

Appendix 17.5 - Preliminary Archaeological Excavation Report

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Preliminary Archaeological Excavation Report

Kelystown townland, Dublin 15

Centre of site ITM 705528 E / 737455 N

Excavation Licence No. 24E0565

For

Castlethorn Developments Kelystown

Liam Coen

17th December 2024

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This preliminary report describes the results of an archaeological excavation carried out by Liam Coen of Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy Ltd. under excavation licence no. 24E0565 issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland. The excavation was carried out in advance of construction for an approved residential development for Castlethorn Developments.

The archaeological excavation cutting, c. 1 ha in extent was established following an archaeological assessment of a largely greenfield development site that was undertaken in fulfilment of a planning condition SHDW/004/21 and ABP 312381-21. The assessment comprised desktop (Giacometti 2021), field (Crowley, McConnell & Coen 2024) and geophysical surveys (Bird & Young 2023) with licensed test excavations (Coen 2024).

The excavation at Kellystown identified the remains of a late medieval (12th-14th century) settlement in the form of ditches, metalled surfaces, kilns and the poorly surviving wall remains suggestive of stone-built structures. A series of ditches running alongside the current field boundary on the north-western margin of the cutting had several other ditches running off them at right angles dividing up the area into fields. The metalled areas and clusters of stones/walls were located beside the ditches along the north-western margin and extended intermittently for c. 170m on a north-east/south-west alignment. The best surviving section of wall, 6.8 m in length and between 0.6-1.2m in width and located in the south-western corner of the site, could indicate the presence of a house or other substantial structure. The remaining wall sections were generally short lengths of single coursed stone facing, c. 1-3 m in length and between 0.3-1.2m in width, with occasionally both sides of the facing surviving. The clear remains of two cereal drying kilns with stone linings were identified. One was located up the slope at a distance from the other features while the other was cut into the side of one of the field or plot boundary ditches. Over 30 kilos of animal bone were retrieved during the excavation. Frequent charred seeds from the bulk soil samples taken of the features, including ditch fills and kiln deposits highlight the agrarian nature of the activities that took place there.

A substantial post-medieval horizon indicated by the presence of pottery and other artefacts and the re-cutting and use of some of the late medieval ditches and boundaries hints at the possibility of continuing use of the settlement for several centuries.

Post-excavation analysis is on-going for the artefacts and environmental material recovered during the course of excavation. These will be subject to specialist analysis while some charred material will be submitted for radiocarbon dating to support the dating and analysis of the site. When all the specialist reports are completed and radiocarbon dates available, they will be incorporated into a final excavation report for the site.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. General

This report presents the preliminary results from an archaeological excavation at Kelystown, Dublin 15 that took place over 14 weeks from May 20th to August 23rd 2024 and followed by a four-week post-excavation period on site. It took place under excavation licence no. 24E0565 issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland. The excavation occurred upon the discovery of a previously unknown archaeological site during the course of an archaeological assessment (Crowley, Coen & McConnell 2024) undertaken in advance of development. The archaeological assessment was undertaken in response to a condition of planning for a residential development. Following consultation with the NMS, it was agreed that excavation of the site would take place due to constraints on the location of the services for the development.

1.2. Site description

The excavation cutting is located in the south-western corner of a pasture field in Kelystown townland, Dublin 15 (Clonsilla Parish; Castleknock Barony; Dublin 6" OS sheet 14; ITM centre of site; 705525, 737459). The excavation cutting lay along the base of a gently sloping field in a relatively flat terrain though mature hedgerows block any vistas of the general landscape. The River Liffey lies just under a kilometre away to the south.

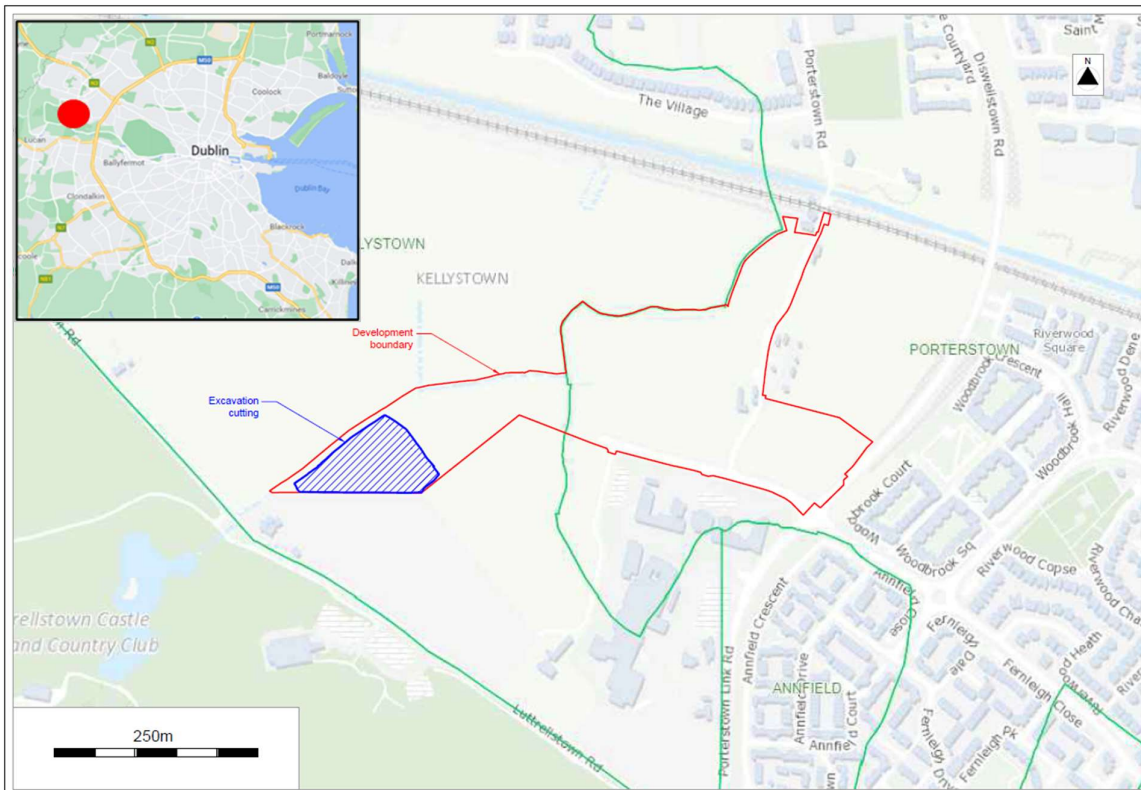


Figure 1 Site location

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The excavation cutting lies in the townland of Kellystown in Clonsilla Parish and the Barony of Castleknock in west County Dublin. Prior to its discovery during the course of a pre-development assessment, no direct archaeological activity was associated with the subject site but there are frequent recordings of earlier activity in the wider landscape.

2.1. Prehistoric Activity

No standing monuments of Neolithic date occur in the area. However, a habitation site (RMP No.: DU017-010) with an associated stone axe and hollow flint scraper of that date was identified during monitoring of topsoil removal during gas pipelaying in the neighbouring townland of Diswellstown (Gowen 1984).

Evidence for settlement during the Bronze Age occurs in Porterstown, where excavation by Claire Cotter of a cropmark enclosure (Excavations.ie Ref.: 1990:039), probably a levelled ringfort (RMP No.: DU017-005), yielded a sherd of Bronze Age pottery which indicated an earlier phase of activity on the site. A Bronze Age ring-barrow complex in Kellystown (RMP No.: DU013-018), just south of the canal near Clonsilla adds to this picture. The site consists of three conjoined circular features, comprising external banks, internal fosses (ditches) and raised interiors and was subject to archaeological testing in 2006 (Licence No.: 06E0348; Excavations.ie Ref.: 2006:583).

2.2. Early Medieval Activity

The early medieval period saw the development of a mixed-farming economy managed by kings, nobles and free farmers. Early Medieval settlement in the landscape around the excavation site is evidenced through the presence of ringforts (e.g. RMP No.: DU017-005 and DU017-007). Ringforts typically consist of a circular or sub-circular enclosure (although irregular shapes have been noted recently through the excavation of such features) defined by an earthen bank or by a stone wall with an external ditch. These enclosures were habitation sites or farmsteads, which vary in both size and morphology; from simple univallate enclosures measuring 30m diameter to larger bivallate or trivallate sites in strategic locations. They were not simple isolated homesteads, however, and should be considered within their contemporary settlement landscape, which would have consisted of unenclosed settlements, farms and fields, routeways and natural resources (Stout 2000). Typically, they are sited on good, well-drained soils, usually over the 100m contour, close to a water source, and often located in proximity to routeways (ridges, eskers, moraines).

