study was carried out under the following headings:

- Field inspection
- Journal & documentary research
- Cartographic research

- Aerial photographic research
- Sites & Monuments Record, Dúchas – The Heritage Services
- Topographic Files, Irish Antiquities Division, National Museum of Ireland
- Impact Assessment
- Remedial & Mitigation Measures

### 3. Field Inspection

The site was visited on Wednesday May 17<sup>th</sup> 2000 by James Eogan. The weather conditions were good; sunny spells interspersed with heavy showers. The site is divided into four fields (numbered 1-4, fig. 2).

#### Site description

The site is located on the northern edge of a low-lying ridge, oriented N-S. It is overlooked by slightly higher ground in Cruicera townland, immediately to the North; and by the Bellewstown ridge ca. 4km to the South.

The fields are presently under grass. Earthen banks, surmounted by mature blackthorn bushes, enclose each of the fields.

#### *Field 1*

This is a flat field which slopes slightly to the West and North. No evidence of any archaeological features or remains was found. This field is the highest point of the site, ca. 40m OD (Malin).

#### *Field 2*

This field slopes gently to the West. No evidence of any archaeological features or remains was found.

### *Field 3*

This is a long field, oriented SW-NE; it slopes from the south to the north. There is a marked break of slope ca, 20m north of the southern field boundary. No evidence of any archaeological features or remains was found.

A small field drain runs along the western boundary of Fields 2 and 3.

### *Field 4*

Only the southern half of this field comes within the boundary of the proposed development. It slopes very slightly from NW-SE. No evidence of any archaeological features or remains was found.

## **4. Journal & documentary research**

Various published sources and artefact corpora were consulted (see appendix 1). These did not reveal anything of archaeological significance relating to the proposed development site.

## **5. Cartographic research**

### **5.1 *1st edition Ordnance Survey (1837). County Meath, (sheet 27/1). Scale 6" to 1 mile (Fig.3)***

Fields 1 and 2 in the site are recorded as having originally been one large field. Field 3 appears to have retained the boundaries it had in 1837. Limestone deposits were noted between the railway line and the road. No other features were recorded in the area.

### **5.2 *RMR Constraint Map (1996). County Meath, (sheets 27 & 20). (Fig.2)***

Apart from the division of the field into 1 and 2, the field boundaries appear to have remained the same since the 1837 edition.

## 6. Aerial photographic research

G.S.I. IRL. 1/300-4-73 4720m 11:05am, area 46.0, National sub-zone Oa.

There were no features of archaeological interest identified on the proposed development site or in the immediate area.

## 7. Sites & Monuments Record, Dúchas – The Heritage Service

This part of the study was carried out on the basis of the following sources:

### 1. Archaeological Survey

The Archaeological Survey is a branch of Dúchas – The Heritage Services, Dept. of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands. It is charged with surveying Ireland's archaeological heritage and publishing the results of its surveys in a series of county columns.

The Survey maintains an archive on individual archaeological sites, which is ordered by county and sub-divided by 6" sheets. The archive contains information on the location, form and preservation of each site and includes maps, plans and photographs when relevant.

For this study any relevant files in this archive were examined and details noted.

### 2. Sites & Monuments Record (SMR)

The SMR is a list of known archaeological sites compiled by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland from their files. The SMR consists of a numbered list, organised by county and subdivided by 6" map sheets, and sets of constraint maps for each county at scales of 1:12,000 and 1:12,500, showing the locations of these sites.

The lists and maps were distributed to local authority planning departments as an aid to decision making in the planning process.

For this study the SMR (lists and constraint maps) was consulted for each site. Where any archaeological site occurred all details were noted.

### 3. Record of Monuments & Places (RMP)

This is a list of known archaeological sites compiled by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland, from their files and from site visits carried out by their archaeologists. The RMP consists of a numbered list, organised by county and subdivided by 6" map sheets, and sets of constraint maps for each county at a scale of 1:12,000, showing the locations of these sites.

The lists and maps are distributed to local authority planning departments as an aid to decision making in the planning process.

