

APPENDIX 2.11

Cultural Heritage

- Appendix 2.11.1 Archaeological Sites and Monuments in a c. 1km catchment**
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Appendix 2.11.1

Archaeological Sites and Monuments in a c. 1km Catchment

The recorded archaeological sites within c. 1km of the proposed development are listed below; all noted in the Sites and Monuments Records for County Dublin. The Monuments are listed in a standard format as follows:

RMP No.	Townland	Classification
DU 008 023	Coldwinters	Burials
See Archaeological Finds, for description (1957:5).		

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Archaeological Finds

The recorded archaeological finds in the vicinity of the site are listed below, all noted in the National Museum of Ireland files, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, in local journals, or in other published catalogues of prehistoric material: Raftery (1983), Eogan (1965; 1983; 1994), Harbison (1968; 1969a; 1969b) and the Irish Stone Axe Project Database. The following townlands were assessed: Coldwinters, Newhaggard, Thomondtown, Staffordstown, Corduff Common.

The finds are listed below in a standard format as follows:

Museum No., Townland

Classification

Notes

1957:5 Coldwinters

Flint Blade

The site is in the centre of an open tillage field at the highest point, the ground sloping away gradually on all sides. There is no suggestion of an archaeological structure here and nothing of that nature is indicated on the 6" sheet, old edition. It is in the townland of Coldwinters, barony of Balrothery East, Co. Dublin, O.S. 6" sheet no. 8, 11.50cm East, 8.30cm South. While Mr. Butterly's workmen were ploughing there on Saturday last the bones were uncovered; disturbance and damage was unavoidable. It was not possible to see if the skeletons had been deposited in any order but it certain that no stone graves or such protection was present and no object was found amongst the bones. Mr Butterly said his family had owned the land for twenty years (it was formerly part of the Cohen estate) though it had been frequently tilled no bones had turned up before; this was accounted for by the fact that the present ploughing is deeper than before being about 14" below the surface. There is no name on the field but traditions of battles attach to the area and hangings are said to have taken place at Daw's Bridge at the south west corner of the field. Further information of this nature will be supplied if it is available. The bones were greatly damaged and lay embedded in a scattered about in the newly ploughed soil over an area of approximately 65 x 20 paces in extent. They represent a number of human skeletons (skulls, ribs and limb bones could be recognised) of strong adult structure. Amongst them were a few horse teeth, occasional fragments of charcoal and a couple of patches of cockle shells. The charcoal could be due to some superficial burning and the shells might have reached the site in the course of sea coast manuring. A small worked flint blade was found by Mr. Rynne loose on the ground; little significance could be attached to such a casual find in this locality. The bones were ploughed out towards the bottom of the layer of dark upper soil which is about 15" deep and overlies hay yellow clay. It is probable that the burials extend still further into the unploughed portion of the field. It is not intended to extend the ploughing further and no operation will be taking place on the ploughed area until the coming April. In the absence of dating evidence it does not seem that any useful purpose would be served by further investigation on these disturbed skeletons.

Unknown Coldwinters

Flint Blade

White in colour, bulbous flake, untrimmed on the bulbous face. Ridged on back and shaped with length wise strokes, narrow butt at bulbous end, broad nose shaped by a single transverse stroke. Length: 4.2cm, max width: 1.7cm, thickness: 1.7cm.

1976: 37 Newhaggard

Flint Flake

Found on soil surface. No further information.

1974:80 Balrothery

Stone Disc

Stone disc, the edges of which are now severely chipped in places, with central, pecked perforation. One face is relatively smooth and bears three concentric incised circles about the central perforation. These circles are divided by means of radial lines. Outside this area a few haphazard (?) radial lines occur. The other face of the disc is irregular and undecorated. Present maximum diameter of disc: 3.32cm, maximum thickness: 4mm, maximum diameter of perforation: 5mm. Found within two feet of the surface in digging house foundations

Previous Archaeological Excavations

The recorded archaeological excavations surrounding the area are listed below, all noted in the Excavations Bulletin.

Dublin

2000:0349

THOMONDTOWN (1)

Earthen mound with possible trench

319248 252332 00E0953

Archaeological investigations were carried out at Thomondtown (1), Co. Dublin, prior to the construction of the Northern Motorway/Airport–Balbriggan bypass. The site, initially identified in the EIS as Site 9 (Keeley 1994), was described as a large earthen mound, circular in form, which appeared to be surrounded by a fosse. It had been observed during a field inspection of the line of the road. This assessment report and later borehole monitoring by Hilary Opie recommended that archaeological investigations should be carried out to ascertain the nature and extent of the potential site (Keeley 1998). It was recorded that quarrying took place in the area. The site is to be directly affected by the motorway construction. The site was located in two fields (Fields 1 and 2) separated by a road. When originally inspected the field was in pasture, but at the time of the investigation the field that contained Trenches 5 and 6 was under a potato crop, and as a result it was difficult to identify which of the undulations in the field marked the flattened bank and ditch identified during the EIS. The trenches in the first field were located on the top, across the fosse, and in the second field within the fosse of the possible feature. Six trenches, 8m x 2m, were opened. Trenches 1 and 2 were located on the top of the mound. Trench 3 was located across a shallow section of the fosse; Trench 4 was located across a deep section of the fosse; and Trenches 5 and 6 were located across a very shallow section of the fosse in a neighbouring field. It was known that the field within which Trenches 1–4 were located had not been ploughed for c. 100 years and that the field in which Trenches 5 and 6 were located had been ploughed for the first time in living memory in 1999.

