

Large Scale  
Residential Development  
at Dunboyne North, Co. Meath

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**CHAPTER 14 Cultural Heritage & Archaeology**

Appendix 14.1	Archaeological Photographic Record
Appendix 14.2	Archaeological Survey of Ireland Inventory Descriptions
Appendix 14.3	Excavation Database Descriptions
Appendix 14.4	Geophysical Survey Report



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Appendix 14.1 Archaeological Photographic Record

## Appendix 14.1: Archaeological photographic record



Satellite image showing directions of photographs present below



Plate 14.1: View of western portion of proposed development site, facing southeast



Plate 14.2: View of western portion of proposed development site, facing northeast



Plate 14.3: View of central portion of proposed development site facing north-northeast



Plate 14.4: View of central portion of proposed development site, facing east



Plate 14.5: View of northern portion of proposed development site, facing southeast



Plate 14.6: View of central portion of proposed development site, facing south



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Plate 14.7: View of eastern portion of proposed development site, facing southwest



Plate 14.8: View of poorly drained area within eastern portion of proposed development site, facing north



Plate 14.9: View of location of possible enclosure, facing north



Plate 14.10: View of location of possible enclosure, facing southeast



Plate 14.11: View of location of possible ring ditch, facing north



Plate 14.12: View of southeast portion of proposed development site, facing northwest

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Appendix 14.2 Archaeological Survey of Ireland  
Inventory Descriptions

## Appendix 14.2: Archaeological Survey of Ireland Inventory Descriptions

Monument no.	Class	ASI Description
ME050-027----	Enclosure	<p>Situated on a fairly level landscape. A large D-shaped enclosure (dims c. 120m NNE-SSW; c. 100m WNW-ESE) with the straight side at S where it is aligned with a mapped field bank to its E was recorded by L. Swan in oblique aerial photographs c. 1970 (<a href="http://lswanaerial.locloudhosting.net/items/show/40165">http://lswanaerial.locloudhosting.net/items/show/40165</a>). It appears to be defined by the remains of a wide earthen bank and an external fosse. A partial magnetic gradiometer and earth resistance survey (00R0014) by I. Elliott (2000) confirmed the presence of the ditch and Elliott's research highlighted the fact that it is represented as a boundary on the Down Survey (1656-8) parish map of Dunboyne.</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring (03E1112) by D. J. O'Connor identified the V-shaped fosse (Wth 2.75m; D 1.3m) in two sample trenches (excavations.ie 2003:1389), but the monument had no visible profile. Further excavation was continued by F. O'Carroll (excavations.ie 2003:1390) under the same licence. This uncovered evidence of at least one re-cut of the fosse in the post-medieval period, along with modern field boundaries and drains, some of the latter within the original fill of the ditch. The ceramic finds were usually in mixed contexts and dated from the thirteenth to the nineteenth centuries, but the excavator concluded that the enclosure was established in the thirteenth to fourteenth century. The original V-shaped ditch had an inner bank, although the bank does not survive, and the ditch held standing water. After silting over centuries, it was re-cut as slightly larger in the post-medieval period when smaller drains from the external area fed into the fosse. Although the fosse and its bank were substantial, no evidence of any settlement or habitation was uncovered, and its purpose is likely to have been agricultural.</p> <p>Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: Yes</p>
ME050-029----	Church	<p>Situated on a fairly level landscape at the NW edge of Dunboyne townland in an area that was known as Kilbraynan. The barony of Dunboyne was granted by Hugh de Lacy to Willaim le Petit, whose caput or principal manor was at Mullingar (WM019-089001-), Co. Westmeath. In 1227 Ralph Petit, bishop of Meath, founded the Augustinian priory of the Blessed Virgin at Mullingar (WM019-089009-) and endowed it with the land of Kilbrena (Kilbraynan) and the ecclesiastical properties of Dunboyne parish, one of only two parishes in the barony, the other being Kilbride. At the dissolution of the monasteries the Augustinians of Mullingar still held the rectory of Dunboyne together with land at Kylbraynan that was let to a Thomas Lutterell and other property in the parish (White 1943, 288-9). According to the local folklore the walls of the monastery were standing until c. 1800 (IFC: Schools' Collection, vol. 0688, 068). (Cogan 1862, 188-9)</p> <p>An oblique aerial photograph by L. Swan from the early 1970s shows a complex of earthwork banks, but at the centre is a rectangular enclosure (dims c. 40m N-S; c. 35m E-W) defined by what are probably low earthen banks. This could be overlying a circular enclosure (diam. c. 50m) defined by slighter features. All these are within a larger subcircular enclosure (dims c. 100m N-S; c. 90m E-W), and elements of a field system overlie all the features. The visible profiles of these features were removed in 1972 as further photographs by L. Swan demonstrate. Human remains and a bronze-coated iron hand-bell from Dunboyne were acquired by the National Museum of Ireland at this time, possibly from this location. The area was subject to partial magnetic gradiometer and earth resistance surveys (00R0014) by I. Elliot (2000) where the features recorded in the aerial photograph were confirmed. This could be the site of an early church with an ecclesiastical enclosure, although no known saint is associated with it.</p> <p>Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: Yes</p>
ME050-030----	Field system	<p>Situated on a fairly level landscape. Aerial photographs by L. Swan (LS_AS_67BWN_00132) from the early 1970s record elements of a rectangular field system covering an extensive area (dims c. 220m NW-SE; c. 220m NE-SW) between the large enclosure (ME050-027-</p>

