

APPENDIX 14.14

Previous Excavations Undertaken Within the Receiving Environment

EX No.	AH No	Ex. Bulletin Ref.	Licence No.	Townland	Results
EX 1	AH 3	2001:799	01E0003	Robertstown	Testing at AH 3 failed to reveal any features of archaeological significance.
EX 2	-	2012:409	12E0024	Sroolane North	Early Bronze Age cremation pit. Analysis of the cremated bone confirmed that it was human and identified it as the partial remains of a young juvenile individual. The bone was radiocarbon dated to 2283–2038 cal. BC (3751±32 BP; UBA-21174), placing the burial in the Early Bronze Age.
EX 3	AH 80	2002:1249	02E0752	Rincullia	Isolated undated pit with stake holes through the base (AH 80). On initial identification, the site appeared as a subcircular, grey/brown, silty clay patch with charcoal flecking, measuring 1.2m north–south by 0.8m. Further investigation revealed a pit 0.3m deep. Five stakes, averaging 0.08m in diameter and with a maximum depth of 0.25m, were driven into the base of the pit. All of the stakes-holes were filled with the same charcoal-rich, silty peat, indicating that they were likely to have been burnt in situ.
EX 4	AH 81–83	2002:1252	02E0670	Rincullia	Burnt mound (AH81), six roasting pits (AH82) and connecting trackway (AH83). The site is in a level basin of land at the base of a steeply rising hill, 7m from a tributary of the Ahacronane River. The underlying geology is a crossover of sandstone gravel and limestone bedrock. The site measures 27m north–south by 31m and extends westward outside the limits of the Bord Gáis wayleave. It is composed of three main areas. AH 81 consisted of a circular mound, 16m in diameter and 0.84m deep. It was composed of 70% limestone and 30% sandstone in a charcoal-enriched matrix. Six phases of activity were identified in the mound. A shallow rectangular trough was present at the base of the mound, measuring 4.3m north–south by 2.45m. AH 82 measured 3.6m north–south by 4.2m and was a complex of six roasting pits excavated into the underlying gravel. The pits were subcircular, averaging 1.5m north–south by 1.2m, with an average depth of 0.4m. The roasting pits would not have retained water and were filled with burnt sandstone and limestone in a charcoal-enriched matrix. AH 83 was a trackway composed of two courses of fractured limestone bedrock, measuring 10m north–south by 15.5m. It served to connect the roasting pits of Area B to the debris mound of Area A. The need for the construction of the trackway arose during Phase 2 of the history of the site. It provided a secure, level footing to combat adverse weather conditions, the encroachment of peat and the seasonal flooding from the nearby stream.

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EX 5	AH 74	2002:1093	02E0873	Ballyellinan	Isolated pit (AH 74). The pit sides were steep, and the base was uneven, with a maximum depth of 0.1m. The primary fill was a fine, dark brown/black silt that was very rich in charcoal flecks and pieces. Some of the charcoal was up to 0.03m in diameter. The charcoal appeared fresh and suggested that the fire that produced it had occurred relatively recently. The secondary pit fill was redeposited topsoil that had been placed into the pit in order to extinguish the fire.
EX 6	-	2002:1092	02E0749	Ballyellinan	Nothing of archaeological interest was encountered
EX 7	-	2002:1094	02E0874	Ballyellinan	Non-archaeological surface burning caused by vegetation fire
EX 8	-	2003:1129	03E1690	Cloonreask	No archaeological features or artefacts were recorded in any of the trenches
EX 9	AH 87	2002:0085	02E0748	Ballycullen	<i>Fulacht fia</i> (AH 87). A large spread of fulacht fiadh material overlay an irregularly shaped deposition of preserved timber and branches, lying in the base of a large natural depression in very wet bog. The site had three distinct layers. The upper layer comprised two separate fills of burnt material. The first contained heat-shattered stones and charcoal-rich material, typically associated with a fulacht fiadh. The second fill was similar to the first but with a more intensive deposition of charcoal. The second layer was a moist peaty clay that contained minor amounts of wood. Below the peat layer was the final area of deposition contained within a hollow in the landscape lying just above a light grey, sandy marl. This was a very dark brown, waterlogged, peaty clay containing large amounts of wood and branches in a very good state of preservation.
EX 10	AH 78-79	2002:1131	02E0750	Baunreagh	Two small <i>fulachtaí fia</i> (AH 78-79). This site, a thin spread of charcoal-rich material with heat-shattered stone, was partially exposed at the edge of the pipeline corridor and measured c. 10m in diameter. No trough or other features were encountered. A small stream lying c. 6m to the east of the site continually flooded the area, making excavation extremely difficult.
EX 11	AH 77	2002:1130	02E0661	Baunreagh	Isolated undated pit (AH 77). An isolated bowl-shaped pit, 0.44m in diameter and 0.15m deep, was excavated. The fill was a fine, mid-brown silt with occasional charcoal inclusions. No artefacts were recovered, and it is not possible to date the feature. The presence of fire-oxidised clay to the south-west, however, suggests in situ burning.

