

## Appendix 12.2

Excavated Sites near proposed  
development

**Published information from [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie) for sites within and close to the proposed development site**

Excavated sites within the proposed development site

**2009: 638, Carranstown, Meath**

**County:** Meath **Site name:** CARRANSTOWN

**Sites and Monuments Record No.:** N/A **Licence number:** 08E0670

**Author:** Dáire Leahy, ADS Ltd, 110 Amiens Street, Dublin 1.

**Site type:** Prehistoric pits

**ITM:** E 674301m, N 759046m

**Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees):** 53.576034, -6.878087

A series of three isolated pits were uncovered during monitoring at the site of a waste incinerator at Carranstown, near the village of Duleek, Co. Meath. These pits were excavated between October 2008 and February 2009. Each of the pits contained evidence of burning, and in the case of two of these this was in the form of burnt and heat-shattered stone. Charcoal from each of the pits returned dates of 3010–2880 cal BC, 2870–2580 cal BC and 1930–1770 cal BC (all 2 sigma). With the exception of a piece of flint microdebitage from one of the pits, no further artefactual remains were recovered from them. It is suggested that these features may have been related to more intensive activity that was revealed, to the north, at the Platin quarry.

Summary of excavations close to the proposed development site

**RMP Site Number: ME027-103**

**2003:1381 – Cruicerath and Carranstown, Meath**

**County:** Meath **Site name:** Cruicerath and Carranstown

**Sites and Monuments Record No.:** N/A **Licence number:** 03E0465

**Author:** Goorik Dehaene, Glascarn, Ratoath, Co. Meath, for Arch Tech Ltd.

**Site type:** Fulacht fiadh

**ITM:** E 704616m, N 772578m

**Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees):** 53.692423, -6.415959

A programme of excavation was undertaken within the proposed westward extension of Platin Quarry in the townlands of Cruicerath and Carranstown, in north-east Co. Meath. The site is located to the west of the Irish Cement Ltd quarry at Platin, 5km to the south-west of Drogheda and 3km north-north-east of Duleek.

Topsoil removal in this area was monitored (02E1716) and a large burnt spread was identified. The site is on level ground at the base of a south-facing slope. The subsoil varies in the area of the fulacht site, where it is a clay to the north and a sandy silt to the south. The site is within an irregular-shaped area measuring a maximum of 40m east-west by 35m, at the base of a south-facing slope. It is bisected by the townland boundary between Cruicerath and Carranstown.

Structure 1 comprised 75 stake-holes (diameter 0.04-0.08m) under a burnt spread. They form a semicircular arc with fourteen larger stake-holes in the centre which do not form any identifiable pattern. The stake-holes are contained within an area measuring 8m east-west by 2.5m.

Structure 2 comprises a shallow (maximum 0.3m) irregular burnt spread measuring 2.6m east-west by 2.1m, overlying a series of 37 stake-holes. It filled a shallow rounded depression. The stake-holes form an irregular 'U' shape aligned north-south. This feature has been interpreted as a possible sweathouse.

(Possible) Structure 3 comprised a C-shaped cut, measuring c. 3m by 1.2m, filled with very similar

material to the overlying burnt spread. The cut was regular, with vertical edges and a flat base. The feature has been provisionally interpreted as a structure.

Several similar features were excavated during an earlier excavation in Field 3, to the east of the site (Excavations 2002, No. 1434, 02E1306). Three ditches were identified (not including the townland boundary, see below). They cut through the large burnt spread, which covered an irregular area measuring c. 40m (east-west) by c. 35m. It had a maximum depth of 0.3m and is composed of charred material associated with intensely fire-cracked stone (limestone and sandstone, c. 1:1 ratio, the fire-cracked stone measured c. 0.05 by 0.04 by 0.04m). It overlay pits and troughs and was cut by later ditches. A curvilinear ditch defined the southern limit of the feature.

Trough 1 was oval (1.8m north-west/south-east by 1.6m). The fills comprised intensely fire-cracked stone (average 0.03m by 0.09m by 0.04m) overlying and underlying an organic fill containing fire-cracked stone. In the base of the trough eight stake-holes were recorded; these have been provisionally interpreted as the possible remains of an organic (perhaps wattle) trough within the cut.

Subcircular Trough 2 was 0.8m north-west of Trough 1. Evidence for an internal structure formed with stakes (similar to Trough 1) and a possible clay lining was found. A shallow gully linked this feature with Trough 3 (a circular tapered possible trough c. 0.4m to the north-west; see below).