The RMP was set up under statute in 1994 (Amendment to the National Monuments Act); the provisions of that act protect sites marked on the RMP. The provisions of that act protect owners of sites marked on the RMP. Owners of sites marked on the RMP are required to give a minimum of 2 months written notice to the Minister of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & the Islands of any intention to carry out works at such sites.

For this study the RMP (lists and constraint maps) was consulted for each site. Where any archaeological site occurred all details were noted.

There are no known archaeological monuments recorded on the proposed development site in the Sites and Monuments Records.

However there are four recorded monuments in the vicinity. The following information was compiled from the Sites and Monuments Record and The Archaeological Survey of Co. Meath.

<i>1. SMR</i>	ME030-014	(fig.2)
<i>Townland</i>	Platin	
<i>Class</i>	Inland promontory fort	
<i>Nat. Grid co-ords</i>	30787 / 27239	
<i>Description</i>	<p>The site is situated on top of a 10m high rock outcrop and covers an area of c. two acres.</p> <p>Area 1: Consists of a sub circular rock outcrop (21.3m E-W, 25m N-S). There is a panhandle to the south-west and a bank to the north-east corner (5.3m wide, 1.2m high over the exterior, 1m high from the interior). Otherwise the earthwork is defined by scarps c.0.5m. There is a curved depression (6.5m long, c.0.75m deep, 0.9m wide), which maybe a collapsed rock-cut souterrain.</p> <p>To the east of Area 1 there is a rough platform sloping slightly which dips down to a bank. There is a gap (5.5m wide at the top, 2.3m at the bottom) in the east side of this stony bank, and this offers the easiest access to the south. This bank becomes a scarp on the south side and the bank is interrupted to the north. A hollow way runs between Area 1 and Area 2 (6.5m wide, 0.5m deep). At its north end it runs on to a platform with ramps running down to the east and west (c. 45 angle on the east, c. 45-60 angle on the west).</p> <p>Area 2: Area 2 consists of a triangular bank (15.5m N-S, 29m along its north side).</p> <p>There is a slight ramp near the north-east corner facing Area 2. To the west there is a modern path. Further west there is a rock outcrop with a bank on its higher east end running north-east (2.5m wide, .03m high).</p>	



2. SMR ME027-002 (fig. 2)  
 Townland Cruicerath  
 Class Earthwork  
 Nat. Grid co-ords 30450 / 27161  
 Description Situated on a rock outcrop (diam. c. 29m). The site has been quarried to the west. There is high embankment (2.5m high, 1.5m wide) with a shallow fosse (2m wide, 0.5m deep) to the east of the base. A possible entrance is located to the ESE on an outcropping ridge.

3. SMR ME027-03 (fig. 2)  
 Townland Platin  
 Class Castle (site of) / Church  
 Nat. Grid co-ords 30626 / 27203  
 Description 'Platin Hall', now demolished was built on the site of an earlier castle. The house was of brick, three storeys high with a nine bay front, built c. 1700 and possibly designed by Sir William Robinson. The castle was said to have been a D'Arcy castle Dalton John, *History of Drogheda, II 1844.* (462 – 463, p.390).

Church: St. Patrick is said to have founded a church in Blaitine, now Platin, in east Meath<sup>1</sup>. The church has an undivided nave and chancel (int. L 11.3m, int. W 5.2m) with opposing doors toward the west end. A double light window with belfry above is located in the west wall and a triple light window in the east wall. Three double light windows are located in the south wall and two single light windows, made of sandstone reused from an older foundation, are in the north wall. A fragment of a cross dated c. 1600 featuring foliage and figure sculpture is cemented to the east window<sup>2</sup>. A disc-headed cross is located in the church.

<sup>1</sup> Brady, Rev. John, 1958. R.M.A.H.S

<sup>2</sup> PRIA 1984, 101

Monastery: One of St. Patrick's original foundations is said to have been at Platin<sup>3</sup>.

4. SMR	ME027-006	(fig. 2)
Townland	Bellewstown	
Class	Souterrain	
Nat. Grid co-ords	30639 / 26906	
Description	There are no visible remains of this souterrain which was discovered in 1964 and almost immediately backfilled without having being inspected. The field surface has been completely worked over by machinery, but apparently there was no surface indication of any structure. Stated by the owner to have been of artificial appearance.	

