

Appendix 11C

Archaeological Investigations Carried Out in the Study Area

NEWTOWN: Site of motte and Bailey: SMR 14:13: 01E1214

In November 2001 seven test pits were monitored in connection with the pre-development works for a proposed waste recycling facility in the townland of Newtown, Kilshane, Co. Dublin. No artefacts or features of archaeological significance were identified during the monitoring (Rooney 2001).

NEWTOWN: Site of motte and Bailey: SMR 14:13: 01E1214 ext

An archaeological assessment of a proposed waste recycling facility in the townland of Newtown, Kilshane, Co. Dublin, found that one monument, the site of a possible motte and bailey, was located within its boundary. The site was inspected in 1952 by a representative from the National Museum of Ireland, prior to its demolition as part of a land project scheme. The monument was recorded as a circular platform 28m in diameter and 3m in height. The base of the flat-topped platform was enclosed by a wide ditch, which was in turn enclosed by an oval earthwork (100m by 70m). At present the site is only visible as a soil-mark on aerial photographs. The test excavation consisted of the machine excavation of nineteen test trenches in July – August 2002 that were set across the entire application area. None of the trenches produced any significant archaeological features. The area tested had undergone large scale land improvement and was crossed by numerous field drains. The archaeological assessment report recommended a buffer zone to the monument and that recommendation has been followed by the current development proposal. Monitoring of ground disturbance at the site was recommended by the assessment (Fitzpatrick 2002).

TEST AREA 1, COLDWINTERS: No archaeological significance 02E1353 ext.

The excavation of engineering test-pits on the N2 Road Improvement Scheme was monitored in September and October 2003. No archaeological features were exposed.

COLDWINTERS: No archaeological significance: 03E1450

This work was undertaken as part of a programme of testing, ahead of the construction of the N2 Road Improvement Scheme. A single oval pit, measuring 0.9m by 0.4m by 0.13m deep (maximum), was uncovered.

COLDWINTERS / NEWTOWN: Prehistoric/medieval: 05E0236

Test excavation (Licence no. 05E0236) of ringfort DU014-006001- was undertaken in advance of the industrial park development. A strategy of open area testing was adopted to find the extent of remains. A total of 33 features were identified including human remain, pits, postholes, stakeholes, hearths and large ditch features. The testing confirmed the presence of large ditches illustrated on the OS maps in the form of two enclosing ditches and a bank between. The burials, aligned east-west, are located to the north-east quadrant of the ditches cut into its fill indicating a later deposition. The burials and eastern quadrant of the site was preserved in situ under the carpark of DHL. The western quadrant of the ringfort was covered in terram and stone. Now within wasteland. Drop of c.1m down to stone. No indication of significance of the site.

HUNTSTOWN: No archaeological significance: 31064 23986: 01E1108

A monitoring brief was undertaken in advance of the expansion of an existing quarry at Huntstown, Finglas, Co. Dublin. The area of topsoil-stripping was c. 10–12 acres. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted throughout all subsurface works within the development area.

BROWNSBARN- KILSHANE Bord Gáis Éireann Pipeline: Various 00E0043

Monitoring of topsoil construction for the southern section of the new North-Eastern Pipeline 3 was carried out in mid-2000. In the townland of Mitchelstown two modern metal surfaces were revealed. A shallow charcoal-rich pit was found to the north of this.

KILSHANE: Neolithic segmented enclosure: Early Bronze Age activity 311000 242900: 03E1359 ext.

This excavation was undertaken as part of the archaeological mitigation in advance of the N2 Road Improvement Scheme. Site 5a: The earliest activity is defined by the construction and infilling of a large ditched enclosure dating to mid-Neolithic times. It had maximum external dimensions of 45m northwest/south-east by 34m. The enclosure was almost egg-shaped, coming to a notable point (the 'apex') in the north. The ditch had been excavated in a series of interconnecting regular and irregular segments. Once the initial natural slumping and silting in the base of the ditch began, a large volume of animal bone was deposited around the full circumference of the ditch. The bone assemblage, consisting of 60-70 individual cattle, is the largest Neolithic bone assemblage from an excavated context (Finbar McCormick, pers comm.).

The cattle bone was placed in both a disarticulated and articulated state with apparent selection of certain bones, such as vertebra or long bones, to be deposited together. A further series of infillings took place, culminating in the placement of pottery within the ditch. This consisted of a large mid-Neolithic broad-rimmed, round bottomed vessel, which appears to have been deliberately placed on top of this sealing deposit in the south-eastern portion of the ditch. Other fragmentary pieces of ceramic material were recovered from just above the bone layer in the north-western section of the enclosure ditch and these also may prove, using thin section analysis, to be Neolithic. The enclosure then appears to have been abandoned for a considerable period.

The next phase of major activity at the site occurs in the Early to Middle Bronze Age, with the deposition within the ditch of a relatively uniform deposit of orange sandy clay. This appears to have been deliberately placed into the ditch around its full circumference, possibly to seal the earlier (Neolithic) activity. The deposition of the orange clay appears to have been immediately preceded by deposition of charcoal / wood lenses, especially in the western portion of the enclosure.