Around the 5th century AD, Christianity was first introduced to Ireland and spread rapidly, fuelled by the establishment of early medieval churches and ecclesiastical centres. Ecclesiastical remains (mostly of a later Medieval date) occur in a number of nearby localities such as Clonsilla (RMP No.: DU013:017001 and DU013-017002) and Coolmine (RMP No.: DU013:019001 and DU013:019002). These sites are thought to have first developed in the Early Medieval period. The church of 'Culmyn' is mentioned in the list of churches for the diocese around 1275 ('Archbishop Allen's Register 1172-1534', MacNeill, 1950). There is also a holy well of unknown date (RMP No.: DU017-011), known as 'Rag Well', located in neighbouring Diswellstown townland.

2.3. Later Medieval Activity

In 1170 the Anglo-Normans invaded Ireland and, in doing so, completely altered the pattern of settlement with an emphasis on tillage and crop production, within defined manorial centres, replacing cattle-rearing in many parts of the county. Much of the recorded history of the area is

associated with the Anglo-Norman period. The surrounding area was favoured by the new settlers and was extensively settled. To the south-east of the proposed site (c. 2.7km), in Castleknock townland, stands an Anglo-Norman motte and bailey (RMP No.: DU017-012001). This form of castle dates to the early phases of the Anglo-Norman conquest of Ireland and consisted of a mound topped by a wooden tower, often with an accompanying enclosure constructed of earth and wood, known as the bailey (Simpson and Duffy 2019). The Castleknock example stands on a steep natural rise at the highest point in the landscape providing extensive views of the surrounding area. It presents as an oval motte, c. 18.5m high, with a stone masonry keep (RMP No.: DU017-012002) and a curtain wall and is enclosed by two fosses.

2.3.1. Medieval Luttrellstown

A number of castles of later date are also located in the area, most notably Luttrellstown Castle (RMP No.: DU0017-004). The proposed development is situated in close proximity to the north of Luttrellstown Demesne and was likely influenced by its development through time. The name Luttrell is probably a derivative of the French word *loutre*, an otter. One Osbert Loutrel held a farm at Arques in Normandy in 1180 and 1189 (Doubleday & de Walden 1932). The first member of the Luttrell family to come to Ireland was Sir Geoffrey Luttrell who took part in the unsuccessful rebellion by John de Morten (later King John) against his brother, Richard I (the Lionheart). Luttrell lost his lands in England for his efforts though John subsequently restored them to him when he became king.

Sir Geoffrey Luttrell attained a powerful position through his marriage to a daughter of the house of Paganel, a connection which brought estates to his family in various parts of England. The Luttrell family of Dunster Castle in Somerset descends from him also, although there is some dispute about this (see Gibbs 1913).

Luttrell's connection with Ireland appears to have begun in 1204. In the beginning of that year, he was appointed on a commission to settle the disputes then existing in Ireland between the justiciary and the Anglo-Norman magnates of England (Sweetman's Calendar 1171–1251 cited in Ball 1906). Six years later, he accompanied King John on his visit to Ireland where he was one of the paymasters of the mariners and galleyemen employed in the large fleet required for the expedition. Luttrell also formed one of the king's train at Kells, Carlingford, and Hollywood, as well as at Dublin (Ball 1906).

Not long after the king returned to England, Sir Geoffrey Luttrell was sent to Ireland on another mission of state and during the next few years he corresponded from this country with the king. In 1215, he was again in England advising John on all matters relating to Ireland and witnessing many Acts of the king concerning this country. Luttrell received many royal favours including the honour of knighthood but the culmination of John's expression of trust was sending Luttrell as an embassy to the Pope. While on this mission, however, Luttrell died (Ball 1906). His only son is said to have succeeded to his English estates while a daughter, who was given by the king in marriage to one Phillip Marc, is mentioned as heir to his Irish property.

While we know a great deal about Sir Geoffrey, we do not know the exact date of the first castle at Luttrellstown. Despite an extensive two day search of contemporary medieval documents by Dr. Sean Duffy of the Department of Medieval History, Trinity College Dublin, no direct reference to a castle at Luttrellstown could be found (Jordan and Reilly 2001). While mention is made of various Luttrells in primary sources since the time of Geoffrey Luttrell, it is unclear when a castle was first built on this site. Robert Luttrell, an ecclesiastic, was Treasurer of the Cathedral Church of St. Patrick in the mid-13th century but it is not clear if he lived in Luttrellstown (Sweetman's Calendar 1171–1251 cited in Ball 1906). The only reference to Sir Geoffrey Luttrell's estates in

After the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1664, Porterstown and Luttrellstown were described as the most important dwellings in Castleknock parish. Porterstown was occupied by Roger, First Earl of Orrey, while acting as Lord Justice. The castle, or possibly a more modern house erected near it, was assessed for nine chimneys. Towards the end of the 18th century an arched gateway testified to its former importance, but by that time all other traces of the house had disappeared (Austin Cooper's Notebook, cited in Ball VI 1906).

2.4.1. Post-Medieval Luttrellstown

In the mid-16th and 17th centuries, the castle at Luttrellstown was clearly very substantial and impressive. Thomas Luttrell, who was Chief Justice of the Common Pleas and a very distinguished member of the family, had greatly benefited from the dissolution of the monasteries, including all the lands of Coolmine in Clonsilla parish which had formerly belonged to St. Mary's Abbey (Letters and Papers of Henry V, cited in Ball 1906). At the time of his death in 1554, Luttrell owned a large amount of real estate and shortly after his death, the Crown applied to his executors for a loan of what was, at the time, a very large amount of money. Simon Luttrell, one of Thomas' sons, eventually inherited Luttrellstown Castle, and during his time there, it was considered one of the principal castles of the county of Dublin.

The Down Survey map of 1655 shows the castle as a large Tudor-style house with bawn walls and plantations with an entrance facing west. This is clearly a culmination of at least two hundred years of enlargement. It is in marked contrast to the castle at Castleknock, for example, which is shown as a very large medieval tower house. During the Civil Survey of 1654–57 which was carried out in conjunction with the mapping, the house was described as a great mansion with twelve chimneys and surrounded by offices with a malt house, a barn, and two stables nearby. All the buildings were slated and the value of one thousand pounds placed upon them shows their large extent. Besides pleasure grounds and ornamental plantations, there were in the demesne a garden with no less than three orchards for the provision of the house and two quarries for the supply of stone. Also attached to the house was a corn mill and a cloth mill, as well as a weir on the Liffey for catching salmon (Civil Survey of the Barony of Castleknock).

This attractive property was confiscated from the Luttrell family under the Commonwealth, but the grandson of Thomas Luttrell (also called Thomas) regained the estate at the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660.

2.4.2. 18th & 19th Centuries

Two archbishops of note were born in the general area. Archbishop Patrick Fitzsimmons was born in Clonsilla in 1699 and died in 1769. He reigned in the area during the penal law era which saw the suppression of Irish Catholic population. Archbishop John Thomas Troy was born at Annfield, to the east of the proposed development, in 1739. He became a Dominican monk and was later ordained Bishop of Ossory. On December 3rd, 1789, he became Archbishop of Dublin. He presided over the Catholic Church as it emerged from penal law era and was responsible for the building of Saint Mary's Catholic Pro Cathedral (NIAH Ref.: 50010228) in Dublin city and was the first bishop to be buried in its vaults. He died in 1825.

Roque's map of the county of Dublin (1760) shows Kellystown lying along a road or route curving around Porterstown and then on to the demesne of Luttrellstown. That curve around Porterstown can still be discerned in the modern layout of Porterstown Road. Though the modern Porterstown road now continues to the south after this 'kink', the earlier road from the Roque map can still be largely traced in the 20th century field boundaries that extended west from the former location of Porterstown House and then turned south-westwards towards Luttrellstown demesne. The

location of the 18th century Kellystown settlement recorded on the Roque map is now comprised of pasture fields in agricultural use.

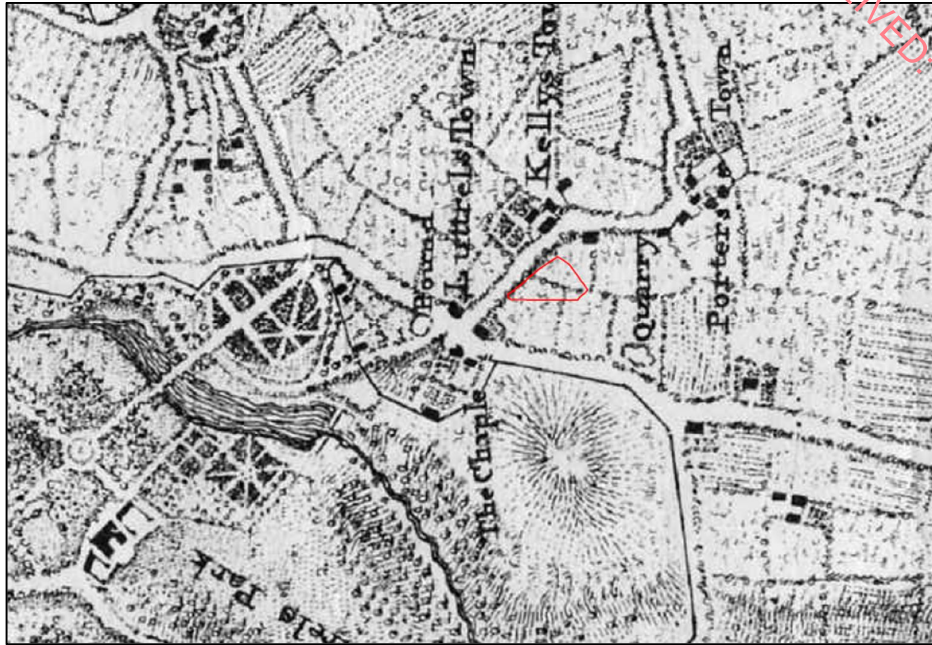


Figure 3 Roque map of County of Dublin (1760)

By the 19th century much of the land in the locality had been acquired by wealthy Dublin families, each landholding centring on the houses of Luttrellstown (RMP No.: DU017-004001; RPS No.: 723; NIAH Ref.: 11361036), Diswellstown, Porterstown, Oatlands (NIAH Ref.: 11361030) and Summertown giving the area much of its present character. The Royal Canal constructed in the late 18th century and the Midland Great Western Railway constructed in the mid-19th century, located to the north of the proposed development, are also important features in the historic landscape of the area and offer a reminder of the industrial heritage of the region.