#### 8. Topographic Files, Irish Antiquities Division, National Museum of Ireland

The townlands of Carranstown, Caulstown, Cruicerath and Newtown were searched in the Topographic Files of the National Museum of Ireland. Nothing was recorded as having come from the townland of Carranstown; however both Cruicerath and Newtown had recorded stray finds:

Townland	Cruicerath
Barony	Duleek Lower
County	Meath
NMI reg.	1933.580
Habitat	Store C8:21
Nature of site	Found 20ft below surface in quarry.
Find	Bronze pin

<sup>3</sup> Cuffe, P. 1964. R.M.A.H.S. 143

*Description* Length: 11.75cm; max. width of head: 1.5cm; max. thickness of stem: 0.35cm. The pin was part of a penannular brooch, dating from the Early Christian Period.

*Townland* Newtown

*Barony* Duleek Lower

*County* Meath

*NMI reg.* L1934: 7-8 (RIA)

*Habitat* Store C12:19

*Nature of site* Found in the vicinity of White Rock, a local landmark, in 1920's.

*Finds* Stone battle axe

Stone hammer

*Description* Battle axe: Dimensions: 15cm x 10cm. Made of black basalt, a shaft hole pierces through the axe. Two depressions are marked by a raised circumference

Hammer: Dimensions: 6cm x 9cm. Highly polished with central perforation.

## 9. Characteristics of the proposed development

The site is currently in use for pasture (plate 1 & 2). While final plans for the development were not available for inspection at the time of compiling this report, its construction will involve extensive ground works.

## 10. Predicted impact of the development

On the basis of this study there is no evidence of clearly defined archaeological activity on the proposed development site. However construction of the proposed development will have a negative impact on any archaeological features which may survive below ground.

It is also possible that archaeological artefacts may be revealed during construction or ground works for the development. For example, on going research has shown that 14.9% of stone axes have been found on agricultural land (mostly during ploughing) and rough pasture<sup>4</sup>.

## 11. Remedial & mitigation measures<sup>5</sup>

Nothing of archaeological interest was noted during the field visit. Nothing of archaeological interest is recorded in the SMR for the area of the proposal, or in its immediate vicinity. However the development site is situated in a region that was important in Irish pre-historic and historic times. The fertile nature of this part of Meath also means it has been subject to intensive farming practices over a long period of time which may have resulted in the destruction of above ground archaeological features, traces of which may still survive beneath the present ground surface. Therefore given that the development would have a negative impact on any archaeological remains or artefacts surviving below ground it is recommended that:

- Topsoil stripping of the site be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist.
- Should any archaeological discoveries be made during construction it is the responsibility of the finder, under the terms of the National monuments Act (1930 & amendments), to immediately report their discovery to the Duty Officer of the National Museum of Ireland. Any archaeological discoveries should also be reported to Dúchas – The Heritage Service. These institutions can be contacted at:

**National Museum of Ireland,  
Services,**

Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

Tel: 01-661 9753

Fax: 01-6766116

**Dúchas – The Heritage**

51 St. Stephen's Green,  
Dublin 2.

Tel: 01-6473000

Fax: 01-662 1767

<sup>4</sup> Cooney, G & Mandal S, 1998. The Irish Stone Axe Project. Monograph 1, pp.34-8. Bray: Wordwell Ltd.

<sup>5</sup> All archaeological recommendations are subject to the approval of the relevant statutory authorities.

