

# Appendix 6

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# **Cultural and Archaeological Heritage Report (CRDS)**



**Cultural Resource Development Services Ltd.**

Archaeological and Geological Consultants

Unit 4, Dundrum  
Business Park,  
Dundrum Road, Dublin 14, Ireland.  
Telephone: 353 1 2968190  
Fax: 353 1 2968195  
Email: [info@crds.ie](mailto:info@crds.ie)

## **CULTURAL HERITAGE COMPONENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

for the proposed

**Integrated Waste Management Facility**

**at  
Whitestown Lower, Co. Wicklow**

on behalf of

**ERML**

**No. 3 Tara Court, Naas, Co. Kildare.**

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CRDS Job Ref No.:549

February 2004.

V.A.T. Number: EI6330188P

Directors: EurGeol Stephen Mandal B.A. (Mod.) Ph.D. M.I.A.I. P.Geo.  
Finola O'Carroll M.A. M.I.A.I.

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## Project Team

### Cultural Heritage Component of Environmental Impact Assessment

Project Manager: Aislinn Collins M.A., G.Dip, Dip. E.I.A.Mgt.  
Site survey: Donal Fallon M.A.

Report signed off by,

  
EurGeol Dr Stephen Mandal MIAI PGeo

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## Executive Summary

At the request of Environment & Resource Management Ltd, Cultural Resource Development Services Ltd. have undertaken the cultural heritage component of the Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed integrated waste management facility at Whitestown Lower.

The proposed site is located Whitestown Lower, c. 3km to the southwest of Donard, Co. Wicklow.

The following report comprises the results of an intensive archaeological paper survey of the area of the proposed development and a field survey of the land on which the development is planned.

A number of archaeological monuments are recorded within 1.5km of the proposed development. They represent settlement and ritual activity in the area dating from the prehistoric to the modern period.

There are no recorded archaeological monuments within the boundary of the proposed development and no unrecorded archaeological monuments were encountered during the course of the field work component of the cultural heritage assessment. Therefore no further mitigation measures are necessary.

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Site location

The proposed site is located in the townland of Whitestown Lower, the barony of Upper Talbotstown and the parish of Donaghmore, c. 3km to the southwest of Donard, Co. Wicklow (see Figure 1).

### 1.2. Characteristics of the proposed development

The proposed facility will be an Integrated Waste Management Facility. Proposed activities at this facility may include recovery of previously deposited wastes, possible receipt and recovery of imported non-hazardous waste, disposal of residual waste and composting.

## 2. Baseline Survey

### 2.1. Introduction

For the purpose of setting the proposed development within its wider archaeological and cultural heritage landscape, and to assess the archaeological potential of the site, a comprehensive paper survey of all available archaeological, historical and cartographic sources was undertaken.

### 2.2. Recorded archaeological sites and monuments

The Record of Historic Sites and Monuments were consulted for the relevant parts of the county. This is a list of archaeological sites known to the National Monuments Service. The relevant files for these sites contain details of documentary sources and aerial photographs, early maps, OS memoirs, OPW Archaeological Survey notes and other relevant publications. These were studied in the Sites and Monuments Records Office. All sites within a radius of c. 1.5km of the proposed development were identified. These monuments are listed in Appendix 1.

### 2.3. Recorded archaeological finds

The topographical files in the National Museum of Ireland were consulted to determine if any archaeological artefacts had been recorded from the area. This is the national archive of all known finds recorded by the National Museum. It relates primarily to artefacts but also includes references to monuments and has a unique archive of records of previous excavations. Other published catalogues of prehistoric material were also studied: Raftery (1983 - Iron Age antiquities), Eogan (1965; 1993; 1994 - bronze swords, Bronze Age hoards and goldwork), Harbison (1968; 1969a; 1969b - bronze axes, halberds and daggers) and the Irish Stone Axe Project Database (Archaeology Dept., U.C.D.). All townlands within the study area were assessed. A list of recorded finds from the area is given in Appendix 2.

### 2.4. Cartographic sources

Reference to cartographic sources is important in tracing land use development within the development area as well as providing important topographical information on sites and areas of archaeological potential. Primary cartographic sources consulted consisted of the Ordnance Survey 6" maps, first and later editions (T.C.D. Map Library). Earlier cartographic sources consisted of Jacob Nevill's Map of the County of Wicklow dating to 1760.