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Monument no.	Class	ASI Description
		<p>---) to the SE and the possible church site (ME050-029----) to the NW, but not connected directly with either and different in character to both. The fields are large and rectangular (dims c. 60-120m x c. 30-50m), and appear to be defined by single ditches that correspond closely to features represented on the Down Survey (1656-8) barony and parish maps. They also run generally parallel with the current boundaries but are probably medieval in date.</p> <p>The area was subject to a partial magnetic gradiometer and earth resistance survey (00R0014) by I. Elliott (2000) where the features recorded in the aerial photographs are confirmed. Elliott's results suggest that the enclosing elements consisted primarily of hedges. The NE-SW by-pass road (R157) for Dunboyne cut through the area, and centre-line testing (04E0487) by R. O'Hara (2004, 10-11) noted four of these ditches of uniform character (With c. 1.2m; D 0.5m) with homogenous fills from which nothing was recovered except some snail shells (excavations.ie 2004:1229). Further excavation (E003024) by R. Elliott (excavations.ie 2004:1554) of Dunboyne 4 recorded the drain features in detail and recovered post-medieval and modern ceramics from them. The long structure (ME050-062001-) and its associated possible kiln (ME050-062002-) were also identified and excavated but they are unrelated to the fields (Elliott 2008).</p> <p>Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: No</p>
ME050-056----	Excavation miscellaneous	<p>Situated within the valley of the Tolka River, with a meandering NNW-SSE section of the stream c. 150m to the SW, and a relict pond just to the W. Archaeological centre-line testing (04E0490) by R. O'Hara of Testing area 6 of Contract 1 of the M3 motorway identified a spread of deposits (excavations.ie: 2004:1232) that were fully excavated (E003031) by R. Elliott (excavations.ie 2005:1229) as Pace 1 in September to November 2005. What was thought to have been a spread of burnt mound material proved to be natural riverine gravels, but a total of 24 pits (dims 0.34m x 0.26m; D 0.24 to 2.05m x 2.03m; D 0.16m) were recorded as well as numerous stake and post-holes, and a cereal-drying kiln. The pits were filled with a grey/brown/orange clayey silt with inclusions of pebbles, but charcoal flecks, largely hazel, were present in only 11 pits. A sample of hazel from one pit produced a C14 date of 2461-2155 cal. BC. Water-logged remains of thistle and grass were recorded in two pits, and animal bones were recovered from six, a sample of which provided a radiocarbon date of 924-806 cal. BC. There were few artefacts recovered from the pits, but sherds of likely Late Bronze Age pottery and a fragment of a clay mould of a bladed weapon were recovered as well as flint debitage and a cockle shell. There were 15 post-holes and 175 stake-holes, but no pattern is discernible amongst the post-holes, and the stake-holes clustered, together with the pits, at the W end of a ditch (With 0.5-0.55m; D 0.24m) that terminated at the edge of a pond. Post-medieval material was recovered from the upper fill of this drain. (Elliott et al. 2008)</p> <p>Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: No</p>
ME050-056001-	Kiln corn-drying	<p>Located on slightly higher ground than the pits (ME050-056----) just to the S was a figure-of-eight kiln consisting of an oval pit (dims 1.37m x 1-1.2m; D 0.36m) connected at S to a circular pit (diam. 0.82-0.94m; D 0.46m). It was filled with silty clay with inclusions of charcoal and burnt bone over a red-stained clay indicating in situ burning. The oval pit produced charred evidence of wheat and barley but a sample of hazel charcoal from it yielded a C14 date of 422-596 cal. AD. A sample of charred hazel from the circular pit produced a C14 date of 267-540 cal. AD. The subsoil was scarred with ard-marks running NW-SE and NE-SW. (Elliott et al. 2008, 2-3)</p> <p>Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: No</p>
ME050-057----	Excavation miscellaneous	<p>Situated on the E-facing slope of a rise in a fairly level landscape. Centre-line testing (04E0488) by R. O'Hara on the Dunboyne link road (R157) to the M3 (excavations.ie 2004:1183) identified archaeological features that were fully excavated (E003027) by R. Elliott in February and March 2006 as Bennetstown 3 (excavations.ie 2006:1509). A group of eight post-holes (diam. 0.2-0.6m; D 0.2-0.66m) from</p>