EX No.	AH No	Ex. Bulletin Ref.	Licence No.	Townland	Results
EX 12	AH 75-76	2002:1129	02E0741	Baunreagh	<p>Burnt spread and six shallow pits (AH 75-76). The spread measured 5.2m north-west/south-east along the limit of excavation. It is estimated that it had a possible extent of 1.6m north-south. It was composed of a very thin deposit of charcoal-rich material and heat-shattered stones. The site was cleaned to reveal an irregular spread lying on a grey/white silty clay.</p> <p>Six shallow pits/depressions cut into the yellow/grey clay subsoil were excavated. These features were very irregular in shape, with no discernible cut. All contained heat-shattered stone and charcoal-rich material, indicating fulacht fia activity. All were fairly shallow, and the largest had a maximum length of 3.8m north-south. It is probable that they were contemporary with the adjacent fulacht fia activity. None shows any evidence of function, and they may be undulations in the natural, filled in with burnt material. The site is in very wet, boggy land</p>
EX 13	AH 85-86	2002:1229	02E0643	Milltown North	<p>Fulacht fia (AH 85) This site was the disturbed remains of a fulacht fia, with a trough and associated features. The site probably contained a large mound, lost through later agricultural activity. This was evident from traces of burnt material remaining in the baulk at the limit of excavation to the south of the site. The only visible remnants of the monument were the cut features that held the burnt material. Numerous natural undulations in the subsoil throughout the site also contained burnt material.</p> <p>A sub-oval trough measuring 2.3m east-west by 1.86m, with a maximum depth of 0.36m, was uncovered in the eastern area of the site. Numerous other pits were excavated, all irregular in shape and containing frequent amounts of burnt material. The other features associated with the site do not seem to have a regular pattern or discernible function.</p> <p>In the centre of the site a highly irregular, sublinear feature emerged. It measured 10m north-south by 1.1m, with a maximum depth of 0.45m. It contained the same burnt material as the surrounding features and had a long channel running down its centre.</p>
		2002:1231	02E0644		<p>Sherd of Bronze Age pottery and two post-holes (AH 86). A discrete cut feature was subsequently excavated and revealed to be an irregular and shallow scoop or possibly two very small and truncated post-holes. The feature measured 0.9m (north-south) by 0.7m and had a maximum depth of 0.15m. The fill was a fine, light to mid-brown, silty clay with occasional charcoal flecking and very small fragments of decayed limestone.</p>

