



APPENDIX 12-2

**PEATLAND SURVEY
REPORT 2005**

Peatland Survey 2005

Allen, Kilberry & Coolnamóna Bogs
Counties Kildare, Laois, Meath,
Offaly, & Westmeath



By
Jane Whitaker MA MIAI

Client
DOE, H & LG

Date of Issue
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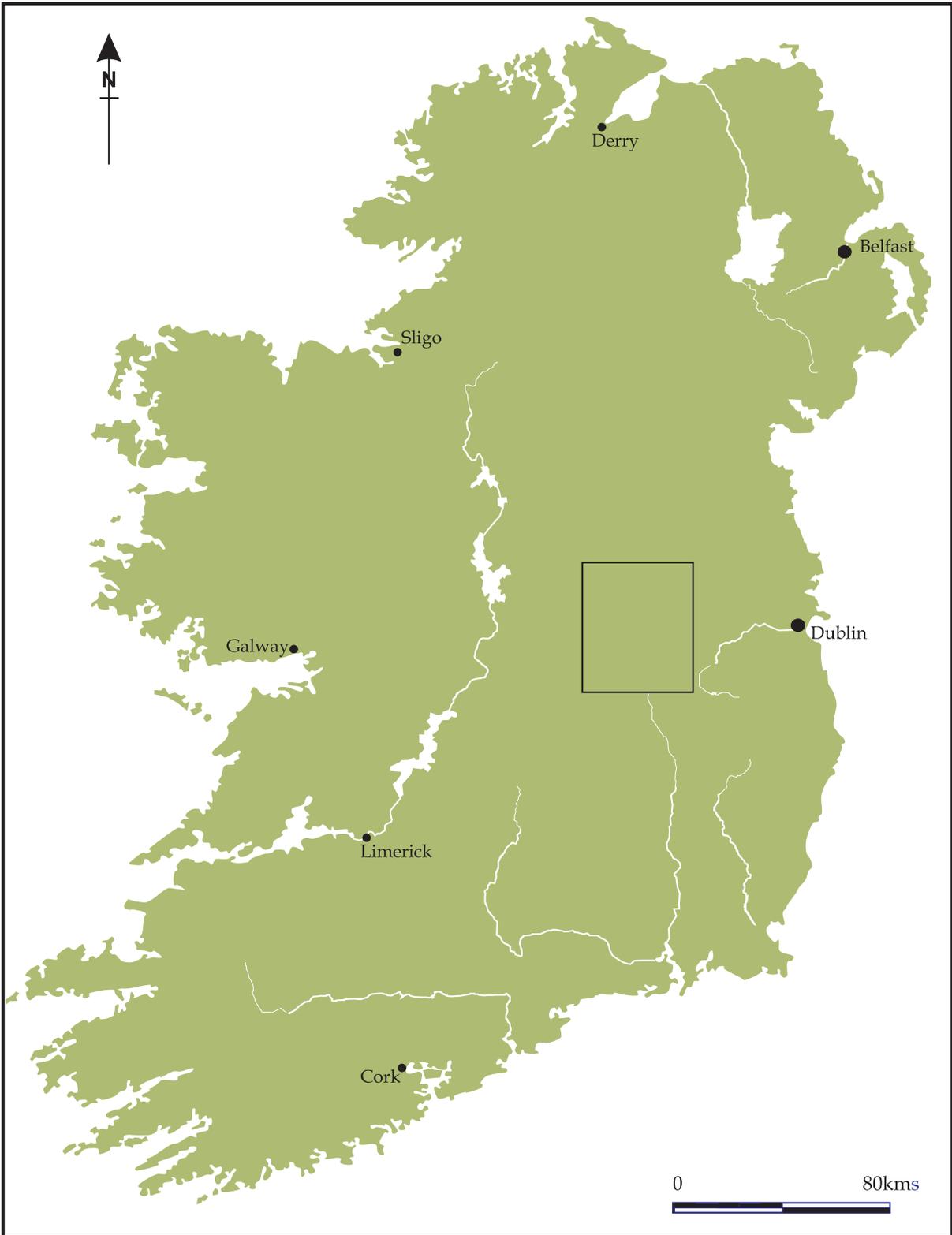


Fig. 1 Site location map.

1. Introduction

ADS Ltd. carried out a fieldwalking survey of the Bord na Móna (BnM) industrial peatlands in part of the Derrygreenagh / Allen Group of bogs in Counties Laois, Meath, Offaly and Westmeath, the Kilberry Group, Co. Kildare and the Coolnamona Group, Co. Laois (Fig. 1 and 2). This work was commissioned by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DOE, H & LG), which is responsible for the Archaeological Survey of Ireland, that is engaged at present in a descriptive survey of the archaeological heritage of the State. A discrete element of this work is the archaeological survey of peatlands with the objective of identifying and evaluating their archaeological potential. The information from this work is used for the updating of the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and also informs decisions regarding management of the archaeological resource, in particular, the formulation of strategies to adequately record sites prior to their removal by peat harvesting.

The current focus of the survey is the peatlands under the ownership of BnM, the commercial State body with responsibility for development of the national peat resource. To date approximately 65% of BnM bogs (which total c.55,000 hectares) have been surveyed, and the Derrygreenagh / Allen Group comprises 21,252 hectares of production bog.

Surveys have been carried out in the Derrygreenagh / Allen Group since 2001, concentrating

mainly in the bogs to the west of the group. In 2004 ADS Ltd carried out a survey of the eastern part of this Group and the 2005 work was composed of the remaining bogs in this general area from the Allen, Kilberry and Coolnamona Groups. The total area involved in the 2005 survey was 5,358 hectares, of which 3,416 hectares were in active production at the time of the survey. The remaining 1,942 hectares comprised a mixture of cutaway bog and overgrown bog which was also surveyed. This survey was commissioned in order to record the archaeological potential of the areas concerned.

This report outlines the results of the archaeological fieldwalking survey which recorded the surviving peat depths and topographical characteristics of each of the areas walked. The report contains information on the location and extent of the bogs surveyed as well as information on the historic peat production relevant to those bogs. The archaeological and historical background to the survey area is detailed as well as cartographic and aerial photographic research and information obtained from the Sites and Monuments Records (SMR) of DOE, H & LG and Topographic files of the National Museum of Ireland. The survey results for each of the bogs walked are described by BnM Group and then discussed according to the project specification, on a bog by bog basis, each also having accompanying maps and graphics where relevant.

2. Bord na Móna Background

LOCATION AND EXTENT OF SURVEY

The fifteen bogs selected for archaeological survey in 2005 were located in the remaining parts of the Derrygreenagh / Allen Group near Kinnegad village and south of Tullamore town in the counties of Laois, Meath, Offaly and Westmeath, the Kilberry Group, Co. Kildare north and south of Kildare town and the Coolnamona Group, Co. Laois south of the town of Portlaoise (Fig. 2).

The BnM production bogs were field walked at two drain intervals as requested in the tender documents for the 2005 Peatland Survey. The exception was the cutaway parts of Ballivor, Bracklin and Lisclogher which were walked at roughly 30m intervals as there were no drains to follow owing to the nature of historic peat production in these bogs.

PRODUCTION AREA

The majority of the bogs, with the exception of the cutaway areas mentioned above, had been in production this season. The production season was still underway as the survey was being carried out. There were areas of considerable overgrowth on some of the bogs surveyed, particularly the cutaway parts of Ballivor and Bracklin. This is due to the fact that these were originally in sod peat or 'bagger' production until the late 1980's early 1990's. These bogs have been out of production for some time, are cutaway in places and are now re-vegetating. For the purpose of this report any relevant production information is contained with the catalogue entries for each bog in Section 5.

HISTORIC PEAT PRODUCTION

The bogs surveyed in 2005 were all moss peat production bogs. Moss peat is the younger, only slightly decomposed sphagnum peat. Only the bogs where this peat type is well-developed are suitable for the exploitation of moss peat, but when this peat has been harvested the underlying peat can often be developed for milled peat production. Moss peat was first produced commercially about 1850, when it was used as horse stable litter by cavalry and artillery units (Feehan, 1996). It was also frequently used in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries for improving ground. The three BnM moss peat factories are Ballivor, Coolnamona and Kilberry. It is harvested using the Peco system in the same way as milled peat although this was not always the case. The sod peat method was the earliest form of moss peat production. This involved large sods being

cut from the bog by machine which were then dried by wind and sun. Walls of the sods were left on the bog over winter to improve the texture. They were turned and dried several times over the spring and following summer and usually collected into ricks between July and September and taken to the factory as required. The sods were then disintegrated, then milled, screened and graded. The best grade is used for gardening while it also has other uses notably in the manufacture of peat pots, for mushroom casing etc. Fibre extracted from the peat also has commercial properties – it can be used for removing odours from gases released during industrial processes or from animal manures and for lagging drainage pipes for example.

Almost a century prior to the establishment of BnM the Irish Peat Company used one of the earliest briquette-making processes, Gwynne's Dry Press, at Kilberry. The briquettes were a success and were as dense as coal, with only 9% water and a charcoal equivalent of 36%. The machinery producing the briquettes was unfortunately never able to operate successfully and the enterprise failed after ten years. Also established at Kilberry by the Irish Peat Company was a peat distillation plant, the first of its kind in the world. The aim was to produce peat gas and tar, along with a range of by-products including calcium acetate, ammonium and sulphate, methyl alcohol, paraffin wax, petroleum and lubricating oil. The peat distillation plant was initially profitable but this changed as the production costs increased over time and the plant too was abandoned in the mid 1800s.

While some of the bogs in the 2005 Peatland Survey were initially in sod peat production the majority have always been in the Peco or milled production. The sod peat bogs for the most part are currently cutaway and have become very overgrown since their production ceased in the last ten years. A brief production history of each of the bogs is described in the catalogue in Section 5 below.

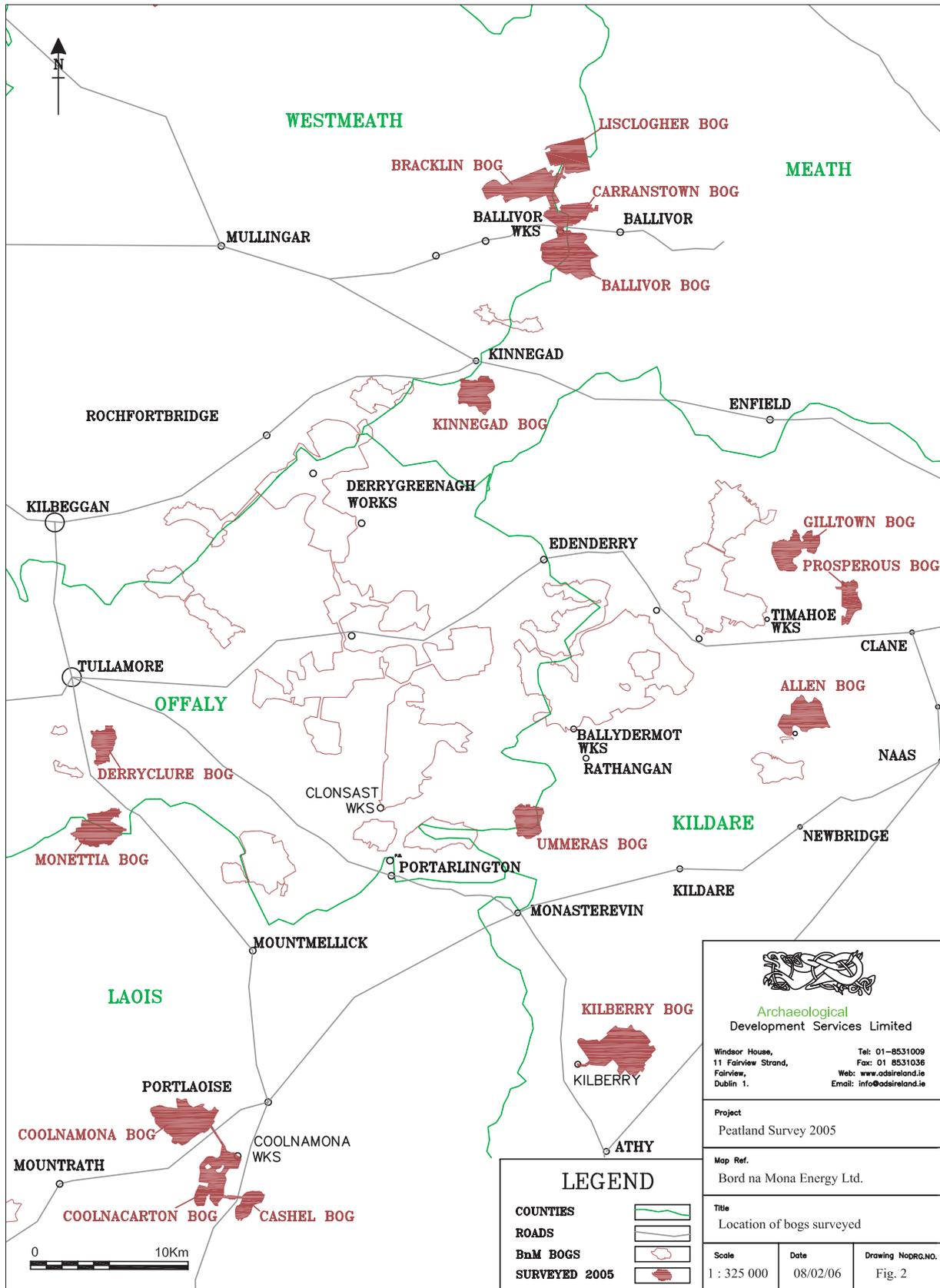


Fig. 2 2005 Peatland Survey map.

3. Background Research

CAROTGRAPHIC RESEARCH

1st edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1838, 6 inch scale

No archaeological features can be observed in the study area or in the immediate surrounding areas at this time.

2nd edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1896, 6 inch scale

There is little or no change indicated on the second edition map. The area remains exactly the same as illustrated on the first edition map. There are more field boundaries and dwellings than on the previous maps.

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

BnM provided aerial photographs for consultation. No previously unrecorded sites were noted on these photographs.

SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD (SMR)

Archaeological Survey, DOE, H & LG

The sites relevant to each of the bogs surveyed are described in the catalogue below, the following is therefore an overview of the archaeological monuments in the landscape of the study areas. There are 2 sites recorded within the BnM production bogs in the SMR record for the survey areas. These are both in the Kilberry Group and are in Allen Bog (KD018-007) and Kilberry Bog (KD030-013). The site in Allen Bog (KD018-007) was a trackway recorded in 1909. No remains of this site were discovered during the survey. The site in Kilberry Bog (KD030-013) in the townland of Cloney is an enclosure site located on the dryland Island of Derryvullagh.

There are a total of 67 recorded monuments in the areas surrounding the BnM industrial peatlands (Appendix 1). These sites span nearly a range of time periods showing a continuity of settlement tradition in this area.

The sites surrounding the Allen Group of Bogs consist of seven enclosures, fifteen ringforts, a mound, five earthworks, a church site, a cemetery site, a moated site, and four castles.

The dates of most enclosures are uncertain, and indeed there are no dates available for those around the study area. It is thought that they are most likely to be raths or ringforts and therefore are likely to date to the mid to late 1st millennium AD.

The dryland immediately around the bogs

in the Allen Group contained the largest number of ringforts of the three areas surveyed with a total of 15 recorded in the dryland surrounding the bogs. Ringforts are the most widely distributed and commonplace monuments on the Irish landscape. The results of research and excavation suggest that the ringfort was largely an Early Christian phenomenon with the majority of them dating to between c.500-c.1200AD. Ecclesiastical remains are represented by a single church site at Killaconnigan, Co. Meath (ME035-010) and a cemetery site at Cartenstown, Co. Westmeath (WM013-064). The function and date of mounds is difficult to ascertain on the basis of available evidence. Some have been destroyed like the one recorded in Derrybeg, Co. Offaly (OF025-001). Some may have been erected to cover burial sites while others may be later landscape features. Earthworks are anomalous features that are usually raised and occurring in a variety of shapes and sizes, the true nature and function of which cannot be determined by their upstanding features or from map evidence alone. Ardnamullan, Co Meath (ME046-005 & ME046-006) are recorded as three circular features on 1st edition map but no visible trace remains. Robinstown, Co. Meath (ME035-012) is a small oval site with associated field banks that could be the result of drainage

Ballynacor, Co. Westmeath (WM013-066) and Craddanstown, Co Westmeath (WM021-001) were both noted on Larkin's antiquities survey map of 1808 but field notes from 1980 state that there is no longer any trace of either site.

The Late Medieval period is represented by the moated site at Tircroghan (ME046-008) and four castles from Martinstown (WM014-017), Ballynacor (WM013-072), Bracklin (WM-14-018), Co. Westmeath and Carranstown Great (ME035-064), Co. Meath.

The dryland sites close to the bogs of the Kilberry Group, Co. Kildare consisted of four ringforts in the townlands of Curryhills (KD013-011 & KD013-012), Kilmeague (KD018-004) and Grangeclare East (KD018-005). There are eight undated enclosures from the townlands of Coologmartin (KD009-007), Gilltown (KD009-010), Ballynafagh (KD013-006), Coolsickin (KD021-003), Cloney (KD031-013), Skerries North (KD031-021), Rathconnellwood (KD031-004) and Sheean (KD031-019). Ecclesiastical remains are

represented by three church sites all with associated graveyards from Timahoe East (KD009-008), Rathernan (KD018-006) and Oldcourt (KD031-00201). The Later Medieval periods are represented by a tower house site at Kilmeague (KD018-003), a castle site in Timahoe West (KD009-009) and a decoy pond site in Coolsickin (KD021-003).

The dryland sites near the bogs of the Coolnamona Group consisted of five enclosures from the townlands of Clonkeen (LA012-002), Colt (LA018-022), Doon (LA017-015), Oldtown (LA017008), Cashel (LA018-019), a field system (LA017-006) in Oldtown and a possible holy well in Clonkeen (LA017-006).

These sites span the early historic to post medieval periods showing a continuity of settlement tradition in these areas during these times. The Prehistoric period is not represented in the sites and monuments record but there are some stray finds from the bogs that can be attributed a prehistoric date.

TOPOGRAPHIC FILES

Irish Antiquities Division, National Museum of Ireland

The Topographical files for the survey area were searched for references to the townlands within the study area (Appendix 2). No exact find spot is recorded for these stray finds but the NMI finds from bogs database specifies whether they came from the BnM owned bogs or the surrounding bogland. The stray finds are described in the catalogue entries below in relation to the bogs that they were retrieved from. The following is therefore an overview of the finds from the entire study area.

The Prehistoric period is not very well represented in the surviving monuments as noted above. There are, however, several finds from the bogs that are datable to this period showing the presence of human activity in the area at that time.

4. Survey Results

METHODOLOGY

The bogs were all walked at an interval of every second drain. Each site was marked with a four foot bamboo and noted on a field drain map. Once the bog was entirely walked these maps were compiled onto a single base map for the bog and the sites were numbered (Figs. 3-9). The bamboos were numbered and the sites recorded on site record sheets. A digital photograph was taken for each site along with a backup slide photo. Each site was located by GPS and samples were taken where necessary.

OVERALL RESULTS

A total of 37 sites were recorded during the course of the field survey (Figs. 3-9). Unlike the survey carried out in 2004 where the majority of the sites were occurrences of single worked brushwood or roundwoods the sites recorded in 2005 consisted of more substantial trackways, post rows and platform sites. Only 2 recorded sites, a stray find of a bow in Cashel Bog and a short stretch of trackway in Coolnacartan Bog were discounted as being modern in origin leaving a total of 35. These sites comprised 19 archaeological wood, 2 plank trackways, 8 possible platforms, 3 post rows and 3 toghers. Of these 35 sites 13 are considered to be resolved by the recording process while the remaining 22 may require further investigation. The urgency of further investigation is dependant wholly on the sites' depth below surface, the majority of which are over 0.20m. An overview of the recorded sites is presented in Table 1 below.

A single find was recorded during the course of the survey in Allen Bog (KD-ALN001). This was a wooden bow which was found on the field surface and is thought to date to the 20th century.

Samples from nearly all of the sites (90%) were analysed for species identification and the most prominent species identified was Alder followed by Birch with some occurrences of Willow/Poplar, Hazel Maloideae and a single piece of Ash (see Wood Identification below).

DATING RESULTS

Of the sixteen samples analysed for radio carbon dating, only a single sample was reported with units 'pMC' (percent modern carbon) rather than BP (LS-CTN002) indicating that the material was living in the last 50

years. Of the remaining fifteen samples the dates are as follows: Neolithic one site: Bronze Age seven sites: the Early Christian five sites and the Medieval two sites.

Apart from a single Early Christian date of AD 430 to 660 from a field surface site in Kinnegad bog (ME-KND004) the remaining six dates from this bog concentrated in the Bronze Age.

Two of the three sites identified in Gilltown Bog were dated. The earliest was KD-GTN005, recorded at eleven sightings varying from 0-1.14m below the field surface and subsequently dated to 1490-1200BC. The second dated site was KD-GTN001 recorded at five locations, mainly on the field surface and was dated to the early Christian period (AD660-890).

Both of the dated sites in Propserous Bog were located on the field surface and were dated to the Medieval Period. Three of the four dates from Cashel Bog were Early Christian while the fourth, a possible platform, was the earliest date from the survey and was 3780-3640BC (LA-CSL004).

WOOD IDENTIFICATION RESULTS

Wood species identification was carried out by Imogen Poole of ArchaeoScape Ltd (Appendix 3). Seven species of wood were identified from the 44 samples available which represent over 90% of the total recorded sites (Table 2). There was a single occurrence of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) while Rowan/Hawthorn (*Maloideae*) was the other lesser represented species. By far the most dominant species was Alder (*Alnus*) making up 34% of the total sample followed by Willow/Poplar (*Populus/Salix*) at 15% with Birch (*Betula*) making up 13%. Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Field Maple (*Acer*) made up 9% and 7% of the total sample respectively.

