

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Waste Recovery Facility (WRF) at Tullykane, Kilmessan, County Meath
Environmental Impact Statement

Report on Archaeology & Cultural Heritage Prepared for Kilsaran Build

Dr. Charles Mount

October 2016

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

The archaeological component of an EIS for the development of a proposed community and amenity park and a soil recovery facility at an existing quarry at Kilmessan Quarry, Co. Meath consisting of a paper and fieldwork study was carried out in October 2016. The proposed development will have no direct or indirect impacts on any known items of cultural heritage. Two appendices are included dealing with Record of Monument and Places (RMP) sites in the study area and sites included in the Sites and Monuments Record. This section should be read in conjunction with the appendices.

INTRODUCTION

Background

11.1 This Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared on behalf of Kilsaran Build has been undertaken to assess the significant effects, if any, on the cultural heritage, archaeology and architecture which may occur because of the proposal to develop of a community and amenity park and a soil recovery facility on land in the townland of Tullykane, Co. Meath. A wide variety of paper, cartographic, photographic and archival sources was consulted. All the lands of the application area were visually inspected.

Methodology

11.2 This study is an assessment of the known or potential cultural heritage resource within a specified area consisting of a collation of existing written and graphic information in order to identify the likely context, character, significance and sensitivity of the known or potential cultural heritage, archaeological and architectural resource using an appropriate methodology (EPA 2002 and 2003).

11.3 The study involved detailed investigation of the cultural heritage, archaeological, architectural and historical background of the application area and the surrounding area. The overall study area extends 1km from the application area and is presented in Figure 11-1.

11.4 This area was examined using information from:

- The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) for County Meath
- The Meath County Development Plan 2013-19
- Aerial photographs
- Excavations reports
- Cartographic sources
- Documentary sources

11.5 A field assessment was carried out on the 14th of October 2016 to identify and assess any unknown archaeological sites, structures and previously unrecorded features and possible finds within the application area.

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- 11.6 An impact assessment and mitigation strategy has been prepared. The assessment has been undertaken to assess the significant effects, if any, on the cultural heritage, archaeology and architecture which can reasonably be expected to occur because of the proposal, while a mitigation strategy has been designed to remedy any significant adverse effects on the cultural heritage.
- 11.7 The assessment was prepared by Dr. Charles Mount who has more than twenty-five years of cultural heritage assessment experience. He holds B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in archaeology as well as a professional diploma in EIA and SEA Management and is a board member of the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland.

THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

The Landscape

- 11.8 The application is situated in the south-east part of Co. Meath, to the south-east of Kilmessan and immediately north of the Kilmessan to Dunsany road. The site is situated on sloping ground between 80-103m OD. The general soils of the study area are grey brown podzolics associated with gleys which are derived from Irish Sea Till. The bedrock is Limestone (Gardiner and Radford 1980; McConnell and Gatley 2006).

Historical and Archaeological Background

- 11.9 The following is a summary of the archaeological and historical development of the study area and the main types of sites, monuments and structures that are known from the surrounding area. The purpose of this approach is to place the types of sites, monuments and structures in the study area in a cultural and chronological context to assist the assessment.
- 11.10 The application area is situated in the townland of Tullykane, the civil parish of Kilmessan and the barony of Lower Deece. Note the original spellings of placenames recorded in source material are retained in the text.

The Prehistoric Period

- 11.11 There are no Neolithic sites or monuments known from the study area. An earthen mound (ME037-007---), probably a barrow, from Odder to the north-east of the development is probably a burial monument of the Bronze Age period. The Hillfort (ME037-005---) in Ringlestown townland, to the north of the development, would have been constructed and used sometime between the first millennium BC and the first few centuries AD, and indicates that this part of the study area was a focus for activity in the Bronze Age/Iron Age period.

The Medieval Period

- 11.12 In the Early Medieval period the barony of Deece was known as Deisi Temro, the vassal peoples of Tara. Settlement at this period is usually indicated by the presence of enclosed farmsteads known as ringforts. However, there are no ringforts known from the study area. The only possible enclosure site is the circular cropmark identified from an aerial photograph to the south of the development at Athronan.