## Appendix 1:

## General archaeological corpora consulted for study:

Author	Date	Title
Barry, T.B.	1987	<i>The Archaeology of Medieval Ireland</i> , University Press, Cambridge
Bourke, E,	1994	Glass vessels of the first nine centuries AD in Ireland, <i>J Royal Soc. Antiq. Ir</i> , 124, 163-209
Burgess, C & S Gerloff	1981	The Dirks and rapiers of Great Britain and Ireland, <i>Praehistorische Bronzefunde</i> , IV.7. Meunchen: CH Beck
Clarke, DL,	1970	<i>Beaker pottery of Great Britain and Ireland</i> . Cambridge: University Press
Collins, AEP,	1994	The flint javelin heads of Ireland, in D Ó Corráin (ed.) <i>Irish antiquity</i> , 111-33. Dublin: Four Courts Press
Earwood, C,	1994	<i>Domestic wooden artefacts in Britain and Ireland from Neolithic to Viking times</i> . Exeter: University of Exeter Press
Eogan, G,	1965	<i>Catalogue of Irish bronze swords</i> . Dublin: The Stationary Office
Eogan, G,	1974	Pins of the Irish Late Bronze Age, <i>J Roy Soc Antiq Ir</i> , 104, 74-119
Eogan, G,	1983	<i>The hoards of the Irish Later Bronze Age</i> . Dublin: University College Dublin
Eogan, G,	1994	<i>The accomplished art. Gold and gold working in Britain and Ireland during the Bronze Age (c. 2,300-650 BC)</i> . Oxford: Oxbow Books Ltd.
Harbison, P,	1976	Bracers and V-perforated buttons in the Beaker and Food Vessel Cultures of Ireland, <i>Archaeologia Atlantica Research Report</i> , 1
Harbison, P,	1969a	The axes of the Early Bronze Age in Ireland. <i>Praehistorische Bronzefunde</i> , IX.1. Muenchen: CH Beck

- Harbison, P, 1969b The daggers and the halberds of the Early Bronze Age in Ireland. *Praehistorische Bronzefunde*, VI.1. Muenchen: CH Beck
- Kavanagh, RM, 1973 The encrusted urn in Ireland, *Proc Roy Ir Acad*, 73C, 507-617
- Kavanagh, RM, 1976 Collared and cordoned cinerary urns in Ireland, *Proc Roy Ir Acad*, 76C, 293-381
- Kavanagh, RM, 1991 A reconsideration of razors in the Irish Early Bronze Age, *J Roy Soc Antiq Ir*, 121, 77-104
- Killanin, Lord, MA & Duignan MV 1967 *The Shell Guide to Ireland*
- Longworth, IH, 1984 *Collared urns of the Bronze Age in Great Britain and Ireland*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Moore, M,J, 1987 Archaeological Inventory of County Meath, Dublin
- O'Connor, L, 1991 Irish Iron Age and Early Christian whetstones, *J Roy Soc Antiq Ir*, 121, 45-76
- O'Meadhra, U, 1984 Early Christian, Viking and Romanesque art motifs - pieces from Ireland. *Theses & papers in North European archaeology*, 7. Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell International
- Otway-Ruthven, A.J. 1980 *A History of Medieval Ireland: United States of America: Barnes & Noble Books*
- Raftery, B, 1983 A catalogue of Irish Iron Age Antiquities. *Veroeffentlichung des Vorgeschichtlichen Seminars Marburg, Sonderband, 1.*
- Somerville, O, 1993 Kite-shaped brooches, *J Roy Soc Antiq Ir*, 123, 59-101
- Waddell, J, n.d. [1990] *The Bronze Age burials of Ireland*. Galway: University Press
- Waddell, J, & AB O'Riordain 1995 *Funerary bowls and vases of the Early Irish Bronze Age*. Galway: University Press



Fig.1 Site location map.