Trough(?) 3 was of a subcircular cut (c. 1.4m in diameter), tapering to the base, filled with burnt spread material. This burnt material formed the upper fills of Trough(?) 4 (below).

Trough(?) 4 was a rectangular cut aligned north-south (measuring 5.45m north-south by 2.75-3.5m), with a large deep (2.2m in diameter and a depth of 2.39m from surface level) circular pit at its northern end. This circular pit was truncated by the townland boundary. It was filled with the same material as Trough(?) 3. The lower fills comprised organic layers. Two stakes were recovered from this organic material.

A shallow rounded pit (1.1m east-west by 0.9m, maximum depth 0.2m) with a shallow (c. 0.1m) gully running eastwards (for up to c. 4.4m, where it is cut by the curvilinear ditch that defines the southern limit of the burnt spread) was also found. The feature also comprises thirteen stake-holes and three post-holes, concentrated around the pit and the western portion of the gully.

The site has been provisionally interpreted as a fulacht fiadh. The exact use of this site, whether domestic, industrial or ritual (or indeed a mixture of all), will be determined through further post-excavation analysis.

**RMP Site Number: ME027-058**

**2002:1435 - Carranstown, Meath**

**County:** Meath **Site name:** Carranstown

**Sites and Monuments Record No.:** N/A **Licence number:** 02E1306

**Author:** Goorik Dehaene, 70 The Square, Riverbank, Drogheda, Co. Louth, for Arch-Tech Ltd.

**Site type:** Fulacht fiadh

**ITM:** E 674301m, N 759046m

**Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees):** 53.576030, -6.878080

Testing was undertaken at the site of a proposed extension to Platin Quarry in Carranstown, Co. Meath. A cultural heritage report regarding the proposed extension identified a probable fulacht fiadh, which was assessed by this test excavation. The test-trench was oriented north-east/south-west and measured 15.8m by 1.5m, with an average depth of 0.4m.

Two features of interest were uncovered, both cutting the natural, yellow, mineral clay. One was a narrow linear feature, 0.17m deep, 0.32m wide and oriented north-east/south-west, containing burnt spread material. A second, larger linear feature oriented north-west/south-east was identified to the west of the first. It was 1.5m wide, with a maximum depth of 0.95m. The cut of this ditch feature was

U-shaped.

Burnt spread material characteristic of fulachta fiadh was identified in the trench, but no surviving mound feature was present. It is almost certain that archaeological features as yet unidentified are situated in the vicinity of this test-trench.

The area was excavated in spring 2003 (licence 02E1306 ext.) and will be reported on in the bulletin for 2003 (2003:1366 below).

### **2003:1368 - Carranstown, Meath**

**County:** Meath **Site Name:** Carranstown

**Sites and Monuments Record No.:** N/A **Licence number:** 03E1747.

**Author:** Goorik Dehaene, Glascarn, Ratoath, Co. Meath, for Arch Tech Ltd.

**Site type:** Barrow?

**ITM:** E 674302m, N 759046m

**Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees):** 53.576030, -6.878080

A programme of excavation was undertaken within the proposed westward extension of Platin Quarry in the townland of Carranstown, located in north-east Co. Meath. The site is to the west of the Irish Cement Ltd quarry at Platin, 5km to the south-west of Drogheda and 3km north-north-east of Duleek.

Topsoil removal within the southern portion of Field 4 was monitored (02E1716 ext. 1). A circular feature associated with pits and post-holes (Features 4, 7 and 9) was identified, associated with sherds of prehistoric pottery, worked flint, a possible hammerstone and several probable rubbing stones. Fragments of cremated bone were also recovered. A number of prehistoric pits and linear features (Features 1, 2, 3, 10 and 11) were also identified. These also produced sherds of prehistoric pottery and flint.

### **2004:1195 - Carranstown, Meath**

**County:** Meath **Site Name:** Carranstown

**Sites and Monuments Record No.:** N/A **Licence number:** 03E0790

**Author:** Goorik Dehaene, for Arch-Tech, Glascarn, Ratoath, Co. Meath

**Site type:** Fulacht fia etc.

**ITM:** E 674302m, N 759046m

**Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees):** 53.576030, -6.878080

Testing and full excavations undertaken in the townland of Carranstown, Co. Meath. Testing followed the findings of a cultural heritage report (Baker 1999), which identified a 'probable fulacht fiadh', and a subsequent geophysical survey (conducted by GeoArc Ltd, 02R0119) that identified several geophysical anomalies.