The First edition 6-inch OS (1834-41) shows the excavation site in a large field in agricultural use. The road from the earlier Roque map is no longer in use and Porterstown Road has adopted its modern alignment. An estate house called Kellystown that is surrounded by a garden area is now recorded along the western boundary of the townland, closer to the Clonsilla Road. An unfortunate quirk of the first edition OS map is the recording of the buildings at Porterstown along the map margin. The details are somewhat obscured but there is no indication there of the presence of the castle that was marked on the Down Survey County map. Luttrellstown was no longer in the possession of the Luttrell family and was renamed Woodlands though the general outline of the demesne was unchanged.

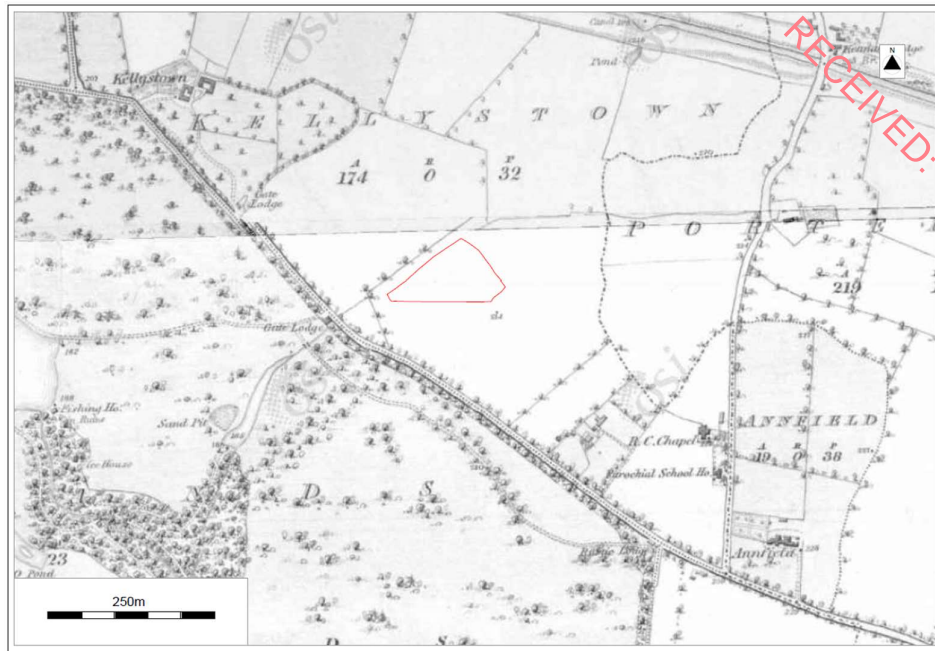


Figure 4 First edition OS map (1839-41)

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

3.1. General

Topsoil stripping of the excavation cutting, c. 1ha in extent began on 20th May 2024 and was completed by 7th June 2024. Topsoil was removed by a 20 tonne tracked excavator using a flat (grading) bucket under constant archaeological supervision (Plate 1). As a condition of the excavation licence, bulk soil samples of the topsoil were systematically collected and dry sieved in order to facilitate finds recovery and if any patterns of distribution could be discerned. Details of the topsoil sampling strategy are presented in a section below.

Archaeological excavation commenced on 10th of June 2024 with a team of up to 13 archaeologists and was completed by 23rd August 2024. The cutting was systematically cleaned back by hand, using hoes, shovels and trowels as appropriate, to identify and expose areas of interest.

The natural subsoil comprised a brown and grey boulder clay with frequent stones of varying size.



Plate 1 Oblique aerial view of site after cleanback from south



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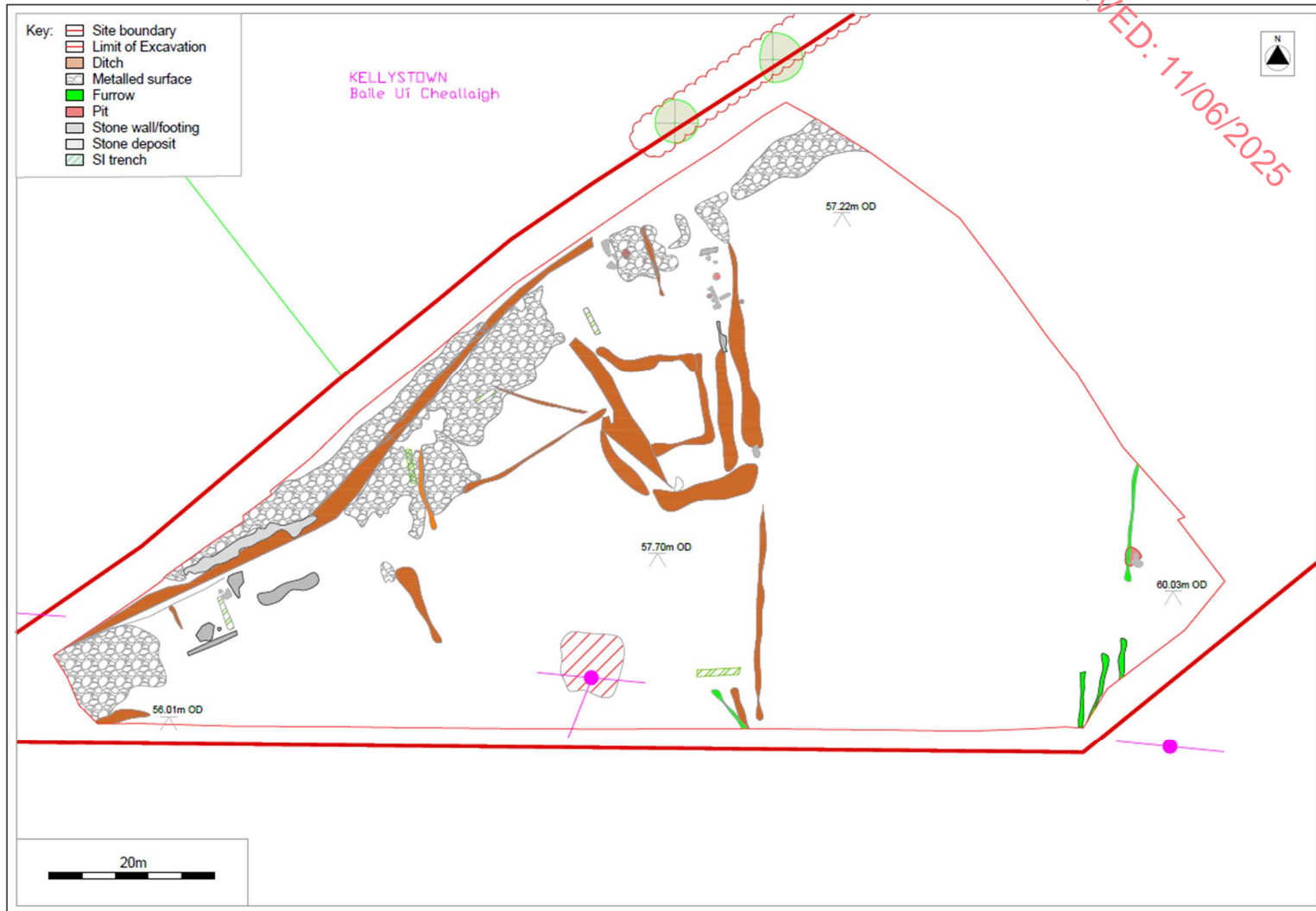


Figure 5 Pre-excitation plan of site

3.2. Methodology

3.2.1. Recording Strategy

All archaeological features were cleaned by hand, photographed, drawn to scale and OD levels taken. Linear features were excavated in evenly spaced box- sections while smaller features were first half sectioned. The resulting vertical stratigraphic record was then photographed, drawn at appropriate scale and recorded using context recording sheets. Plans were surveyed using a GPS device accurate to under 0.01m with a digital photographic record maintained throughout the excavation.