### 2.5. Previous Excavations

The excavation bulletin website ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)) was consulted to identify previous excavations that may have been carried out within the study area. This database contains summary accounts of



excavations carried out in Ireland from 1985. The available *Excavations* publications were also consulted. Details of previous excavations are listed in Appendix 3.

## 2.6. Historical research

Historical sources consulted included *Hayes Index*, local history journals, *Wicklow History and Society* and *Lewis Topographical Dictionary of Ireland*.

## 3. Archaeological and Historical Background

### 3.1. Prehistory (c. 7000 BC - AD 500)

Wicklow has long been associated with the technological revolution that represented the transition from the late Neolithic to the early Bronze Age and up to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century it was assumed that the county was the main source of prehistoric gold deposits (Stout 1994, 12). The earliest Prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the proposed development is attested to by the existence of an embanked stone circle at Castleruddery Lower to the southeast of the site (RMP no. WI021:032). The site has an east-facing aspect located 250m north of the River Slaney at a height of 500-600ft above sea-level. The horizon is dominated by a number of mountain peaks including Lugnaquilla, Keadeen Mountain and Spinans Hill (Condit and Corlett 2000, 1). Embanked stone enclosures were built in the Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age (c. 2600 – 1800 BC) and may represent a transition between the construction of henge monuments and stone circles. They generally consist of a continuous ring of large stones with an earthen bank outside the ring (Grogan and Kilfether 1997, 12). The entrance, which at Castleruddery Lower is defined by two large quartz boulders, often faces in an easterly or westerly direction and may have been oriented on specific events such as the rising or setting of the sun on particular days of the year.

### 3.2. Early medieval period (AD 500 - 1170)

By the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> centuries central and west Wicklow (along with some of east Kildare) was dominated by the *Ui Mail* sept (Smyth 1994, 49). The sept controlled trade along the Slige Chualann, one of the most important routeways which traversed the Wicklow Mountains, running from Bohernabreena through west Wicklow to the valleys of the Barrow and Slaney Rivers. As the early medieval period progressed the natural strategic advantages offered the *Ui Mail* by the Wicklow Mountains became more important as they came under pressure from the *Ui Dunlainge* and *Ui Cheinnselaig* who inhabited the fertile lands below. The strength of the *Ui Mail* sept is represented by their periodical holding of the provincial kingship of Leinster. The Annals of Ulster record the assassination of Fiannamail mac Maele Tuile, king of the Leinstermen in 680 (Smyth 1994, 92). Finnamail was the third *Ui Mail* king of Leinster and was succeeded by Bran mac Conaill of the *Ui Dunlainge*. Following Bran's rule Cellach Cualann, who ruled from 693-715, was the last *Ui Mail* to hold the kingship of all Leinster and was perhaps the greatest of all their kings. His kinship placed him in the centre of a number of alliances involving other dynasties within Leinster and the *Ui Neill* (Smyth 1994, 93).

Secular settlement in the early medieval period is represented by the single occurrence of a ringfort within the study area. The Wicklow uplands are situated in an area of low ringfort density explained in part by the inhospitable physical conditions including peat covered mountain slopes and waterlogged lowlands (Stout 1997, 62). Ringforts generally comprise a circular or oval area, between 20m and 50m in diameter, surrounded by an earthen or stone enclosure. Ringforts functioned as defended settlements and excavated examples have uncovered evidence for the presence of industrial areas, houses and outbuildings which may have been used to shelter livestock. The example at Deerpark (RMP no. WI021:018), consists of a circular area c. 28m in diameter, defined by an earthen bank and external ditch and had no internal features.

The earliest references to the Christian use of holy wells date to the early medieval period though the sacred use of springs and other water sources may originate in the Celtic Iron Age (Grogan and Kilfeather 1997, 162). As with other examples in the county Toberavoster in Randalstown townland (RMP no. WI021:015) was recorded in the Ordnance Survey Letters as famous for its curative powers. A second holy well in the adjacent townland of Winetavern was named Tobermurry or Tobar Mhuire indicating a dedication to the Virgin Mary (Grogan and Kilfeather 1997, 167).