At some point in the medieval period part of the study area was granted to Llanthony Priory as the Crown Surveys of 1540-41 noted that the Rectory of Kylmessan (Kilmessan) was held by Llanthony Priory and included the townlands of Kylmessan (Kilmessan), Kylcarte (Kilcarty) and Ryngelston (Ringlestown) (Mac Niocaill 1992, 41-2).

The process of sub-infeudation is normally associated with the construction of earth and timber castles, known as Motte and Baileys. These earthwork fortifications were used to house and defend the Norman lords and their retainers while they set about the process of pacifying and organizing their new fiefs. There are no Mottes in the study area. There is a possible example north-west near the River Boyne at Scurlockstown (RMP ME037-009---) and a definite example to the south-east at Ginnets Great (RMP ME037-020---).

Manorialism describes the organisation of the feudal rural economy and society characterised by the vesting of legal and economic power in a Lord supported economically from his own direct landholding and from the obligatory contributions of a legally subject part of the peasant population under his jurisdiction. In Ireland the Lord's Manor House was also sometimes enclosed by a rectangular moat and these sites are referred to as moated sites. They are a useful indicator of Anglo-Norman settlement. There are no known moated sites in the study area or surrounding landscape.

However, medieval settlement activity in the study is indicated by the discovery of a medieval settlement in Tullykane townland (00E0264) during the course of soil stripping the current quarry footprint in 2000. Features consisted of a rectangular structure and a second structure associated with ditches, gullies, pits, hearths and burnt spreads associated with thousands of sherds of thirteenth century pottery.

- 11.13 The fifteenth century was characterised by the decline of Anglo-Norman power in Ireland which had been ebbing since the early fourteenth century. Part of the response to this was the construction of masonry tower houses which sprang up after King Henry VI introduced a building subsidy of £10 in 1429 (Sweetman 1999, 137). There is a single tower house in the study area at Odder (ME037-006--), however the Archaeological Survey (Moore 1987, No. 1768.) suggests this structure dates to the seventeenth century and not the

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medieval period. After 1447 Sir Nicholas Barnewall of Crickstown acquired the manor of Kilmessan (Kavanagh 2005, 14).

The Post-Medieval Period

- 11.14 In the sixteenth century Kilmessan was held by Thomas Cusake who paid the Abbey 12 li (White 1943, 316). The Civil Survey for Co. Meath records that in 1640 Tullaghkewan (Tullykane) belonged to Sir Richard Barnwall of Crickstown and was composed of 30 acres of arable and 3 acres of pasture (Simington 1940). Barnwall also held Athronan, Kilmessan, Ringelstowne (Ringlestown), Belper (Belpere) and Arlonstowne. Swainestown (Swainstown) and Kilcarty were owned by Sir Robert Talbott. Lamerstowne (Lambertstown) was held by Richard Balfe. Donsany (Dunsany) was held by Patrick Lord Baron of Donsany. Odder was held by Doctor Benjamin Culme and a stone house and malt house are record in the townland but no castle

BUILDINGS

Designated Structures

- 11.15 The Meath County Development Plan 2013-19 and the Record of Protected Structures was examined as part of the baseline study for this section of the EIS. The review established that there are no structures within the application area listed in the Record of Protected Structures. There are 5 structures in the study area in the Record of Protected Structures that are listed below.

MH037-108 R Swainstown Kilmessan Country House
Designation: Protected Structure
Data Source: Meath County Development Plan 2013-19 Record of Protected Structures
Perceived significance: Regional
Type of Impact: None
Seven-bay, two-storey over half basement house, with three-bay, two-storey pavilions to either end, linked to central block with quadrant walls, built c1750 by Nathaniel Preston.

MH037-210 R 14329016 Railway Bridge Kilmessan Railway Bridge
Data Source: Meath County Development Plan 2013-19 Record of Protected Structures
Perceived significance: Regional
Type of Impact: None
Single-arch rock faced limestone railway bridge with string courses and copings, built c.1862, carrying the road over the former railway track which is now disused.

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MH037-211 R 14329013 Kilmessan Church of Ireland Church Kilmessan Church (C of I)
Data Source: Meath County Development Plan 2013-19 Record of Protected Structures
Perceived significance: Regional
Type of Impact: None
Detached church, built 1731, and renovated c.1820. Graveyard to east and south, enclosed by rubble stone walls, with pair of wrought-iron gates.