The next phase of activity at Site 5a occurs during the Early Bronze Age. This activity consists primarily of a series of deposits and features associated with the later stages of the main enclosure ditch and a series of cut features, some of which, based on ceramic associations, may date to the Earlier Bronze Age.

During the course of the excavation of the interior of the main enclosure, a number of features were uncovered which gave the impression of having been cleaned out (sterilised) in antiquity. Several appear to have been pits for probable unprotected cremations, with much of the cremation deposits (and the putative pots into which they were placed) having been 'cleaned out' of the pits as the material was deposited into the ditch.

The only intact burial was that of a single crouched inhumation, located south of the centre point of the enclosure. The burial was orientated east-west in a shallow oval pit with no evident grave goods. It was in an extremely degraded condition due to the nature of preservation. The grave might have been tampered with, which may account for the lack of grave goods.

A further series of rather irregular features was also encountered within the interior of the enclosure and these consisted of irregularly shaped pits, which contained small amounts of charcoal and occasionally burnt bone and pottery. The pottery recovered appeared to date to the Early Bronze Age. Only one feature, a hearth, represents activity later in the Bronze Age.

KILSHANE: No archaeological significance: Various (centred on c. 115 424) 04E1191

The diversion of two gas pipelines by Bord Gáis was monitored over two and a half weeks in August and September 2004. The removal of topsoil and excavation of the pipeline trenches were supervised and no archaeological features or artefacts were uncovered.

NEWTOWN: Burnt spread: 31155 24233: 03E1450 ext.

The site (Site 1) was excavated as part of the archaeological mitigation in advance of the N2 Road Improvement Scheme between 6 and 20 April 2004. Excavation was carried out in two separate areas separated by c. 15m. Area 1 measured c. 20m by 13m and contained the remains of a spread of burnt-mound material, measuring 3.5m by c. 10m with an average depth of 0.15m, which was located adjacent to and south of a natural waterlogged peat basin. This basin measured c. 15m east-west and extended beyond the limit of excavation to the north. Two pits and a sub-circular trough containing heat-shattered stones and charcoal-rich deposits were excavated in the vicinity of the burnt spread. No archaeological finds were encountered during the excavation. Within the peat basin a large number of preserved timbers were encountered. While most of the wood consisted of natural brushwood and branch material, two large split roundwood logs were positioned roughly parallel to each other. Although no evidence of woodworking was apparent, it cannot be ruled out that they may have been deliberately deposited within the basin to serve as an artificial subdivision, possibly contemporary with the burnt spread.

Area 2, c. 15m to the north of Area 1, covered an area measuring in total 24m². The only archaeological feature encountered here was a small and shallow isolated deposit of burnt-mound material. No finds were recovered. The proximity and nature of this deposit could indicate that it was contemporary with the burnt-mound material in Area 1.

KILSHANE: Christian Cemetery: 0106431.

This site lies on flat, low lying land about half a mile to the west of the N2.

The Remains: The site was discovered when topsoil removal uncovered the remains of several skeletons and areas of disturbed bone. Excavation revealed the remains of 123 individuals, many of whom were children and adolescents. There was no enclosing element, though a linear ditch which appeared to be an old field boundary was revealed at the north of the excavated area. No historic references have yet been found for this site but a more detailed study of the documentary sources may yield some information on it.

The Burials: Burial occurred on a c.21m stretch of the pipeline corridor and only on the western side of the area excavated (which was an 8m wide strip running beneath the spoil heap of topsoil). Burial probably extended beyond the western limit of the pipeline corridor. The area to the east was

intensively trenched and no further burials were located. There was thus a dramatic density of burial in the small area excavated as many as 3-4 individuals (one on top of the other in places).

While the burials were aligned east-west, in the Christian mode, the burial alignment was far more haphazard than had been noted on the other sites investigated during the same pipeline campaign. Some of the bodies appeared to have been buried either in rigor mortis or in a very hurried manner, as some were crouched, folded or lying to one or other side and there appeared to be little regard in many cases for the position of the hands. The remains of at least ten infants / young children occurred among those excavated.

In general, the bone was remarkably well preserved, even in the case of the infants. This may indicate that the cemetery is of relatively recent date, perhaps dating back to the Famine Period. However, the presence of stones around and under the heads of some individuals, and the presence of 'pillowstones' may indicate a rather earlier date for the site.

Other Features: Two, apparently agricultural, ditches/drains were revealed, one to the south and one to the north of the excavated area. The fill of the northernmost feature, a linear ditch 5m wide where excavated (crossed diagonally) and 1m deep, which crossed the pipeline corridor in a north west/south east direction, contained animal bone and shell. This feature appeared to be an old field boundary or open drain and could be traced as a depression crossing the field through which the pipeline corridor passed in this area. The second feature, a land drain 1m wide with a fill of stones at the base, ran north/south at the eastern limit of the site, lying outside the burial area.

Finds: The only finds retrieved were a plain blue glass bead and a fragment of a large tanged iron knife of relatively modern appearance.