### 3.3. *Late medieval and post medieval period (c. AD 1170 - 1900)*

In the late 12<sup>th</sup> century the Anglo-Norman's introduced a complex new settlement system which overlay the pre-existing Gaelic one that had predominated in County Wicklow. They were responsible for the introduction of many new monument types into the county including mottes, ringwork castles, moated sites, manorial villages, rural boroughs, towns and tower houses. Situated on a south-facing slope overlooking the fording point at Ballyhubbock Bridge on the River Slaney, Castleruddery motte (RMP no. WI021:033), to the southeast of the proposed development, consists of a circular steep-sided platform encircled at the base by a wide, deep fosse (Grogan and Kilfeather 1997, 177).

Recent fieldwork in the Republic of Ireland has shown that the locations chosen for the construction of Anglo-Norman mottes are often located beside rivers, in commanding positions or near medieval churches (Sweetman 1999, 22). The motte at Castleruddery is located close to an early church mentioned in the twelfth century which formed part of the diocesan lands of Glendalough. In the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century it became part of an Episcopal manor and was subsequently granted to the dean of St. Patrick's in Dublin (Grogan and Kilfeather 1997, 122). It appears that a small borough grew up in association with the Episcopal manor in the thirteenth century and the complex may have included the nearby motte (Grogan and Kilfeather 1997, 194).

The townland of Castleruddery gets its name from "Caislean a Ridine" the castle of the Knight. The castle, which was located on the site of the present Castleruddery House, may have been constructed as late as the 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century and may have been erected by either Shane McFeagh O'Toole or Sir William Talbot. Two de-listed archaeological monuments (RMP no. WI021:030 and WI021:031) may represent the remains of estate features including a possible decoy pond and fish pond associated with the modern Castleruddery House.

A mill race, which formerly ran across the site, is depicted on the first edition map Ordnance Survey map. It powered a corn mill adjacent to Whitestown Bridge and ran from the Carriggower River to the northeast of the site and emptied into the Little Slaney adjacent to the Fever Hospital. No remains of the millrace were encountered during the field assessment.

### 3.4. *Archaeological significance of the site*

A number of archaeological monuments are recorded within 1.5km of the proposed development, though none are within the boundary of the site. They represent settlement and ritual activity in the area dating from the prehistoric to the modern period.

## 4. **Field Assessment**

The field assessment at O'Reilly's Sand and Gravel Quarry, Whitestown was undertaken on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2003. The vast part of the site has already been reduced to natural subsoils during various phases of quarrying. Quarrying was followed by a number of phases of dumping which have made parts of the site inaccessible. The areas of quarry debris and modern dumping were not assessed.

Only two undisturbed areas, on the perimeter of the existing quarry were available for survey. These are within the perimeter of O'Reilly's Quarry Boundary (marked in red). They are located to the southeast and the northwest of the quarried areas. The areas potentially affected by the proposed development consist of two adjacent fields to the southeast, and a small triangular area at the northeast corner of the quarry.

#### 4.1. The Southeast

The two fields cover an area of c. 2000m<sup>2</sup> with field boundaries on axes orientated northeast-southwest and northwest-southeast. For the purposes of description these two fields have been termed **MW9** and **MW8** after the adjacent wells marked on the map (see Figure 2). A further field to the northeast, termed **MW7**, which is immediately outside the development was also assessed.

**MW7**, **MW8** and **MW9** are in low-lying ground between two glacial ridges with a small stream - the Carriggower - extending through the centre of this area. The gravel quarry appears to have utilised a pre-existing ridge which has been largely removed by quarrying. This ridge rose away from the **N81** road and dropped towards the low-lying land around the Carriggower.

The two fields **MW8** and **MW9** have a single continuous boundary to the northwest. This is formed by a ridge of gravel and dumped quarry debris. This ridge appears to partially reflect the pre-existing topography of the area but in its present state is a largely artificial gravel dump extended along the edge of a pre-existing field boundary. A post and barbed wire fence runs along the eastern base of this ridge.

A simple post and barbed wire fence forms the boundary between the two fields **MW9** and **MW8**. There is no drainage ditch visible - as is suggested by the key on the map.

The Carriggower, a small fast-running stream, extends along the eastern boundary of both fields - with a post and barbed wire fence along its western bank. It varies from c. 4m to over 5m in width and appears to be generally less than 0.7m in depth.