3.2.2. Sampling Strategy

A variety of sampling strategies were utilized during the excavation. The first was a systematic strategy of collecting bulk soil samples of the topsoil during the mechanical stripping of the site. Details of this are presented in a section below. During the course of hand excavation of the archaeological features, two approaches were employed. One was the collection of bulk samples from environmentally rich deposits, usually those with a perceived high percentage of charred material. The other was a systematic strategy where a bulk soil sample was collected from each of the significant linear features on the site.

3.2.3. Finds Retrieval Strategy

All finds were recorded to specific contexts during the on-site works and individually bagged, catalogued and allocated a find number by the designated finds person. Find numbers included the context number and then started at one from each context. All finds were stored in a secure cabin on site during the on-site works and during post-excavation. Following the completion of specialist finds reports and the final excavation report, the finds will be forwarded to the National Museum of Ireland for storage. A licence was issued for the use of a metal detector during the course of the excavation to assist in finds retrieval. The metal detector was used to scan features prior to and during hand excavation and occasionally to scan the excavated spoil to further enhance finds retrieval.

3.3. Summary Results of the Excavation

The excavation revealed the remains of a late medieval (12th-14th centuries) settlement in the form of metalled surfaces, ditches, kilns and the poorly surviving remains of stone walls. The main locus of activity was at the base of a slope along the north-western margin of the excavation cutting though a series of interconnected ditches formed a field system near the centre of the cutting. The remains of walls suggests the presence of buildings though no full outline plan was identified given the poorly surviving and fragmentary nature of the evidence. Features from the excavation were principally dated by the presence of pottery, with an estimated 3000 pieces retrieved during the excavation. A substantial post-medieval horizon was identified, represented by the re-cutting of ditches and the remains of further stone structures and drains.

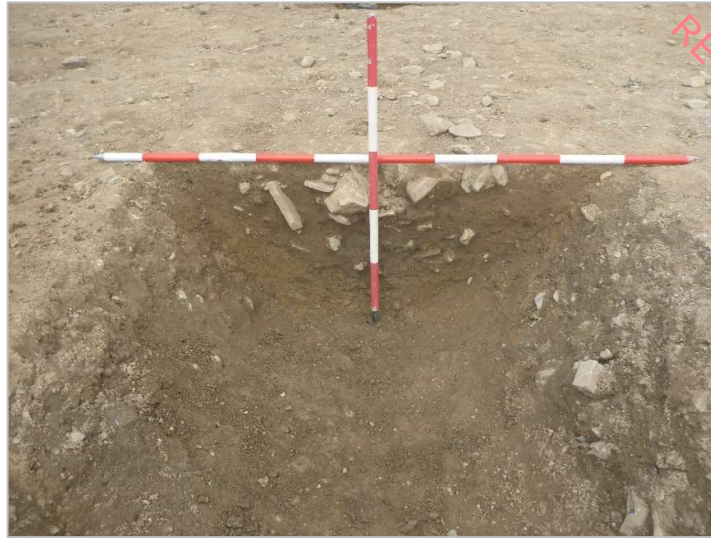


Plate 2 Section through medieval ditch C113 with recut ditch C111

A series of ditches, C45, C84 and C138 were orientated north-east/south-west along the north-western margin of the cutting and traced for a combined length of approximately 130m. These ditches extended out of the cutting to the south (C45) and north (C138). These ditches were dated by the presence of numerous late medieval pottery sherds and also contained animal bone and charcoal. A continuation of these ditches further north may have existed in the 12th-14th centuries but a post-medieval ditch in this area, C195, may have removed any clear evidence for this. A series of other medieval ditches and gullies (C93, C111, C113, C55, C131, C142, C37; Plate 2) ran off this alignment at roughly right angles (north-west/south-east orientation) and likely represent field or property boundaries. Re-cutting of ditches occurred in the late medieval period also, as seen with ditches C68 and C70; ditches C111 and C113; and ditches C55 and C131. This indicates the use of the site over several generations in the 12th-14th centuries.



Plate 3 Metallated surface C86 with medieval ditch C111 in background

A series of distinctive metallated surfaces (e.g. C85, C117, C118, C119, C120; Plate 3) comprised of a combination of small stones with occasional larger cobbles and a dark compacted mineralized soil were identified along this late-medieval boundary. While usually difficult to accurately date, the sealing of several of these metallated surfaces with soils containing exclusively late medieval pottery, is a very strong indicator of their late medieval origin.

Clusters of stones were identified along the base of the slope that were suggestive of the remains of structures. The best surviving section lay to the south and comprised an L-shaped wall, C104 with a shallow foundation trench, C80 (Plate 4). It was constructed of two lines of undressed limestones with a rubble core and clay bonding. A surface or platform (C91) comprised of large limestone blocks abutted the wall to the south-west, almost resembling a fallen wall. The remains of two metallated surfaces nearby underlay a jumble of stones, within which was recovered a Bronze Age socketed spear-head (Plate 7). Amongst this jumble of stones, thought to be collapsed walls, and soil lay a large stone with pock-marks and linear grooves suggestive of some type of anvil stone or similar. While no clear full outline of a building could be identified from this area, it appears that several phases of building and activity occurred here in the late and possibly post-medieval periods.



Plate 4 Oblique aerial view from NE of medieval wall C104 & abutting stone platform/deposit C91 to rear

Elsewhere, short alignments of stones, e.g. C92, C151, C152, C141, C147, C173 and C192, hint at further construction of walls. No limestone mortar was identified in or around these stone clusters/alignments so it is assumed that a clay bonding was used that either didn't survive or was not identified during excavation. Not all of these stone clusters were of late medieval date, with those from within the upper fills of ditch C204 found in association with post-medieval pottery and therefore likely to date from the 18th century onwards.



Plate 5 Mid-excavation shot of possible wall C151

Both cereal-drying kilns identified on the site were lined with stones. The best surviving example, C122 was cut into the side of a ditch C111. Lining of the drying chamber and flue of this key-hole shaped kiln often survived up to 3 courses high. Numerous charred seeds were retrieved from the bulk soil samples taken from the fills of this kiln and the other one that was located upslope from the main locus of activity.



Plate 6 Cereal drying kiln C122

The long boundary represented by the three ditches had been later re-cut in the post-medieval period (C43) and so truncated the exact relationships between the series of ditches that drained into this boundary. At times, the re-cutting of the ditch during the post-medieval period occurred to the side of the earlier late-medieval ditch, e.g. at ditch C45, or more usually above it, e.g. at ditches C138 and C145. The northernmost part of the cutting contained only a single large wide ditch, C195 that contained post-medieval artefacts in the upper and basal fills. An earlier late medieval ditch is likely to have been located on or near the line of this ditch given the pattern seen

elsewhere and the presence of late medieval ditches C31 (recut and augmented by C204 in the post-medieval period) and C188 draining into ditch C195.



Plate 7 Bronze Age socketed spearhead retrieved from a medieval stoney deposit (possible collapsed wall) around 'Structure 1'

Dating of the features was principally done through the presence of pottery. The large assemblage estimated at 2000 pieces of late medieval pottery and 1000 pieces of post-medieval pottery are currently being cleaned and labelled prior to identification and analysis by a suitable specialist. The phasing of the features may change once this report is completed.

Over 100 iron objects and fragments were retrieved from secure late and post-medieval contexts and include nails, blades, hooks, a fork and rings. This assemblage compliments the agricultural interpretation of the features excavated as such a range of everyday, mundane items is often recovered from sites of this nature given suitable conditions. Other finds of note included a flint arrowhead from a post-medieval ditch fill and several plough-pebbles that were retrieved from a range of contexts.

Dating of the excavation will be refined through the use of radiocarbon dating. 18 bulk soil samples were collected to gather environmental information and dating material. Samples were collected from deposits that were charcoal rich and also systematically from ditch fills. It is expected that they will provide a useful supporting role in the phasing of the excavation features.