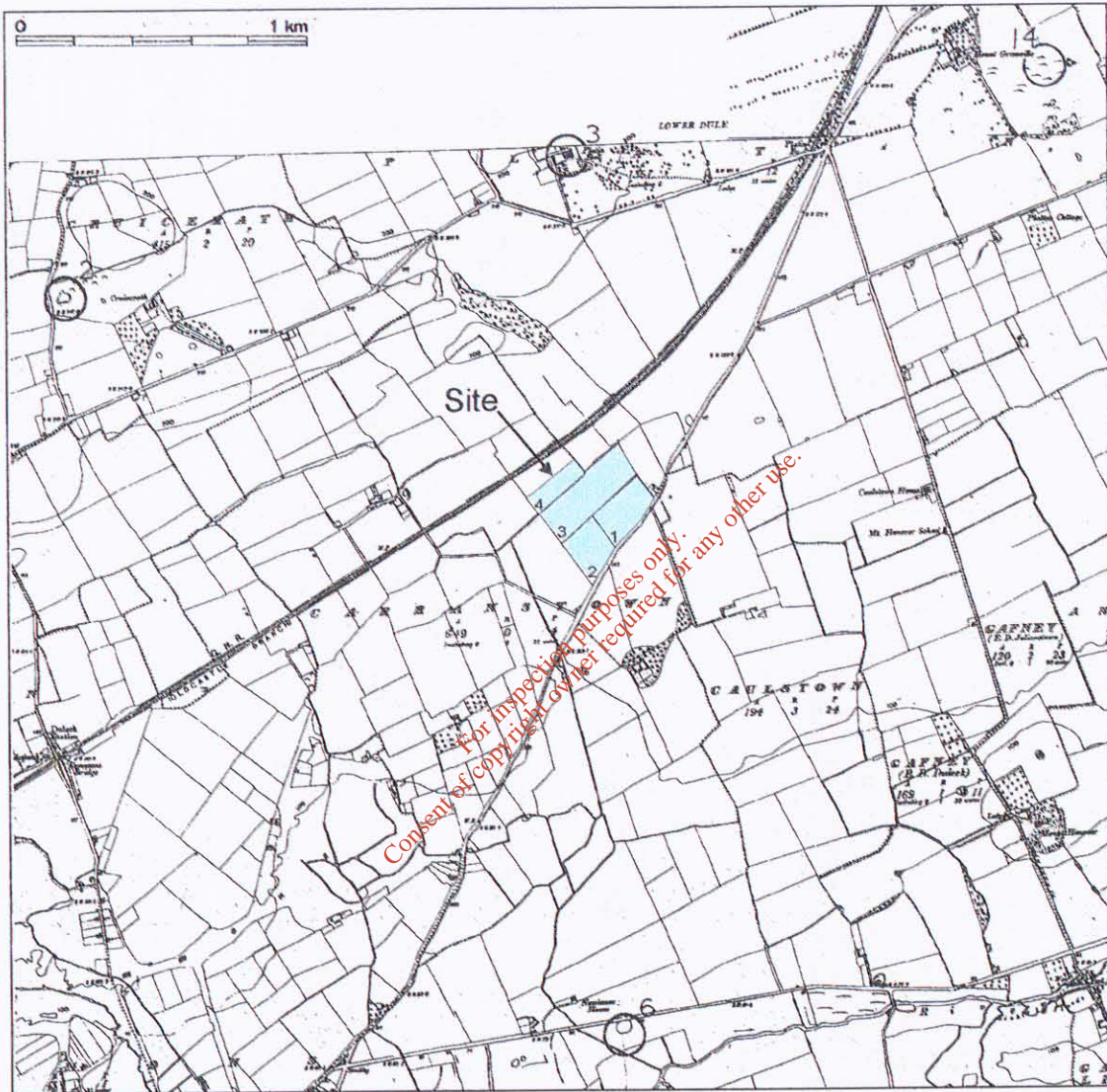
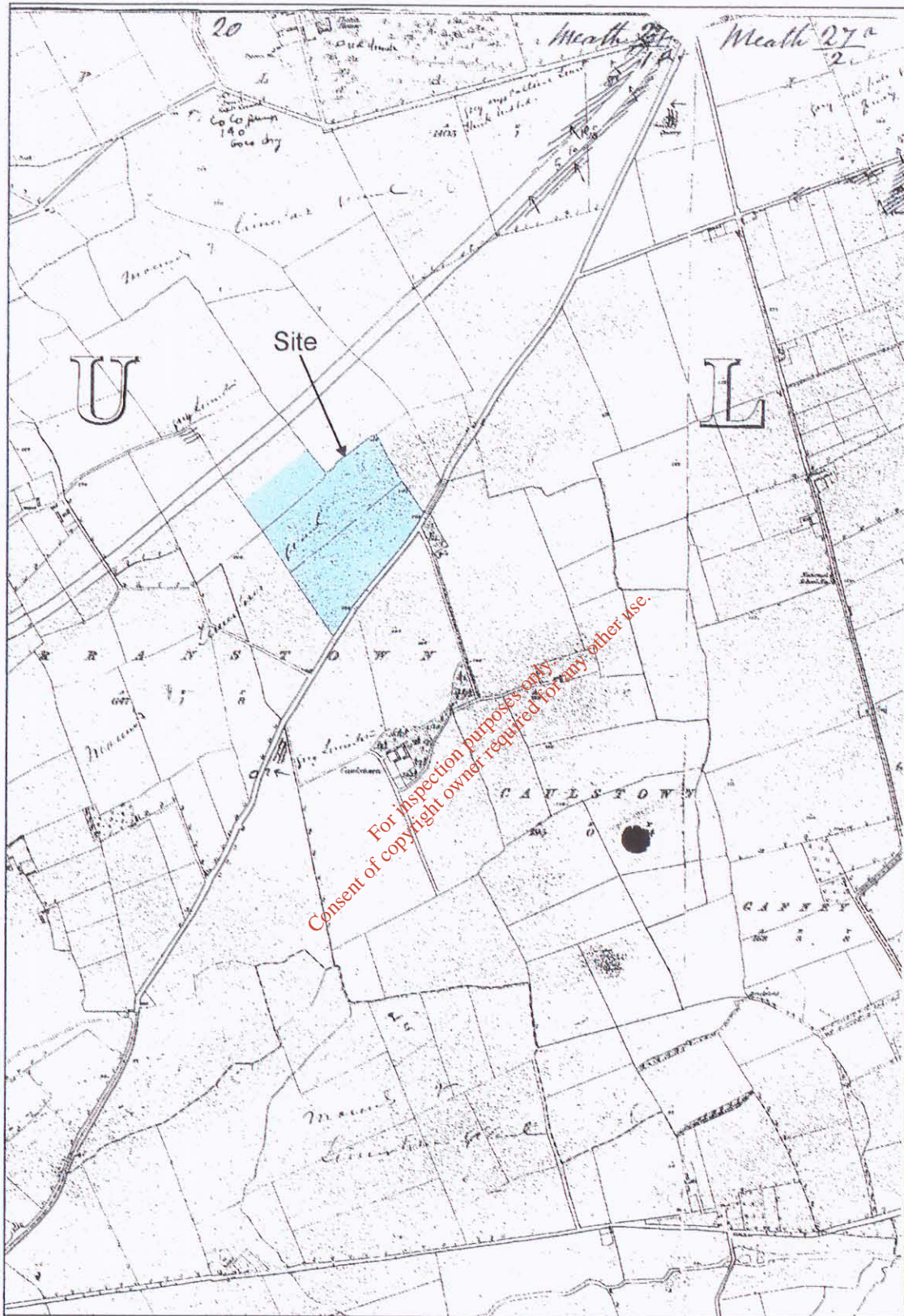