Both fields are low-lying, relatively even, and largely covered by rushes. However neither field is as damp or waterlogged as the presence of rushes, or the time of year would suggest. The large drainage ditches at the field boundaries have obviously been of some use. This may imply substantial changes in the topography in the last 100 years from drainage activity.

The fields on the opposite side of the river are similar - flat, low-lying terrain covered with rushes with no visible hummocks hillocks or anomalies. The fields extend to the east to a field boundary at the base of what appears to be a glacial ridge. A number of modern dwellings and a farmhouse are situated atop this ridge - along the line of a modern road. The farmhouse is roughly due east of O'Reilly's well, and is partially surrounded by a number of deciduous trees (these appear to be c. 75-100 years old).

The fields are described from south to north:

### MW9

- **MW9** is almost completely covered by rushes, with a band of scrubby grass extending along the river bank and at the fields southeast extent. The terrain is low-lying, flat and relatively even, with no hummocks or anomalies.
- The southern boundary of field **MW9** is formed by a double drainage ditch with a bank extending down along the centre (see Plate 1). The drainage ditch to the north varies from 1m to 2m in width – widening at its northwest end. These drainage ditches appears to be relatively recent constructed within the last 50 years. A post and wire fence is situated along the boundary's northern bank. The ditches drain into the Carriggower.
- The *Carriggower* extending along the eastern side of this field is c. 4m and 6m in width (see Plate 2). The river surface is less than 1.5m below the surrounding ground levels. The depth is on average less than 0.7m.
- No potential archaeological features or anomalies could be detected in this field. The relatively flat terrain suggests that the area may have been cleared or landscaped during drainage and reclamation activity associated with modern agriculture.
- The field **MW8** is similar to **MW9**, low-lying flat terrain with no visible anomalies (see Plate 3). It is slightly more uneven than the land to the south. It has less rush coverage – the northeast and northwest corners covered instead with scrubby grass. However the southern half of the field is almost completely covered with rushes.
- The *Carriggower* becomes broader and slower moving towards the northeast corner of **MW8** (see Plate 4). The banks have been denuded by an existing cattle crossing. There is some evidence for raised earthen banks on either side of the river though these appear to be very denuded. This suggests either the river was dug deeper to provided drainage – or the banks were deliberately built up to prevent flooding – these artificial banks are more clearly visible in **MW7**.
- Where the northern boundary meets the river, the riverbank has been crudely revetted with undressed stone for a length of c. 2m (see Plate 5). The stones average dimensions are approximately 0.5 by 0.3m by 0.4m. Three courses are visible on the opposite (eastern side) of the river where a field boundary continues on the same axis, the river bank has also been revetted with stone of a similar size for c. 2-3m just underneath the field boundary. The revetment is overgrown but extends to the riverbed – and perhaps functioned as a temporary crossing point. The revetting appears to be modern in date.
- The northern boundary of **MW8** is formed by a bank and drainage ditch, less than 4m in width (see Plate 6). A post and barbed wire fence surmounts the bank which is on the southern side of the field boundary. Again this drainage ditch appears to suggest recent reclamation work.

- The narrow band of rushes extending northeast-southwest through the two scrubby areas of grass could be suggestive of a backfilled linear feature following a very slight linear depression (see Plate 7). This is likely to be a drainage feature of relatively recent origin.

### MW7

Though the field east of MW7 is outside of the boundary of O'Reilly's Quarry, it was considered worthy of examination in case there were any features of archaeological potential which would have implications for the rest of the development area.

- The field is similar in terrain and coverage to those previously described (see Plate 8). It is flat, low-lying and largely covered with rushes.
- The northern extent of the field is far more uneven, but this appears to reflect recent machine disturbance.
- The *Carriggower* stretches north/south through the field averaging 4m in width and c. 0.5m in depth. The river here is shallow and fast-flowing. The sides of the river have been built up into definite banks - low linear mounds between 2 - 4m wide and less than 1m high. This may reflect deliberate dredging to increase drainage, or simply the creation of floodwalls.
- The river surface appears to be between 1m - 2m below the level of the surrounding landscape, which in itself is suggestive of dredging. The banks are covered with gorse towards the northern extent examined.
- The river extends towards the ridge at the northeast extent of the quarry.
- The southern boundary of the field has been previously described - a drainage ditch c. 2m in width with a bank extending along its southern side and appears to be relatively modern in date.
- The western boundary of the field is formed by the quarry ridge representing the eastern extent of the quarry (see Plate 9). This is extremely steep and apparently largely artificial. It rises in height to the north where the farm is located - merging at the eastern extent of the quarry into the natural ridge beyond.
- No hummocks irregularities or landscape anomalies which could represent archaeological features could be detected.