CONCLUSIONS

There were 37 archaeological sites recorded during the 2005 Peatland Survey. These sites differed from those recorded during the 2004 survey in that they were more substantial structures and that the dates returned confirmed that they were archaeological in nature. Twenty two of these sites are considered to require some form of further investigation, while the remainder are considered resolved. As mentioned above the priority of any further investigation depends on the threat to those sites involved based on their depth below the

field surface.

Areas that were completely cutaway, overgrown, and areas of disturbed and redeposited peat were encountered throughout the surveyed area particularly where the sod peat (Bagger) production was originally

employed. Based on the results of the 2004 survey it was the author's opinion that any remaining, un-surveyed, bogs in which this method of peat production has been used should have a lower priority than those in milled peat production when deciding on future surveys.

Sample No.	Conventional Radio Carbon Age	Comment
ME-KND001B	3310±70 BP	Cal BC 1750 to 1430
ME-KND004	1490±60 BP	Cal AD 430 to 660
ME-KND006	3200±60 BP	Cal BC 1610 to 1380
ME-KND010	3220±70BP	Cal BC 1650 to 1380
ME-KND011	2990±70 BP	Cal BC 1410 to 1000
ME-KND015	2880±60 BP	Cal BC 1260 to 900
ME-KND016	3120±60 BP	Cal BC 1510 to 1260
KD-GTN001a	1260±50 BP	Cal AD 660 to 890
KD-GTN005c	3090±60 BP	Cal BC1490 to 1200
KD-PPS002	900±60 BP	Cal AD 1010 to 1260
KD-PPS005	550±60 BP	Cal AD 1300 to 1450
LS-CSL004	4910±50 BP	Cal BC 3780 to 3640
LS-CSL008c	1260±50 BP	Cal AD 640 to 780
LS-CSL011	1330±50 BP	Cal AD 640 to 780
LS-CSL018	1400±70 BP	Cal AD 540 to 770
LS-CTN002	137.99±0.8pMC	Material was living in the last 50yrs

Table 1 Dating results.

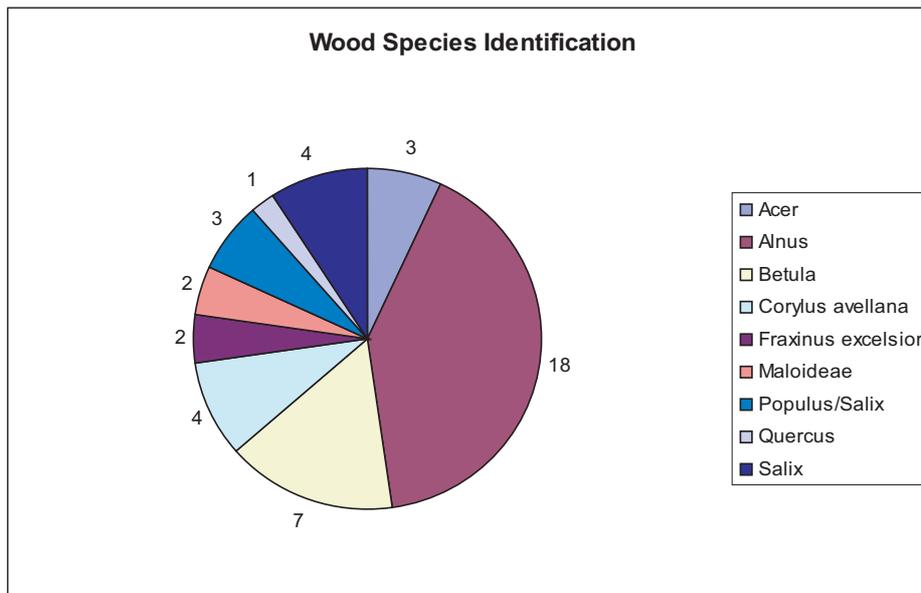


Table 2 Wood species identification.

Bog	Site No.	County	Site Type	Depth BS	Easting	North- ing	Wood Ids	Date	Status
Kinnegad	ME-KND001	Meath	Plank trackway	0.21-0.76m	259468	242566	Acer & Alnus	1750-1430BC	Requires excavation
Kinnegad	ME-KND002	Meath	Plank trackway	0.12-1m	260427	242563	Quercus	1569 ± 9BC	Requires excavation
Kinnegad	ME-KND003	Meath	Togher	0.20-0.54m	259454	242576	None	undated	Requires further investigation
Kinnegad	ME-KND004	Meath	Archaeological Wood	0m	259439	242579	Quercus	430-600AD	Resolved
Kinnegad	ME-KND005	Meath	Archaeological Wood	0.73m	259463	242578	Populus/Salix	undated	Requires further investigation
Kinnegad	ME-KND006	Meath	Archaeological Wood	0.69m	259463	242591	Corylus avellana	1610-1380BC	Requires further investigation
Kinnegad	ME-KND007	Meath	Possible Platform	0.56m	259464	242588	Corylus avellana	undated	Requires further investigation
Kinnegad	ME-KND008	Meath	Possible Platform	0.44m	259480	242585	Alnus	undated	Requires further investigation
Kinnegad	ME-KND009	Meath	Archaeological Wood	0.58m	259480	242579	None	undated	Requires further investigation
Kinnegad	ME-KND010	Meath	Possible Platform	0.62m	259480	242578	Alnus	1650-1380BC	Requires further investigation
Kinnegad	ME-KND011	Meath	Possible Platform	0.31m	259480	242584	Betula	1410-1000BC	Requires further investigation
Kinnegad	ME-KND012	Meath	Archaeological Wood	0.08m	259480	242568	Alnus	undated	Requires further investigation
Kinnegad	ME-KND013	Meath	Archaeological Wood	0.02m	259482	242570	Acer	undated	Requires further investigation
Kinnegad	ME-KND014	Meath	Archaeological Wood	0.23m	259483	242560	Alnus	undated	Requires further investigation
Kinnegad	ME-KND015	Meath	Possible Platform	0.35m	259482	242553	Maloideae	1260-900BC	Requires further investigation
Kinnegad	ME-KND016	Meath	Possible Platform	0.65m	259481	242554	Alnus	1510-1260BC	Requires further investigation
Kinnegad	ME-KND017	Meath	Archaeological Wood	0.58m	259496	242576	Betula	undated	Requires further investigation
Kinnegad	ME-KND018	Meath	Archaeological Wood	0.40m	259495	242569	None	undated	Requires further investigation
Kinnegad	ME-KND019	Meath	Possible Platform	0.93m	259558	242560	Corylus avellana	undated	Requires further investigation
Allen	KD-ALN001	Kildare	Wooden Bow	0m	280651	222466	None	undated	Resolved
Allen	KD-ALN002	Kildare	Archaeological Wood	0m	279953	221461	Betula	undated	Resolved
Prosperous	KD-PPS001	Kildare	Archaeological Wood	0.58m	283316	229258	Fraxinus	undated	Requires further investigation
Prosperous	KD-PPS002	Kildare	Archaeological Wood	0m	283426	228842	Alnus	1010-1260AD	Resolved
Prosperous	KD-PPS003	Kildare	Archaeological Wood	0m	283743	229163	Corylus avellana	undated	Resolved
Prosperous	KD-PPS004	Kildare	Archaeological Wood	0m	283743	229163	Alnus	undated	Resolved
Prosperous	KD-PPS005	Kildare	Archaeological Wood	0m	?	?	Alnus	1300-1450BC	Resolved
Gilltown	KD-GTN001	Kildare	Togher	0-0.20m	280345	233476	Alnus & Betula	660-890AD	Requires excavation
Gilltown	KD-GTN005	Kildare	Togher	0-1.14m	279842	231848	Alnus, Betula & Maloideae	undated	Requires further investigation
Gilltown	KD-GTN008	Kildare	Non-archaeological wood	0m	279763	231757	Betula	undated	Resolved
Coolnacartan	LA-CTN001	Laois	Archaeological Wood	0m	242855	192390	Salix	undated	Resolved
Coolnacartan	LA-CTN002	Laois	Non-archaeological wood	0m	244762	184468	Salix	Modern	Resolved
Cashel	LA-CSL001	Laois	Post Row	0m	246550	192117	Salix	undated	Resolved
Cashel	LA-CSL003	Laois	Archaeological Wood	0.70m	246478	191655	None	undated	Resolved
Cashel	LA-CSL004	Laois	Possible Platform	0.90m	246147	191524	Alnus	3780-3640BC	Requires further investigation
Cashel	LA-CSL006	Laois	Archaeological Wood	0m	245972	192104	None	undated	Resolved
Cashel	LA-CSL008	Laois	Post Row	0m	246944	192440	Populus/Salix, Alnus x2, Acer & Salix	640-780AD	Resolved
Cashel	LA-CSL009	Laois	Post Row	0m	246838	192388	Alnus	640-780AD	Resolved

Table 3 Summary of results.

5 Catalogue of Recorded Sites

INTRODUCTION

This section contains the full catalogue of recorded sites found during the 2005 Peatland Survey. The bogs are described by BnM Group and then discussed according to the project specification, on a bog by bog basis. Each bog has detailed background information and relevant site plots (Figs 3-9). This background information includes the location and extent of the survey, the production area and its history and a summary of the survey results. The site classifications are in keeping with those used most recently by the IAWU except in the case of the modern and suspected modern sites which are recorded as 'Wood Remains'. Each entry contains the townland, catalogue code, bog name, the original site code applied while in the field, national grid references, photographs and any dating information where applicable. In the description each site is described in detail along with the results of wood species analysis.

ALLEN GROUP, CO. MEATH, COS. LAOIS, MEATH, OFFALY AND WESTMEATH

There are seven bogs in the Allen group that were surveyed during the 2005 Peatland Survey. These bogs were Ballivor, Bracklin, Carranstown, Lislogher, Kinnegad, Monettia and Derryclure. The latter two bogs were south of Tullamore in Cos Laois and Offaly while the remainder were close to Kinnegad in the Cos. of Meath and Westmeath. They are described below.

Ballivor Bog, Co. Meath and Westmeath 05E0796

Location and Extent of Survey:

Ballivor Bog is located immediately south of R156 that runs from Raharney to Ballivor, 3km from Ballivor village (Fig. 2). It is surrounded on its eastern, southern and western sides by farmland. There is a small area of forestry in the southwest corner. The main access is from the BnM offices at Ballivor moss peat works in the centre of the northern side of the bog. The bog covers an area of 630 hectares and forms part of the Bord na Móna Allen Group.

Production Area:

Just over one third of the bog, to the east, is currently in milled peat production while the remainder is 'cutaway'. Until fairly recently the cutaway part of the bog was in sod peat production. While there are occasional drains this entire area is completely overgrown with heather, sedges and some hazel and birch saplings. The production bog consists of 103 NNW-SSE oriented drains. There is an industrial railway running N-S that turn NE-SW before branching NW-SE around the centre of the bog.

Archaeological Background:

There are several sites in the dryland surrounding Ballivor Bog which include three ringforts (ME035-011, ME035-013, WM021-013) in the townlands of Robinstown, Clonygrange and Riverdale, two earthworks (WM021-001, ME035-012) in Craddanstown and Robinstown and a rectilinear enclosure (ME041-002) in the townland of Clonycavan.

There are ten stray finds recorded in the topographical files of the NMI from the general area of Ballivor Bog. These finds include the 2003 discovery of a partial bog body from Clonycavan townland. Also from Clonycavan were a brass dish or cauldron (1949:1) and a leather shoe (IA/29/1994). There were two finds from Grange More; a leather shoe (1934) and a stone axehead (W.216;A.537), an ecclesiastical bell of iron dipped in bronze (1928:640), a bronze sword (1963:5) from Clondalee More, a stone axe (1828:17) and a bronze spearhead (1941:349) from Riverdale.

Survey Results

No sites were recorded during the fieldwalking survey.

Bracklin Bog, Cos. Meath and Westmeath 05E0793

Location and Extent of Survey

Bracklin Bog is located north of Carranstown Bog between three unclassified roads (Fig. 2). The road from Raharney to Delvin runs along its western extent while two smaller roads that run eastwards from this road define its northern and southern extents. The bog covers an area of 692 hectares and is part of the BnM

Allen Group.

Production Bog

Only 25% of this bog is currently in milled peat production. The remainder is overgrown sod peat bog that has become forested in places. The production area is the westernmost part of the bog and measures approximately 200 hectares in size with 89 drains oriented E-W. There is an industrial railway that runs along the eastern side of this bog. All of this part of the bog is in production.

Archaeological Background:

There are five sites recorded in the dryland near the northwestern extent of Bracklin bog. These are four ringforts (WM013-103, WM013-104, WM013-105 & WM014-019) from the townlands of Ballynacor and Bracklin, and a castle site (WM013-018) also from Bracklin townland.

Stray finds of bog butter, hair, textile and leather are recorded from Coolronan townland (IA/186/1952) they were found rolled together in a ball at a depth of 7-12ft in a bog.

Bracklin townland spans both Bracklin and Lislogher bogs, the exact find spot of the four finds attributed to this townland is therefore uncertain. These finds are; a wooden lid (1964:83), a bronze sword blade (1959:31), a Neolithic pottery vessel (1959:09) and a polished stone axehead (1962.243).

Survey Results:

No sites were recorded during the fieldwalking survey.

Caranstown Bog, Cos. Meath and Westmeath 05E0794

Location and extent of survey

Caranstown Bog is located immediately north of the R156 that runs from Raharney to Ballivor (Fig. 2). An unclassified road runs northwards along its western extent while the eastern margins are forested. To the north there are some private turbury plots leading to farmland further northwards. The main access is from the level crossing on the R156 where the rail line crosses into Ballivor Bog. The bog is 310 hectares in size and is part of the Bord na Móna Allen Group.

Production Area

Caranstown Bog consists of 102 production fields running N-S. The bog was in full production apart from 11 fields along the eastern extent which were partially overgrown. There is a rail line that runs N-S from the level crossing through the centre of the bog.

Archaeological Background

There are no archaeological sites in the immediate environs of the bog. There are three sites 1km to the east including an enclosure (ME035-009) and the site of a castle (ME024-008) from the townland of Carranstown Great and a church site (ME024-010) from Killaconnigan townland.

There are no stray finds known from the immediate area of Carranstown bog.

Survey Results

No sites were recorded during the fieldwalking survey.

Lislogher Bog, Cos. Meath and Westmeath 05E0792

Location and extent of survey:

Lislogher Bog is at the northernmost extent of the Allen Group (Fig. 2). The bog is split into two separate bogs by an unclassified road that runs NE-SW to Ballyhealy crossroads. The eastern part of the bog is currently no longer in production and has a small amount of forestry along the northern and eastern extent of the bog and private turbury along the southern extent. The main access is from the unclassified road that splits the two parts of the bog. The area west of this road has been prepared for production with drainage ditches but no production had taken place at the time of the survey. This part of the bog is surrounded by forestry on its northern and southern extents with farmland at the western extent.

Production Area:

The eastern part of the bog is 705 hectares in size and was originally in sod peat production and has not been converted to milled peat production. There are several high face banks with the remainder of the bog at a lower undrained level. Some re-vegetation has taken place since sod production ceased some years ago. The western part of the bog, as noted above, has been drained for milled peat production, but no production

has taken place to date. The drains are oriented roughly E-W and vary in number across the width of the bog. It is 246 hectares in size and was covered in extensive scrub and overgrowth making visibility poor and field walking very difficult.

Archaeological Background:

There are two recorded sites in farmland to the east of the eastern part of Lislogher bog. These are two ringforts (ME029-025 & ME029-026 in the townland of Woodtown West.

The western extent of Lislogher Bog has several sites on higher ground to the north overlooking the narrow western extent of the bog. In the townland of Ballynacor, there are five ringforts (WM013-065, WM013-067, WM013-070, WM013-071 & WM013-073) an earthwork (WM013-066) and a castle (WM013-072) while in Cartenstown there is a cemetery site (WM013-064).

A bronze axehead (1954:54) found 10ft deep in the bog and fourteen pieces of wood (IA/104/1982) are recorded from the townland of Lislogher in the topographical files of the National Museum, it is not certain if these are from the BnM production bog or from private turbury plots.

Survey Results:

No sites were recorded during the fieldwalking survey.

Kinnegad Bog, Co. Meath 05E0795

Location and extent of survey

Kinnegad Bog is sometimes referred to by BnM as Rossan Bog and is located 1km south of Kinnegad village in Co. Meath (Figs. 2 and 3). The main access is from the BnM works mid way along the northern extent of the bog. Access was also gained to the southern extent of the bog from a small road that provides access to turbury plots. The production bog covers an area 330 hectares in size and forms part of the Bord na Móna Allen Group of works. There are private turbury plots along the northeastern, southern and southwestern extent of the production bog. The eastern extent has forestry while the western and southern extent is mainly farmland.

Production Area:

The bog consists of 110 production fields oriented N-S. An industrial rail line runs across the northern extent of

the bog. Most of the bog was in production at the time of the survey apart for five fields immediately south of the works offices which were overgrown to varying degrees and some of which were being excavated to facilitate additional drainage. Midway across the southern extent of the bog is an area of higher ground that is not in production and the production bog to either side of this falls steeply to the south.

Archaeological Background:

The closest recorded sites to the production bog, are an enclosure (ME046-011) that is located in farmland to the southeast of the bog in Knockersally townland and an enclosure site in Rossan townland to the north (ME046-004). There are several sites approximately 1km to the east of the bog. These include two enclosure sites in Ardnamullen townland (ME046-005 & ME046-006 and a moated site (ME046-008).

There were no stray finds recorded in the topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland prior to the survey. Immediately after the fieldwalking and site recording was completed BnM workers carrying out drainage works uncovered a partial wooden vessel. They reported the find to ADS Ltd and it was collected by the author and deposited with the National Museum.

Survey Results:

Nineteen sites were recorded in the southern extent of the bog (Figs. 3 and 4). These consisted of two plank trackways (ME0KND001 & ME0KND002), one possible trackway and sixteen brushwood and roundwood sites close to one of the plank trackways (ME-KND001). The sites were all located in close proximity in the southern extent of Kinnegad Bog. ME-KND001 and ME-KND003-19 were located west of a wooded area of higher ground that projects into the bog from the surrounding farmland. ME-KND002 was oriented roughly E-W and was located east of the aforementioned wooded area.

It was thought at the time of the survey that ME-KND001 and ME-KND002 were possibly the same site leading up to and away from the wooded higher ground. Unfortunately the sample taken from ME-KND001 for dendrochronological dating didn't have enough rings for analysis so a sample was sent for radiocarbon dating while a dendrochronological date was obtained for ME-KND002. Dating results from these two sites returned dates of 1750 to 1430BC (ME-KND001) and 1569BC±9 (ME-KND002). It is likely from these dates that the sites are one and the same but it is

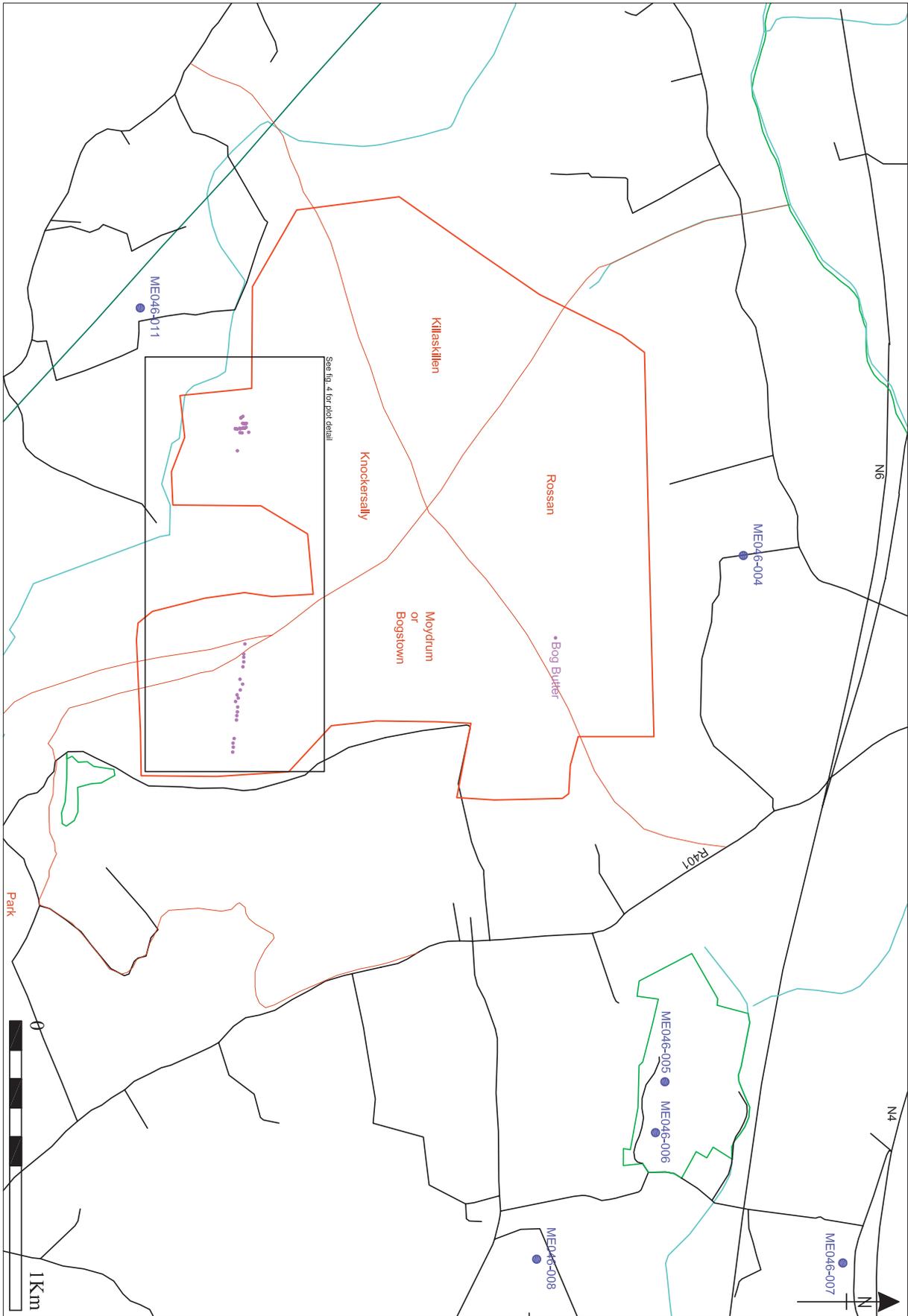


Fig. 3 Kinnegad Bog. Scale 1:17,000.

recommended that a sample of ME-KND001 be taken during excavation to confirm this.