Fig. 2 Extract from RMP Constraint Map of Co. Meath, Sheets 27 & 20. Date of issue: 1996.





**Fig. 3** First edition Ordnance Survey map, Co.Meath, sheet 27a/1 & /2. Surveyed 1837. Scale 1:10,560

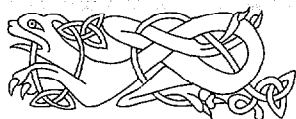


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Plate 1 General view of site from southern side of field 1.

- Project Management
- Environmental Impact Assessments
  - Desk Based Assessments
- Aerial Photography Interpretation
  - Site Assessments
  - Archaeological Monitoring
- Excavation and Post-Excavation
  - Artefact & Ecofact Analysis
    - Geophysical Survey
- Monument and Building Survey
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  - Education Packages
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# Archaeological

## Development Services Limited

Westlink Enterprise Centre,  
30 - 50 Distillery Street, Belfast. BT12 5BJ  
Telephone: 028 90 312612 / 028 90 963500  
Facsimile: 028 90 312612  
E-mail: adsni@iol.ie

Windsor House,  
11 Fairview Strand, Fairview, Dublin 3.  
Telephone: (003531) 8531009 / 8531014 - Facsimile: (003531) 8531036  
E-mail: ads@iol.ie