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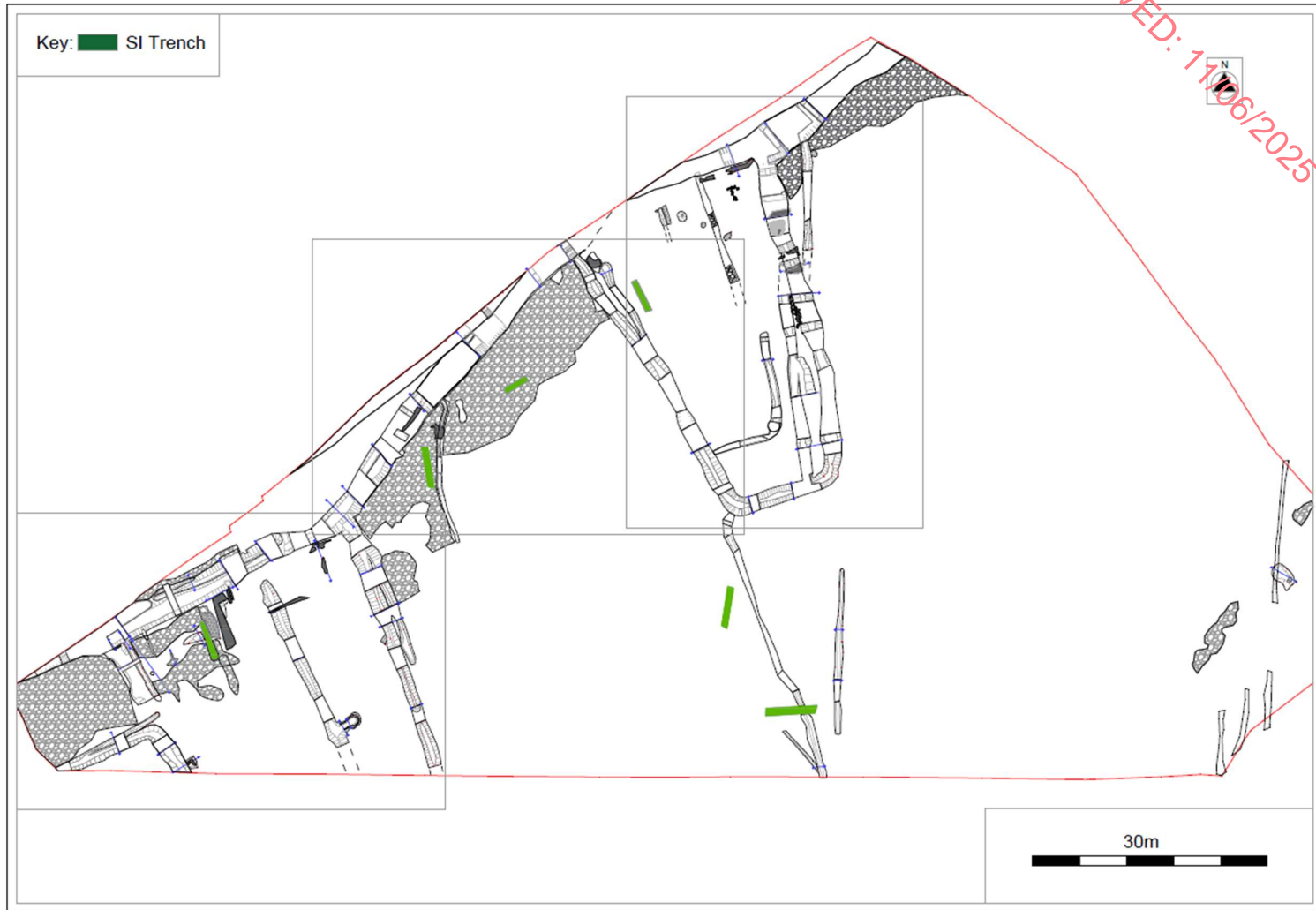