Eight dates were obtained for the Kinnegad Bog sites, seven of which clustered in the Bronze Age (ME-KND001, 2, 6, 10, 11, 15 & 16) with a single early Christian date from ME-KND004.

All of the sites with the exception of ME-KND004 were drain face exposures and therefore are not under immediate threat from the production process except the re-cutting of drains. ME-KND004 (AD430-660) is considered to be resolved after the survey as it was exposed on the field surface of a higher field and it was possible to trace it further. The sites recorded in Kinnegad bog therefore represent activity concentrated in the Bronze Age.

Catalogue of sites:

Townland: Knockersally

Catalogue Code: ME-KND001a-d

Type: Plank Trackway

Bog: Kinnegad

Site Code: KND001a-d

Date Recorded: 27/07/05

OS Sheet: ME046

NGR: 259443, 242573 – 259494, 242599

Width 0.84-3.75m, Depth 0.30-0.47m, Length 51m

Date: 1750-1430BC

Four sightings of a longitudinal plank trackway were recorded to the west of the area of higher ground described above. This site was surrounded by a cluster of smaller brushwood and roundwood platform sites which were also dated to the Bronze Age. The plank track was composed of a single or double plank upper walking surface supported by transverses and with associated pegs. Owing to the depth of the surrounding drains it was not possible to trace this site further to the west or east.



Plate 1 ME-KND001a.



Plate 2 ME-KND001b.

ME-KND001a, 259443, 242573, Width 0.84m, Depth 0.47m

This sighting was exposed in section in the drain face (Plate 1). It was composed of a single longitudinal plank, 0.21m from the field surface, oriented NNE-SSW overlying a plank transverse. The elements were in good condition although dried out where exposed. The upper plank is a squared half split, 0.20m wide and 0.13m thick. The transverse was a radial split and measured 0.32m in width and 0.05-0.10m thick. The overlying peat was poorly humified sphagnum rich with occasional eriophorum inclusions. The underlying peat was better humified and also contains occasional eriophorum inclusions.

ME-KND001b, 259464, 242584, Width 1.86m, Depth 0.34m

This sighting was 15m to the east of ME-KND001a and was also exposed in section in the drain face (Plate 2). Two longitudinal planks, 1.4m apart, were noted in section in the drain face 0.76m from the field surface. There was a deposit of mainly longitudinally oriented



Plate 3 ME-KND001c.



Plate 4 ME-KND001d.

brushwood running underneath and between the two planks. The planks were both radial splits. The southern one was 0.29m in width and 0.08-0.14m in thickness while the northern plank measured 0.18m in width and 0.05-0.11m in thickness. The peat associated with this site was pasty in texture and had eriophorum and ericeaceous inclusions.

ME-KND001c, 259477, 242590, Width 1.98m, Depth 0.36m

This was the most complex of the four sightings (Plate 3). The upper plank had a mortice with an in-situ peg alongside which was a small oak wedge holding it in place. A transverse timber supported the southern half of the plank while a second transverse, a roundwood, overlay the northern half. The northern transverse was in turn supported by a longitudinal roundwood which in turn was supported by a third transverse. At this sighting the site was in moderately decomposed peat with occasional inclusions of eriophorum and ericeaceous remains.

ME-KND001d, 259494, 242599, Width 3.75m, Depth 0.30m

This was the final sighting to the east and was composed of a loosely associated set of elements consisting of a spread of roundwood, brushwood and two planks (Plate 4). The two planks were 0.65m apart further than those in the other sightings and may have been displaced by drain cutting. While some of the roundwood and brushwood is most likely directly associated with the plank track it is possible that the cluster of brushwood to the south was a separate platform site. This can only be clarified by excavation and anything else at this stage is merely speculation.

Townland: Moydrum or Bogstown and Park

Catalogue Code: ME-KND002a-s

Type: Plank Trackway

Bog: Kinnegad

Site Code: KND002a-s

Date Recorded: 27/07/05

OS Sheet: ME046

NGR: 260259, 242582 – 260595, 242545

Width 0.22-3.75m, Depth 0.07-0.67m, Length 250m

Date: 1569BC±9

Nineteen sightings of a Bronze Age plank trackway oriented roughly E-W and running from higher ground to the eastern side of the production bog. The site was exposed in section in the drain faces at varying depths from the field surface ranging from 0.14-1m. The site consists of longitudinal upper planks with transverse supports visible at some sightings.



Plate 5 ME-KND002a.

ME-KND002a, Width 0.41m, Depth 0.08m

Single longitudinal plank exposed in section in the drain face 0.98m below the field surface (Plate 5). The plank was a thin radial split and measured 0.41m in width and 0.08m in maximum thickness. It was situated in poorly humified sphagnum peat with inclusions of eriophorum and ericeaceous remains.

ME-KND002b, Width 0.22m, Depth 0.55m

Single longitudinal plank exposed in section in the drain face 0.33m below the field surface (Plate 6). The plank was a thin radial split 0.55m wide and 0.22m in maximum thickness. It was situated in well humified sphagnum peat with moderate inclusions of eriophorum and ericeaceous remains.

ME-KND002c, Width 0.36m, Depth 0.07m

Single longitudinal plank exposed in section in the



Plate 6 ME-KND002b.

drain face 0.26m below the field surface (Plate 7). The plank was 0.36m in width and 0.07m thick. It was situated in moderately humified sphagnum peat with some eriophorum and occasional ericeaceous remains.



Plate 7 ME-KND002c.

ME-KND002d, Width 3.75m, Depth 0.53m

A single longitudinal plank overlying a transverse plank with mortice at its southern end (Plate 8). The transverse was supported by a plank fragment and a



Plate 8 ME-KND002d.

brushwood at its southern extent. A peg was noted at the northern part of the exposure. This was running at a 45° angle through a degraded mortice in the upper longitudinal plank. At this sighting the peat was well humified sphagnum rich and contained eriophorum and ericeaceous remains.



Plate 9 ME-KND002e.

ME-KND002e, Width 0.15m, Depth 0.07m

A single, small, longitudinal plank exposed in section in the drain face 0.32m from the bog surface (Plate 9). The plank was 0.15m in width and 0.07m thick. It was situated in well humified sphagnum peat with eriophorum and ericeaceous remains.



Plate 10 ME-KND002f.

ME-KND002f, Width 0.98m, Depth 0.15m

A single longitudinal plank with three associated longitudinal roundwoods along its southern side (Plate 10). The site was 0.48m below the field surface at this sighting. The plank was 0.16m in width and 0.08m thick, while the roundwoods ranged in diameter from 0.08-0.09m. Two of the roundwoods were immediately beside the plank while the third was 0.49m away from

the others. The peat was well humified sphagnum peat with frequent inclusions of eriophorum and ericeaceous remains.



Plate 11 ME-KND002g.

ME-KND002g, Width 2.78m, Depth 0.58m

A longitudinal plank supported by a transverse plank with two associated pegs, 0.29m from the field surface (Plate 11). The elements had all been truncated by the drain cutting. The longitudinal was supported by two roundwoods at its northern extent. The two pegs were visible in the drain face beneath the intersection of the longitudinal and transverse timbers. The peat was well humified sphagnum peat with occasional inclusions of eriophorum and ericeaceous remains.



Plate 12 ME-KND002h.

ME-KND002h, Width 0.32m, Depth 0.67m

A longitudinal roundwood with a light roundwood below it and two associated pegs exposed in section in the drain face 0.18m from the field surface (Plate 12). One of the pegs was in direct contact with the longitudinal roundwood while the other had been truncated by the drain cutting and was 0.29m below the main body of

the trackway. They appear to have been either side of the longitudinal holding it in place. The peat was well humified sphagnum peat with frequent inclusions of eriophorum and ericeaceous remains.



Plate 13 ME-KND002i.

ME-KND002i, Width 1.02m, Depth 0.30m

A large longitudinal plank supported by a transverse roundwood with a peg at the northern extent (Plate 13). The site was 0.63m below the field surface at this sighting. The upper plank was 0.29m in width and 0.09m in thickness. The peat was very well humified sphagnum peat with frequent eriophorum and ericeaceous remains.



Plate 14 ME-KND002j.

ME-KND002j, Width 1.53m, Depth 0.35m

A longitudinal plank exposed in section in the drain face 0.99m below the field surface with a peg 1.15m to the north (Plate 14). The plank measured 0.27m in width and 0.09m in thickness, while the peg was 0.06m in diameter. The peat was well humified sphagnum peat with frequent inclusions on eriophorum and ericeaceous remains.



Plate 15 ME-KND002k.

ME-KND002k, Width 0.42m, Depth 0.25m

A longitudinal roundwood with a longitudinal split timber alongside it 0.18m to the south, 0.02m from the field surface (Plate 15). The roundwood measured 0.18m in diameter and the split timber measured 0.10m in width and 0.06m in thickness. The peat was well humified sphagnum peat with occasional eriophorum and ericeaceous remains.



Plate 16 ME-KND002l.

ME-KND002l, Width 3.95m, Depth 0.18m

Single longitudinal roundwood, 0.18m in diameter, exposed in section in the drain face 0.51m below the field surface (Plate 16). The peat was well humified sphagnum peat with frequent eriophorum and ericeaceous remains.

ME-KND002m, Width 0.26m, Depth 0.14m

A single longitudinal plank exposed in section in the drain face 0.48m from the field surface (Plate 17). The plank measured 0.26m in width and 0.16m in thickness. The peat was moderately humified sphagnum peat with frequent eriophorum and ericeaceous remains.

Plate 17 ME-KND002m.



ME-KND002n, Width 2m, Depth 0.15m

A single longitudinal plank supported by a large transverse plank exposed in section in the drain face 0.12m from the field surface (Plate 18). The upper plank measured 0.14m in width and was 0.12m thick, while the transverse plank measured 0.30m in width and 0.12m in thickness. The peat was moderately humified sphagnum peat with frequent inclusions of eriophorum and ericeaceous remains.



Plate 18 ME-KND002n.

ME-KND002o, Width 1.92m, Depth 0.19m

Single longitudinal roundwood supported by a transverse plank with a further two roundwoods 1.17m to the north exposed in section in the drain face (Plate 19). This sighting was 0.77m from the field surface. The longitudinal was 0.14m in diameter and the transverse measured 0.57m in width and 0.6m in thickness. The two roundwoods were also longitudinally laid side by side and both measured 0.09m in diameter. The peat was well humified sphagnum peat with frequent inclusions



Plate 19 ME-KND002o.

if eriophorum and occasional ericeaceous remains.

ME-KND002p, Width 0.25m, Depth 0.09m

A single longitudinal plank exposed in section in the drain face 1m below the field surface (Plate 20). The plank measured 0.18m in width and 0.20m in thickness. The peat was well humified sphagnum peat with frequent eriophorum and ericeaceous remains.

Plate 20 ME-KND002p.



ME-KND002q, Width 0.40m, Depth 0.21m

A longitudinal plank overlying two short roundwoods which in turn overlay two longitudinal roundwoods 0.65m below the field surface (Plate 21). The plank measured 0.14m in width and 0.07m in thickness while the roundwoods ranged in diameter from 0.06-0.07m in diameter. The peat was moderately humified sphagnum peat with frequent eriophorum and ericeaceous remains.



Plate 21 ME-KND002q.

ME-KND002r, Width 0.54m, Depth 0.28m

A single, squared longitudinal plank overlying a short squared transverse timber exposed in section in the drain face 0.45m from the field surface (Plate 22). The upper plank measured 0.25m in width and 0.20m in thickness. The peat was sphagnum rich with frequent eriophorum and ericeaceous remains.

Plate 22
ME-KND002r.



ME-KND002s, Width 0.7m, Depth 0.14m

A single plank longitudinal with an associated roundwood longitudinal alongside exposed in section 0.69m below the field surface (Plate 23). The plank measured 0.22m in width and 0.11m in thickness while the roundwood was 0.06m in diameter. The two elements were 0.25m apart at the drain edge but the roundwood appeared to run towards the plank from the small exposure cleaned. The peat was well humified sphagnum peat with frequent eriophorum and ericeaceous remains.



Plate 23 ME-KND002s.

Townland: Knockersally

Catalogue Code: ME-KND003a-b

Type: Togher

Bog: Kinnegad

Site Code: KND003a-b

Date Recorded: 27/07/05

OS Sheet:

NGR: 259445, 242572 – 259463, 242580

Width 0.54m, Depth 0.40m, Length 15m

Date: Undated

Two sightings of a possible trackway located in two drain faces either side of a production field. The site may represent the remains of a plank trackway oriented NNE-SSW, running parallel to the Bronze Age plank trackway (ME-KND001a-d) which is located 2.8m to the north.



Plate 24 ME-KND003a.

ME-KND003a, Width 0.54m, Depth 0.40m

A single peg/post with an associated transverse timber exposed in section in the drain face 0.20m from the field surface (Plate 24). The peg measured 0.06m in diameter and 0.40m in length. It was in poor condition from

exposure to the elements. The underlying transverse was 0.11m in diameter and its full length is unknown as it was only partially exposed. The peg had a wedge cut end one side of which was damaged the other had two facets both of which were 0.06m in length and 0.07-0.08m in width. The facets were relatively flat in character and had shallow cutting angles.



Plate 25 ME-KND003b.

ME-KND003b, Width 0.08m, Depth 0.10m

A single longitudinal roundwood exposed in section in the drain face 0.54m from the field surface (Plate 25). The roundwood is oval in shape and measured 0.08-0.10m in diameter.

Townland: Knockersally

Catalogue Code: ME-KND004

Type: Archaeological Wood

Bog: Kinnegad

Site Code: KND004

Date Recorded: 27/07/05

OS Sheet: ME046

NGR: 259439, 242579

Width 0.22m, Depth 0.14m, Length 3.56m

Date: 430-660AD

Three elements oriented NE-SW exposed on the field surface and in poor condition (Plate 26). Two of the elements overlay one another while the third smaller element was placed at their NE end. The larger elements measured 2.33 and 3.06m in length, both were 0.06m in width and 0.08 and 0.05m in thickness. The third element measured 0.57m in length, 0.06m in width and 0.07m in thickness. All of the elements were oak and were located in moderately humified sphagnum peat with frequent inclusions of eriophorum and ericeaceous remains. This site may represent the last remains of a longer trackway that survived in this location because

of the higher level of the production field. It was not traced any further during the course of the survey.

Plate 26

ME-KND004.



Townland: Knockersally
 Catalogue Code: ME-KND005
 Type: Archaeological Wood
 Bog: Kinnegad
 Site Code: KND005
 Date Recorded: 27/07/05
 OS Sheet:
 NGR: 259463, 242578
 Width 1.58m, Depth 0.31m
 Date: Undated

Three roundwoods exposed in section in the drain face 0.73m below the field surface (Plate 27). These were on average 0.07m in diameter and were oriented E-W. Lying 0.19m below these roundwoods were 13 SW-NE oriented light brushwoods averaging 0.02m in diameter. The peat is moderately decomposed sphagnum peat with frequent eriophorum inclusions. ME-KND003b is 1.8m to the north in the same drain face. A single element was identified for species and was willow/poplar. The exact function of this site is unclear but it forms part of a complex of sites near the single plank trackway ME-KND001a-d.

Townland: Knockersally
 Catalogue Code: ME-KND006
 Type: Archaeological Wood
 Bog: Kinnegad
 Site Code: KND006
 Date Recorded: 27/07/05



Plate 27 ME-KND005.

OS Sheet: ME046
 NGR: 259463, 242591
 Width 1.58m, Depth 0.31m
 Date: 1610-1380BC

A brushwood site exposed in section in the drain face 0.69m from the field surface (Plate 28). The elements at the northern extent of the site were four deep but this thinned out towards the south as the elements became less frequent. The elements ranged in diameter from 15-36mm in diameter. The peat was moderately decomposed sphagnum peat that was pasty in texture with moderate eriophorum inclusions. The function of this site was unclear but as with other sites in the complex of sites surrounding the plank trackway ME-KND001a-d it may have been a small platform. ME-KND001b was 5.3m to the south while ME-KND007 was 1.7m to the north. Two pieces were sampled from this site for dating and identification and they were identified as hazel and alder.



Plate 28 ME-KND006.

Townland: Knockersally
 Catalogue Code: ME-KND007
 Type: Possible Platform



Plate 29 ME-KND007.

Bog: Kinnegad
 Site Code: KND007
 Date Recorded: 27/07/05
 OS Sheet: ME046
 NGR: 259464, 242588
 Width 0.49m, Depth 0.07m
 Date: Undated

Eleven light brushwoods exposed in section in the drain face 0.56m from the field surface (Plate 29). The elements were closely spaced and were also visible in the opposing drain face. The function of this site is unclear but it may represent a short length of a light brushwood trackway or a small platform. A single piece was sampled and was identified as hazel. The peat was moderately humified sphagnum peat with frequent eriophorum inclusions.

Townland: Knockersally
 Catalogue Code: ME-KND008
 Type: Possible Platform
 Bog: Kinnegad
 Site Code: KND008
 Date Recorded: 27/07/05
 OS Sheet: ME046
 NGR: 259480, 242585
 Width 1.69m, Depth 0.15m
 Date: Undated

Transverse and longitudinal arrangement of brushwoods and roundwoods visible in section in the drain face 0.44m below the field surface (Plate 30). The elements were closely spaced and appeared to form part of a small platform. They ranged in size from 0.02-0.06m in diameter. A single element was sampled and identified as alder. The peat was well humified sphagnum peat with frequent eriophorum inclusions.



Plate 30 ME-KND008.

Townland: Knockersally
 Catalogue Code: ME-KND009
 Type: Archaeological Wood
 Bog: Kinnegad
 Site Code: KND009
 Date Recorded: 27/07/05
 OS Sheet: ME046
 NGR: 259480, 242579
 Width 0.12m, Depth 0.02m
 Date: Undated

A single oak plank exposed in section in the drain face 0.58m below the field surface (Plate 31). It was oriented NE-SW and was in poor condition. It was located 7.2m south of ME-KND008 and 2m north of ME-KND010 in the same drain face. Its function was unclear as no further sightings were traced in either direction. It was located in well humified sphagnum peat with frequent eriophorum and ericeaceous remains.



Plate 31 ME-KND009.

Townland: Knockersally
 Catalogue Code: ME-KND010
 Type: Possible Platform
 Bog: Kinnegad



Plate 32 ME-KND010.

Site Code: KND010
 Date Recorded: 27/07/05
 OS Sheet: ME046
 NGR: 259480, 242578
 Width 1.29m, Depth 0.22m
 Date: 1650-1380BC

This site was exposed in section in the drain face 0.62m from the field surface (Plate 32). It was composed of planks, roundwoods and brushwoods most of which were oriented NW-SE. The elements were in fairly poor condition. The site was not traced any further and is thought therefore to be a small platform structure. A single piece was sampled and later identified as alder and dated to 2650-1380BC.

Townland: Knockersally
 Catalogue Code: ME-KND011
 Type: Possible Platform
 Bog: Kinnegad
 Site Code: KND011
 Date Recorded: 27/07/05
 OS Sheet: ME046
 NGR: 259480, 242584
 Width 1.77m, Depth 0.21m
 Date: 1410-1000BC

Tightly packed roundwoods and brushwoods one to two layers deep visible in section (Plate 33) in the drain face 0.31m from the field surface. Most of the elements were quite well preserved apart from the damage caused by drain cutting. The larger elements were mainly at the base of the structure with the lighter elements on top. The site measured 1.77m in width, 0.21m in depth and was not visible in the opposing drain face. A single piece was sampled and was subsequently identified as birch and dated to 1410-1000BC. It was located in moderately decomposed sphagnum peat with frequent inclusions of eriophorum and ericeaceous remains.



Plate 33 ME-KND011.

Townland: Knockersally
 Catalogue Code: ME-KND012
 Type: Archaeological Wood
 Bog: Kinnegad
 Site Code: KND012
 Date Recorded: 27/07/05
 OS Sheet: ME046
 NGR: 259480, 242568
 Width 0.96m, Depth 0.75m
 Date: Undated

A roundwood and associated brushwood and peg exposed in section in the drain face 0.08m below the field surface (Plate 34). The roundwood measured 0.13m in diameter and was oriented E/W. The smaller brushwood elements were located alongside its southern side, were oriented NNE-SSW and were 0.02m in average diameter. The peg was to the south of the



Plate 34 ME-KND012.

other elements, measured 0.07m in diameter and was 0.7m in length. A single piece was sampled and later identified as alder. The function of this site is unclear but it is one of several small wooden structures near the Bronze Age plank trackway (ME-KND001a-d). The site

was located in well decomposed sphagnum peat with frequent eriophorum and ericeaceous remains.



Plate 35 ME-KND013.