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EX 14	-	2003:1129	02E0642	Milltown North	Burnt deposit contained modern plastic and so not considered to be of archaeological merit.
EX 15	AH 72-73	1999:505	99E0307	Ballycarrane	<p>Two <i>Fulachtaí fia</i> (AH 72-73)</p> <p>A stone well had been cut through the larger fulacht fia, AH 72, which was on a natural spring. The well was subrectangular and measured 1.8m by 1.2m. It was of drystone construction, composed of large, rectangular blocks of limestone. This stone structure was surrounded on all sides by rounded cobblestones, which filled the cut excavated through the fulacht fia mound for the well. The spring flowed very strongly, filling the well and flowing out of a specially constructed stone drain towards the low ground between the two fulachtaí fia.</p> <p>The smaller site, AH 73, had a very shallow spread of burnt material (rather than a mound) that measured 7.5m in diameter and 0.15m in maximum depth. One cut feature uncovered beneath the spread may originally have been a trough; however, this was impossible to determine as it was badly truncated on its northern side. This side of the burnt spread had also been disturbed and displaced, probably by water action during the rising and falling of the adjacent river.</p> <p>AH 72 was a much larger site with a mound measuring c. 12m in maximum diameter and 0.73m in maximum depth. It had also been very disturbed by water action on its southern and south-western side, again the side exposed to the fluctuating river levels. No other artefacts or animal bone were recovered from either of these fulachtaí fia. No additional pits, which could have served as troughs, survived.</p>
EX 16	AH 45 and 71	1998:399 and 2008:776	97E0230ext and 08E0174	Gorteen	<p>A portion of a medieval moated site was excavated (AH 45).</p> <p>Only part of the monument lay within the line and take of the N21 road, thus only this portion of the site was to be excavated.</p> <p>The results of excavations at Ah 45 proved the existence of a rectangular moated enclosure of medieval date. This would have consisted of a rectangular ditch and possible inner bank. However, no evidence was produced from the excavation of an inner raised platform, nor was there any evidence of any internal structure. This lack of evidence, however, is probably due to the fact that not enough of the inside of the enclosure was included in the area of excavation.</p> <p>During a water mains upgrade in 2008 further elements of the moated site were excavated. Excavation revealed two large north-north-east/south-south-west-orientated enclosure ditches ranging between 3.56m to 4.95m in width and 1.31m to 2m in depth, with a length of c. 9.5m within the excavated area. The fills of both ditches appeared to represent</p>

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					<p>deliberate episodes of backfilling. Four linear features were also identified between these enclosure ditches. These measured between 1.75m and 10.9m in length, 0.44m and 1.73m in width and 0.16m to 0.73m in depth and contained charcoal, animal bone and shell fragments within their fills.</p> <p>The remains of two field boundary ditches were located to the west of the enclosure ditch. These were c. 9m in length and ranged between 1m and 1.8m in width and 0.27m and 0.35m in depth.</p> <p>A large rectangular-shaped depression with associated stake-holes represented the remains of a structure located between the two enclosure ditches. This depression measured 7.4m in length, 2.9m in width and 0.62m in depth. The stake-holes formed three interconnecting lines at the western end of the depression. A second rectangular-shaped depression measuring 4.85m long by 2.25m wide, with a depth range of 0.1–0.18m, was also identified as a structure. Between these two features was a shallow elongated oval depression identified as a possible pathway. This measured 7.65m in length by 1.5m in width and had a maximum depth of 0.38m. A second pathway was located close to the inside edge of the enclosure ditch. It measured c. 11.1m in length, 4m in width and was 0.57m deep.</p> <p>Part of a large pit was identified to the north of Structure 1, the other part being beyond the area of excavation. It measured 5.89m in length, 3.2m in width (within the excavated area) and 1.11m deep and contained a total of 14 fills with charcoal and shell fragments throughout. A second pit measuring 1.59m long, 1m wide and 0.39m deep contained two fills with small stones.</p> <p>A total of four post-holes were excavated throughout the site. These ranged from 0.38m to 1.3m in length, 0.3m to 0.69m in width and 0.29m to 0.48m deep. They contained silt and clay fills with charcoal and stone.</p> <p>Two kilns were also identified. The first was located to the immediate west of the enclosure ditch. It measured 1.98m by 0.96m and had a maximum depth of 1.05m. The kiln had an approximate north–south axis with the bowl being in the southern part of the feature and the flue in the north. The natural subsoil at the base of the cut had suffered from intense burning. Three fills containing charcoal and burnt bone were identified throughout the kiln.</p> <p>The second kiln was located to the west of the field boundary ditches. The overall length of the feature measured 7.1m, with a maximum width of 2.6m and a minimum width of 0.8m. The overall depth of the kiln was 0.7m. It was keyhole-shaped, with a north-east/south-west orientation, and consisted of three parts, a bowl in the north-east, a hearth in the south-west</p>