#### 4.2 The Northwest

A triangular area is located in the northwest corner of the quarry (c. 90m by 80m by 100m).

- This area of the site is at the summit of a steep ridge, with the ground beyond the northwest boundary of the site dropping sharply away towards the **N81** road.
- The western boundary of this area is formed by a low line of hawthorn trees at the summit of a low earthen bank. A collapsed dry stone wall extends along the western side of this bank. Two well-constructed gate piers are still visible - roughly west from where monitoring well MW03 - 05 is depicted.

- Much of this area has been removed down to the level of the quarry to the east (see Plate 10). The remaining surface area had been scarped down to natural gravels to within 2.5 - 3m of the existing western and northern boundaries.
- No potential archaeological features or anomalies were detected in this area.

## 5. Potential Impact of the Proposed Development

There are no recorded archaeological monuments within the boundary of the proposed development. No unrecorded archaeological monuments were encountered during the course of the field work component of the archaeological assessment.

The archaeological potential of low-lying, waterlogged areas is well known. The First Edition Ordnance Survey, 1838, does not depict any marshy ground in the fields which form part of the proposed development and it is likely the waterlogged nature of the fields is due to changes in the local drainage patterns and agricultural practices in the twentieth century.

## 6. Recommended Avoidance, Remedial or Reductive Measures

As noted above, the proposed development does not impact on any known archaeological sites or monuments or any areas of archaeological potential. Therefore no further mitigation measures are necessary.

Please note that the recommendations given here are subject to the approval of The National Monuments Section of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

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- Sites and Monuments Record. National Monuments Division: The National Monuments Section of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.
- The Irish Stone Axe Project Database. Department of Archaeology: University College Dublin.

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<b>WI021:01703</b> Castleruddery Upper Unknown 500-600' OD N/A	<b>Ring cairn</b> On the northern extension of the ridge on which WM021:01701 and WM021:01702 (c. 150m to the southwest) occur. The monument is poorly defined and the north side underlies the adjacent field boundary. The description of the monument is the same as WM021:01701 and WM021:01702 but it is set on rather than into the ridge edge. The edging stones are smaller than at the other two sites. The site is 11.90m in external diameter.
<b>WI021:018</b> Deerpark 29255, 19594 700-800' OD 293	<b>Rath</b> Situated on a gently S/SE-facing terrace a break in a marked slope in forestry. Circular area (diameter 28m; maximum external diameter 41m) defined by an earthen bank (width 2-3.5m; height 0.2-1.8m) and an external flat-bottomed fosse (width 3.5m; depth 1-1.3m). There is a counterscarp bank (maximum width 3m; maximum external height 1.2m) SE-W-NE. The entrance (width 2m) consists of gaps in both banks and a causeway across the fosse at the west; three other gaps in the inner bank appear to be modern. There is a narrow fosse (maximum width 1.8m; depth 0.4m) inside the bank in the eastern quadrant. Inside this is another bank (width 3m; height 0.4m) attached to the fort bank at the SE and NE and curving inwards. It has a centrally placed gap (width 2m) and its purpose and date are unknown. No other internal features.
<b>WI021:025</b> Castleruddery Lower 29076, 19432 600-600' N/A	<b>Castle (site of)</b> The townland of Castleruddery gets its name from "Caislean a Ridine" the castle of the Knight. Other than o'Donovan's assertion that "there was formerly a castle in Lower Castleruddery where Castleruddery House stands (late 18 <sup>th</sup> century house?) there is no evidence for a castle at this site. No visible surface indication. Level ground on summit of flat-topped ridge.
<b>WI021:026</b> Castleruddery Lower 29107, 19439 500-600' OD 491.	<b>Enclosure</b> Situated at the base of an elongated natural hollow. Circular platform (diameter 44m; height 2-2.5m) with a slightly dished summit (diameter 36m) defined by a partly natural, wide flat-bottomed 'fosse'. No indication of a bank, entrance or internal features.
<b>WI021:029</b> Castleruddery Lower 29133, 19434 500-600' OD 492.	<b>Enclosure (possible, site)</b> Situated on level ground in gently undulating terrain. Circular enclosure visible as a cropmark on aerial photograph (UCAP, BDR 29). Not visible at ground level.
<b>WI021:03001</b> Castleruddery Upper 29157, 19442 500-600' OD N/A	<b>Square Enclosure (non-antiquity, landscape feature)</b> Well-defined monument, situated on a west-northwest facing slope at a natural break in slope. Possibly a decoy pond. Square sunken area (c. 80m b 80m) which is now marshy ground. Rising from the edge of this area a series of three terraces cut as steps into the slope of the hill. These terraces extend around the sunken area to the north and south. Part of a low bank (probably an original feature) extends across the east side of the sunken area. A slightly raised area in the southwest of the sunken square may be a small island.
<b>WI021:03002</b> Castleruddery Upper Unknown 500-600' OD N/A	<b>Non-antiquity, landscape feature</b> Well-defined monument, situated on level ground at the foot of a steep west facing slope with higher ground on all sides. Rectangular feature defined externally by a wide (10m) bank with a ditch (with expanded terminals) on the northwest end of the feature. Internally there are six rectangular pits set symmetrically 2 x 3; these are joined along the length by ditches while the terminal pair of pits at the northwest and southeast ends are similarly joined.