Figure 6 Post-excavation plan of site

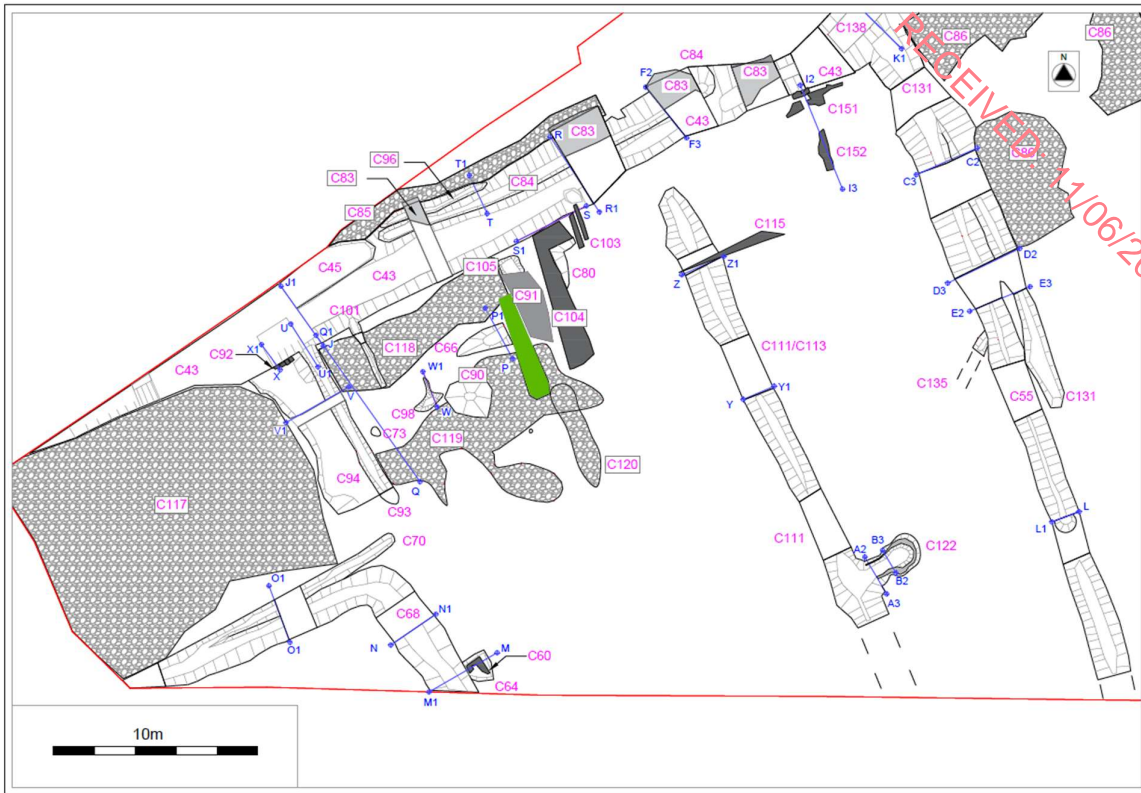


Figure 7 Post-excavation plan of south-western corner of site

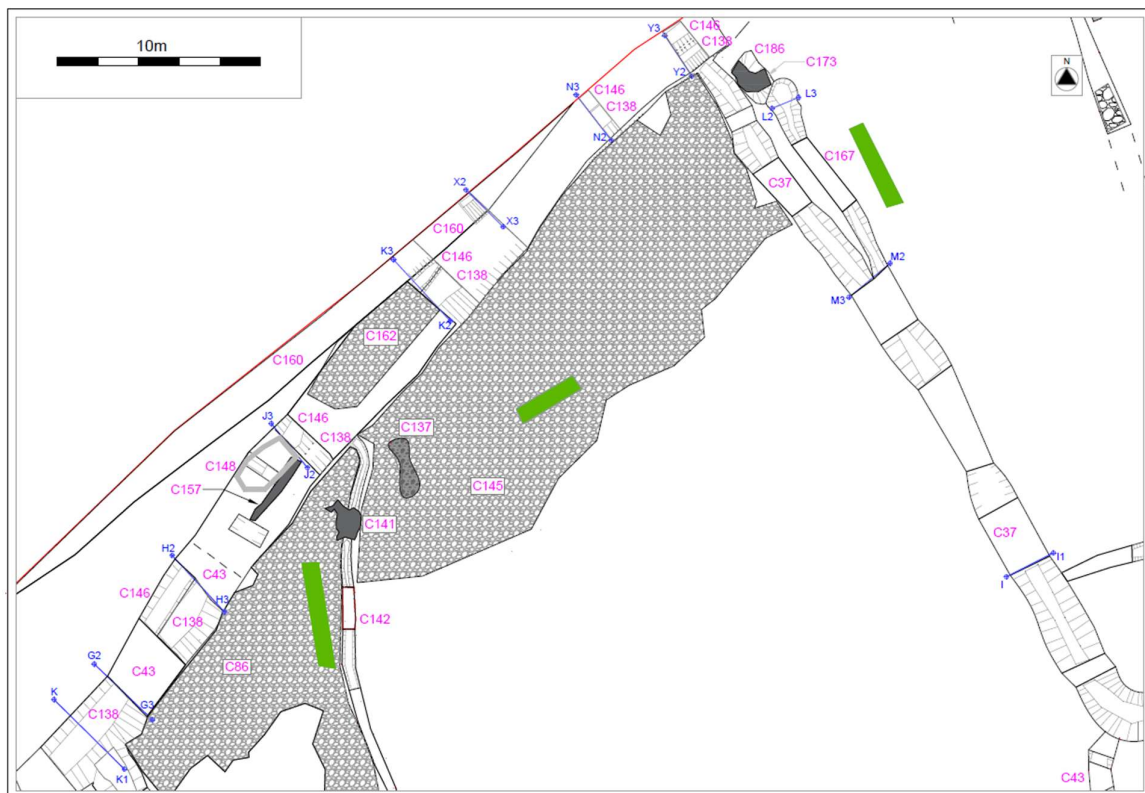


Figure 8 Post-excavation plan of west central part of site

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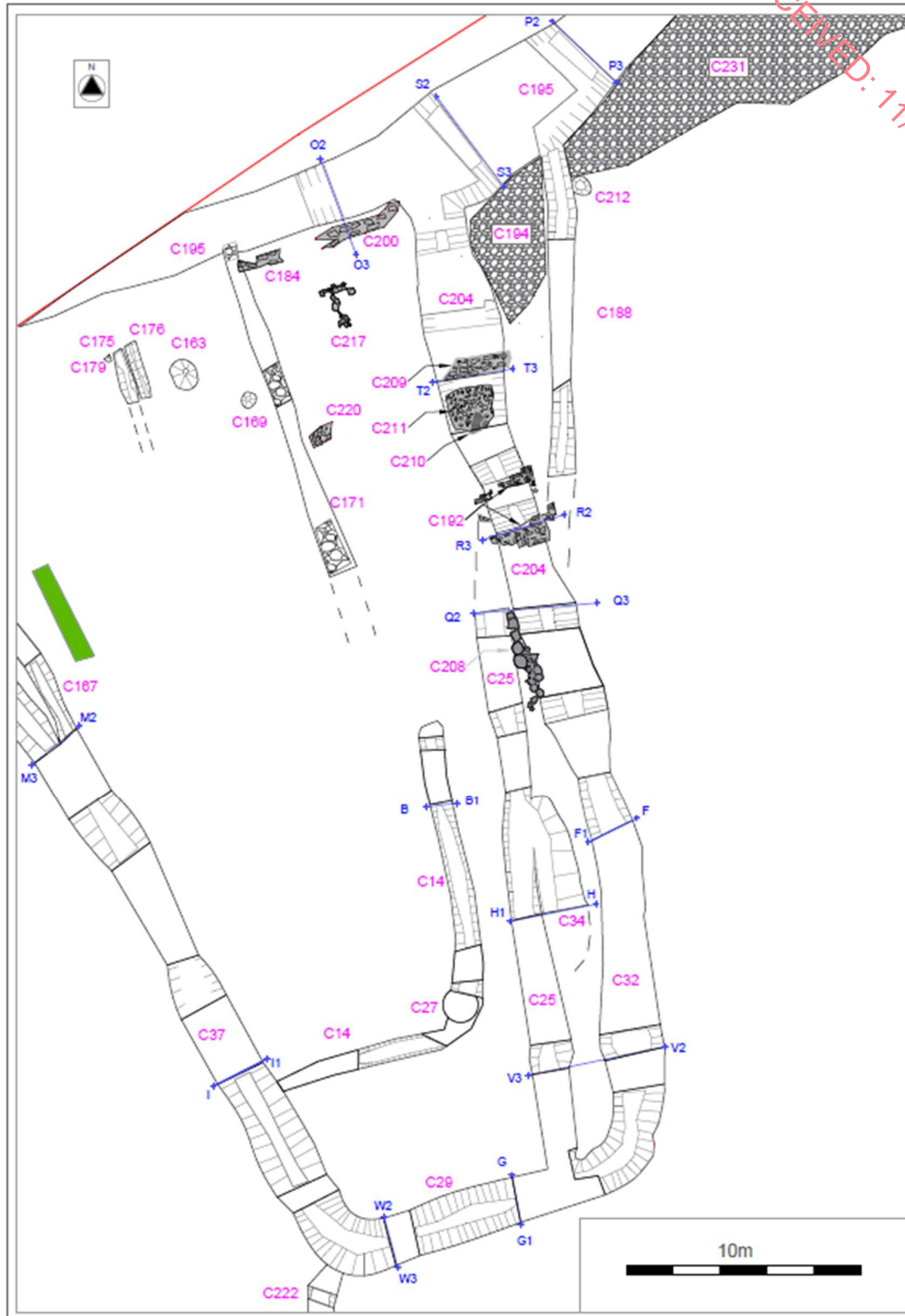


Figure 9 Post-excavation plan of north-western corner of site

4. POST EXCAVATION

4.1. Post Excavation Status

The post-excavation process comprising digitising of the archive and the processing of finds and samples is nearing completion. The stratigraphic report is in underway and finds and environmental material are in the process of being sent to the relevant specialists for analysis and reporting.

4.2. The Assemblage

A large assemblage of late medieval (12-14th century) and post-medieval (16th-18th century) pottery was retrieved during the course of excavation. This is currently being labelled and will be sent for specialist identification and analysis. Numerous metal finds were retrieved from the fills of the excavated features and include a Cu alloy Bronze Age spearhead, fragments of lead plate and more everyday items such as nails, hooks and blade fragments. All items are X-rayed and will be assessed by a suitably qualified specialist before conservation. A specialist report will be produced that will be incorporated into the final excavation report.

Other finds include a limited number of lithic finds, most of which are thought to be residual. Of note is a finely worked prehistoric flint arrow-head and some plough-pebbles of late medieval date. A modest range of glass sherds were retrieved from post-medieval contexts including fragments from 'onion' bottles that were used during the 17th and 18th centuries.

4.3. Post Excavation Proposals

The process of sending the finds and environmental material to the relevant specialists for analysis and radiocarbon dating has begun and results are awaited. This includes over 30 kilos of animal bone that will be analysed by an osteologist and charcoal and charred seeds that will be analysed by suitably qualified specialists to produce environmental data that will assist in interpreting the site. Once all of the specialist analysis has been completed, the information will be incorporated into a final report on the excavation.

4.4. Location of The Archive

Currently the paper archive and the finds and environmental material are located in the offices of Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy, Lynwood House, Ballinteer Road Dublin 16.

5. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The excavation at Kelystown identified the remains of a late medieval (12th-14th century) settlement in the form of ditches, metalled surfaces, kilns and the poorly surviving remains of stone-built structures. A substantial post-medieval horizon indicated by the presence of pottery and other artefacts and the re-cutting and use of some of the late medieval ditches and boundaries suggests the possibility of the continuing use of the settlement for several centuries.

Cartographic evidence from Roque's map (Figure 3) of county Dublin (1760) points to the location of an 18th century road from Luttrellstown to Porterstown near the north-western edge of the excavation cutting, now represented by a modern field boundary. A cluster of buildings with gardens are marked north of this road to the northwest of the excavation area and outside the permitted development area and is annotated on the map as 'Kellys Town'. map. If continuity of settlement occurred, then the buildings recorded by Roque (outside the excavation area) may have preserved the location of the earlier village or settlement from the 12 – 14th centuries. The

ditches and metalled surfaces recorded within the excavation area may once have lain adjacent to the road and not too distant from the historic settlement of Kellystown to the northwest and Luttrellstown to the south. By the time of the first edition Ordnance survey maps of the 1840's, the road and settlement of Kellystown were no longer in use and the lands recorded as large agricultural fields.

During post medieval times, this road would have formed an important routeway road, linking the historic settlements of Luttrellstown, Kellystown and Porterstown. As these settlements lost their significance over the years, the need for the roadway eroded over time and it became fossilised in the tree lined boundaries of the agricultural fields with all visible traces of it and the settlements it served erased.

The excavation has detected activities such as the kilns, metalled surfaces and 'yards' and agricultural practices in terms of the historic field patterns determined from stone boundaries and ditches in the wider historic landscape of these communities. The road shown on Rocque would have been used to access the fields that were under excavation and provides a reason for this level of newly revealed industrial and agricultural activity concentrated in a linear manner throughout the excavation area.

Given the discovery of features such as ditches and gullies dated to the 12th - 14th centuries by associated finds such as medieval pottery, it is tempting to suggest that this access must have been provided by an earlier thoroughfare in this area and that the road or trackway would have existed in some form from medieval times onwards.

Preliminary interpretations of the site reveal two major phases, the initial founding and use of the site during the 12th-14th centuries and then a post-medieval phase. The initial phase involved the excavation and use of the ditches, yard areas and one or both cereal-drying kilns. Some of the fields or property plots were re-established within this period. This can be seen when the earliest ditches become silted up and the field or property boundary is renewed by the cutting of a new ditch within or close to the old ditch.

The post-medieval phase is evident from the re-cutting of the series of ditches along the north-western margin. Only one of the ditches that extended off this main ditch at right-angles was re-cut and it seems that the smaller field or property plots that were in use in the late medieval phase were no longer maintained in the post-medieval period.

It is expected that specialist analysis of the finds and environmental material retrieved from the site will assist in the interpretation and dating of the site. The post-excavation process is ongoing and once all of the specialist analyses have been completed, the information will be incorporated into a final report on the excavation.