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		<p>which most of the posts had been removed rather than being burnt or left to rot form a rough rectangular structure (max. int. dims 4.3m NE-SW; 2.6m NW-SE) that might have been open (Wth c. 1.1m) on the NW side. Two small pits (dims 0.67m x 0.32m; D 0.16m; diam. 0.37-0.39m; D 0.13m) were just to the W and two patches of burnt clay (dims 1.2m x 0.7m; T 0.1m: 0.63m x 0.24m; T 0.07m) 11m to the NW may be the remains of hearths. There were four other pits (dims 0.69m x 0.41m; D 0.3m to 1.15m x 1.04m; D 0.17m) c. 20m to the W, some with charcoal and burnt bone inclusions, and a curving trench (dims 2m x 0.5m; D 0.09m) could represent a slot-trench for a hut-site but there is no further evidence of it. A charcoal sample from its fill produced a C14 date of 1490-1310 cal. BC, which accords well with a sherd of coarse pottery from the same context. (Elliott and Ginn 2008)</p> <p>Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: No</p>
ME050-058----	Burnt mound	<p>Situated in the valley of the N-S Tolka or Tullaghanoge River, with a canalised NW-SE section of the stream just to the NE, although the original meandering stream is c. 50m to the NE. Centre-line testing (04E0488) by R. O'Hara on the Dunboyne link road (R157) to the M3 (excavations.ie 2004:1183) identified a spread of dark soil that was partially excavated (E003026) by R. Elliott in January 2006 as Bennetstown 2 (excavations.ie 2006:1508). It consisted of a spread (dims 11.5m N-S; 4.5m E-W; T 0.2m plus) of black silty clay with burnt and broken stones that extended outside the excavated area to the NW. It was over a black/brown clay peat, into which a small pit (dims 0.4m x 0.34m; D 0.12m) had been cut, and it was covered by alluvial layers of silt. A rectangular pit (dims c. 1.7m x c. 0.5m plus; D 0.23) that cut into the top of the burnt mound was modern, and a sample of charcoal from the mound produced a C14 date of 2460-2200 cal. BC. No trough was recognised but much of the monument lies outside the excavated area to the NW. (Elliott and Ginn 2008)</p> <p>Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: Yes</p>
ME050-059----	Burnt mound	<p>Situated on a slightly undulating landscape on the lip of the W edge of the floodplain of the meandering N-S River Tolka, which is c. 40m to the E. Centre-line testing (04E0488) by R. O'Hara on the Dunboyne link road (R157) to the M3 (excavations.ie 2004:1183) identified a spread of broken and burnt stone that was fully excavated (E003025) by R. Elliott in February 2006 as Bennetstown 1 (excavations.ie 2006:1507). A crescent-shaped mound of broken and burnt stone with a charcoal enriched matrix in two large sections (dims 10m; 5m; T 0.2m: 2.8m x 1.3m; T 0.3m) was interwoven with silt layers and partly washed out. Charred grains and seeds, including nettle and fruitstones of alder were recovered from the mound, and a sample of alder produced a C14 date of 1620-1440 cal. BC.</p> <p>The mound was associated with features, some pre-dating and others post-dating its construction. At the centre of the area was a concentration of stake and post-holes, some of which had been removed before they filled up with burnt mound material. Beneath the mound there were some small pits (diam. c. 0.5-1m; D 0.2-0.4m), from which environmentally rich samples were recovered but none could be identified as a trough. However, a large N-S modern service trench (Wth c. 9m) immediately to the E may have destroyed any trough.</p> <p>The largest circular pit (diam. 2.8m; max. D 0.6m) post-dated an alluvial layer that covered the burnt mound. It had a step (D 0.25m) covered in a charcoal-rich layer with burnt bone and charred wheat but mostly charred hazel and alder, occupying its E half. A sample of alder returned a C 14 date of 1050-1270 cal. AD. The topmost layer included burnt clay, which might have derived from a superstructure. Another post-alluvium pit (diam. 1.48-1.6m; D 0.4m) had a clay lining with frequent charcoal and burnt clay inclusions. It would have been watertight and may have functioned as a plunging pool from metalworking, but absolutely no waste from metal was found. A sample from this produced a C14 date of 1030-1230 cal. AD, but the fill was a grey silty clay with only occasional charcoal inclusions. Only a few flint artefacts were recovered. (Elliott and Ginn 2008)</p> <p>Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: No</p>