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					<p>and a narrow flue linking the two components. The sides of the kiln were lined with stone in areas. Its four fills contained shell fragments, charcoal, gravel and stone. A metallated surface of small stones and pebbles measuring c. 7m by 3m, with a thickness of 0.01–0.05m, was located to the north of the kilns.</p>
					<p>Corn drying kiln (AH 71). Further archaeological investigations were undertaken around the area of a moated site (AH 47). This work was carried out during construction of the N20/N21 Road Improvement Scheme, in addition to the work carried out on the monument from November 1998 to January 1999 (Excavations 1998, 132-3). This further monitoring of topsoil-stripping revealed the existence of what may be a corn-drying kiln, c. 20m to the north of the moated site. The site first appeared as two large spreads of black, charcoal-rich material. Excavation of these spreads revealed that those within the northern portion of the site overlay the remains of the kiln, which had survived only to ground level. The cut of the kiln was orientated west-east, was 3.5m long and varied from 1.28m to 1.9m wide. The western half of the cut was more bulbous than the eastern, which was elongated, giving it an hourglass shape. The base of the pit was somewhat undulating, although within the more circular, eastern end the base was more bowl-shaped. Roughly hewn blocks of limestone lined the sides of the kiln, forming the foundations for the main structure. The stones survived as two courses along the eastern half of the pit sides, as well as along the southern edge of the pit. The bulbous, eastern end of the pit and the more elongated, western end of the pit were divided in section by a column of loosely stacked stones. The fill of the pit contained charcoal-rich deposits and stone rubble collapsed from the upper half of the structure. Approximately 2.3m south of the kiln another large spread of material was uncovered. This spread was roughly 4.5m long and 2.5m wide and consisted of charcoal-rich material. Investigation of the spread suggested that this was the remains of dump material from the kiln. Although no recognisable grain was recovered from the deposits, the kiln was probably used for drying corn, as it is similar in shape and construction to those previously excavated. Although no dating material was recovered from the site, the kiln's proximity to the moated site and its similarity to other kilns of medieval date give it some link to the enclosure.</p>