MH037-212 R 14329014 Kilmessan Rectory Kilmessan House (detached)
Data Source: Meath County Development Plan 2013-19 Record of Protected Structures
Perceived significance: Regional
Type of Impact: None
Detached three-bay two-storey house over semi-basement, built c.1800, with central breakfront, and flanking single-storey wings. Hipped slate roof with rendered chimneystack. Roughcast rendered walls.

MH037-213 R 14329017 Conabery House Kilmessan House
Data Source: Meath County Development Plan 2013-19 Record of Protected Structures
Perceived significance: Regional
Type of Impact: None
Detached three-bay two-storey house, built c.1870, now disused. Hipped slate roof and rendered chimneystacks. Rendered walls. Timber sash windows with stone sills. Round-arched opening with original timber panelled door and plain glass fanlight.

The closest structure, Swainstown House, is situated 0.57km from the application area, has no views of the application and is considered to be too far distant to be directly or indirectly impacted by the proposed development (see Plates 11-1 and 11-2). The remaining protected Structures in the study area are further away and are also considered to be too far distant to be directly or indirectly impacted by the proposed development.

Non-designated Structures

- 11.16 The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) was examined as part of the baseline study for this section of the EIS. The review established that there are no additional structures within the application area listed in the NIAH. There are no additional structures in the study area listed in the NIAH.

Field Inspection

- 11.17 On the 14th of October 2016 fieldwork was carried out to identify any additional non-designated structures in the vicinity of the application area. This involved assessing all upstanding Structures that are marked on the 1909 edition of the

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six inch Ordnance Survey mapping within 100m of the application area (see Fig. 11-1). There are no upstanding structures indicated on the 1909 edition within this area.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Recorded Monuments

- 11.18 Examination of the Record of Monuments and Places (see Appendix 11-A) indicates that there are no Recorded Monuments located within the application area. The closest Recorded Monument to the application area, a Hillfort in Ringlestown townland ME037-005---, is situated 0.3km to the north of the application area and is considered too far distant to be directly or indirectly impacted by the proposed development. The remaining Recorded Monuments in the study area are further away from the application area and are considered to be too far distant to be directly or indirectly impacted.

Undesignated Monuments

- 11.19 Examination of the Sites and Monuments Record maintained by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Rural, Regional and Gaeltacht Affairs (see Appendix 11-B) indicated that there is one additional undesignated site located within the application area. This is the site of a medieval habitation in Tullykane townland (ME037-036----) which was identified during the development of the existing quarry. The site was preserved by record under licence (00E0264) in the year 2000 and no longer exists.

Geological Heritage

- 11.20 No sites in the study area have been identified by the Geological Survey of Ireland for inclusion in the Irish Geological Heritage Programme.

Cartographic Sources

- 11.21 The Ordnance Survey 1st and 3rd edition six inch maps and the first edition 25 inch maps of the area were examined. This analysis did not indicate any previously unrecorded archaeological sites or cultural heritage material in the application area or vicinity.

Placename Evidence

- 11.22 The place names were extracted from the cartography in order to facilitate the search for structures and monuments and small finds, to help identify any unrecorded monuments or structures, to search for any published papers and documents related to the study area and to assist in the study of the historical

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development of the area. The placenames were looked up in the Placenames Database of Ireland at Logainm.ie.

Arlonstown	Town of the Arlon family
Athronan	Ronan's ford
Belpere	Surname, probably Belpere's town
Dunsany	Sany's fort
Kilcarty	Carty's church
Kilmessan	Measan's church
Lambertstown	Town of the Lamberts
Odder	Originally Odra Temrach, Odrán of Tara
Ringlestown	Town of the Pringles (?)
Swainstown	Town of the Swains
Tullykane	Kane's hill

- 11.23 The placenames do not indicate any additional heritage sites within the study area.

Aerial Photography

- 11.24 Ordnance Survey aerial photography taken in 1995, 2000 and 2005, Google Earth imagery from 2009, 2010 and 2013 and Microsoft Bing imagery from 2011 were examined. The examination did not identify any additional archaeological or cultural heritage material in the application area.