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ME050-060001-	Structure	<p>Archaeological centre-line testing (04E0489) by R. O'Hara of Testing Area 5 of Contract 1 prior to the construction of the M3 motorway identified archaeological features (excavations.ie: 2004:1191) that were fully excavated (E003034) by the same archaeologist as Dunboyne 2 in August/September 2005. The features were deeply truncated by medieval quarrying, and tree-bowls, possibly from a prehistoric clearance, were also present. Two parallel NW-SE drains c. 1.5m apart run through the excavated area and contained both medieval and post-medieval artefacts. Numerous small finds, including flint and chert flakes, the base of a stone mortar, and an iron arrowhead were retrieved from the ploughsoil. A circular structure, two corn-drying kilns, and evidence of metal-working was recorded.</p> <p>An arc of seven pits enclosed more than half a circular area (int. diam. c. 6.1m) but its S edge had been destroyed by medieval quarrying. The pits are broad shallow ovals (dims 0.9m x 0.6m; D 0.07m to 1.9m x 0.5m; D 0.07m) filled with dark grey/brown silty clays with charcoal flecking. One pit (dims 1.65m x 0.67m; D 0.37m) was less truncated with a similar fill from which a C14 date of 729-262 cal. BC was derived from a piece of blackthorn charcoal. Two smaller pits and a post-hole were less than 1m inside the line of defining pits. The outer pits may have been a drip-gully from the eaves or the slot-trench for the wall of a small circular hut-site. An area of oxidised subsoil (dims 1.5m x 1m) c. 3m to the N was probably a hearth where a Group VI tuff stone axe was found. Two flint flakes were the only (residual) artefacts recovered. (O'Hara 2009, 2-4)</p> <p>Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: No</p>
ME050-060002-	Kiln corn-drying	<p>Archaeological centre-line testing (04E0489) by R. O'Hara of Testing Area 5 of Contract 1 prior to the construction of the M3 motorway identified archaeological features (excavations.ie: 2004:1191) that were fully excavated (E003034) by the same archaeologist as Dunboyne 2 in August/September 2005. The features were deeply truncated by medieval quarrying, and tree-bowls, possibly from a prehistoric clearance, were also present. Two parallel NW-SE drains c. 1.5m apart run through the excavated area and contained both medieval and post-medieval artefacts. Numerous small finds, including flint and chert flakes, the base of a stone mortar, and an iron arrowhead were retrieved from the ploughsoil. A circular structure, two corn-drying kilns, and evidence of metal-working was recorded.</p> <p>The remains of two oval kilns (dims 1.39m x 0.68m; D 0.26m: 1.02m x 0.68m; D 0.26m) were located c. 5-6m NW and E of the structure (ME050-060----). They both had oxidized bases where charred wheat, hazel and cherry were present, although barley was dominant. A fragment of alder charcoal from the smaller of the kilns yielded a C14 date of 401-206 cal. BC. (O'Hara 2009, 5)</p> <p>Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: No</p>
ME050-060003-	Furnace	<p>Archaeological centre-line testing (04E0489) by R. O'Hara of Testing Area 5 of Contract 1 prior to the construction of the M3 motorway identified archaeological features (excavations.ie: 2004:1191) that were fully excavated (E003034) by the same archaeologist as Dunboyne 2 in August/September 2005. The features were deeply truncated by medieval quarrying, and tree-bowls, possibly from a prehistoric clearance, were also present. Two parallel NW-SE drains c. 1.5m apart run through the excavated area and contained both medieval and post-medieval artefacts. Numerous small finds, including flint and chert flakes, the base of a stone mortar, and an iron arrowhead were retrieved from the ploughsoil. A circular structure, two corn-drying kilns, and evidence of metal-working was recorded.</p> <p>Two Ironworking bowl-furnaces were c. 32 and c. 37m ENE of the structure. A small furnace bottom (diam. 0.25m; D 0.08m) was c. 5m E of a large furnace (diam. 1m; D 0.1m). Both had oxidised bases and were filled with loose black/grey clays with hazel charcoal and metal waste. A date cannot be ascribed to them. (O'Hara 2009, 5)</p> <p>Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: No</p>