Townland: Knockersally
 Catalogue Code: ME-KND013
 Type: Archaeological Wood
 Bog: Kinnegad
 Site Code: KND013
 Date Recorded: 27/07/05
 OS Sheet: ME046
 NGR: 259482, 242570
 Width 1.4m, Depth 0.81m, Length 1.2m min
 Date: Undated

Brushwood and roundwoods laid side by side and oriented roughly E/W exposed in section in the drain face 0.02m from the field surface (Plate 35). The site was also visible in the opposing drain face and therefore had a minimum length of 1.2m. The elements ranged in diameter from 0.03-0.13m and were a mixture of brushwoods and roundwoods placed closely together to form a packed structure. A single element was sampled from the site and later identified as maple. The function of this site remains unclear but it may represent a short length of trackway or a small platform like the other wooden structures in close proximity to the Bronze Age trackway ME-KND001a-d. ME-KND0012 is located 1m to the north and ME-KND014 is 8.2m to the south. The site was located in moderately decomposed sphagnum peat with frequent inclusions of eriophorum and ericeaceous remains.

Townland: Knockersally
 Catalogue Code: ME-KND014
 Type: Archaeological Wood
 Bog: Kinnegad

Site Code: KND014
 Date Recorded: 27/07/05
 OS Sheet: ME046
 NGR: 259483, 242560
 Width 2.8m, Depth 0.55m
 Date: Undated

Brushwood and roundwoods mostly oriented E-W exposed in section in the drain face 0-0.23m below the field surface (Plate 36). The elements to the south of the structure were smaller brushwoods in a concentrated group with an associated transverse brushwood rod and were hurdle-like in appearance. The remaining elements were larger and more dispersed and also were several elements deep. The site was also exposed in the opposing drain face and was therefore a minimum of 1.2m deep. A single piece was sampled and later identified as alder. The function of this site remains unclear but it may represent a short length of trackway or a small platform like the other wooden structures in close proximity to the Bronze Age trackway ME-KND001a-d. ME-KND0013 was 8.2m to the north and ME-KND0015/16 was 1.7m to the east. The site was located in moderately decomposed sphagnum peat with frequent inclusions of eriophorum and ericeaceous remains.



Plate 36 ME-KND014.

Townland: Knockersally
 Catalogue Code: ME-KND015
 Type: Possible platform
 Bog: Kinnegad
 Site Code: KND015
 Date Recorded: 27/07/05
 OS Sheet: ME046
 NGR: 259482, 242553
 Width 1.08m, Depth 0.15m
 Date: 1260-900BC

This possible platform was exposed in section in the drain face 0.35m from the field surface (Plate 37). It was composed mainly of closely placed roundwood elements oriented E-W one to two elements deep. The site measured 1.08m in width and 0.15m in depth. The elements ranged in size from 0.02-0.09m in diameter. It was located 0.15m above ME-KND016 and 2m south of ME-KND014. A single element was sampled and later identified as *maloideae* (from the apple subfamily) and dated to 1260-900BC. The peat was moderately decomposed with frequent inclusions of *eriphorum*.



Plate 37 ME-KND015 & 16.

Townland: Knockersally
 Catalogue Code: ME-KND016
 Type: Possible platform
 Bog: Kinnegad
 Site Code: KND016
 Date Recorded: 27/07/05
 OS Sheet: ME046
 NGR: 259481, 242554
 Width 1.10m, Depth 0.17m
 Date: 1510-1260BC

A possible platform structure exposed in section in the drain face 0.65m from the field surface (Plate 37). It was composed of brushwood and roundwood elements oriented ENE/WSW. The elements were densely packed with the larger roundwoods towards the bottom of the structure with the lighter elements placed above them. The elements ranged in size from 0.02-0.06m in diameter. The site is located 0.15m below ME-KND015 and 2m south of ME-KND014. A single piece was sampled and later identified as alder and dated to 1510-1260BC. The peat was moderately decomposed with occasional inclusions of *eriphorum*.



Plate 38 ME-KND017.

Townland: Knockersally
 Catalogue Code: ME-KND017
 Type: Archaeological Wood
 Bog: Kinnegad
 Site Code: KND017
 Date Recorded: 27/07/05
 OS Sheet: ME046
 NGR: 259496, 242576
 Width 1.88m, Depth 0.45m
 Date: Undated

Brushwoods and roundwoods oriented E-W exposed in section in the drain face 0.58m below the field surface (Plate 38). The structure measured 1.88m in width and 0.45m in depth. The wood was in poor condition and there were two distinct areas of denser wood with one placed slightly higher than the other. The elements ranged in diameter from 0.03-0.05m and were 80% brushwood and 20% roundwood. The function of this site remains uncertain but it is possibly a small platform or a short length of trackway. Site number ME-KND018 was located 6.86m to the south and ME-KND001d was 19.8m to the north in the same drain face. A single element was sampled and later identified as birch. The peat was well decomposed, sphagnum rich with frequent inclusions of *eriphorum* and ericeaceous remains.

Townland: Knockersally
 Catalogue Code: ME-KND018
 Type: Archaeological Wood
 Bog: Kinnegad
 Site Code: KND018
 Date Recorded: 27/07/05
 OS Sheet: ME046
 NGR: 259495, 242569
 Width 0.17m, Depth 0.13m



Plate 39 ME-KND018.

Date: Undated

A single roundwood exposed in section in the drain face 0.40m from the field surface (Plate 39). The element was oriented E-W and measured 0.17m in diameter. It was located in moderately decomposed sphagnum peat with frequent inclusions of eriophorum and ericeaceous remains.



Plate 40 ME-KND019.

Townland: Knockersally

Catalogue Code: ME-KND019

Type: Possible platform

Bog: Kinnegad

Site Code: KND019

Date Recorded: 27/07/05

OS Sheet: ME046

NGR: 259558, 242560

Width 1.18m, Depth 0.10m

Date: Undated

Several brushwoods oriented N-S exposed in the drain face 0.93m from the field surface (Plate 40). The brushwoods are supported by a small patch of twigs and all are in good condition. The elements exposed

measured on average 0.40m in length, 0.03m in diameter and were closely placed. A single element was sampled and was later identified as hazel. The peat in which the site was located was well decomposed sphagnum peat with eriophorum inclusions.

Monettia Bog, Cos. Laois and Offaly 05E0797

Location and extent of survey

Monettia Bog is located 1.4km southwest of Killeigh village in Co. Offaly (Fig. 2). The main access is from the BnM works at the northwestern extent of the bog. The production bog covers an area 728 hectares in size and forms part of the Bord na Móna Allen Group of works. There are private turbury plots along the eastern, southern and southwestern extent of the production bog. The northern extent is mainly farmland.

Production Area:

The bog consists of 139 production fields oriented roughly N-S. An industrial rail line runs E-W across the central part of the bog. The entire bog was in production at the time of the survey apart for five fields at the northeastern extent which were overgrown to varying degrees and some of which were being excavated apparently to facilitate additional drainage.

Archaeological Background:

A ringfort recorded in the townland of Derrygunnigan (OF-025022) is the site in closest proximity to the production bog. 1km to the east of the Derrygunnigan enclosure site is another enclosure site in the townland of Ballynasragh (OF025-023) while 1.5km to the north there is a further enclosure site in the townland of Ballinvally (OF-025-016) and the archaeological complex of Killeigh (OF-025-017).

There are four finds recorded in the topographical files of the National Museum these are a leather shoe and a bog road from Derrygunnigan townland (IA/61/1954, IA/61/1954 & IA/87/1957) and two bronze spearheads from farmland in Killeenmore (1938:8558-8559). Although there are two references for a bog road they are in fact the same site reported to the NMI on two separate occasions in 1954 and 1957. It was described as being visible only at certain times of year (IA/61/1954) and as 'single oak planks laid end to end, from an island in the bog' (IA/87/1957). This site most likely refers to a site excavated by Ellen OCarroll

on behalf of BnM in 2000 which was an early Christian single plank trackway (O'Carroll, 2000). At that time the site was traced on the field surface across two production fields. No traces of the site remained when the area was investigated in 2005. A second site was reported to ADS Ltd and also excavated in 2000 by the author (Whitaker, 2000). This transversely laid plank, roundwood and gravel site was also no longer extant by the time of the 2005 survey.

Survey Results:

A single roundwood was recovered from a drain face in the southwestern part of the bog during the survey but was later discounted as being modern in origin. No further archaeological sites were recorded.

Derryclure Bog, Co. Offaly 05E0798

Location and extent of survey

Derryclure Bog is located 13.5km south of Tullamore town in Co. Offaly (Fig. 2). The main access is into the western extent of the bog from a small lane off the N80 Tullamore to Mountmellick road. The production bog covers an area 200 hectares in size and forms part of the Bord na Móna Allen Group of works.

Production Area:

The bog consists of a maximum of 95 production fields in the northern part of the bog oriented roughly N-S. The southern part of the bog has a maximum of 50 production fields. The central part of the bog has several forested areas which were not in production while the remainder of the bog was in production at the time of the survey.

Archaeological Background:

The closest site to the production bog is an enclosure site in the townland of Killeenmore (OF025-002) located in farmland to the east of the bog while to the west there is another enclosure site in the townland of Graigue (OF025-008).

There are no stray finds recorded in the topographical files in the National Museum from Derryclure Bog.

Survey Results:

No sites were recorded during the fieldwalking survey.

KILBERRY GROUP, CO. KILDARE

The five bogs of the Kilberry Group were fieldwalked during the 2005 Peatland Survey. These bogs are Kilberry, Ummeras, Allen, Prosperous and Giltown. They are described below.

Kilberry Bog 05E0825

Location and Extent of Survey:

Kilberry Bog is located 6km north of Athy, west of the R417 (Fig. 2). This large bog is bordered by farmland to east and by forestry to the southwest and northwest. There are areas of private bog on the north, northwestern, northeastern and southern sides of the bog. The western edge of the bog is bordered by the railway line from Athy to Kildare. There is a densely wooded island, Derryvullagh Island, in the central area with a smaller wooded island to the northwest of this. The bog is accessed via the peat works, which are reached via a short road leading from the R417 at Kilberry Village.

The bog covers an area of 978 hectares and forms part of the Bord na Móna Coolnamona Group of works.

Production Area:

The bog consists of around 163 fields running SW-NE, with an industrial railway running parallel to the fields from the works to the centre of the bog just northeast of the islands, where it turns to the southwest. The areas in production were located on the southern edge of the bog and on the western side, just north of the islands, the drain faces and field surfaces here being in good condition. There was an area in the southeast corner that was being prepared for production. The drains here had been freshly cut by a mechanical excavator but the field surfaces were heavily encrusted with excavated peat. The rest of the bog consisted either of areas which were out of production and heavily overgrown or worked out areas, with shallow, gravel-bottomed, heavily silted drains and a great deal of natural wood, mostly pine, oak and birch.

The bog has had a long production history, the 1909 Ordnance Survey map showing a peat works in the same location as the current works, with a tramway leading out onto the bog. This works was concerned with the distillation of peat.

There was formerly a farm on Derryvullagh Island and a track is marked on the 1909 map, running south of

the island to the edge of the bog. No traces of this track remain but a Bord na Móna worker recalled that when he began working at Kilberry, some 30 years ago, older workers referred to 'a line of stones' that had existed south of the island.

Archaeological Background:

There are four recorded monument sites around the margins of Kilberry Bog with a fifth site, an enclosure (KD031-013) located at Derryvullagh bog island at the centre of the bog. The four sites around the bog margins are: an enclosure and annexe site (KD031-004) from Rathconnellwood to the northeast of the bog, an enclosure site (KD031-021) from Skerries North at the southeast of the bog; a church and graveyard site (KD031-020) from Oldcourt at the south of the bog; and a rectangular enclosure site (KD021-019) from Sheean townland.

There are no finds recorded in the topographical files of the NMI for Kilberry Bog.

Survey Results:

No archaeological features were recorded during the survey of this bog.

Ummeras Bog 05E0827

Location and Extent of Survey:

Ummeras Bog is located 3km north of Monasterevin, east of an unclassified road running from Monasterevin to the R419, just east of Bracknagh Village (Fig. 2). It is surrounded by farmland, with some forestry to the south and east and private plots to the south and west. Beyond this, the Slate River runs to the north of the bog, the Black River is to the west and the Grand Canal is to the east. Access to the bog is via the peat works, to the west of the unclassified road. The bog covers an area of 305 hectares and forms part of the Bord na Móna Coolnamona Group of works.

Production Area:

The bog consists of 73 fields running N-S, with an industrial railway running along the southern edge of the bog. The bog is in full production and the fields and drains were in good condition, with a large amount of natural wood apparent in the drain faces. Bord na Móna started levelling the bog and cutting drains in 1973, with production of sod moss peat starting in 1980. In 1989 production switched to milled moss peat production.

Archaeological Background:

There are three recorded sites in reclaimed farmland immediately south of the production bog. These are a decoy pond site (KD021-002) and an enclosure site (KD021-003) in Coolsickin/Quinnsborough townland and a potential site (KD021-011) identified from aerial photography from Derrylea townland.

There are no stray finds recorded in the topographical files of the NMI from Ummeras Bog.

Survey Results:

There were no archaeological sites recorded during the survey.

Allen Bog 05E0819

Location and Extent of Survey:

Allen Bog is located 1km east of the village of Kilmeage, north of an unclassified road connecting the R415, south of Kilmeage, with the R445, west of Naas (Fig. 2 and 5). It is almost entirely surrounded by undeveloped bog and very extensive private turf plots, beyond which is farmland, mostly pasture. The bog is entered via the peat works and accessed by a track leading from the unclassified road. The bog covers an area of 406 hectares and forms part of the Bord na Móna Coolnamona Group of works.

Production Area:

The bog consists of 129 fields running E-W, which are divided into eastern and western areas by a N-S industrial railway. The bulk of the eastern part of the bog was out of production and covered in scrub. The western area was in production but at the time of the survey was waterlogged in parts, with field surfaces covered in unharvested peat nuggets. Allen Bog has been in production for some 30 years.

Archaeological Background:

There is a single site within the bog in the townland of Rathernan at the SW extent. The togher site (KD018-007) was recorded in 1909 but is no longer extant. There is a potential site identified from aerial photography recorded in Oldtowndonore townland (KD018-031) in farmland along the eastern extent of the bog. Farmland to the west of the bog contains a church and graveyard (KD018-006) in Rathernan townland and the site of a tower house (KD018-003) and a ringfort (KD018-004) in Kilmeage townland.

There are three stray finds recorded in the

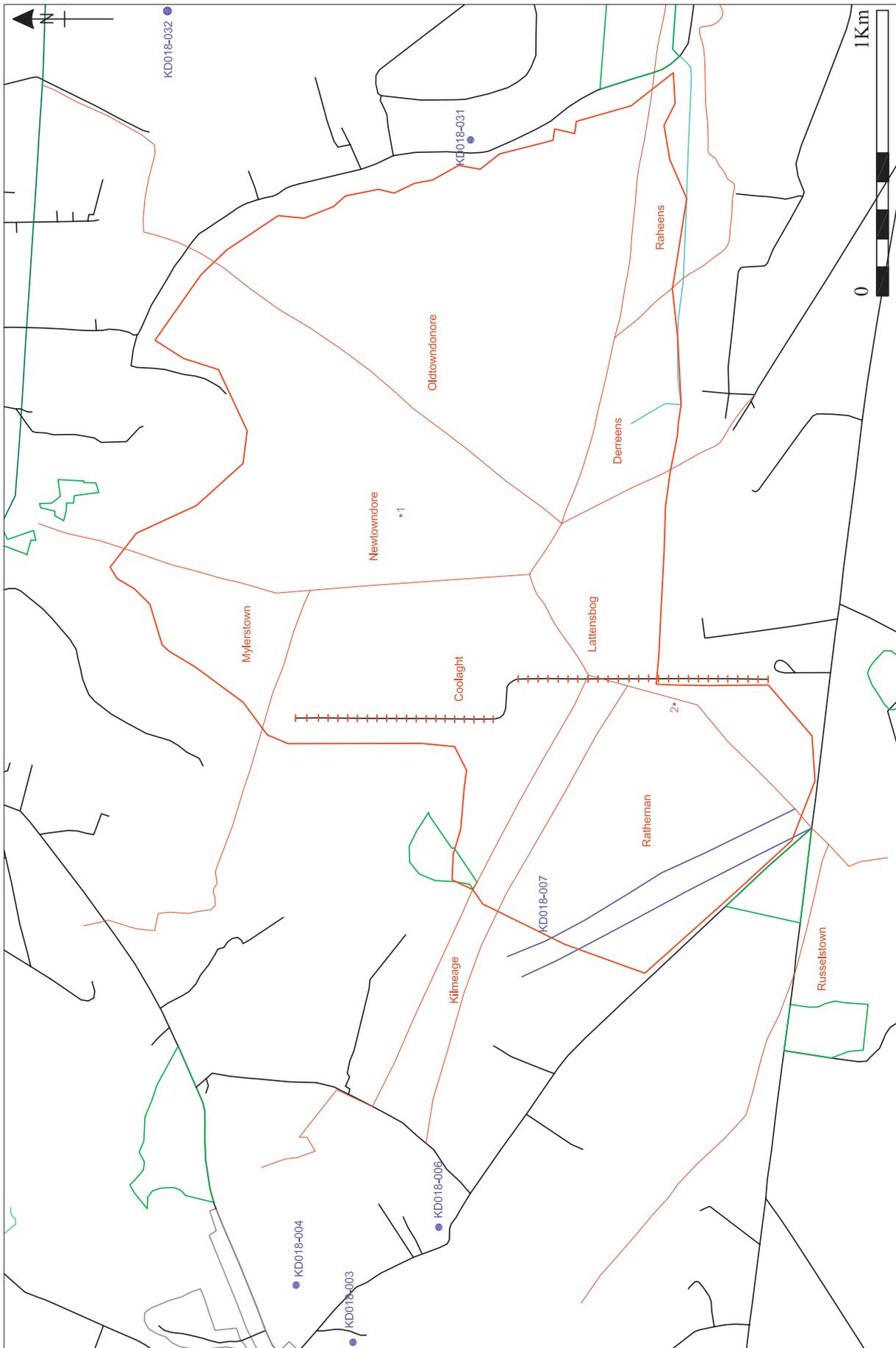


Fig. 5 Allen Bog. Scale 1:17,000.

topographical files of the NMI for townlands included in the study area. It is uncertain whether these are from the bog or surrounding dryland. These are a flint fragment (1939:508) from Mylerstown townland, a stone axehead (1976:21) from Oldtowndonore and a bronze axehead (1891:12) from Raheens townland.

Survey Results:

Two sightings were identified in Allen Bog (Fig. 5), a find spot of a possibly modern wooden bow (KD-ALN001) and a single worked piece of wood (KD-ALN002). Both were found on the field surface.



Plate 41 KD-ALN001.

Catalogue of sites:

Townland: Newtowndonore
 Catalogue Code: KD-ALN001
 Type: Wooden Bow (possibly modern)
 Bog: Allen
 Site Code: ALN001
 Date Recorded: 05/08/05
 OS Sheet: KD018
 NGR: 280651, 222466
 Diameter 3.2cm max, Surviving Length 1.3m
 Date: Modern

A wooden bow found on the field surface in three pieces (Plate 41). The object appears to have tapered along its length from 3.2cm to 2cm in diameter. The largest surviving piece is 0.9m in length and contained a groove carved along it which measured 15mm in width. This piece also had a fresh central break. A second piece measured 0.3m in length while the third and smallest measured 0.45m in length. This piece had a small hole measuring 4mm in diameter 8mm from its end with a groove possibly indicating where a binding had been attached 15mm from the end. The wood is very hard, was not waterlogged and had been machine

damaged and its original length is uncertain from the three remaining pieces. It is thought to be relatively modern in origin.

Townland: Rahernan
 Catalogue Code: KD-ALN002
 Type: Archaeological Wood
 Bog: Allen
 Site Code: ALN002
 Date Recorded: 05/08/05
 OS Sheet: KD018
 NGR: 279953, 221461
 Diameter 0.08m max, Length 0.48m
 Date: Undated

A single chisel point roundwood post located on the field surface oriented NW-SE and inserted into the peat at an angle of 40° (Plate 42). The element measured 0.08m in diameter and 0.48m in length and had seven facets on the worked end. The piece had been milled and there was a fresh break along its length. This piece was 100% sampled and was later identified as birch.



Plate 42 KD-ALN002.

Prosperous Bog 05E0820

Location and Extent of Survey:

This small bog is located just north of Prosperous Village (Plate 2). It is surrounded by farmland with some private bog on the western side and is accessed via an unclassified road running from north from Prosperous. The bog covers an area of 229 hectares and forms part of the Bord na Móna Coolnamona group of works.

Production Area:

The bog consists of 59 fields running N-S. The bog is in full production and both drain faces and field surfaces

were in excellent condition. Bord na Móna began preparing the bog in 1978, levelling and cutting drains, although moss peat production began only recently in 2003.

Archaeological Background:

There are no recorded sites in the immediate vicinity of Prosperous bog. The sites closest to the bog in surrounding farmland are a ringfort (KD013-011) in Curryhills townland and an enclosure site (KD013-006) in Ballynafagh townland.

Stray finds consist of a single find of a polished stone axehead (1987:152), recovered from a ploughed field recorded in the topographical files of the NMI in the townland of Ballynafagh.

Survey Results:

Five sites were recorded in Prosperous Bog (Fig. 6). These were all classified as sightings of Archaeological Wood. The sites varied from a single roundwood exposed on the field surface to several elements exposed in section in the drain face. Two of the sites were dated (KD-PPS002 and KD-PPS005) and returned dates of 1010 to 1260AD and 1300 to 1450BC respectively.

There are no stray finds recorded from the bog in the topographical files of the NMI.



Plate 43 KD-PPS001.