Four trenches were excavated by hand to assess a probable fulacht fiadh. The location of the trenches was determined following consideration of the geophysical anomalies. Burnt-spread material, up to a maximum depth of 0.78m, was identified in the base of the Trench 1. A large ditch feature at least 3m in width was identified in Trench 2. This was filled with dark-blackish-grey mottled humic silty clays up to 1m in depth and overlay a deposit of stones; it correlates well with a geophysical anomaly. Although no archaeological material was encountered in this trench, it was noted that the topsoil contained thin (max. depth 0.01m) lenses of compact mid-grey sandy silt. These lenses have been interpreted as indicators of topsoil deposition through silting.

Excavation of a fulacht fiadh and burnt-spread activity was carried out subsequent to the test excavation. The depth of topsoil varied from the north (most elevated) to the south (lowest) of the field. The depth of topsoil was c. 0.2m in the north and over 2m in some portions of the south of the field. Random samples of the topsoil were retained; these were wet-sieved but no artefacts were retrieved.

Twenty archaeological features have been excavated extending over the entire site (130m east-west by

55m). The site has been subject to ancient topsoil erosion and deposition forming several phases of activity (as was noted during testing). The earliest phase comprises a possible Mesolithic pit (based on the recovery of a large chert blade) followed by burnt-spread and fulacht fiadh activity associated with an ancient river. Material associated with this phase includes a portion of a polypod bowl and an abundance of animal bone, including one piece of bone worked into a point. Subsequent activity is sealed stratigraphically from this earlier phase with up to c. 1m of redeposited topsoil, which also covers the ancient river. This later phase includes a trough and hearth with which a hollow scraper is associated.

The features included in these phases include large pits, sweathouses, several troughs associated with smaller pits, gullies and ditches.

This substantial fulacht fiadh and burnt-spread activity area has also produced worked wood, the axe signatures on which have been identified as Bronze Age in date. The presence of possible Mesolithic and Neolithic material together with the evidence of erosion and deposition of topsoil over a large area indicate the continual prehistoric development within this site.

This site is contained within a wider archaeological landscape including a possible barrow (Excavations 2003, No. 1368, 03E1747), a large fulacht fiadh (Excavations 2003, No. 1381, 03E0465), Bronze Age settlement and truncated fulacht fiadh (Excavations 2002, No. 1434, 02E1306 ext.), Neolithic settlement (Excavations 2003, No. 1367, 02E1716 ext. 2) and medieval settlement (Excavations 2003, No. 1378, 03E0264).

#### **2004:1196 – Carranstown, Meath**

**County:** Meath **Site name:** CARRANSTOWN

**Sites and Monuments Record No.:** N/A **Licence number:** 04E0714

**Author:** Ellen O'Carroll, The Archaeology Company, 17 Castle Street, Dalkey, Co. Dublin.

**Site type:** Prehistoric

**ITM:** E 705559m, N 771349m

**Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees):** 53.681198, -6.402101

Archaeological investigations in the townland of Carranstown, 2km north of Duleek, Co. Meath, were carried out from 18 to 27 May 2004. The area will be an extension of the existing quarry and will be blasted to retrieve limestone used in the cement-making process, which takes place at Irish Cement Ltd's Platin cement factory to the north-east of Carranstown. Cultural heritage reports (Johnston and Baker 2001), a geophysical survey (02R0119), testing (Excavations 2002, No. 1434, 02E1306; No. 1435, 02E1586; Excavations 2003, No. 1367, 03E0789), monitoring (Excavations 2003, No. 1367, 02E1716, 02E1716 ext. 1) and several excavations (Excavations 2002, No. 1434, 02E1306; Excavations 2003, No. 1378, 03E0264; No. 1381, 03E0465; No. 1368, 03E1747; No. 1381, 03E0790) have all been undertaken in the past few years in areas to the south and south-west of the development site, which have yielded information on prehistoric and medieval activity.