Other Sources

- 11.25 Examination of archaeological corpus works on prehistoric artefacts (Harbison 1969, Eogan 1983, 2000, Kavanagh 1991, Simpson 1990), and pottery (O'Riordain and Waddell 1993) and Iron Age material (Raftery 1984) did not reveal any additional material in the study area.

Archaeological Investigations

- 11.26 There has been two archaeological investigations in the study area. The existing quarry was also the subject of archaeological monitoring in the year 2000 which identified medieval settlement evidence which was subsequently preferred by record. The quarry was also the subject of archaeological monitoring carried out by the author in 2005 (Mount 2005) and 2006 (Mount 2006) and an EIS prepared by the author in 2008 (Mount 2008).

TULLYKANE

Medieval settlement

00E0264

A two-week monitoring programme took place at Tullykane, Kilmessan, Co. Meath, encompassing an area c. 500m east-west by 70–100m. Archaeological features were identified including hearths, ditches, possible house structures and a substantial number of medieval pottery sherds. A preliminary interpretation of medieval rural settlement was reached, and after consultation with the National Monuments Service a full archaeological excavation took place.

The zone of archaeological deposits encompassed an area measuring 125m east-west by 30–55m, c. 150m west of the boundary of soil-stripping, while the northern and southern limits were defined by the extent of soil-stripping and the quarry face respectively. The site was severely truncated by heavy agricultural activity. All archaeological deposits were revealed well down at the base of the topsoil and either directly overlay or were cut into the natural subsoil. The archaeological features were not continuous but could be divided into three distinct concentrations, Areas 1, 2 and 3.

The highest density of activity was concentrated within Area 3, which had maximum dimensions of 55m east-west x 40m. As evidenced elsewhere on the site, this section was partially characterised by singular features having little direct relationship with one another except that they shared the same horizon of activity. This horizon was extremely shallow, averaging 0.2m but varying from 0.05m to 0.5m in thickness. It was primarily defined by the presence of medieval pottery and features such as ditches, gullies, pits, hearths and burnt spreads. The eastern quadrant of Area 3 had two distinct foci of activity (north and south) delineated by shallow ditches that ran west-south-west/east-north-east. There was one deposit that linked the two foci, a deliberately laid layer of stone and gravel. It extended for 14m east-west x 12m and partially overlay ditches F28 to the north and F6 to the south. Structure 1 (south) was a rectilinear space 5m north-south x 9.5m, enclosed by two foundation trenches with rounded terminals to the east and west and delimited by a ditch to the north. Contained within Structure 1 were several depressions with charcoal-rich deposits, small pits and a series of 26 stake-and post-holes encompassing an area 3.5m east-west x 2m. Immediately west of Structure 1 was an extensive area of mixed dump material with charcoal and bone inclusions.

Area 2 measured 25m east-west x 20m (max.) and encompassed a total of

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ten features. These included two parallel ditches, which ran north–south for approximately 13m before terminating. They had similar fills and were both sealed by L31, indicating a contemporaneous date of usage. To the south-east was a concentration of activity including depressions and pits with associated burnt material. To the west was a curious curvilinear gully, which seemed to extend to a similar, slightly bifurcated north–south feature (F130). Both had similar dimensions and fills. They did not enclose a definable area, but a shallow, oval deposit of burnt material was present 1.5m to the west of F130.

Located c. 20m west of Area 2, Area 1 measured c. 30m north–south x 40m. It contained fifteen dispersed features including a probable structure. Structure 2 consisted of linear slot-trenches, several areas of intense in situ burning and three pits within an area that measured 8m north–south x 4.2m. To the east was a north–south gully, which possibly relates to the structural activity.

Although its function is not immediately apparent, it can be suggested that the site had a specific purpose in that it was occupied for a relatively short period of time. It has been truncated by heavy agricultural activity, although the absence of post-medieval/modern inclusions is significant. Of the 4028 sherds recovered, 99.68% were identified as medieval pottery. Almost all were Irish wares, reflecting domestic settlement, and datable to the later 13th century (C. Sandes, pers. com.)