No features of archaeological significance were identified during the testing.

References

Keeley, V.J. 1994 Archaeological report on the line of the proposed Northern Route Phase 2. Unpublished.

Keeley, V.J. 1998 Archaeological bore hole monitoring: Northern Motorway Airport to Balbriggan By-Pass, Co. Fingal. Unpublished.

Patricia Lynch, 112 Cianlea, Swords, for Valerie J. Keeley Ltd, Brehon House, Kilkenny Road, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny.

Dublin

2000:0350

THOMONDTOWN

Raised linear earthen structure

319248 252332 00E0953

Archaeological investigations were carried out at Thomondtown Co. Dublin, prior to the construction of the Northern Motorway/Airport–Balbriggan bypass. The site, initially identified in the EIS as Site 11 (Keeley 1994), was described as a raised linear structure, which was located during a field inspection of the route. This assessment report and later borehole monitoring by Hilary Opie recommended that archaeological investigations should be conducted to ascertain the nature and extent of the potential site (Keeley 1998). The site is to be directly affected by the motorway construction. When originally inspected the ground was under grass, but at the time of the investigation was under a potato crop, and as a result it was difficult to identify which of the undulations in the field referred to the 'raised linear structure' identified during the EIS. The

location of the investigated site was ascertained by identifying the highest and most curved ridge in the affected area. The trenches were located on the top and the southern side of the possible feature. During the investigations, three trenches, 8m x 2m, were opened. Trench 1 was on the southern edge of the ridge; Trench 2 was on the top of the hill; and Trench 3 was also on the top of the ridge. A barbed and tanged chert arrowhead was recovered in the topsoil, on the bank of Trench 2. An arrowhead and blade, also of chert, were recovered during field-walking.

No features of archaeological significance were identified.

References

Keeley, V.J. 1994 Archaeological report on the line of the proposed Northern Route Phase 2. Unpublished.

Keeley, V.J. 1998 Archaeological bore hole monitoring: Northern Motorway Airport to Balbriggan By-Pass, Co. Fingal. Unpublished.

Patricia Lynch, 112 Cianlea, Swords, for Valerie J. Keeley Ltd, Brehon House, Kilkenny Road, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny.

Preliminary Report of Archaeological Excavations of the Airport Balbriggan Northern Motorway, Lissenhall to Blabriggan.

Site 5

Coldwinters, Co. Dublin

Monitoring took place in August 2001 under the direction of Patricia Lynch: 00E0953. Excavation took place in October- November under the direction of Kieran Campbell: 01E1062. Site Type: Possible Fulacht Fiadh Location: Two low ridges were crossed by the road intake Description: Area 1; situated between two ridges, consisted of a spread of burnt stone, a possible hearth, an oval pit and several groups of stake holes. It was interpreted as a fulacht fiadh. Area 2; situated on the northern ridge, contained a prehistoric pit with burnt material, pottery, flint and bone.

Site 4

Thomondtown, Co. Dublin

Monitoring took under the direction of Patricia Lynch: 01E1169.

Excavation took place under the direction of Hilary Opie: 99E0548.

Site Type: Possible Fulacht Fiadh

Location: Immediately north of the field boundary dividing the townlands of Coldwinters and Thomondtown.

Site 15

Richardstown, Co. Dublin.

Monitoring took under the direction of Patricia Lynch: 00E0952.

Excavation took place under the direction of Kieran Campbell: 02E0138.

Site Type: Kilns

Location: 2km west of Lusk, 3.5km North West of Rogerstown Estuary.

Description:

Two cut features likely representing remains of kilns, possibly corn drying, used over a relatively short period of time. Darkened soil, possibly due to heat is present in both. Cut C021 contained 2 separate fills containing charcoal (C008 & C017). However charcoal was absent from the fills of cut C023 and no charcoal grain was absent in either of these two features. Reddened clay, occurring in the fills of overlying the darkened soil may be a part of a superstructure (such as a clay dome covering the kiln) backfilled into the cut. However the basal fills resembling re-deposited subsoil and natural silting, do not appear to have any clear function. No definitive date may be taken from the site due to lack of dateable material. Specialist reports are pending.

Site 23

Ballagh, Co. Dublin

Monitoring took under the direction of Patricia Lynch: 00E0953.

Excavation took place from Nov 01' to Jan 02' under the direction of Robert M. Chapple: 01E1138.

Location:

Description:

Five large pits in the centre of the site; a group of pits, post holes and stake holes were discovered at the eastern end of the site. Several field drains transverse the site, some of which may date to the medieval or post medieval period. Pits possible date to the Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age Period. They may have either functioned in the perceived burnt mound tradition of boiling meat, though their parallels to other material may indicate a slightly earlier date and function associated with meat roasting. While no specific function may be assigned to the collection of pits, postholes and stakeholes in the eastern portion of the site, it is possible that they relate to a sequence of habitation and associated activity broadly contemporary with adjacent pits. Similarly, the small collection of material defined as miscellaneous features may also be associated with this broad spectrum of activity. However, while C60 and C195 pendant a medieval or post medieval to modern field drains (C3 & C4), their relationship to other archaeological features excavated at site **23** cannot be stratigraphically demonstrated. The field drains transverse the site though containing archaeological material may be confidently regarded as of relatively modern construction. These features extended beyond the area available for modern excavation and there fore should be taken into consideration for future planning in this area.

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