Under this licence, the site was divided into five small sites. These consisted of four charcoal spreads (Sites 1-3 and 8) and a curvilinear feature (Site 7). Sites 1 and 2 were discounted during investigation, as Site 1 was a tree bole and Site 2 was destroyed by track marks. Site 3 was found to comprise six smaller separate archaeological features. Finds included prehistoric pottery and worked flint. Site 7, the curvilinear ditch, is also prehistoric, containing bone, pottery, flint and a possible amber bead within its fills. Site 8 was a shallow pit. The artefacts retrieved during the investigations suggest a definite prehistoric date for the excavated archaeological remains.

#### *References*

Dehaene, G. and MacDomhnaill, B. 2003 Preliminary report on archaeological excavation at site proposed extension, Platin Works Quarry, Cruicerath, Co. Meath. Unpublished report. Arch-Tech.  
Dehaene, G. and Kjellberg, A. 2004 Preliminary report on archaeological excavation at site proposed extension, Platin Works Quarry, Cruicerath, Co. Meath. Unpublished report. Arch-Tech.

Johnston, S. and Baker, C. 2001 Cultural heritage section of Platin Quarry extension environmental impact statement.

**2004:1524 – Carranstown, Meath**

**County:** Meath **Site name:** CARRANSTOWN

**Sites and Monuments Record No.:** N/A **Licence number:** 05E1324

**Author:** Linda Hackett, Headland Archaeology Ltd, Unit 1, Wallingstown Business Park, Little Island, Cork.

Ellen O'Carroll, The Archaeology Company, 17 Castle Street, Dalkey, Co. Dublin.

**Site type:** Burnt Mound

**ITM:** E 674302m, N 759046m

**Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees):** 53.576030, -6.878080

The excavation of four separate features in Carranstown, Co. Meath, previously revealed during monitoring of topsoil-stripping, was commissioned by Irish Cement Ltd. Complete resolution of all the features was not immediately possible due to the fact that what was initially thought to have been two separate fulachta fiadh spreads in fact connected and formed a large, single burnt spread.

The single burnt mound, measuring c. 8m (east–west) by 7.5m, was excavated fully in 2006. On removal of quadrants of the burnt mound, four subsoil-cut pits or troughs were revealed. This included one which had an oak plank placed at its base. A total of 22 flint pieces were found, three in secure features and three from underneath the burnt spread itself. No surface finds were recovered due to the earlier work carried out in February 2005. Radiocarbon dating revealed that the timber found dated to 3622638 BC. The area of archaeological potential was fully excavated and no further mitigation for this specific area is proposed.

**2003:1378 - Carranstown, Meath**

**County:** Meath **Site Name:** Cruicerath

**Sites and Monuments Record No.:** N/A **Licence number:** 03E0264

**Author:** Goorik Dehaene, Glascarn, Ratoath, Co. Meath, for Arch Tech Ltd.

**Site type:** Medieval

**ITM:** E 704426m, N 771560m

**Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees):** 53.683321, -6.419185

A programme of excavation was undertaken within the proposed westward extension of Platin Quarry in the townland of Cruicerath, located in north-east Co. Meath. The site is to the west of the present Irish Cement Ltd quarry at Platin, 5km to the south-west of Drogheda and 3km north-north-east of Duleek. Topsoil removal was monitored (licence number 02E1716). The site was identified as a series of linear features associated with several pits. These features were associated with sherds of medieval pottery. It is suggested that the site comprises a truncated medieval settlement. The entire site is contained within a rectangular area 50m east-west by 20m and is located on a level area at the top of a south-facing slope.

Excavation was carried out between February and April 2003. Approximately 530 sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from ten features. No stratigraphic relationship can be formed between many of the features recorded. The depth of topsoil overlying this site was very shallow (maximum 0.2m), which has undoubtedly led to disturbance/truncation due to modern agricultural practices. However, the features all respect a common orientation. Two structures, three ditches, three irregular pits and a fulacht fiadh-type trough were excavated.

Structure 1 encloses a rectangular area c. 20m north-south by c. 9.5m. The main element of this feature has been interpreted as a 'drip trench', measuring 0.6-1.3m in width and c. 0.5m in depth. The trench contained five fills, which in turn contained various artefacts (iron, pottery and flint are all represented), the majority of which are medieval pottery sherds. No structural evidence was identified, therefore it is suggested that the feature has been heavily truncated by agricultural activity.

It is possible that the structures constructed on this site comprise turf/sod-built walls, which have not been preserved. A shallow hearth (0.14m) to the north of this structure was also identified.