**WI021:031** **Fish pond (non-antiquity, landscape feature)**  
Townland Well-preserved monument on the summit of a low ridge with higher ground to the east and a steep slope to the west. Rectangular feature defined by an earthen bank which is c. 8m wide and 1.6m (west) to 2m (east) high. The banks are steep sided inside and out. The central area is sunken and the flat base is c. 3.50m below the top of the banks. The base is 6m wide. The terminals are also enclosed by the banks. The site has maximum external dimensions of c. 110m x 22m.  
NGR  
OD (feet)  
Inventory.No.

**WI021:032** **Stone circle**  
Castleruddery Situated on a natural rise with gentle slopes to the south, west and east and overlooking the River Slaney (250m to the south). The stone circle (diameter 30m) consists of large boulders, originally contiguous, some standing upright and others erected on their long axis. The circle is largely intact at the north but is less well-preserved to the south. It consists of twenty-nine substantial stones and a number of smaller fragments with some loose boulders occurring in the interior which is otherwise featureless. Wedge marks and boreholes in several stones indicate deliberate destruction. The entrance (width 1.3m) appears to be between two exceptionally large quartz boulders (length 2.4m and 3m; width 1.2m and 1.8m) at the east. Abutting onto the outer face of the circle is an earthen bank (diameter 40m; width 4.5m; maximum height 1m), the terminals of which encompass the quartz boulders of the entrance. Some boulders along the outer edge of the bank may indicate an outer revetment. To the east of the entrance (at 15.8m) is a single upright stone. A field bank cuts across the outer edge of the bank at the south. The site occurs centrally within a well-defined cropmark enclosure (diameter c. 80m; CUCAP, BDR 39) defined by a fosse (width c. 4-5m). Between this and the earthen bank is a narrower cropmark defined by a trench or narrow fosse (diameter c. 50m; width c. 1m). (Walshe 1931, 131-4; Leask 1945, 266-7; Burl 1993, 106, 240).  
Lower  
29159, 19420  
500-600' OD  
166.

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## Appendix 2

### 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;

Ballylion Lower, Castleruddery Lower, Castleruddery Upper, Deerpark (Donaghmore ED), Donaghmore, Newtown (Donaghmore ED), Randalstown, Whitestown Lower, Whitestown Upper.

There are no recorded archaeological finds from the townlands listed above.

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### Appendix 3

#### Previous excavations

Previously published archaeological excavations in the area from 1969 to 2001 ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)) are summarised below. The following townlands were assessed:

Ballylion Lower, Castleruddery Lower, Castleruddery Upper, Deerpark (Donaghmore ED), Donaghmore, Newtown (Donaghmore ED), Randalstown, Whitestown Lower, Whitestown Upper.

These are no excavations listed in the townlands assessed.

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