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APPENDIX 1 CONTEXT RECORD

Table 1 Context record

Context No.	Cut / fill / other	Brief Description	Phase
1	Deposit	Topsoil	All
2	Deposit	Natural subsoil	All
3	Cut	Furrow	Post-medieval
4	Fill	Single fill of furrow C03	Post-medieval
5	Cut	Furrow	Post-medieval
6	Fill	Single fill of furrow C05	Post-medieval
7	Cut	Furrow	Post-medieval
8	Fill	Single fill of furrow C07	Post-medieval
9	Cut	Kiln	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
10	Deposit	Metalled surface	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
11	Fill	Upper fill of kiln C09	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
12	Fill	Basal fill of kiln C09	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
13	Fill	Basal fill of kiln C09	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
14	Cut	L-shaped ditch/gulley	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
15	Fill	Single fill of ditch/gulley C14	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
16	Cut	Ditch	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
17	Fill	Single fill of ditch C16	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
18	Cut	Furrow	Post-medieval or modern
19	Fill	Fill of furrow C18	Post-medieval or modern
20	Cut	Ditch	Late medieval Phase 1/2
21	Fill	Single fill of ditch C20	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
22	Cut	Furrow/gulley	Post-medieval
23	Fill	Upper fill of ditch/gulley C20	Late medieval Phase 1/2
24	Fill	Basal fill of ditch/gulley C20	Late medieval Phase 1/2
25	Cut	Ditch	Late medieval Phase 1/2
26	Deposit	Stone lining of kiln C09	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
27	Cut	Pit	Undated
28	Fill	Single fill of pit C27	Undated
29	Cut	Ditch	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
30	Fill	Upper fill	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
31	Fill	Basal fill	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
32	Cut	Ditch	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
33	Fill	Single fill of ditch C32	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
34	Cut	Elongated pit	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
35	Fill	Single fill of pit C34	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
36	Fill	Single fill of ditch C25	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
37	Cut	Ditch	Late Medieval Phase 1
38	Fill	Fill of ditch C37	Late Medieval Phase 1
39	Fill	Fill of ditch C37	Late Medieval Phase 1
40	Cut	Recut of ditch C37	Late Medieval Phase 2
41	Fill	Upper fill of ditch C41	Late Medieval Phase 2
42	Fill	Basal fill of ditch C41	Late Medieval Phase 2
43	Cut	Ditch	Post-medieval
44	Fill	Upper fill of ditch C43	Post-medieval
45	Cut	Ditch	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
46	Fill	Upper fill of ditch C45	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
47	Fill	Basal fill of ditch C45	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
48	Cut	Ditch	Post-medieval
49	Cut	Ditch	Late Medieval Phase 2
50	Fill	Upper fill of ditch C48	Post-medieval
51	Fill	Basal fill of ditch C48	Post-medieval
52	Fill	Upper fill of ditch C131	Late Medieval Phase 2
53	Fill	Middle fill of ditch C131	Late Medieval Phase 2
54	Fill	Basal fill of ditch C131	Late Medieval Phase 2

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Context No.	Cut / fill / other	Brief Description	Phase
55	Cut	Ditch	Late Medieval Phase 1
56	Fill	Upper fill of ditch C55	Late Medieval Phase 1
57	Fill	Basal fill of ditch C55	Late Medieval Phase 1
58	Fill	Localized upper fill of ditch C55	Late Medieval Phase 1
59	Deposit	Habitation layer/bottom of topsoil	Late medieval phase 1/2
60	Structure	Wall	Post-medieval
61	Fill	Upper fill of ditch C62	Late medieval phase 1/2
62	Cut	Ditch	Late medieval phase 1/2
63	Fill	Basal fill of ditch C62	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
64	Cut	Foundation trench	Post-medieval
65	Fill	Basal fill of foundation trench C64	Post-medieval
66	Cut	Pit	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
67	Fill	Single fill of pit C66	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
68	Cut	Ditch	Late Medieval Phase 2
69	Fill	Fill of ditch C68	Late Medieval Phase 2
70	Cut	Ditch	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
71	Fill	Single fill of ditch C70	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
72	Deposit	Habitation layer	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
73	Cut	Post-hole	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
74	Fill	Fill of post-hole C73	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
75	Deposit	Wall collapse	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
76	Fill	Fill of ditch C93	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
77	Structure	Wall	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
78	Cut	Drain	Post-medieval
79	Fill	Fill of drain C78	Post-medieval
80	Cut	Foundation trench	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
81	Fill	Fill of foundation trench C80	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
82	n/a	Same as C81	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
83	Deposit	Stoney Deposit	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
84	Cut	Ditch	Late Medieval Phase 1
85	Deposit	Metalled surface	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
86	Deposit	Metalled surface	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
87	Fill	Fill of ditch C93	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
88	Deposit	Stoney Deposit	Post-medieval
89	Fill	Fill of ditch C84	Late Medieval Phase 1
90	Deposit	Habitation deposit	Post-medieval
91	Deposit	Stoney deposit/floor	Late-medieval Phase 2
92	Structure	Revetment	Post-medieval
93	Cut	Ditch/gulley	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
94	Cut	Linear feature	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
95	Fill	Single fill of feature C94	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
96	Cut	Furrow/gulley	Late Medieval Phase 1
97	Fill	Single fill of furrow/gulley C96	Late Medieval Phase 1
98	Cut	Pit	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
99	Fill	Upper fill of pit C98	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
100	Fill	Basal fill of pit C98	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
101	Cut	Furrow/drain	Post-medieval
102	Fill	Single fill of furrow/drain C101	Post-medieval
103	Structure	Drain	Post-medieval
104	Structure	Wall	Late medieval Phase 1/2
105	Cut	Foundation trench	Late medieval Phase 1/2
106	Fill	Fill of foundation trench C105	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
107	Other	Pot	Late medieval Phase 1/2
108	Deposit	Soil surrounding C107	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
109	Fill	Localized basal fill of ditch C43	Post-medieval
110	Fill	Localized middle fill of ditch C43	Post-medieval
111	Cut	Ditch	Late medieval Phase 2
112	Fill	Single fill of ditch C111	Late medieval Phase 2

Context No.	Cut / fill / other	Brief Description	Phase
113	Cut	Ditch	Late medieval Phase 1
114	Fill	Single fill of ditch C113	Late medieval Phase 1
115	Structure	Wall	Late medieval Phase 1/2
116	Deposit	Deposit around stones C115	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
117	Deposit	Metalled surface	Late medieval Phase 1/2
118	Deposit	Metalled surface	Late medieval Phase 1/2
119	Deposit	Metalled surface	Late medieval Phase 1/2
120	Deposit	Metalled surface	Late medieval Phase 1/2
121	Other	Possible anvil stone	Undated
122	Cut	Kiln	Late medieval Phase 1/2
123	Fill	Upper fill of kiln C122	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
124	Fill	Upper fill of kiln C122	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
125	Fill	Lower fill of kiln C122	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
126	Fill	Basal fill of kiln C122	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
127	Fill	Basal fill of ditch C111	Late medieval Phase 2
128	Structure	Lining of kiln C122	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
129	Fill	Middle fill of kiln C122	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
130	Fill	Basal fill of kiln C122	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
131	Cut	Ditch	Late Medieval Phase 2
132	Fill	Main fill of ditch C131	Late Medieval Phase 2
133	Fill	Basal fill of ditch C84	Late Medieval Phase 1
134	Cut	Furrow	Modern
135	Fill	Fill of furrow C134	Modern
136	Fill	Fill of ditch C55	Late Medieval Phase 1
137	Deposit	Charcoal stained deposit	Late medieval Phase1/2
138	Cut	Ditch	Late medieval Phase 2
139	Fill	Main fill of ditch C138	Late medieval Phase 2
140	Fill	Basal fill of ditch C138	Late medieval Phase 2
141	Structure	Wall	Post-medieval
142	Cut	Gulley	Late medieval Phase1/2
143	Fill	Single fill of ditch C142	Late medieval Phase1/2
144		Cancelled	
145	Deposit	Metalled surface	Late medieval Phase 1/2
146	Cut	Ditch	Late medieval Phase 1
147	Fill	Single fill of ditch C146	Late medieval Phase 1
148	Structure	Possible kiln	Post-medieval
149	Deposit	Charcoal rich deposit	Post-medieval
150	Other	Daub/bonding on wall C151	Late medieval Phase 1/2
151	Structure	Wall	Late medieval Phase 1/2
152	Deposit	Stoney deposit	Late or Post-medieval
153	Deposit	Stoney deposit	Late or Post-medieval
154	Deposit	Deposit surrounding C153	Post-medieval
155	Deposit	Deposit surrounding wall C151	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
156	Deposit	Heat-affected deposit	Late or Post-medieval
157	Structure	Wall	Post-medieval
158	Deposit	Deposit abutting wall C151	Post-medieval
159	Cut	Cut for possible kiln C148	Post-medieval
160	Cut	Ditch	Post-medieval
161	Fill	Single fill of ditch C160	Post-medieval
162		Cancelled	
163	Cut	Pit	Late medieval Phase 1/2
164	Fill	Upper fill of pit C163	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
165	Fill	Middle fill of pit C163	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
166	Fill	Basal fill of pit C163	Late Medieval Phase 1/2
167	Cut	Ditch/gulley	Late medieval Phase 2
168	Fill	Single fill of ditch/gulley C167	Late medieval Phase 2
169	Cut	Pit	Late medieval Phase 1/2
170	Fill	Single fill of pit C169	Late Medieval Phase 1/2