Catalogue:

Townland: Ballynafagh
 Catalogue Code: KD-PPS001
 Type: Archaeological Wood
 Bog: Prosperous
 Site Code: PPS001
 Date Recorded: 10/08/05
 OS Sheet: KD013
 NGR: 283316, 229258

Width 0.55m, Depth 0.20m, Length unknown

Date: Undated

Three brushwood elements recorded in section in the drain face (Fig. 43). All were 0.05m in diameter and were in a good state of preservation. Two elements were located close together with the third 0.2m below. The upper part of the site was located 0.58m from the field surface and the relationship of the elements remains unclear. A single piece was sampled and was later identified as



Plate 44 KD-PPS002.

Townland: Colt

Catalogue Code: KD-PPS002

Type: Archaeological Wood

Bog: Prosperous

Site Code: PPS002

Date Recorded: 10/08/05

OS Sheet: KD013

NGR: 283426, 228842

Width 0.64m, Depth 0.10m, Length 0.43m

Date: 1010 to 1260AD

A roundwood and brushwood located on the field surface adjacent to the drain edge (Plate 44). The roundwood, measuring 0.06m in diameter and 0.58m in length was oriented NW-SE, while the brushwood, measuring 15mm in diameter and 0.15m in length was oriented N-S. The brushwood ran under the roundwood at an angle of 45°. A single piece was sampled for dating which was later identified as alder and dated to 1010 to 1260AD

Townland: Colt

Catalogue Code: KD-PPS003

Type: Archaeological Wood

Bog: Prosperous

Site Code: PPS003

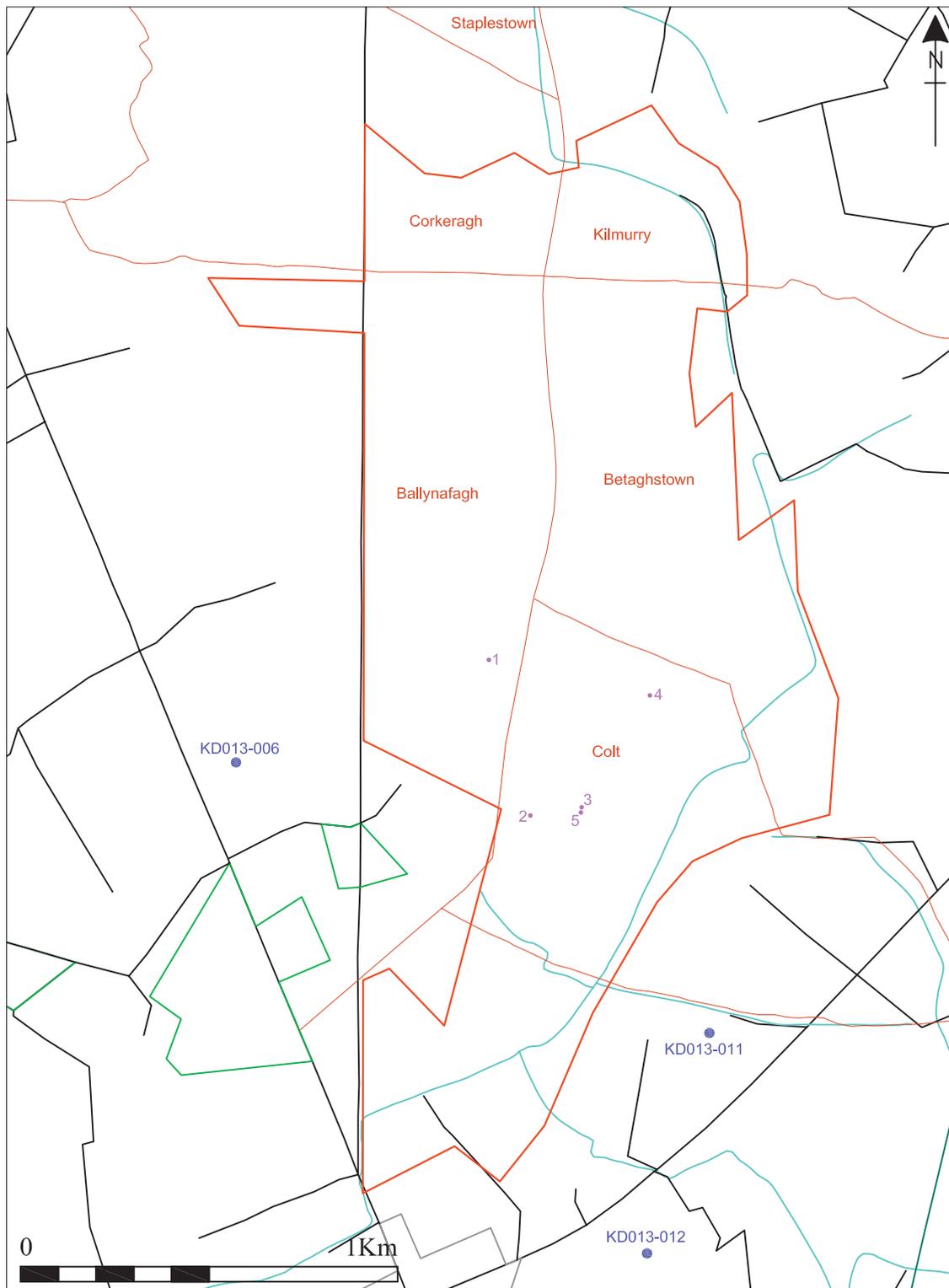


Fig. 6 Prosperous Bog. Scale 1:17,000.

Date Recorded: 10/08/05

OS Sheet: KD013

NGR: 283562, 228864

Width 0.50m, Depth 0.05m, Length 1.07m

Date: Undated

Three brushwood elements with no clear structural arrangement (Plate 45). One element was oriented N-S

while the other two were oriented E-W. They ranged in diameter from 0.01-0.05m in diameter and 0.13-1.07m in length. All were in good condition. A sample was taken and later identified as hazel.

Townland: Colt

Catalogue Code: KD-PPS004

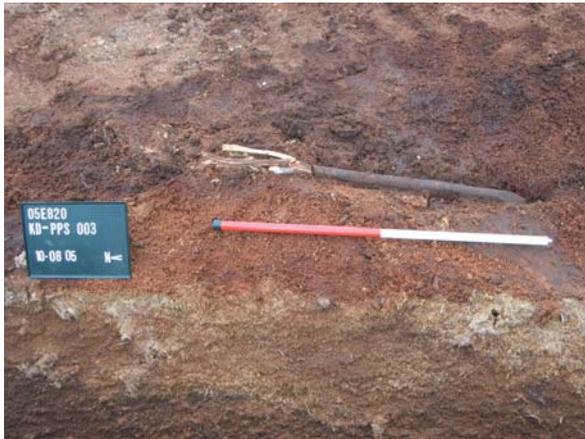


Plate 45 KD-PPS003.

Type: Archaeological Wood

Bog: Prosperous

Site Code: PPS004

Date Recorded: 10/08/05

OS Sheet: KD013

NGR: 283743, 229163

Diameter 0.03m, Length 0.20m

Date: Undated

A single brushwood exposed on the field surface as the drain edge (Plate 46). It was 0.03m in diameter and 0.20m in length. It was in moderate condition. This piece was sampled and was later identified as alder.



Plate 46 KD-PPS004.

Townland: Colt

Catalogue Code: KD-PPS005

Type: Archaeological Wood

Bog: Prosperous

Site Code: PPS005

Date Recorded: 10/08/05

OS Sheet: KD013

NGR: 283560, 228850

Width 1m, Depth 0.08m, Length 1.30m

Date: 1300 to 1450AD

Two roundwood elements located on the field surface in poor condition 1m apart (Plate 47). One was oriented E-W while the other was oriented NW-SE. They were both 0.06m in diameter and ranged from 0.25-0.77m in length. One piece had evidence for branch trimming. A piece was sampled and later identified as alder.



Plate 47 KD-PPS005.

Gilltown Bog 05E0826

Location and Extent of Survey:

Gilltown Bog is situated 2km northwest of Staplestown (Figs. 2 and 7). It is surrounded by farmland, with some private turf plots to the northeast. There are further extensive areas of bog beyond the farmland to the west and northwest. Access to the bog is via the peat works, which are situated to the south of an unclassified road running from Timahoe Crossroads west to Ballagh Crossroads. The bog covers an area of 355 hectares and forms part of the Bord na Móna Coolnamona Group of works.

Production Area:

The bog consists of 111 fields running N-S, all of which is in production with the exception of a small area, to the northeast of the bog, which was out of production and overgrown with scrub. The drains faces were in excellent condition, many having been freshly cut, and the field surfaces were in generally good condition, although some were covered in recent drain cleanings. There was a gravel ridge, visible in the base of the drains, running E-W in the central area of the bog, and associated with a number of oak stumps. Gilltown Bog was first developed in the late 1970's, when it was levelled and the drains cut, with peat moss production

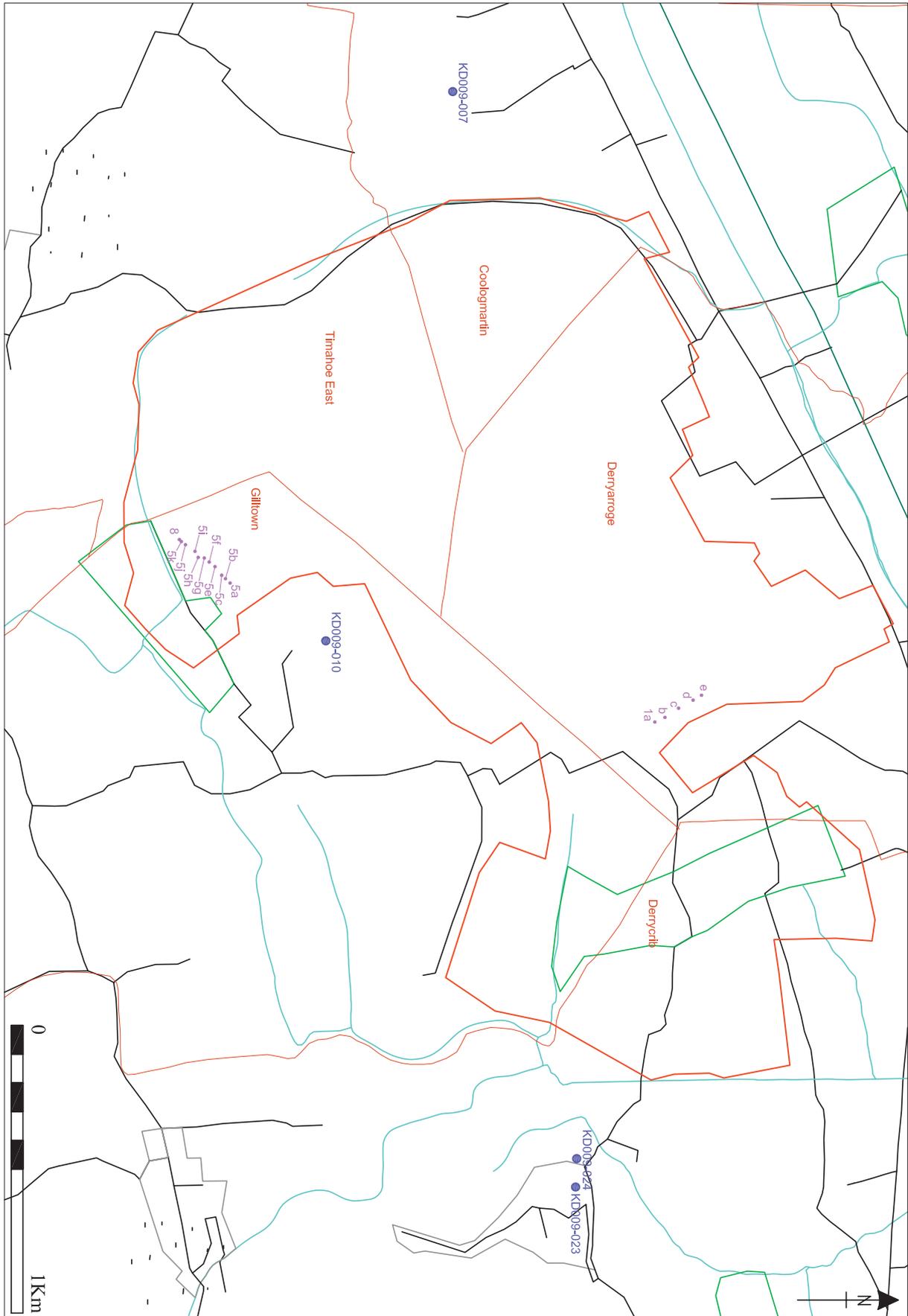


Fig. 7 Gilltown Bog. Scale 1:17,000.

beginning in the early 1980's. The Bord na Móna workers reported local stories of a mass path running across the bog, although none of them had ever seen it and no traces were found during the survey.

Archaeological Background:

There are four recorded monuments in the environs of Gilltown bog, all of which are located in farmland around the bog margins. To the southeast in the townland of Gilltown is an enclosure site (KD009-010), in the townland of Timahoe East is a church and graveyard site (KD009-008), there is a castle site in the adjacent Timahoe West (KD009-009) and there is an enclosure site to the west of the bog in the townland of Coolmartin.

There are five stray finds from the general area, all from the townland of Timahoe East. These are a wooden yoke (1943:131), a perforated timber (1943:130) and part of a block wheel (1943:132), an iron axe (1950:7), a bronze spearhead (1941:1120) and a leather shoe (IA/7/1978). It is uncertain whether these finds came from Gilltown Bog or the nearby Timahoe Bog as the townland spans both bogs.

Survey Results:

Three sites were identified in Gilltown Bog during the course of the survey (Fig. 7), one of which was later discounted as non-archaeological (KD-GTN008). The remaining two sites were both together dating to 660-890AD (KD-GTN001) and 1490-1200BC (KD-GTN005). Both were substantial together oriented NW-SE and recorded at several locations across the bog.

Catalogue of sites:

Townland: Derryarroge

Catalogue Code: KD-GTN001a-e

Type: Togher

Bog: Gilltown

Site Code: GTN001a-d, GTN002

Date Recorded: 17/08/05

OS Sheet: KD009

NGR: 280387, 233396 – 280304, 233557

Width 3m average, Depth 0.50m average, Length 180m

Date: 660 to 890AD

A substantial together recorded at five locations across six production fields. The superstructure was composed mainly of closely placed longitudinal roundwoods and planks with occasional smaller roundwoods and brushwoods packed between and underneath. The trackway is oriented NW-SE and extends from a hill at

the northern extent of the bog and runs into privately owned turbury plots to the east of the main BnM production bog. Three pieces were sampled and later identified as alder, birch and rowan/hawthorn and a date of 660 to 890AD was obtained for the site.



Plate 48 KD-GTN001a.

KD-GTN001a, 280387, 233396, Width 6.6m, Depth 0.50m

Recorded in section in the drain face 0.20m below the field surface (Plate 48). This sighting was composed of longitudinally placed roundwoods and planks exposed in section in the drain face. The elements were closely placed, in good condition and regular in size. There were some small brushwood elements packed between the roundwoods which were two to three deep in some places but in the main were only a single element deep.



Plate 49 KD-GTN001b.

KD-GTN001b, 280381, 233431, Width 3.18m, Depth 0.60m

Exposed in section on the field surface at the drain edge and consisting of longitudinal roundwoods and occasional planks with some brushwood elements

used as packing between the larger elements (Plate 49). A forked branch like roundwood appeared to be transversely laid across the top of the elements although this may have been disturbed by machine activity. The diameters ranged from 0.07-0.14m and the brushwood packing material ranged from 0.04-0.05m.



Plate 50 KD-GTN001c.

KD-GTN001c, 279887, 231903, Width 3.4m, Depth 0.05m

Field surface exposure of the trackway, disturbed by machines (Plate 50). Three brushwoods and a roundwood oriented NW-SE in relatively good condition were recorded on the field surface. At the drain edge there also appeared to be a concentration of marl associated with the site.



Plate 51 KD-GTN001d.

KD-GTN001d, 280321, 233528, Width 1.45m, Depth 0.15m

A machine damaged field surface exposure of the trackway (Plate 51). There were two distinct longitudinal

roundwoods oriented NW-SE and an associated deposit of marl and two further associated roundwoods. This sighting was exposed on the field surface for a length of 5.9m and measured 1.45m in width.



Plate 52 KD-GTN001e.

KD-GTN001e, 280304, 233557, Width 1.33m, Depth 0.15m

Originally identified as a separate site this sighting was the final sighting of this NW-SE trackway at its NW end (Plate 52). As with sightings 'c' and 'd' this was located on the field surface and had been disturbed by machinery. The wooden elements were mainly longitudinally laid with marl and some pegs evident.

Townland: Gilltown

Catalogue Code: KD-GTN005a-k

Type: Togher

Bog: Gilltown

Site Code: GTN005a-k

Date Recorded: 16/08/05

OS Sheet: KD009

NGR: 279914, 231932 – 279770, 231764

Width 1.30-4.10m, Depth 0.20-0.65m, Length 221.7m

Date: 1490 to 1200BC

Substantial roundwood and plank trackway with occasional marl deposits orientated NW-SE across the bog. It was recorded low down in the drain faces at its northeast extent and on or close to the field surfaces as it traversed the bog in a southwesterly direction. The site varied in composition along its length from exposures of single planks to several layers of roundwoods, planks, brushwood and gravel. Sightings 'a' to 'e' were multi layered while those from 'f' to 'k' were less dense in composition.

KD-GTN005a, 279914, 231932, Width 1.81m, Depth 0.23m min



Plate 53 KD-GTN005a.

Several planks and roundwoods exposed in section in the drain face 1.14m below the field surface (Plate 53). Eight planks were longitudinally laid and closely spaced with some longitudinal roundwoods between them. The widest plank measured 0.52m and was 0.14m thick. The planks were two deep in places and it is possible that further material remained below the water level in the drain.



Plate 54 KD-GTN005b.

KD-GTN005b, 279899, 231916, Width 2.8m, Depth 0.47m

Similar to KD-GTN005a this sighting was located in the drain face 0.80m below the field surface and was composed of mainly NE-SW longitudinally laid planks (Plate 54). There were also some longitudinal brushwood and roundwoods between and underneath the planks. The wooden elements overlay a gravel deposit which continued below the water level in the drain.

KD-GTN005c, 279887, 231903, Width 2.30m, Depth 0.65m

This sighting was composed mainly of larger roundwoods



Plate 55 KD-GTN005c.

with occasional planks (Plate 55). The elements are mainly longitudinally placed with packing of smaller brushwood and gravel deposits between them. The site was located 0.62m below the field surface and was in relatively good condition.



Plate 56 KD-GTN005d.

KD-GTN005d, 279876, 231893, Width 2.8m, Depth 0.25m

A single longitudinal plank exposed at the base of the drain (Plate 56). The plank was 0.75m in width and was supported by at least one transverse roundwood and had several small brushwood elements beneath and alongside it. Although in relatively good condition the plank had been damaged by a ditcher.

KD-GTN005e, 279857, 231880, Width 2.5m, Depth 0.37m

At this location the site was composed of longitudinal planks and brushwood supported by roundwoods, gravel and further planks which in turn overlay a bed of gravel (Plate 57). Two pegs were also noted. The elements were in good condition and were 0.86m from the field surface.



Plate 57 KD-GTN005e.



Plate 58 KD-GTN005f.



Plate 59 KD-GTN005g.

KD-GTN005f, 279841, 231860, Width 1.3m, Depth 0.20m

Longitudinally laid large roundwoods and planks exposed in section in the drain face 1.1m below the field surface (Plate 58). The elements were closely placed and the trackway was 1.3m in width at this location. There were some smaller transversely laid brushwoods above

and below the larger elements.

KD-GTN005g, 279827, 231843, Width 4.10m, Depth 0.60m

Exposed in section in the drain face 0.85m below the field surface (Plate 59). Composed of three longitudinally laid planks on the upper surface with two transverse supporting planks. A roundwood peg and brushwood peg north and south of main structure respectively may have supported the sides of the structure at this location. Traces of gravel were also noted interspersed with brushwood fragments between the larger elements.

KD-GTN005h, 279825, 231822, Width 3.10m, Depth 0.25m

Located just above the water level in the drain face, this sighting was composed of two longitudinally laid planks and a roundwood (Plate 60). Two further longitudinal roundwoods supported the planks which had smaller longitudinal brushwood elements between them. The elements were closely placed and were in relatively good condition.



Plate 60 KD-GTN005h.

KD-GTN005i, 279825, 231822, Width 1.40m, Depth 0.20m

This sighting was composed of two longitudinal planks one of which was exposed across the base of the drain (Plate 61). There were also some longitudinal brushwood and roundwood elements oriented NE-SW associated with the planks. The elements were located 1.14m from the field surface and had been damaged by the ditch cutting machinery.

KD-GTN005j, 279781, 231778, Width 1.8m, Depth 0.30m

A single NE-SW orientated plank exposed in section in



Plate 61 KD-GTN005i.

the drain face with some associated brushwood (Plate 62). This sighting is 0.63m below the field surface and was recorded just above the water level in the drain, further elements were visible below the water but were not recordable.



Plate 62 KD-GTN005j.

KD-GTN005k, 279770, 231764, Width 3.5m, Length 7m
Field surface scattered plank fragments thought to have been displaced by drain cutting (Plate 63). This is the last sighting of the NE-SW trackway at the SW extent.

Townland: Gilltown
Catalogue Code: KD-GTN008
Type: Non-Archaeological Wood
Bog: Gilltown
Site Code: GTN008
Date Recorded: 16/08/05
OS Sheet: KD009
NGR: 279763, 231757
Depth 0.15m, Length 0.61m
Date: Undated

Two toolmarked brushwood pegs recorded on the field surface 0.61m apart (Plate 64). Both elements were at 30° angles and were 0.035mm in diameter. Both had



Plate 63 KD-GTN005k.

chisel point worked ends but the cuts were very clearly defined and had been cut with a very sharp tool and are thought to be relatively modern in origin.