KILMESSAN and TULLYKANE

No archaeological significance

11E0129

Monitoring of the groundworks at Kilmessan took place in May 2011. The works involved the installation of pipes along a third-class local access road leading south-east from Kilmessan towards Dunsany Crossroads. No archaeological finds or features were exposed.

Field Inspection

- 11.27 A field inspection was carried out on the 14th of October 2016. This involved an inspection of all the accessible lands in the application area (see Fig. 11-1). The fieldwork areas are numbered on Plate 11-3.
- 11.28 Area 1 is a west-sloping field of pasture on the south-western side of the application area which is partly overgrown. It is enclosed by a hedgerow to the west and a high berm to the east. There is no indication of any cultural heritage material (Plate 11-4).
- 11.29 Area 2 is a long and narrow undulating area of land on the western side of the application area. The area has been stripped of topsoil to subsoil level and the soil heaped into a berm at west. There is no indication of any cultural heritage material (Plate 11-5).
- 11.30 Area 3 is the main area of extraction which has been quarried to the level of rock. To the east of this is a triangular area on the eastern edge of the

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application area which has been stripped of soil to subsoil level. There is no indication of any cultural heritage material (Plates 11-6).

IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Direct Impacts

11.31 There are no direct impacts on any known items of cultural heritage, archaeology or buildings of heritage interest in the application area or the vicinity

Indirect Impacts

11.32 There are no indirect impacts on any known items of cultural heritage, archaeology or buildings of heritage interest in the application area or the vicinity

Interaction with Other Impacts

11.33 No interaction with other any other impact has been identified.

Do Nothing Impacts

11.34 No do nothing impact has been identified.

Worst Case Impact

11.35 Development in Area 1, the unstripped area in the south-west part of the application area, might disturb previously unknown deposits or artefacts without preservation by record taking place.

PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

Direct Impacts

- 11.36 Due to the possibility of the survival of sub-surface archaeological deposits or finds within Area 1, it is recommended that topsoil stripping within Area 1 be archaeologically monitored.

Indirect Impacts

- 11.37 No indirect impacts have been identified and no mitigation measures are required

Residual Impacts

- 11.38 No residual impacts have been identified.

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FIGURES

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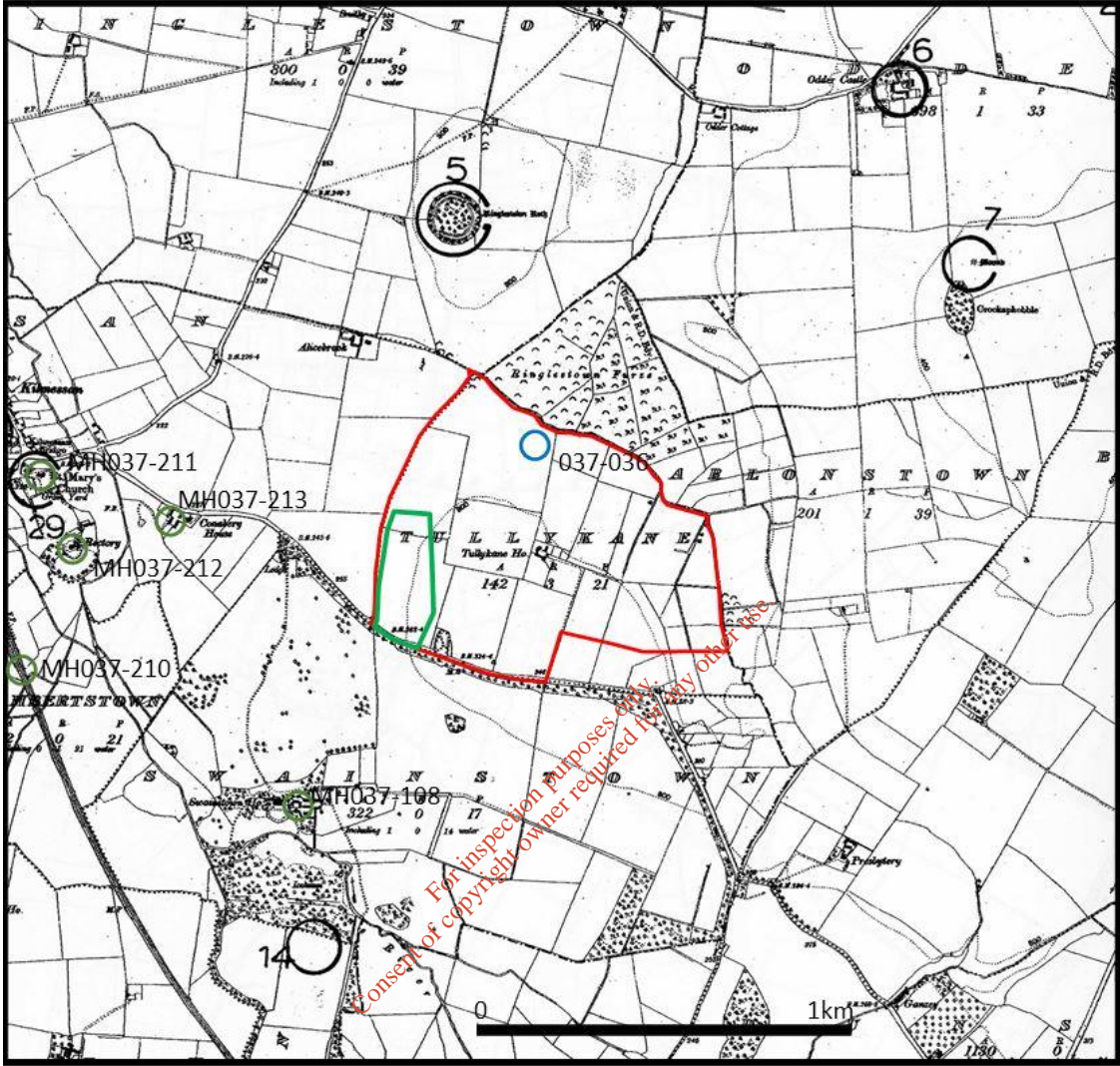