Context No.	Cut / fill / other	Brief Description	Phase
171	Cut	Drain	Post-medieval
172	Fill	Single fill of drain C171	Post-medieval
173	Structure	Wall	Post-medieval
174	Deposit	Charcoal rich deposit	Post-medieval
175	Cut	Drain	Post-medieval
176	Cut	Gulley	Post-medieval
177	Fill	Single fill of gulley C176	Post-medieval
178	Fill	Single fill of drain C175	Post-medieval
179	Cut	Pit	Post-medieval
180	Fill	Single fill of pit C179	Post-medieval
181	Fill	Fill of ditch C37	Late Medieval Phase 1
182	Fill	Fill of ditch C37	Late Medieval Phase 1
183	Cut	Foundation trench for wall C184	Late or Post-medieval
184	Structure	Wall	Late or Post-medieval
185	Fill	Fill of foundation trench C183	Late or Post-medieval
186	Cut	Foundation trench for wall C173	Late medieval Phase 1/2
187	Fill	Fill of foundation trench C186	Late medieval Phase 1/2
188	Cut	Ditch	Late medieval Phase 1/2
189	Fill	Single fill of ditch C188	Late medieval Phase 1/2
190	Structure	Farm track	Modern
191		Cancelled	
192	Structure	Wall	Post-medieval
193	Deposit	Mixed charcoal & ash waste	Post-medieval
194	Fill	Middle fill of ditch C195	Post-medieval
195	Cut	Ditch	Post-medieval
196	Fill	Basal fill of ditch C195	Post-medieval
197	Fill	Upper fill of ditch C195	Post-medieval
198	Fill	Middle fill of ditch C195	Post-medieval
199	Other	Natural	
200	Structure	Wall	Late or Post-medieval
201	Deposit	Deposit around wall C200	Late or Post-medieval
202		Cancelled	
203		Cancelled	
204	Cut	Ditch	Post-medieval
205	Fill	Middle fill of ditch C204	Post-medieval
206	Fill	Upper fill of ditch C204	Post-medieval
207	Fill	Basal fill of ditch C204	Post-medieval
208	Deposit	Stoney deposit	Post-medieval
209	Structure	Wall	Post-medieval
210	Deposit	Stoney deposit	Post-medieval
211	Fill	Fill of ditch C204	Post-medieval
212	Cut	Pit	Late medieval Phase 1
213	Deposit	Deposit around stones C208	Post-medieval
214	Fill	Basal fill of ditch C195	Post-medieval
215	Fill	Lower fill of ditch C195	Post-medieval
216	Deposit	Natural	-
217	Deposit	Stoney deposit	Post-medieval
218	Fill	Fill of ditch C204	Post-medieval
219		Cancelled	
220	Structure	Wall	Late medieval Phase 1/2
221	Deposit	Deposit around wall C220	Late medieval Phase 1/2
222	Cut	Ditch, same as C16	Late medieval Phase 1/2
223	Fill	Single fill of ditch C222, same as C17	Late medieval Phase 1/2
224	Deposit	Stoney deposit on ditch C32	Post-medieval
225	Deposit	Farm trackway	Modern
226	Cut	Ditch	Post-medieval
227	Fill	Single fill of ditch C226	Post-medieval
228	Fill	Single fill of pit C212	Late medieval Phase 1

Context No.	Cut / fill / other	Brief Description	Phase
229	Deposit	Deposit above metalling C120	Late medieval Phase 1/2
230	Deposit	Deposit above metalling C118 to S	Late medieval Phase 1/2

APPENDIX 2 ENVIRONMENTAL MATERIALS RECORD

Soil Sample processing methodology:

Two methods were used to process the soil samples from the site depending on what was being sought from the samples and what had been noted in the soils during excavation (floatation or dry sieving).

Flotation:

18 bulk soil samples totalling 221 litres were processed by the floatation method for retrieval of charcoal and other environmental material. This involved adding water to the soil sample, gently agitating it and then pouring the material through 1mm and 0.3mm mesh sieves in order to collect charred and other materials (the flot). The retent was then passed through 8mm and 1mm metal sieves, dried out and hand sorted.

Table 2 Results of floatation processing of bulk soil samples

Sample No.	Context No.	Feature Description	Sample size (L)	Flot Weight (g)
1	12	Basal fill of kiln C09	5	4.0
2	72	Deposit layer around 'Structure 1'	6	1.0
3	67	Fill of pit C66	5	1.0
4	74	Fill of post-hole C73	3	1.0
5	72	Deposit layer around 'Structure 1'	3	1.0
6	99	Upper fill of pit C98	1	1.0
7	125	Charcoal-rich fill of kiln C122	10	11.0
8	174	Charcoal-rich layer over ditch C138	16	117.0
9	149	Charcoal-rich deposit in 'structure' C148	5	50.0
10	193	Charcoal-rich deposit within 'structure' C192	15	102.0
11	-	Cancelled	-	-
12	47	Basal fill of ditch C45	20	1.0
13	207	Basal fill of ditch C204	20	1.0
14	139	Fill of ditch C138	20	30.0
15	147	Fill of ditch C146	10	1.0
16	31	Basal fill of ditch C29	20	1.0
17	57	Basal fill of ditch C55	20	12.0
18	112	Fill of ditch C111	20	1.0
19	196	Basal fill of ditch C195	22	32.0

Dry sieving:

Dry sieving was carried out on site during the stripping of the topsoil. A 10m x 10m grid was overlain on the excavation cutting and a 50 litre bulk soil sample of the topsoil was collected from each full square of the grid. Details of this sampling exercise are presented in the section above.

Animal bone

Animal bone was collected during the hand excavation of the features. Animal bones from the surface and topsoil were not retained. Bone was bagged by context, then washed, dried and weighed. The animal bone assemblage will be sent for identification and analysis by an appropriate specialist.

Table 3 Animal bone record

Context No.	Feature Description	Weight (g)
11	Upper fill of kiln C09	13
13	Basal fill of kiln C09	4
15	Fill of ditch/gulley C14	206
17	Fill of ditch C16	335
21	Fill of plough/cultivation furrow C20	17
30	Upper fill of ditch C29	500
31	Basal fill of ditch C29	91
33	Single fill of ditch C32	374
35	Single fill of pit C34	155
38	Fill of ditch C37	112
39	Fill of ditch C37	16
41	Upper fill of ditch C40	1444
42	Basal fill of ditch C40	6
44	Upper fill of ditch C43	5508
46	Upper fill of ditch C45	531
47	Basal fill of ditch C45	167
56	Upper fill of ditch C55	2016
57	Basal fill of ditch C55	502
58	Localized upper fill of ditch C55	290
59	Habitation layer/bottom of topsoil	140
61	Upper fill of ditch C62	67
63	Basal fill of ditch C62	57
65	Basal fill of foundation trench C64	26
67	Single fill of pit C66	55
69	Fill of ditch C68	522
71	Single fill of ditch C70	453
72	Habitation layer around 'Structure 1'	226
75	Stoney deposit (wall collapse) around 'Structure 1'	118
76	Fill of ditch C93	152
79	Fill of drain C78/C103	138
82	Fill of foundation trench C80	171
85	Metalled surface	878

Context No.	Feature Description	Weight (g)
87	Fill of ditch C93	503
88	Stoney deposit over 'Structure 1'	222
89	Fill of ditch C84	325
95	Single fill of feature C94	57
97	Single fill of furrow/gulley C96	3
112	Single fill of ditch C111	2806
116	Deposit around stones C115	130
124	Upper fill of kiln C122	98
125	Lower fill of kiln C122	30
126	Basal fill of kiln C122	5
127	Basal fill of ditch C111	7
132	Single fill of ditch C131	1367
133	Basal fill of ditch C84	155
136	Fill of ditch C55	50
139	Main fill of ditch C138	1474
140	Basal fill of ditch C138	152
141	Wall	164
143	Single fill of gulley C142	2
147	Single fill of ditch C146	2552
149	Charcoal rich deposit	416
154	Deposit surrounding C153	493
155	Deposit surrounding wall C151	52
156	Heat-affected deposit	47
159	Cut for possible kiln C148	103
164	Upper fill of pit C163	1
168	Single fill of ditch/gulley C167	54
172	Single fill of drain C171	33
174	Charcoal rich deposit	108
178	Single fill of drain C175	5
181	Fill of ditch C37	582
182	Fill of ditch C37	509
187	Fill of foundation trench C186	56
188	Ditch	224
189	Single fill of ditch C188	205
196	Basal fill of ditch C195	12
197	Upper fill of ditch C195	1248
198	Middle fill of ditch C195	1
203	Non archaeological	163
205	Middle fill of ditch C204	269
206	Upper fill of ditch C204	438
207	Basal fill of ditch C204	227
221	Deposit around wall C220	4
223	Single fill of ditch C222	38
Total weight		32030

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