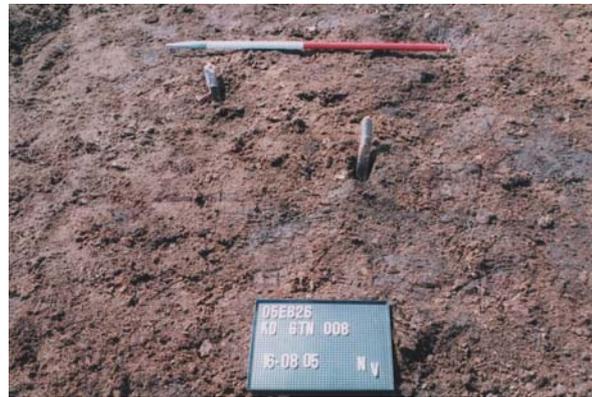


Plate 64 KD-GTN008.

COOLNAMÓNA GROUP

There are three bogs in the Coolnamóna Group, Co. Laois, Coolnamóna, Collnacartan and Cashel. These three bogs were fieldwalked and surveyed as part of the 2005 Peatland Survey. They are described below.

Coolnamóna Bog 05E0822

Location and Extent of Survey:

Coolnamona Bog is situated to the northwest of the N7 motorway, 2 km west of Portlaoise (Fig. 2). To the south it is separated from the motorway by farmland, which also borders the bog on the western and eastern sides. There is forestry to the north, as well as extensive areas of private turf plots. The main access is via the peat works in the southeastern corner of the bog, accessed by a track which links to a small road running parallel to the N7. The bog covers an area of 661 hectares and

forms part of the Bord na Móna Coolnamona Group of works.

Production Area:

The bog consists of 95 fields running east-west along its long axis. There is an industrial railway in the eastern half of the bog which runs east-west before branching north-south around the centre of the bog. Most of the bog is in production, although there are extensive areas of scrub around the southern, eastern and northeastern fringes.

Archaeological Background:

There are two recorded monuments sites close to the bog along the rail line at the SE extent. These are an enclosure (LA012-007) and a possible holy well (LA017-006) in the townland of Clonkeen.

There are four stray finds from Coolnamona Bog recorded in the topographical files of the NMI. These are a perforated hammerhead stone, from Cloncourse townland (1946:329), a leather shoe from Clondacasey townland (1943:115), a stone object from Gorteen townland and a gold dress fastener from Iry townland (1979:87).

Survey Results:

A single possible site was recorded during the course of the survey which was later discounted. This was a compact deposit of dried rushes similar in appearance to thatching material. The rushes were 10-15 elements thick and had been laid down over a wet patch of bog to facilitate the passing of a BnM machine.

Coolnacartan Bog 05E0823

Location and Extent of Survey:

Coolnacartan Bog is situated between the N7 and N8 motorways, 2 km southwest of Portlaoise (Figs. 2 and 8). The bog is very irregular in shape with the two main production areas to the northeast and southwest being linked by a narrow waist of bog and extensive private turf cutting around the fringes, especially on the northwestern, southwestern and northeastern sides, having eaten into the main body of the bog. Coolnacartan Bog is surrounded by farmland with areas of forestry on the northeastern, southwestern and eastern sides. The bog covers an area of 529 hectares and forms part of the Bord na Móna Coolnamona Group of works.

Production Area:

The bog consists of 225 fields running widthways in a northwest-southeasterly direction, with an industrial railway running along the southeastern edge. Production is concentrated in the central eastern and southwestern area of the bog and was also taking place in the northeastern corner of the bog, the fields here being almost worked out. There were areas of heavy scrub in the southeastern, central western and northwestern parts of the bog, some of which were inaccessible. In some production areas the drain faces were overgrown and in the northeastern corner the field surfaces were also covered with loose peat.

Archaeological Background:

On the archaeological constraint maps there are two recorded monuments immediately adjacent to the bog at the NW extent. These are a church site in Clonkeen townland (LA017-007) and a field system site in Oldtown townland (LA017-008). Some distance to the SE in the townland of Colt there is an enclosure site (LA017-022) while to the SW in Ardlea there is a horizontal watermill.

Several finds are reported in the NMI topographical files from Clonaddoran townland which spans Coolnacartan and Cashel bogs. The files do not specify in most cases which bog these were found in. The finds are a slate spearhead (1966:98), leather bag (1973:194), wooden stakes, flint arrowhead with shaft, leather bag with hazelnuts and a leather sandal (IA/148/60), a leather shoe (1943:115), a leather shoe (1960:576) and an animal skin (1986:38). From Colt and Oldtown townlands the finds were a bog butter (IA/254/1990) and a leather shoe (1943:115) respectively.

Survey Results:

Two sites were identified in Coolnacartan Bog (Fig. 8) consisting of a small field surface deposit of wood (LS-CTN001) and a site identified as a possible togher recorded on two separate field surfaces (LS-CTN002). The latter was discounted when the dating results were received as it was modern in origin.

Catalogue of sites:

Townland: Coolnacartan

Catalogue Code: LS-CTN001

Type: Archaeological Wood

Bog: Coolnacartan

Site Code: CTN001

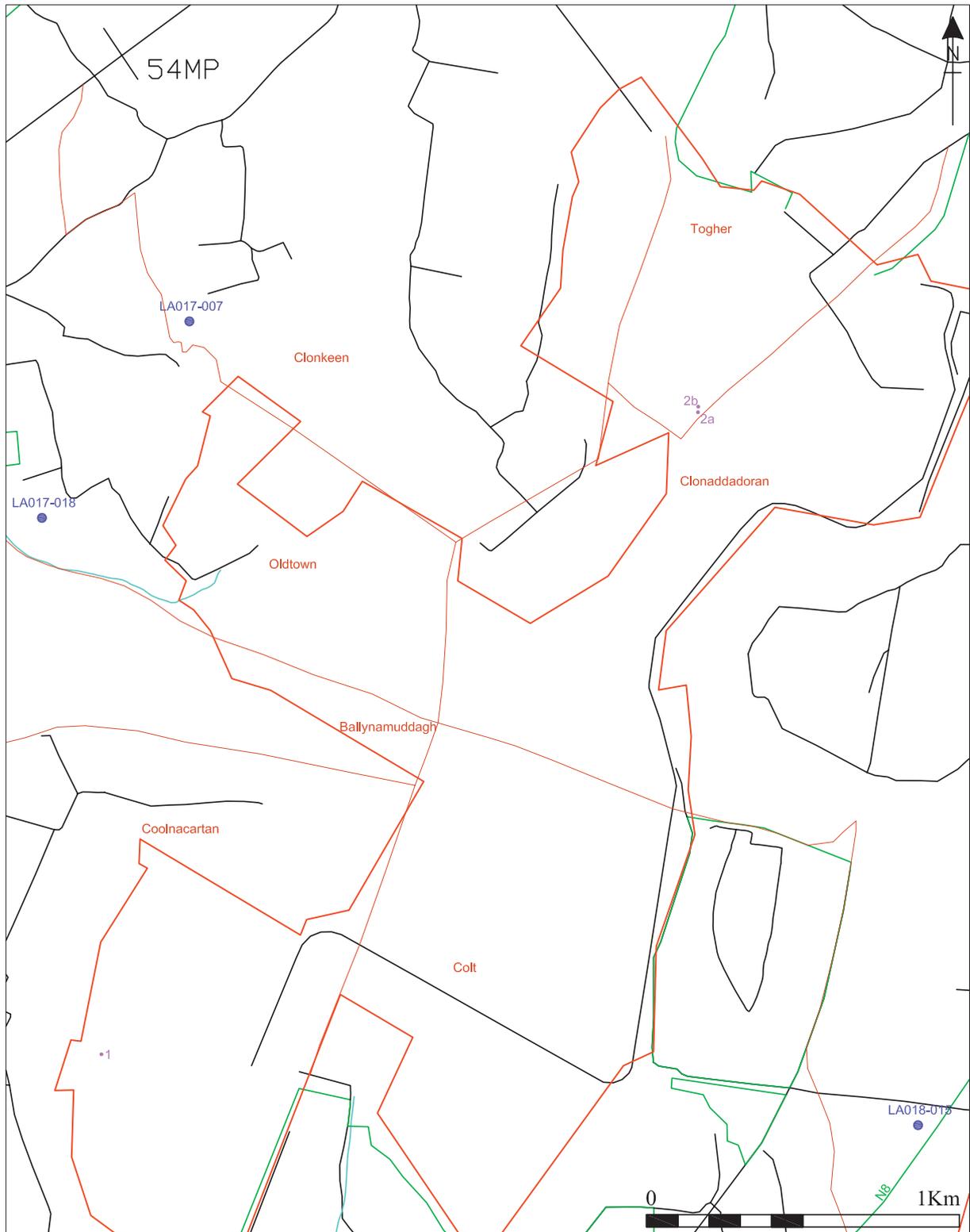


Fig. 8 Coolnacartan Bog. Scale 1:17,000.

Date Recorded: 22/07/05

OS Sheet: LA017

NGR: 242855, 192390

With 0.72m, Depth 0.12m, Length 1.32m

Date: Undated

A small deposit of archaeological wood mainly oriented E-W on the field surface (Plate 65). The pieces range in

size from 1-19mm in diameter and 0.05-0.15m in length. A single worked end was noted along the eastern extent cut to a chisel point with ten facets. The peat was sphagnum rich with occasional eriophorum inclusions. A sample was taken from one of the brushwoods and later identified as willow.

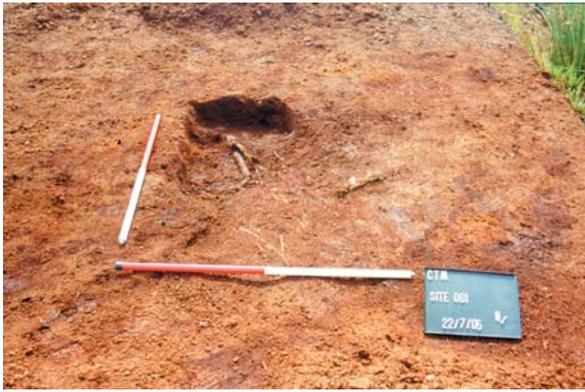


Plate 65 LS-CTN001.

Cashel Bog 05E0824

Location and Extent of Survey:

Cashel Bog is located to the southeast of the N8 road, 2km south of Portlaoise (Figs. 2 and 9). There is farmland to the northwest and forestry to the west and southeast, with extensive private peat cuttings to the north and, to a lesser extent, to the south. Access to the bog is from a short track connecting with the N8. Cashel Bog covers an area of 242 hectares and forms part of the Bord na Móna Coolnamona Group of works.

Production Area:

The bog consists of 106 fields running N-S, with an industrial railway along its northwestern edge. Main body of the bog is in production, with some 40 fields on the eastern side of the bog out of production and covered in scrub. The drain faces in the production areas were clean but, at the time of the survey, the water level in the drains was high following heavy rain and many of the fields were covered in unharvested peat. Some natural wood was visible in the drain faces.

Archaeological Background:

There is an enclosure site adjacent to the bog at the southeastern extent in Cashel townland (LA018-019) while approximately 2km to the east there are four sites in the townland of Kilvahan a possible house site (LA-0118-016), a church, enclosure and graveyard (LA018-017) and an architectural fragment in Pass townland (LA018-018).

Several finds are reported in the NMI topographical files from Clonaddoran townland which spans Cashel and Coolnacartan bogs. The files do not specify in most cases which bog these were found in. These are a slate spearhead (1966:98), leather bag (1973:194), wooden stakes, flint arrowhead with shaft, leather bag with hazelnuts and a leather sandal

(IA/148/60), a leather shoe (1943:115), a leather shoe (1960:576) and an animal skin (1986:38). From this bog there was a wooden beetle (1984:139) from Ballyruin townland, and two bog butters from Cashel townland (IA/244/1998 & 1971:1007). A third bog butter was discovered this year in Ballyruin townland during ditch cutting after completion of the survey and has been submitted to the museum.

Survey Results:

Seven sites were identified in Cashel Bog which consisted of two post rows, a possible platform and three sightings of archaeological wood (Fig. 9). It is thought that one of the post rows (LS-CSL009) may represent the last remains of an Early Christian single plank trackway whose upper surfaces have been removed during the milling process. Two dates were obtained of 660-890AD and 640-780AD respectively. A similar post row site was excavated by ADS Ltd. in 2001 (01E0595) in Curraghmore Bog, Co. Offaly but was later discovered to survive as a single plank trackway in a high face bank. The Curraghmore site was dated to 890AD and survived on the production field surfaces as a series of posts. The occurrence of trackways close to one another and following the same line has also been noted in several ADS Ltd. excavations, most notably those in Killaghintober Bog (1999-200), Daingean Bog (2005) and in Ballykean Bog (2004). The reason for two sites so close in date and location has yet to be fully explained. It is possible that one site simply replaced the other as ground conditions became wetter or the trackways became degraded.

The earliest site in the survey was identified at the base of a drain in this bog. LS-CSL004 was dated to 3780 to 3640BC. It was identified in a single location and as a result has been classified as a possible platform. The remaining four sites were sightings of archaeological wood and a post row all of which are considered to be resolved.

Catalogue of sites:

Townland: Cashel
 Catalogue Code: LS-CSL001
 Type: Post Row
 Bog: Cashel
 Site Code: CSL001
 Date Recorded: 27/07/05
 OS Sheet: LA018
 NGR: 246572, 192112 – 246529-192123
 Width 0.20-1.4m, Depth 0.20m, Length 44.1m

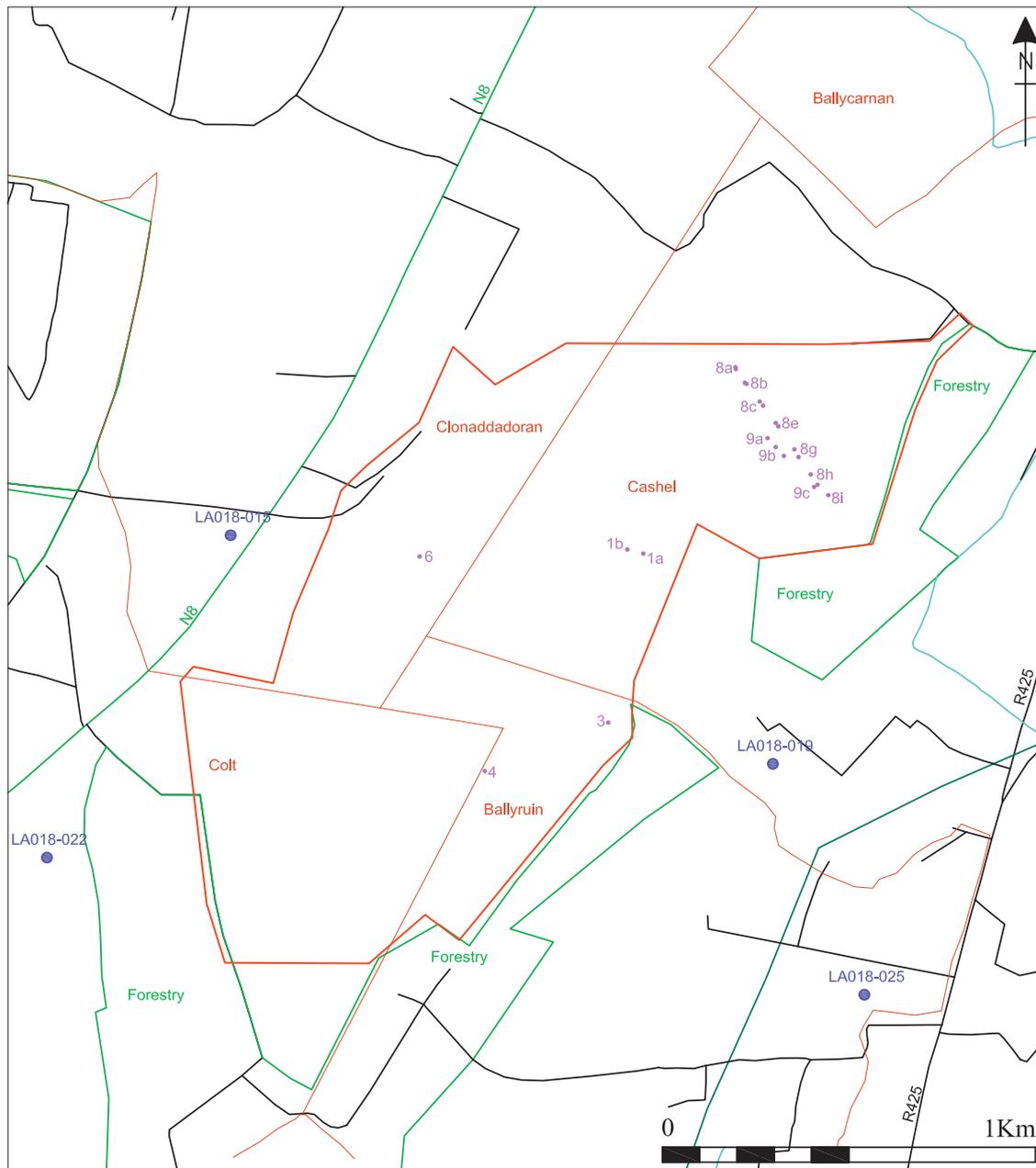


Fig. 9 Cashel Bog. Scale 1:17,000.

Date: Undated

A post row oriented ESE-WNW and traced for a length of 44.1m across four production fields (Plate 66). It was composed of 51 upright roundwood and brushwood elements with four additional longitudinal roundwood elements on the field surface towards the centre of the post row. The elements varied from 0.02m to 0.14m in diameter. In places there was a double row of pegs 0.20-0.30m apart. In two places there were the remains of horizontal elements lying on the field surface which ranged in length from 0.15-0.45m. The peat was moderately well decomposed with some calluna and eriophorum inclusions.

Townland: Ballyruin

Catalogue Code: LS-CSL003

Type: Archaeological Wood

Bog: Cashel

Site Code: CSL003

Date Recorded: 28/07/05

OS Sheet: LA018

NGR: 246478, 191655

Width 0.08m, Depth 0.92m

Date: Undated

A single roundwood set in the drain face at an angle of 80° (Plate 67). It was 0.70m from the field surface, 0.08m in diameter and measured 0.92m in total length. It had a chisel point at one end with four facets.



Plate 66 LS-CSL001.



Plate 67 LS-CSL003.

Townland: Ballyruin
 Catalogue Code: LS-CSL004
 Type: Possible platform
 Bog: Cashel
 Site Code: CSL004
 Date Recorded: 28/07/05
 OS Sheet: LA018
 NGR: 246147, 191524
 Width 0.60m, Depth 0.14 min, Length unknown
 Date: 3780-3640BC

Four closely placed parallel roundwoods recorded protruding from the drain face in a SE-NW direction (Plate 68). These were only exposed for a maximum of 0.14m into the drain face and were 0.90m from the field surface. They ranged in diameter from 0.07-0.14m. These elements were not located in any of the surrounding drains and may represent a small platform or a short length of togher. A single element was sampled and



Plate 68 LS-CSL004.

later identified as alder.

Townland: Clonaddadoran
 Catalogue Code: LD-CSL006
 Type: Archaeological Wood
 Bog: Cashel
 Site Code: CSL006
 Date Recorded: 28/07/05
 OS Sheet: LA018
 NGR: 245972, 192104
 Diameter 0.13m, Length 0.80m
 Date: Undated

Single large worked roundwood partially exposed on the field surface (Plate 69). It was inserted into the peat at a 30° angle oriented roughly E-W. The roundwood measured 0.13m in diameter and 0.80m in length. This piece was 100% sampled and later identified as alder.



Plate 69 LS-CSL006.

Townland: Cashel
 Catalogue Code: LS-CSL008
 Type: Post row
 Bog: Cashel
 Site Code: CSL008a-i
 Date Recorded: 27/07/05
 OS Sheet: LA018

NGR: 246820, 192611 – 247068, 192270
 Width 0.02 – 0.40m, Length 420m
 Date: 660-890AD



Plate 70 LS-CSL008a.

A post row recorded in eight locations across fifteen production fields and oriented NW-SE. Composed of mainly upright brushwood and roundwood pegs/posts ranging in diameter from 0.02-0.40m in diameter. There were occasional longitudinal elements at some of the sightings which suggest that the site may represent the remains of a planks trackway. The condition of the elements varied from poor to moderate across the



Plate 71 LS-CSL008b.

length of the site. The pegs/posts were driven into the peat at angles that varied from 45-90°. Five pieces were taken for wood species identification from each sighting and these were identified as willow/poplar, alder (x2), maple and willow.

LS-CSL008a, 246819-192616, Width 0.07m max, Length of sighting 2.9m

Nine pegs/posts forming a straight NW-SE oriented line with an additional transverse element on the field surface (Plate 70). The pegs/posts were inserted into the peat at 45-90° angles.



Plate 72 LS-CSL008c.

LS-CSL008b, 246844, 192574, Width 0.13m, Length of sighting 8.2m

A single line of brushwood pegs/posts with two longitudinal elements (Plate 71). The distances between the pegs/posts varied from 0.24-0.90m and their diameters ranged from 0.04-0.06m. The longitudinal elements abutted the upright pegs.

LS-CSL008c, 246884, 192523, Width 0.10m max, Length of sighting 18.7m

Twenty pegs/posts in a row oriented NW-SE (Plate 72). The elements formed a straight line with an occasional element off line. Their spacing varied from 11 elements in a 3m stretch to having spaces of 1.5m between elements which were inserted into the peat mainly at an angle of 60°.



Plate 73 LS-CSL008e.