Structure 2 consists of a linear feature similar to the 'drip trench', comprising part of Structure 1; it is F-shaped in plan and is aligned east-west. It measures 14.2m east-west by c. 7m. Two phases have been identified. The first is a U-shaped cut (6m by 0.5m by 0.2m maximum) aligned east-west and forming the small bar of the 'F' shape. This is cut by a later, less regular, shallow cut (1.2-0.1m in width and 0.18-0.06m in depth). The fills of this feature contained medieval pottery.

Also found were ditches filled with various silts and the very occasional sherd of medieval pottery. The profile of these ditches was predominantly V-shaped, and measured c. 1.5m maximum in width and c. 0.5m in depth. They formed boundaries between the structures and also formed the northern limit of the site.

Three features provisionally interpreted as pits have been recorded. They contained stone, charcoal and pottery. They had a maximum length of c. 8.2m and depth of c. 0.4m.

A fulacht fiadh-type trough measuring 1.7m by 0.52m by 0.21m was aligned north-east/south-west. It had vertical edges and a flat base and contained burnt-spread material. No other burnt-spread material was identified on-site.

Initial analysis of the morphology of the features recorded shows some similarities with other medieval rural settlement sites, although detailed comparisons have not yet been undertaken. The material recovered from the site, in particular the pottery sherds, has been provisionally dated to the 13th/14th centuries. No earlier or later pottery has been recovered from the sealed contexts on the site. This indicates the strong possibility that the site fell into disuse after the 14th century

A programme of excavation was undertaken within the proposed westward extension of Platin Quarry in the townland of Cruicerath, located in north-east Co. Meath. The site is to the west of the present Irish Cement Ltd quarry at Platin, 5km to the south-west of Drogheda and 3km north-north-east of Duleek.

Topsoil removal was monitored (licence number 02E1716). The site was identified as a series of linear features associated with several pits. These features were associated with sherds of medieval pottery. It is suggested that the site comprises a truncated medieval settlement. The entire site is contained within a rectangular area 50m east-west by 20m and is located on a level area at the top of a south-facing slope.

### **2017:085 - Carranstown, Meath**

**County:** Meath **Site Name:** Cruicerath

**Sites and Monuments Record No.:** N/A **Licence number:** 17E0003

**Author:** Jon Stirland, Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit, Unit 21 Boyne Business Park, Greenhills, Drogheda, Co Louth

**Site type:** Bronze Age, 12th/13th century-pits

**ITM:** E 705460m, N 771041m

**Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees):** 53.678448, -6.403709

The entire area was cleaned by hand and a total of 17 features of an archaeological nature were recorded. For the purposes of this excavation the site was subdivided into two areas – Areas A and B.

#### **Area A**

Three archaeological features were exposed in Area A and consisted of a narrow shallow linear feature (approximately 20m in length) and two elongated shallow oval pits containing deposits of stone. These three features produced a large assemblage of pottery (147 sherds). Unlike the features recorded within Area B, these sherds formed an assemblage of medieval pottery containing a range of medieval domestic cooking and table wares with a date range between the 12th and 13th century.

## **Area B**

Fourteen features were identified within Area B and formed a sub-circular formation of 12 large post-holes and two pit-type features that had been cut by post-holes. On average this sub-circular group of post-holes had an external diameter of 8m. Each post-hole had an average width of 0.8m and an average depth of 0.8-0.95m. The size and general appearance of the post-holes strongly indicate that they represent the foundations of a large wooden structure. The post-holes produced a sizable assemblage of prehistoric pottery of possible Bronze Age type (293 sherds). The pottery is currently being analyzed by Dr. Eoin Grogan and the results will be included in the final report. The post-holes also produced a small assemblage of worked flint artefacts and worked stone artefacts including a number of blades and flakes. The stratigraphy within the post-holes generally appeared to suggest that the structure was dismantled and that the posts did not degrade in-situ. A number of the post-holes contained very clear evidence of packing material and it was within this post-packing material that the sherds of prehistoric pottery and lithic material was recorded.

No further features suggesting that the structure was a Bronze Age roundhouse were identified within Area B. It is possible however, that more ephemeral/shallow features may have been removed by modern ploughing. Features such as a circular slot trench, drip gully and evidence of a hearth were not present. It may also be possible however that the post-holes represent a sub-circular timber structure rather than that of a dwelling. Similar circular post-hole structures have been recorded nearby in the townlands of Lagavooren and Balgatheran, however the post-holes associated with those structures produced late Neolithic pottery