EX No.	AH No	Ex. Bulletin Ref.	Licence No.	Townland	Results
EX 17	AH 67	1999:481	99E0324	Ballybronoge South	<p>Ring ditch with 14 deposits of cremated bone (AH 67). Excavation revealed a penannular ring-ditch with a U-shaped profile. The ring-ditch had a maximum external diameter of 7m and a maximum depth of 0.5m. The pattern of silting in the ditch suggests that there may have been an external bank. The main fill of the ditch was a charcoal-rich silt in which fourteen token deposits of cremated human bone were found. One of the deposits contained part of a decorated bone artefact that is similar stylistically to a gaming-piece found in a cremation under a barrow at Cush (near Doon), Co. Limerick. A copper-alloy spiral ring was also found in this fill.</p> <p>These artefacts suggest a date in the Iron Age for the filling of the ditch and the deposition of the cremations</p>
EX 18	AH 70	1999:580	99E0423	Kilgobbin	<p>Excavation of the spread revealed the existence of three very badly truncated pits, set out in a triangle, all filled by a charcoal-rich, silty clay, and a number of small random post-holes (AH 70). As the pits were so badly truncated, it proved difficult to determine their extent and even more so their function. The presence of the small post-holes on site suggests that this may be the remains of a structure, where perhaps the spreads represent the remains of slots as opposed to pits.</p> <p>As no immediately datable material was recovered from the site, it is not possible at present to tell what period this activity is from.</p>
EX 19	AH 101	2008:763	08E0171	Ballybronoge South	<p>The site consisted of a hearth feature and a small post-hole. The hearth measured 0.8m long, 0.7m wide and 0.14m deep and contained a single charcoal-rich fill. The post-hole was circular in shape and measured 0.31m in diameter and 0.21m in depth. It contained a single silty clay fill with occasional charcoal flecking throughout.</p>
EX 20	AH 109	1997:236 and 2008:763	96E0379 and 08E0171	Attyflin	<p>96E0379: Two trenches were hand-excavated in areas where the heavy tree cover would allow. Trench 1 ran for 4.7m in a north-south direction, up onto the top of the mound and to the immediate east of a partially exposed large boulder.</p> <p>Two distinct phases of archaeological activity were recorded. The first saw the deposition of burnt mound material, consisting of loose, heat-shattered and burnt stone within a matrix of black, greasy, charcoal-stained, peat-like soil, creating a mound 1.16m high. This activity indicates the presence of a burnt mound, most probably a fulacht fia.</p> <p>At a later stage, a second phase of activity occurred with the cutting of a shallow hollow or pit with a formalised stone kerbing found along the top of the mound, along the southern edge of the trench. To the northern edge of the trench, the burnt mound material was overlain by a spread of larger unburned stones. This may represent an attempt to create a</p>

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					<p>formal stone surface or cairn deposit around the perimeter of the mound material and may have been associated with the activity on the top of the mound.</p> <p>08E0171: The site consisted of approximately one fifth of a horseshoe-shaped burnt mound which had been partially excavated on the northern side in 1997(Excavations 1997, No. 326, 96E0379), during works on the N20 in 1996–7. It measured 13.4m long, 5.6m wide and 0.5m deep, with a substantial amount of heat-shattered stone in a matrix of charcoal-rich silt. Upon excavation, three pits, ranging in size from 2.3–2.4m long, 0.65–3.5m wide and 0.4–1m deep, were revealed beneath the mound. All contained similar burnt-mound material. The majority of the burnt-mound feature is preserved in situ to the north of the pipeline. Two linear features were also identified. These have been interpreted as post-medieval field boundaries.</p>
EX 21	AH 107	1997:329	97E0292	Attyflin	<p>Designed landscape feature (Ah 107). Two trenches were manually excavated, the first into a section of the larger inner bank and the second into the outer bank. Both trenches measured 1m x 10m and were orientated roughly north–south.</p> <p>Trench 1 revealed evidence of a small ditch, roughly V-shaped, which extended beyond the limit of excavation in an east–west direction to the south of the bank. The ditch was 1.6m wide and 0.3m deep from its cut. The bank was constructed of redeposited subsoil, some of which presumably was upcast from the digging of the ditch. No artefacts were recovered, either from the ditch fills or elsewhere in this trench.</p> <p>In Trench 2 the bank was found to consist of a series of layers, the lowest of which contained pieces of red brick, suggesting a modern date for the feature. A nearby gully, which was filled with loosely packed stones, is interpreted as a modern drainage channel.</p> <p>While the outer bank is of modern date, no date can be suggested at this time for the inner series of banks. The stratigraphic relationship between the inner and outer series of banks could not be established during the assessment. Either the inner banks are part of the same garden feature or they may represent an earlier feature surrounded at a later stage by another bank.</p>