LS-CSL008e, 246934, 192456, Width 0.25m, Length of sighting 12.3m

Three large posts and four smaller pegs exposed on the field surface in a NW-SE line with distances of 1.2-3.8m between them (Plate 73). The diameter of the roundwoods ranged from 0.05-0.20m and they were in moderate condition.



Plate 74 LS-CSL003.

LS-CSL008f, 247030, 192292, Width 0.08-3m, Length of sighting 30m

Four roundwood posts and associated wood elements exposed on two adjoining field surfaces (Plate 74). The distances between the posts varied from 1.8-3.1m and all were located on a single field surface while there were damaged longitudinal elements on the other field surface.



Plate 75 LS-CSL003.

LS-CSL008g, 246977, 192394, Width 1.29m, Length 1.9m

Four pegs/posts located on the field surface (Plate 75). Three were in NW-SE oriented line while the fourth was 1.9m to the SE of the northernmost peg/post. Their diameters ranged from 0.04-0.06m in diameter and they were in moderate condition.

LS-CSL008h, 247039, 192298, Width 2m, Length 27.5m
Five pegs/posts located in a line on the field surface and some associated elements scattered across the field surface with a general NW-SE orientation (Plate 76). The pegs/posts were in moderate condition while the remaining elements were in very poor condition from milling.



Plate 76 LS-CSL008e.

LS-CSL008i, 247068, 192270, Width 0.04-0.10m, Length 2.40m

Three posts in a NW-SE line across the field surface 2.40m in length (Plate 77). Their diameters ranged from 0.04-0.06m and they were in moderate condition.



Plate 77 LS-CSL003.

Townland: Cashel

Catalogue Code: LS-CSL009

Type: Post Row

Bog: Cashel

Site Code: CAL008d, CSL011 & CSL018

Date Recorded: 28/07/05

OS Sheet: LA018

NGR: 246905, 192424 - 247030, 192292

Date: 640 to 780AD / 540 to 770AD

A post row recorded in three locations across nine production fields and oriented NW-SE. This site runs almost parallel to LS-CSL008. The northwest sighting LS-CSL009a, was originally thought to form part of LS-CSL008 and was initially recorded as LS-CSL008d. It was later realised to form part of the line of this site which was also made up of two other sightings originally identified as separate sites – LS-CSL011 and LS-CSL018.



Plate 78 LS-CSL003.

LS-CSL009a (CSL008d), 246905, 192424, Width 0.60m, Length of sighting 0.92m

This sighting had a single peg and an associated, transversely laid, brushwood on the field surface while a third brushwood element was visible in section in the adjacent drain face 0.16m from the field surface (Plate 78). The elements ranged in diameter from 0.02-0.05m and were in poor to moderate condition.

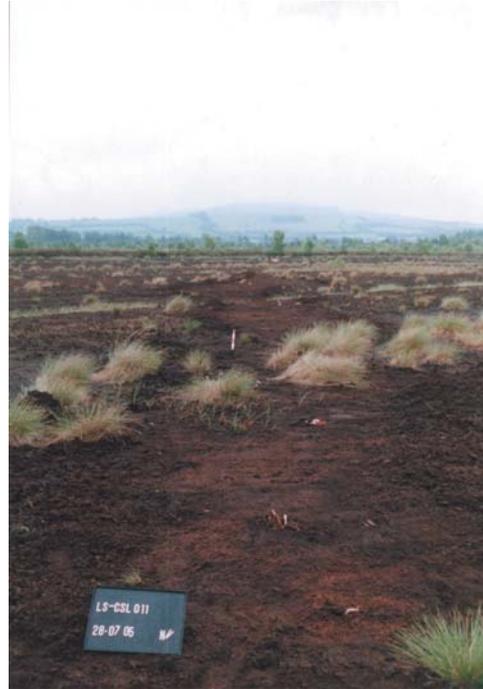


Plate 79 LS-CSL008e.

LS-CSL009b (LS-CSL011), 246927, 192400 – 246949, 192376, Width 0.07m, Length 33.6m, 640 to 780AD

Six pegs/posts in a line oriented NW-SE and located on the field surface. The elements range in diameter from 0.03-0.07m and were widely spaced across a distance of 33.6m. The closest two elements were 0.9m apart while the furthest were 8.2m apart (Plate 79). The elements



Plate 80 LS-CSL018.

were in poor to moderate condition. A single element was sampled and later identified as alder and dated to 640-780AD.

LS-CSL009c (LS-CSL018), 247030, 192292, Width 0.07m, Length 0.36m, Date: 540 to 770AD

A single roundwood worked to a chisel point at one end located on the field surface (Plate 80). It was 0.07m in diameter and 0.36m in length. This piece was sampled and later identified as willow/poplar and dated to 540-770AD.

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7 APPENDICES

Appendix 1

SMR Sites in Peatland Survey Area

SMR No.: ME046-005; 006
 Townland: Ardnamullan/Tircroghan
 Parish: Clonard
 Barony: Upper Moyfenrath
 Classification: Earthwork sites
 Cartography: Hachured on 1913 OS map (both sites). Three circular features shown on 1st edition OS map.

No trace of these mounds. A native of 76 years said they had been cut twice, the last time being 1939. He remembered them as 'high mounds of turf'. June 1969

SMR No.: OF025-016
 Townland: Ballinvally
 Parish: Geashill
 Barony: Geashill
 Classification: Enclosure (site)
 Cartography:
 Aerial photographs (GSIAP, N 179-80) reveal the cropmark of a large circular enclosure. No visible remains at ground level.

SMR No.: OF025-017
 Townland: Ballinvally, Killeigh, Millbrook
 Parish: Geashill
 Barony: Geashill
 Classification: Archaeological Complex
 Cartography:
 01701 Abbey, Killeigh
 01702 Convent, Killeigh (site of)
 01703 Priory, Killeigh
 01704 Graveyard, Killeigh
 01705 Graveslabs x 4, Killeigh
 01706 Holy Wells x 7, Killeigh
 01707 Rath, Millbrook
 01708 Rath, Millbrook
 01709 Souterrain (Poss), Millbrook
 01710 Iconic Stone Sculpture, Killeigh
 01711 Ecclesiastical Enclosure, Millbrook
 01712 Cranog, Killeigh and Millbrook
 01713 Mill, Killeigh and Millbrook

SMR No.: OF025-023
 Townland: Ballynasrah

Parish: Geashill
 Barony: Geashill
 Classification: Enclosure (site)
 Cartography:
 The cropmark of a circular enclosure revealed on aerial photographs (GSIAP, N 178-9). No visible remains at ground level.

SMR No.: WM013-103
 Townland: Ballynacor
 Parish: Killulagh
 Barony: Delvin
 Classification: Ringfort
 Cartography: -
 Roughly circular ringfort outlined by remains of low rounded bank of earth and stones set on a low scarp. Slight remains of a shallow fosse from E-S-N-NW. Entrance, probably original, on E side. Modern narrow entrance on W side. Interior is fairly even with a gentle rounded rise towards the centre. Site is overgrown with boxwood and saplings. On a low rise in average pasture.

SMR No.: WM013-104
 Townland: Bracklin
 Parish: Killulagh
 Barony: Delvin
 Classification: Ringfort
 Cartography: Indicated on OS map of 1837
 Circular earthwork outlined by a low bank of earth and stone with a wide shallow fosse outside. Beyond this is a second low wide bank of earth and stone with a shallow fosse outside it. Original entrance may have been ESE-SE-SSE. At this point the bank has been ploughed leaving only a low scarp and the outer bank has been disturbed. There is a poorly defined gap in the inner bank at NNE and another, not quite concentric with it in the outer bank.
 1973

SMR No.: WM013-065
 Townland: Ballynacor
 Parish: Killulagh
 Barony: Delvin
 Classification: Ringfort

Cartography: Marked on OS Map (*)
 Small ringfort. Perimeter has been modified and straightened on S side to form a field bank. Possible entrance at NNE. A number of stones protrude from the ground. Sited on a natural ridge. 1973
 SMR No.: WM013-066
 Townland: Ballynacor
 Parish: Killulagh
 Barony: Delvin
 Classification: Earthwork
 Cartography:
 This site is marked on Larkin's Map of 1808, but field notes dated 1980 state that there is no longer any trace of antiquity there now.

SMR No.: WM-13-067
 Townland: Ballynacor
 Parish: Killulagh
 Barony: Delvin
 Classification: Ringfort
 Cartography:
 Roughly circular area outlined by scarp with low bank of earth and stone at upper edge and shallow fosse at foot. There are also some slight remains of a low outer bank. Field wall N-S cuts off a small disturbed portion of the site on the E. There are a small number of disturbance depressions in the surface. Diam. is 43.2m

SMR No.: WM013-070
 Townland: Ballynacor
 Parish: Killulagh
 Barony: Delvin
 Classification: Ringfort
 Cartography: -
 An approximately circular enclosure bounded by a low scarp with remains of an earthen bank on its upper edge and with suggestions of a wide fosse at its foot. The bank is reasonably well preserved from NW-N-E-SE. Elsewhere it is absent. Modern NW-SW fence crosses the site and divides approximately one third of it from the rest. Modern NNE-SSW fence extends outside the foot of the scarp on the NW. Perimeter has small modern gaps. Gap on NNE may possibly represent the entrance. The interior rises appreciably to form an oval platform at the centre. This appears to be due to an outcrop.

SMR No.: WM013-071
 Townland: Ballynacor
 Parish: Killulagh

Barony: Delvin
 Classification: Ringfort
 Cartography: Marked on OS map (*)
 Bounded NE-E-S by remains of a wide low earthen bank set on a scarp with a fosse at its foot. From S to SW the perimeter is very poorly defined and now very irregular. From SW-W-N the perimeter consists of low earthen bank set on a scarp with a wide shallow fosse at its foot. From N-NE the perimeter is a wide natural slope. The interior has a sub-circular annex-like enclosure about 30m in diameter. The perimeter is poorly defined on the E side. A wide double bank runs through the centre and northern part of the main enclosure. There is a wide flat-bottomed fosse at the foot of both banks. The interior is uneven, and there are no traces of wall footings or buildings.

SMR No.: WM013-072
 Townland: Ballynacor
 Parish: Killulagh
 Barony: Delvin
 Classification: Castle
 Cartography: -
 Marked on the Down Survey Parish Map which shows the castle at the E end of the townland. According to field notes dated May 1983, there is no trace of a castle remaining. It is a good area with numerous rocky outcrops.

SMR No.: WM013-073
 Townland: Ballynacor
 Parish: Killulagh
 Barony: Delvin
 Classification: Ringfort
 Cartography: Marked on OS map (*)
 Large circular ringfort outlined by double bank with fosse in between. Inner bank is set on an embankment on NW-W and S. Fosse and bank are best preserved on N side. On N there is a second fosse outside the outer bank and there is a third bank, broad and low. A silo pit has been built outside the second bank, and there are quarry holes outside the earthwork.

SMR No.: KD013-006
 Townland: Ballynafagh
 Parish: Ballynafagh
 Barony: Clane
 Classification: Earthwork site
 Cartography: Only indicated on 1837 OS map.
 Site under crop at time of visit. No trace of monument.

SMR No.: WM014-018
 Townland: Bracklin
 Parish: Killulagh
 Barony: Delvin
 Classification: Castle
 Cartography: -

The castle is marked on the Down Survey Parish Map. According to field notes from 1983 there are no visible traces remaining. There is one single storey house over a basement, 5 bays wide with a parapet and single storey wings at each end and a long return bay out the back. All are seemingly 18th/19th Century. The buildings are referred to by the occupants as 'Bracklin Castle'.

SMR No.: WM014-019
 Townland: Bracklin
 Parish: Killulagh
 Barony: Delvin
 Classification: Ringfort

Cartography: -
 Circular ringfort outlined by a triple bank with two fosses in between. Outer bank and fosse are poorly preserved and absent on S and E. Interior slopes gently from NW-SE. There are stony outcrops in the interior. In coniferous plantation. There is a narrow entrance on the SW and a second entrance on SE. Sited on gently rising ground.
 May 1976

SMR No.: ME035-008
 Townland: Carranstown Great
 Parish: Killaconnigan
 Barony: Lune
 Classification: Castle
 Cartography: Marked with cross-like symbol on OS 1910 edition, and as 'Carranstown Castle' on the 1st edition.

Site of the castle consists of a mound about 1.5m high. Surrounding it are a number of drainage ditches and banks. The ditches are 2-4m wide and 30cm-80cm deep. The bank to the west of the castle is much eroded. The mound is irregularly sloped and has probably been quarried in places. All fields have been reclaimed.
 1985

SMR No.: ME035-009
 Townland: Carranstown Great
 Parish: Killaconnigan
 Barony: Lune
 Classification: Enclosure

Cartography: -
 Situated on a gentle N-facing slope, with slightly higher ground to south. Only one quadrant of the site survives with a scarp and external ditch from S-W. There is a possible entrance and causeway at SW – 3m wide. The rest of the site is destroyed. The quadrant is defined by field fences. Within the enclosure about halfway along the southbound field fence is a bullaun stone. March 1985

SMR No.: LA018-019
 Townland: Cashel
 Parish: Ballyroan
 Barony: Cullenagh
 Classification: Enclosure (site)
 Cartography: Marked on the 1841 and 1909 eds. OS 6" maps.
 A subcircular enclosure (diam. C. 37.8m). A slight rise in the ground level indicates the site.

SMR No.: KD031-013
 Townland: Cloney
 Parish: Kilberry
 Barony: Narragh and Reban West
 Classification: Enclosure site
 Cartography: -
 Description: -

SMR No.: LA018-022
 Townland: Colt
 Parish: Clonenagh and Clonagheen
 Barony: Maryborough West
 Classification: Enclosure
 Cartography: Hachured from SE-NW on 1909 ed. 1909 ed. OD 6" map.
 Portion of low bank (C c. 36.5m S-W) and external fosse survive at S and W. No other visible surface traces.

SMR No.: KD009-007
 Townland: Coolmartin
 Parish: Timahoe
 Barony: Clane
 Classification: Ringfort
 Cartography: Marked on both 1837 and 1911 OS maps. Marked on latter as Crockberry Hill.
 No indication of an earthwork apart from a slight depression to the north of the summit.
 July 1972

SMR No.: KD021-002
 Townland: Coolsickin / Quinsborough
 Parish: Lackagh
 Barony: Offaly West
 Classification: Decoy pond site
 Cartography: Indicated on 1939 OS map.
 No visible surface traces.
 1986

SMR No.: KD021-003
 Townland: Coolsickin / Quinsborough
 Parish: Lackagh
 Barony: Offaly West
 Classification: Enclosure
 Cartography: Not indicated on 1837 or 1939 OS maps.
 Aerial photograph (CUCAP BGH 71) shows cropmark of circular feature defined by fosse with internal bank. It could be a barrow site or connected with nearby moated site (21.2). A second possible site exists closeby (21.7). No visible surface remains.

SMR No.: KD021-011
 Townland: Coolsickin / Quinsborough
 Parish: Lackagh
 Barony: Offaly West
 Classification: Potential site
 In open, flat, now drained and improved pastureland.
 No visible traces remain.
 1986

SMR No.: LA017-006
 Townland: Clonkeen
 Parish: Clonenagh and Clonagheen
 Barony: Maryborough West
 Classification: Holy Well (possible)
 Cartography: Marked on the 1841 and 1906-6 eds. OS 6" maps
 Now covered over and incorporated into a pump.

SMR No.: LA012-007
 Townland: Clonkeen
 Parish: Clonenagh and Clonagheen
 Barony: Maryborough West
 Classification: Enclosure
 Cartography: Not marked on the 1841 ed. OS 6" map
 A subcircular area (dims. C. 16m E-W, 10.5m N-S) defined by a scarp (H c. 0.5-1m). No evidence of fosse.

SMR No.: ME041-002
 Townland: Clonycavan
 Parish: Killaconnigan
 Barony: Lune
 Classification: Rectilinear enclosure
 Cartography: Hachured on OS 1910 map. Marked 'Fort' on 1837 OS map.
 Situated on SSE slope of fairly steeply rising ridge. The interior is a long rectangular shape with rounded corners. It is enclosed by a low earthen bank – a wide sprawling one which rises only a small height above the interior. At NNW a large hole has been dug inside the perimeter destroying the bank. Just east of south is a small hole at the perimeter, and another at ENE. Perimeter is much disturbed by trees and ploughing. Possible entrance at the south where there is a very gradual slope from interior to exterior. August 1969

SMR No.: ME035-013
 Townland: Clonygrange
 Parish: Killaconnigan
 Barony: Lune
 Classification: Ringfort
 Cartography: -
 Situated on low ground against the bank of a stream. The stream curtails its banks from SSE-SW. There is some disturbance at the NE, and the external bank is missing from N-ESE. Entrance is at north, about 6m wide. It functions as a modern entrance, and doesn't have a causeway. The interior is cattle-churned, and is not perceptibly higher than the interior.
 March 1985

SMR No.: WM021-001
 Townland: Craddanstown
 Parish: Killucan
 Barony: Farbill
 Classification: Earthwork
 Cartography: -
 Marked on Larkin's Map of 1808.

SMR No.: KD013-011
 Townland: Curryhills
 Parish: Killybegs
 Barony: Clane
 Classification: Ringfort
 Cartography:
 Also called 'Scrawtown Fort'. A roughly circular ring-fort on the edge of a high ridge. The site is surrounded by a bank but is impenetrable due to dense overgrowth.

Field boundaries adjoin the site on the southern and western sides. 1972

A handwritten addendum to the above fieldnotes states that the site has been 'destroyed 06/86'.

SMR No.: KD013-012
 Townland: Curryhills
 Parish: Killybegs
 Barony: Clane
 Classification: Ringfort
 Cartography: Indicated on 1837 and 1911 OS maps
 Known as 'Eldons Fort'. Circular platform type ringfort. Site is outlined by a fosse which is very silted-up, and a bank. The interior is raised somewhat over the surrounding area. Interior appears to be flat and has dense overgrowth of nettles. Possible entrances at southeast and northwest. 1972

SMR No.: OF025-001
 Townland: Derrybeg
 Parish: Geashill
 Barony: Geashill
 Classification: Mound site
 Cartography: Not marked on first two eds. but hachured as a small circular mound on current OS ed. When visited by Davies (ITA Survey 1942) the mound was already destroyed with just three old hawthorn trees marking its site. No visible remains at ground level.

SMR No.: OF025-022
 Townland: Derrygunnigan
 Parish: Geashill
 Barony: Geashill
 Classification: Rath
 Cartography: Hachured
 Situated on high ground overlooking bogland. A poorly preserved bivallate ringfort comprising a circular platform (diam. 50m E-W) delimited by a low earthen bank (With 2m; intn H 1m) and an outer fosse visible at W only where it has been widened to accommodate forestry drainage. Dense overgrowth masks the site and precludes identification of the entrance.

SMR No.: KD031-003
 Townland: Derrynine
 Parish: Fontstown
 Barony: Offaly West
 Classification: Earthwork site
 Cartography: Marked on 1907-09 OS map as

hachured circle.

Very slight rise in low-lying field.

August 1987

SMR No.: LA017-015
 Townland: Doon
 Parish: Clonenagh and Clonagheen
 Barony: Maryborough West
 Classification: Enclosure (site)
 Cartography: Marked on the 1841 and 1910 eds. OS 6" map
 A circular enclosure (max. diam. C. 45m). No visible surface remains.

SMR No.: KD009-010
 Townland: Gill Town
 Parish: Ballynafagh
 Barony: Clane
 Classification: Earthwork site
 Cartography: Indicated on 1837 and 1911 OS maps. Also marked on Taylor's Map of 1783.

SMR No.: OF025-008
 Townland: Graigue
 Parish: Geashill
 Barony: Geashill
 Classification: Enclosure (possible site)
 Cartography: Aerial photographs (GSIAP, N 178-9) reveal the crop-mark of a small circular enclosure. No visible remains at ground level.

SMR No.: KD018-005
 Townland: Grangeclare East
 Parish: Kilmeage
 Barony: Connell
 Classification: Ringfort
 Cartography: Indicated on 1837 and 1907-09 OS maps.
 Small roughly circular ringfort delimited by a fosse. Entrance on west side.
 1972

SMR No.: KD031-0201/0202
 Townland: Oldcourt
 Parish: Kilberry
 Barony: Narragh and Reban West
 Classification: Church and cemetery
 Cartography: Indicated on 1837 and 1907 OS maps. 'Killart' is the name of an obliterated churchyard in

the town of Oldcourt. There are superstitious stories attached to the grave yard. The site of the burial ground is now in a hollow with 2-3 aged ash trees nearby. Fitzgerald, Lord W., 1899-1902 JKAS Vol. III

SMR No.: LA017-00801
Townland: Oldtown
Parish: Clonenagh and Clonagheen
Barony: Maryborough West
Classification: Enclosure (site)

Cartography:

An oval enclosure site visible on aerial photographs (GSI, S 226-7). Not visible on the ground. Possible field system to the N and NE (LA017-00802).

SMR No.: LA017-00802
Townland: Oldtown
Parish: Clonenagh and Clonagheen
Barony: Maryborough West
Classification: Field system (site)

Cartography:

Field system visible on aerial photographs (GSI, S 226-7). Not visible on the ground. Enclosure (site), LA017-00802, lies to S.

SMR No.: KD018-031
Townland: Oldtowndonore
Parish: Downings
Barony: Clane
Classification: Potential site
Cartography:
Potential site with aerial photo GSI N389-8 (not included in RMP file).