Monument no.	Class	ASI Description
ME050-061----	Pit	<p>Archaeological centre-line testing (04E0489) by R. O'Hara of Testing Area 5 of Contract 1 prior to the construction of the M3 motorway identified archaeological features (excavations.ie: 2004:1191) that were excavated (E003035) by the same archaeologist as Dunboyne 3 in August 2005. A kidney-shaped pit (dims 2.5m x 0.6-1.1m; max. D 0.3m) was filled with two light-grey/brown clays that contained bone flecks and frequent charcoal inclusions. Flint and chert debitage as well as 22 sherds from six vessels, a carinated Neolithic bowl and five Beaker vessels, were recovered, and other sherds had been retrieved in the original testing. Two of the Beaker vessels had comb-impressed lines immediately below the rims, and shell-impressed lines could represent all-over ornament on another Beaker vessel. The charcoal was dominated by samples of ash, with elm, oak, hawthorn and hazel also present. The pit probably represents domestic waste from a settlement in the vicinity that is outside the road-corridor. A fragment of ash charcoal from the secondary fill produced a radiocarbon date of 2576-2341 cal. BC. (O'Hara 2008)</p> <p>Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: Yes</p>
ME050-062001-	Structure	<p>Situated on a slight rise in a generally level landscape. Archaeological testing (04E0487) by R. O'Hara on the link-road (R157) for Dunboyne set aside this area for resolution as Dunboyne 4 (excavations. ie 2004:1229). Archaeological excavation (E003024) by R. Elliott (excavations.ie 2004:1554) recorded elements of the field system (ME050-030----) as well as this prehistoric structure and the possible kiln (ME050-062002-). Nineteenth century quarrying, the importation of soils and subsequent ploughing severely truncated most of the archaeological features.</p> <p>Thirty one stake and post-holes were recorded in one area, and twenty three of these create a long narrow structure (dims 13m plus ENE-WSW; 3.5m NNW-SSE) extending outside the road-take to the WSW. A strictly regular pattern is not discernible but two post-holes just outside the S line towards the E end have ramps from the S, and a C14 date of 2117-1779 cal. BC was returned from one of these. A large post-hole at the E edge also has a ramp at the E edge. This produced two sherds of Middle-Late Bronze Age pottery together with cremated bone, from which a C14 date of 971-804 cal. BC was returned. A sample of charcoal from another post-hole yielded a date of 1115-853 cal. BC. The nature of this structure is uncertain, but it has neither slot-trenches nor a hearth, and the fairly even distribution of the post-holes suggests that it could be a post-alignment, except that its scale is reduced.</p> <p>Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: Yes</p>
ME050-062002-	Kiln	<p>Situated on a slight rise in a generally level landscape. Archaeological testing (04E0487) by R. O'Hara on the link-road (R157) for Dunboyne set aside this area for resolution as Dunboyne 4 (excavations. ie 2004:1229). Archaeological excavation (E003024) by R. Elliott (excavations.ie 2004:1554) recorded elements of the field system (ME050-030----) as well as this structure that is interpreted as a kiln and the prehistoric structure (ME050-062001-). This consists of a large sub-oval pit (max. dims 3.35m N-S; 1.3m E-W; D 0.43m) with a clay lining. It has two bowls with a connecting flue but many of the fills contained burnt stone. Some uncharred grain was recovered, but a sample of hazel charcoal from a basal fill yielded a C14 determination of 2117-1779 cal. BC. This sample must have been contaminated somehow. A subrectangular cut (dims 1.9m x 1.35m; D 0.17m) for a bellows was connected to the S bowl by a narrow channel, but much of the bellows pit was damaged by a large modern quarry to its S. (Elliott 2008, 3-4)</p> <p>Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: No</p>