EX No.	AH No	Ex. Bulletin Ref.	Licence No.	Townland	Results
EX 22	AH 103	1999:478	99E0459	Attyflin	<p>Fulacht fiadh. Two phases of activity were identified. The earliest phase consisted of a subsoil-cut subcircular pit that may have been a trough. This pit measured 1.8m in maximum diameter and 0.3m in maximum depth. There was evidence for a wooden structure in the form of stake-holes in its base and surrounding its upper edges. It was filled with black, charcoal-rich soil with frequent fragments of degraded sandstone. There was also a series of shallow, irregular-shaped, subsoil-cut pits and depressions, all with an upper fill of black, charcoal-rich soil with frequent fragments of degraded sandstone. It is unclear, however, whether any of these were hearths, owing to the lack of evidence for in situ burning. No artefacts or animal bone were recovered from any of these features</p> <p>The second phase of activity consisted of ploughmarks running in three directions, east-west, north-south and north-west/south-east.</p>
EX 23	AH 111	1997:328	97E0291	Attyflin	<p>Fulacht fiadh. The site consisted of an elongated mound, approximately 12m x 8m, which was overgrown with trees and brambles. It is situated close to a stream, which now forms part of a field boundary, as well as another fulacht fia. A break in tree cover allowed a trial-trench to be excavated through the mound and extending beyond. The trench measured 1m x 10m and was orientated north-west/south-east.</p> <p>Manual excavation revealed the mound to have been constructed of a series of layers of burnt and heat-shattered stones within a dark brown to black silty soil. The stones were generally small to medium in size and variation among the layers was mainly due to stone concentration. To the north-west, at the edge of the mound, was placed a series of larger stones. Most probably these were laid down as kerbstones to minimise slippage of the burnt mound material. That the kerbing was effective was evidenced by the very small amount of mound material found beyond them.</p> <p>No artefacts were recovered which could conclusively date the feature.</p>
EX 24	AH 106	1998:380	97E0291	Attyflin	<p>Fulacht fiadh excavated in advance of the N20/N21 Adare–Annacotty road scheme in close proximity to AH 105</p>

EX No.	AH No	Ex. Bulletin Ref.	Licence No.	Townland	Results
EX 25	AH 105	1998:380	97E0291/ext	Attyflin	<p>Fulacht fiadh. The mound measures c. 15m x 13m and is slightly crescent-shaped. It was constructed of layers of heat-shattered stone, within charcoal-stained soils. Within the hollow area of the crescent, roughly on the northern side of the mound, a trough was uncovered. This measured c. 4m east-west and was 3.2m at its widest north-south. The trough was shelved or stepped, being 0.4m below present ground level, dropping to 0.7m at its deepest.</p> <p>A random scatter of post-holes or small pits was uncovered surrounding the mound, which did not appear to form any structure or pattern. It is most likely that they belong to the phase of activity of the burnt mound.</p> <p>No artefacts that could date the site were uncovered, but it is most likely of Bronze Age date.</p>
EX 26	AH 94	2002:1251	02E0832	Robertstown	<p>A spread of burnt-mound material described as 'a subcircular, grey/brown, silty clay patch with charcoal flecking, measuring 1.2m north-south by 0.8m. Further investigation revealed a pit 0.3m deep. Five stakes, averaging 0.08m in diameter and with a maximum depth of 0.25m, were driven into the base of the pit. All of the stakes-holes were filled with the same charcoal-rich, silty peat, indicating that they were likely to have been burnt in situ. Subsequently the pit had been left open and filled naturally over time. Although there is no clear indication of function for this pit, it can be concluded that there was deliberate human action and forethought involved in the use of the site.'</p>
EX 27	AH 112	n/a	Unknown	Attyflin	<p>Recorded as 'excavations – miscellaneous' by the SMR. No details on the Excavations Bulletin or NMS Archive.</p>
EX 28	AH 113	n/a	Unknown	Attyflin	<p>Recorded as 'fulacht fia' by the SMR. No details on the Excavations Bulletin or NMS Archive.</p>