Figure 11-1

The study area superimposed on the Record of Monuments map for Co. Meath. The application area is outlined in red. Recorded Monuments are indicated with black circles. Sites listed in the County Meath Record of Protected Structures are indicated with green circles. The proposed community and amenity park is indicated by the green line and the soil recovery activity will take place in the rest of the application area.

PLATES

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Plate 11-1
View of Swainstown House



Plate 11-2
View from Swainstown House to the application area.

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Plate 11-3
Bing aerial photo showing the application area and the numbered fieldwork areas.



Plate 11-4
View of area 1 looking north-west.



Plate 11-5
View of area 2 looking north-west.

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Plate 11-6
View of area 3 the main area of extraction looking west.

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Appendix 11-A

Recorded Monuments in the Study Area

ME037-005--- Ringlestown Hillfort
Circular area (diam. C.120m) enclosed by a large earthen bank with traces of an external fosse and outer stone-faced bank. Entrances at NE and SE.
Moore 1987, No. 375.

ME037-006--- Odder Tower
Odder Castle. Occupied. Blocked windows and projecting chimney at E. Probably sixteenth or seventeenth century.
Moore 1987, No. 1768.

ME037-007--- Odder Tumulus
Earthen mound (diam. 10m, H. 1.5m) planted with ash trees.
Moore 1987, No. 205.

ME037-014--- Athronan Enclosure Site
A circular cropmark (diam. C. 50m) indicated on an aerial photograph (ACAP V273/61).
Moore 1987, No. 925.

ME037-029--- Kilmessan Church Site
St. Mary's Church. The site of a presumably medieval church is now occupied by a nineteenth century church. There are no visible remains of the earlier structure.
Moore 1987, No. 1432.

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Appendix 11-B

Monuments in the Sites and Monuments Record

ME037-036---- Tullykane Habitation site

Excavated ahead of quarry expansion, archaeological features, heavily truncated by agricultural activity, extended over an area 125m EW x 30-55m EW. Characterised by ditches, gullies, pits and burnt spreads, two possible structures were also identified. Structure 1 was defined by ditches encompassing an area 9.5m EW x 5m NS. Internally there were several depressions with charcoal-rich deposits, small pits, a series of 26 stakeholes and four postholes. A total of 4033 sherds of pottery was recovered from the excavation, the vast majority of which was locally produced. It reflects that of domestic settlement dating from the second half of the 13th or 14th century.

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