SMR No.: ME035-010
Townland: Killacconnigan
Parish: Killacconnigan
Barony: Lune
Classification: Church, site of
Cartography: Marked 'Graveyard' on OS 1910 edition, and marked similarly on the 1st edition. Manuscript ref. NLI 5485 (47) shows a church here. No foundations could be recognised. Burial dates from 1764-1982. Sub-circular/semi-circular with raised interior, surrounded by a stone wall or bank. The stone wall has a heaped up bank inside it.
March 1985

SMR No.: OF025-002
Townland: Killeenmore
Parish: Geashill

Barony: Geashill
Classification: Enclosure (site)
Cartography:
Description:
SMR No.: KD018-003
Townland: Kilmeage
Parish: Kilmeage
Barony: Connell
Classification: Castle

Cartography: Indicated on the 1837 and 1909 OS maps.

O'Grady, in History and Antiquities of the Hill of Allen, 1903-5, mentions that the castle was built on entirely of red sandstone.

No standing parts of the castle remain.

June 1986

SMR No.: KD018-004
Townland: Kilmeage
Parish: Kilmeage
Barony: Connell
Classification: Ringfort

Cartography: Indicated on 1837 and 1907-09 OS maps. Slightly altered shape, two sides flattened, on latter.

Roughly oval shaped ringfort, northern and eastern sides being almost straight. Site is delimited by a bank of earth and stone, and an outer fosse. Entrances on western and southern sides. Interior is flat, sloping slightly from west to east with a slight rise in the centre. Site is enclosed by a hedge making the interior a small field/paddock.

SMR No.: ME046-011
Townland: Knockersally
Parish: Ballyboggan
Barony: Upper Moyfenrath
Classification: Enclosure site
Cartography: -
The only information available on this site was an aerial photograph ref: AP BOV 100.

SMR No.: KD031-00401 and 00402
Townland: Rathconnell wood
Parish: Fontstown
Barony: Offaly West
Classification: Field system site
Cartography: Marked on 1837 OS map as an obvious oval enclosure, and on 1907-09 OS map it has been shaped by field boundaries.

Aerial photographs N223 and N222, especially former, show cropmark of circular enclosure with moon-shaped enclosure attached at northeast.

SMR No.: KD018-006
 Townland: Rathernan
 Parish: Rathernan
 Barony: Connell
 Classification: Church
 Cartography: Marked as Church on 1837 OS map, and as Church and graveyard on 1907-09 OS map. Portion of west gable of red mortared sandstone survives. Corner stones of SW corner robbed. Northwest corner missing entirely. Graveyard has few headstones, overgrown and very worn. Some seem to be at least 18th Century in date.
 1986

SMR No.: KD018-007
 Townland: Rathernay
 Parish: Rathernay
 Barony: Connell
 Classification: Togher site
 Cartography: -
 JK Millner, 1909, in *Miscellanea Bog* paths made of wood at Robertstown, Co Kildare, *JRSAI* vol. 39, mentions a rath on cultivated highland.

SMR No.: WM021-013
 Townland: Riverdale
 Parish: Killucan
 Barony: Farbill
 Classification: Earthwork
 Cartography:-
 Site is levelled. The only surviving feature is a natural rise with low smooth scarp at the edge from N-E.

SMR No.: ME035-011
 Townland: Robinstown
 Parish: Killaconnigan
 Barony: Lune
 Classification: Ringfort (2)
 Cartography: -
 A field fence curtails this site on the N from NNW-NNE. From NNE-ESE the bank consists of a scarp with no evidence of the external ditch. Elsewhere, the bank is about 3m wide, rising 30-40cm above the interior. The ditch is flat-bottomed and wet and 3-4m wide. Running from the perimeter at S to the perimeter at NNW, there is a silted-up drainage ditch which extends towards the

stream to the south of the site. The original entrance may have been at the SE 4.5m wide. To the east of the site is a stone with what might be a bullaun. The stone is dissolved elsewhere by rain water. March 1985

SMR No.: ME035-012
 Townland: Robinstown
 Parish: Killaconnigan
 Barony: Lune
 Classification: Earthwork
 Cartography: Hachured on 1910 OS map. Marked 'Fort' on 1835 OS map.
 Small oval site covered with blackthorn bushes in low-lying poor grassland. To the NW of the site is a very large approximately circular enclosure, enclosed by a low bank with outside fosse. To W of latter enclosure is an old serpentine-like field bank. To the ESE and SE of the oval earthwork are other possible earthworks. These could be the result of drainage. To the east of the oval site is a limestone slab with natural depressions, some circular, and some foot-like. There is another curvilinear earthwork in a field to the east. July 1969

SMR No.: ME046-004
 Townland: Rossan
 Parish: Clonard
 Barony: Upper Moyfenrath
 Classification: Enclosure site
 Cartography: Hachured on 1913 OS map. Marked 'Fort' on 1st edition 1837.
 This site was defaced in 1955-59. All that remains is the probable scarped east end of a low prominent, EW ridge of sticky yellow clay. No trace of any features in field to the west of the lane which cuts through the west of the site. June 1969

SMR No.: KD031-019
 Townland: Sheean
 Parish: Kilberry
 Barony: Narragh & Reban West
 Classification: Enclosure site
 Cartography: -
 Aerial photograph (CUAP BDO 43, 1970) shows cropmark of fosse surrounding sub-rectangular area. Possibly an irregular moated site.

SMR No.: KD031-021
 Townland: Skerries North
 Parish: Narraghmore
 Barony: Narragh and Reban West

Classification: Irregular enclosures
 Cartography: Indicated on the 1907-09 OS map, as circular hachured enclosure just south of the Skerries crossroads.

SMR No.: KD009-008
 Townland: Timahoe East
 Parish: Timahoe
 Barony: Clane
 Classification: Church
 Cartography: Indicated on both 1837 and 1911 OS maps.

Overgrown foundation of rectangular structure is visible. Small portion of walls adjacent to southwest corner still stand but are in very poor condition. The graveyard is oval shaped and is slightly smaller than the area enclosed by the modern wall. It is higher than the surrounding field level and contains a large number of headstones, many of 17th Century date.

SMR No.: KD009-009
 Townland: Timahoe west
 Parish: Timahoe
 Barony: Clane
 Classification: Castle site
 Cartography: Marked on 1837 and 1911 OS maps ('site of').

In open, very slightly undulating pastureland. No visible traces remain.
 November 1986

SMR No.: ME046-008
 Townland: Tircroghan
 Parish: Clonard
 Barony: Upper Moyfenrath
 Classification: Moated site
 Cartography: Marked 'Fort' on the 1st edition OS map. Hachured on 1913 OS map.

In good, slightly undulating, pasture. Some stone in the banks. Possibly stone-walled around the edge of the platform. Slight indications of possible structure within. Shape is more a parallelogram than a rectangle. Very wide fosse. Could it be an earlier predecessor of the 16th Century fort at Tircroghan about 1.2m to ESE of this site? Owner says it was used in St. Finian's time as a defence against wild boar, and that the moat was water filled. March 1965

SMR No.: ME029-025
 Townland: Woodtown West
 Parish: Kildalkey
 Barony: Lune
 Classification: Ringfort
 Cartography: Hachured 'Denalney's Fort'
 Raised subcircular area defined by earthen bank (dims. 67m NNW-SSE, 61m WSW-ENE) with external fosse. Entrance at E.

SMR No.: ME026-026
 Townland: Woodtown West
 Parish: Kildalkey
 Barony: Lune
 Classification: Ringfort
 Cartography: Hachured
 Raised D-shaped area defined by high scarp with bank surviving W-N and E-SSW (dims. 39m NW-SE, 35m NE-SW). Original entrance at SE. No visible fosse.

Appendix 2

NMI Topographical Files

Townland: Ballynafagh
 Parish: Ballynafagh
 Barony: Clane
 County: Kildare
 Reg. No.: 1987:152
 OS Map: 9/13
 Description: Polished stone axehead
 Long slim axehead of mottled grey-green stone (porphyry). Straight with narrow pointed butt, shallow convex cutting edge with recent chipping. Found in a ploughed field. L 24cm, W cutting edge 7.4cm, max T 4.2cm

Townland: Ballyruin
 Parish: Ballyroan
 Barony: Clane
 County: Laois
 Reg. No.: 1984:139
 OS Map: 18
 Description: Wooden beetle
 A wooden beetle with evidence of charring at the butt

Townland: Blackwood
 Parish: Kilberry
 Barony: Narragh and Reban West
 County: Kildare
 Reg. No.: IA/21/82
 OS Map: 31
 Description: Shoe
 Late medieval (16th/17th century) shoe found in a ploughed field. Strap buckle with single loop and scallop shell designs on bronze buckle. Found in a ploughed field.

Townland: Boherbaun
 Parish: Harristown
 Barony: Offaly West
 County: Kildare
 Reg. No.: IA/543/1947
 OS Map: 31
 Description: Bog butter

Townland: Bracklin
 Parish: Killulagh
 Barony: Delvin
 County: Westmeath
 Reg. No.: 1964:83

OS Map: 14/21
 Description: Wooden Lid
 In very good condition although probably more circular in plan. Originally flat with a narrow handle projecting upward along its centre. Handle slightly wider at the bottom than at the top and has sub triangular depressions roughly cut out of both sides. Found 5ft deep while cutting turf.

Townland: Bracklin
 Parish: Killulagh
 Barony: Delvin
 County: Westmeath
 Reg. No.: 1959:31
 OS Map: 14/21
 Description: Bronze Sword (blade of)
 Blade of bronze flange hilted sword. Found while using bagger machine, break is ancient and probably a casting flaw. The point and edges are very sharp, cross section is a narrow pointed oval. L 35.5cm, W (at fractured end) 2.9cm. Dated to 900-500BC.

Townland: Bracklin
 Parish: Killulagh
 Barony: Delvin
 County: Westmeath
 Reg. No.: 1959:09
 OS Map: 14/21
 Description: Neolithic pottery vessel
 Mineral grits incorporated into the core. Eternally decorated with oval and round impressions. Found while turf working.

Townland: Bracklin
 Parish: Killulagh
 Barony: Delvin
 County: Westmeath
 Reg. No.: 1962:243
 OS Map: 14/21
 Description: Polished stone axehead
 A polished stone axehead with both broad faces convex. Bevelled cutting edge now slightly damaged. The narrow butt has a large abrasion on one broad face. This may be of recent occurrence. L 12.3cm, max W 6.4cm, max T 3.4cm. Found 1ft down while digging.

Townland: Cashel
 Parish: Abbeyleix

Barony:	Cullenagh	blunt point apparently by cutting the soft stone with a knife. The faces are plain except for longitudinal striations. Edges are sharp. Cross-section a pointed oval.
County:	Laois	Made of Chloritic slate whose provenance is not local.
Reg. No.:	IA/244/1988	L (now) 18.05cm max W 4.1cm, max T 9mm. Found 10-12ft deep in bog, 18 inches from the bottom of the bog.
OS Map:	18	Found 10-12ft down in bog
Description:	Bog butter	
Found by BnM worker when hand cutting drain across field		
Townland:	Cashel	Townland: Clonaddoran
Parish:	Abbeyleix	Parish: Clonenagh/Clonagheen
Barony:	Cullenagh	Barony: Maryborough West
County:	Laois	County: Laois
Reg. No.:	1971:1007	Reg. No.: 1973:194
OS Map:	18	OS Map: 17/18
Description:	Bog butter	Description: Leather bag
Series of horizontally placed concentric lines indicate butter was originally in a bag/container made of organic material (probably straw) which no longer survives		
Townland:	Clogorrow	Townland: Clonaddoran
Parish:	Kilberry	Parish: Clonenagh/Clonagheen
Barony:	Narragh and Reban West	Barony: Maryborough West
County:	Kildare	County: Laois
Reg. No.:	IA/543/1947	Reg. No.: IA/148/60
OS Map:	31/35	OS Map: 17/18
Description:	Bog butter	Description: Wooden stakes, flint arrow-head, leather bag, leather sandal
Correspondance and acquisition from 1941. Lump weighs 3 stone and according to finder pieces of basket found with it		
Townland:	Clonadacasey	Townland: Clonaddoran
Parish:	Clonenagh/Clonagheen	Parish: Clonenagh/Clonagheen
Barony:	Maryborough West	Barony: Maryborough West
County:	Laois	County: Laois
Reg. No.:	1943:115	Reg. No.: IA/148/60
OS Map:	17/18	OS Map: 17/18
Description:	Leather shoe	Description: Two pointed wooden stakes, found in an upright position, probably of oak, found with their points about 2ft above gravel bottom of bog. Larger was 1.25m long, 10cm in diameter
Found 4ft down in a bog ('Clonad' bog) being cut for the first time		
Townland:	Clonaddoran	Lozenge shaped flint arrowhead about 1½ - 2 inches long attached to an 8inch long wooden shaft found about 10ft deep in bog on or near its bottom.
Parish:	Clonenagh/Clonagheen	About 1950 a small leather bag was found about 10ft deep on the gravel bottom of the bog. Made of a single piece of leather and tied at the top with string.
Barony:	Maryborough West	Contained a quantity of hazelnuts. 9 inches high and 4 inches in greatest diameter.
County:	Laois	About 1950 a leather sandal found 8-10ft down in 'Thogher' bog. Made of a single piece of leather. Composed of a sole, two straps around heel and two straps across instep.
Reg. No.:	1966:98	
OS Map:	18	Townland: Clonaddoran
Description:	Slate spearhead	Parish: Clonenagh/Clonagheen
Portion of a slate spearhead. Pointed end missing. Tang, which is damaged on one edge was shaped to a		
		Barony: Maryborough West
		County: Laois

Reg. No.:	1960:576	71.1cm, max W 3.8cm, max T 5.5cm. Found 10ft deep in BnM Ballivor Works at outlet of machine	
OS Map:	17/18		
Description:	Leather shoe		
Lucas type 4 leather shoe (500-100AD) made from a single piece of leather the heel seem was laced with a leather thong and the toe piece was formed by running a leather thong through a series of slits and pulling it tight to gather the margin of the leather around the foot. Opposing slits in the sides between the heel and the toe piece were for a thong to fasten the shoe across the wearers instep. L 22.5cm. Found during turf cutting operations, 10ft deep in 'Clonad Bog'			
Townland:	Clonaddoran	Townland:	Clonkeean
Parish:	Clonenagh/Clonagheen	Parish:	Clonenagh/Clonagheen
Barony:	Maryborough West	Barony:	Maryborough West
County:	Laois	County:	Laois
Reg. No.:	1986:38	Reg. No.:	IA/144/1963
OS Map:	17/18	OS Map:	12/17
Description:	Animal skin	Description:	Piece of hoof
A piece of animal skin rolled into a ball, triangular in shape with straight cut edges. L 53cm found at a depth of between 0.20 and 2.5m in the bog during peat milling		Identified as the hoof of an unshod animal – horse, donkey or mule. Found while cutting turf	
Townland:	Cloncourse	Townland:	Clonycavan
Parish:	Clonenagh/Clonagheen	Parish:	Killaconnigan
Barony:	Maryborough West	Barony:	Lune
County:	Laois	County:	Meath
Reg. No.:	1946:329	Reg. No.:	2003
OS Map:	12/17	OS Map:	35
Description:	Hammerhead stone	Description:	Partial Bog Body
Perforated hammerhead stone, cylindrical in shape with rounded ends, one narrower than the other. L 8.5cm, narrow end 4.9cm, wider end 5.45cm in diameter. The perforation which is vertical sided is 2cm in diameter. No evidence of great use. A perforated hammerhead stone found during turf cutting		Partial human remains recovered at the tram screen at Ballivor works in February 2003. Find spot examined but no further remains were recovered. Dated to Iron Age	
Townland:	Cloncourse	Townland:	Clonycavan
Parish:	Clonenagh/Clonagheen	Parish:	Killaconnigan
Barony:	Maryborough West	Barony:	Lune
County:	Laois	County:	Meath
Reg. No.:	1946:329	Reg. No.:	1949:1
OS Map:	12/17	OS Map:	35
Description:	Hammerhead stone	Description:	Brass dish or cauldron
Perforated hammerhead stone, cylindrical in shape with rounded ends, one narrower than the other. L 8.5cm, narrow end 4.9cm, wider end 5.45cm in diameter. The perforation which is vertical sided is 2cm in diameter. No evidence of great use. A perforated hammerhead stone found during turf cutting		Late medieval brass dish or cauldron hammered from a single sheet of brass. Found in trench 3ft from surface of 'Hill of Down' bog while making a drain	
Townland:	Clondalee More	Townland:	Clonycavan
Parish:	Killyan	Parish:	Killaconnigan
Barony:	Upper Moyfenrath	Barony:	Lune
County:	Meath	County:	Meath
Reg. No.:	1963:5	Reg. No.:	IA/29/1994
OS Map:	41	OS Map:	35
Description:	Bronze Sword Blade (portion)	Description:	Leather Shoe
Portion of a bronze sword blade broken at each end in ancient times. Longitudinal S bend. Cross section is a pointed oval. Portion of surface heavily patinated. L		Found in milled peat and reported by Terry Bracken, BnM	
Townland:	Cloncourse	Townland:	Clonycavan
Parish:	Clonenagh/Clonagheen	Parish:	Killaconnigan
Barony:	Maryborough West	Barony:	Lune
County:	Laois	County:	Meath
Reg. No.:	1963:5	Reg. No.:	IA/29/1994
OS Map:	41	OS Map:	35
Description:	Bronze Sword Blade (portion)	Description:	Leather Shoe
Portion of a bronze sword blade broken at each end in ancient times. Longitudinal S bend. Cross section is a pointed oval. Portion of surface heavily patinated. L		Found in milled peat and reported by Terry Bracken, BnM	
Townland:	Cloncourse	Townland:	Clonycavan
Parish:	Clonenagh/Clonagheen	Parish:	Killaconnigan
Barony:	Maryborough West	Barony:	Lune
County:	Laois	County:	Meath
Reg. No.:	1963:5	Reg. No.:	IA/29/1994
OS Map:	41	OS Map:	35
Description:	Bronze Sword Blade (portion)	Description:	Leather Shoe
Portion of a bronze sword blade broken at each end in ancient times. Longitudinal S bend. Cross section is a pointed oval. Portion of surface heavily patinated. L		Found in milled peat and reported by Terry Bracken, BnM	
Townland:	Cloncourse	Townland:	Clonycavan
Parish:	Clonenagh/Clonagheen	Parish:	Killaconnigan
Barony:	Maryborough West	Barony:	Lune
County:	Laois	County:	Meath
Reg. No.:	1963:5	Reg. No.:	IA/29/1994
OS Map:	41	OS Map:	35
Description:	Bronze Sword Blade (portion)	Description:	Leather Shoe
Portion of a bronze sword blade broken at each end in ancient times. Longitudinal S bend. Cross section is a pointed oval. Portion of surface heavily patinated. L		Found in milled peat and reported by Terry Bracken, BnM	

Reg. No.:	IA/179/86	OS Map:	25
OS Map:	18	Description:	Bog road
Description:	Bog butter	Reported by Liam Sheeran, Killeigh. Bog road only seen at certain times when bog is passable (same as IA/87/1957)	
Townland:	Colt	Townland:	Derryguinnigan
Parish:	Clonenagh/Clonagheen	Parish:	Geashill
Barony:	Maryborough West	Barony:	Geashill
County:	Laois	County:	Offaly
Reg. No.:	IA/254/1990	Reg. No.:	IA/87/1957
OS Map:	Bog butter	OS Map:	25
Townland:	Colt	Description:	Bog road
Parish:	Clonenagh/Clonagheen	Reported by William Mitchell in 1957. Described as 'single oak logs laid end to end, from island in bog (same as IA/61/1954)	
Barony:	Maryborough West	Townland:	Derryguinnigan
County:	Laois	Parish:	Geashill
Reg. No.:	1939:125	Barony:	Geashill
OS Map:	Copper axehead	County:	Offaly
Flat copper axehead, found near a low mound on the surface of a meadow while picking off loose stones		Reg. No.:	IA/61/1954
Townland:	Coolronan	OS Map:	25
Parish:	Killaconnigan	Description:	Leather shoe
Barony:	Lune	Mentioned with bog road at same location. Discovered during turf cutting operations by Liam Sheeran, Killeigh	
County:	Meath	Townland:	Gorteen
Reg. No.:	IA/186/1952 1952:10	Parish:	Clonenagh/Clonagheen
OS Map:	35	Barony:	Maryborough West
Description:	Bog butter, hair, textile and leather	County:	Laois
Bog butter, hair, textile and leather found together rolled up in a ball at a depth of 7-12ft in a bog		Reg. No.:	1979:87
Townland:	Craddanstown	OS Map:	12
Parish:	Killucan	Description:	Stone object
Barony:	Farbill	A perforated sandstone object, plano convex in section. The convex surface is ground, the flat surface rough and uneven. The object is circular in outline with a central circular perforation. It is wider at the convex face and narrower at the flat face. D 8.8cm, max T 3cm, max D of perforation 2.6cm, min D of perforation 1.5cm. Found 2m deep in BnM Coolnamona works while digging a field drain.	
County:	Westmeath	Townland:	Grange Mor
Reg. No.:	none	Parish:	Killucan
OS Map:	21	Barony:	Farbill
Description:	Giant Irish Deer	County:	Westmeath
Portion of an antler and ends of two long bones revealed situated in a river bank at a point where a land drain runs into the river Deel. The river has been deepened and widened by OPW, the remains were undisturbed by this but were revealed when part of a bank collapsed		Reg. No.:	1934
Townland:	Derryguinnigan	OS Map:	21
Parish:	Geashill		
Barony:	Geashill		
County:	Offaly		
Reg. No.:	IA/61/1954		

Description: Leather Shoe
Found 12ft deep in a bog at Grange More, Co. Westmeath

Townland: Grange Mor
Parish: Killucan
Barony: Farbill
County: Westmeath
Reg. No.: w.216; A537
OS Map: 21

Description: Stone Axehead
A stone axehead found lying on gravel at bottom of bog, 1.8m deep not later than 1861

Townland: Iry
Parish: Clonenagh/Clonagheen
Barony: Maryborough West
County: Laois
Reg. No.: 1984:2
OS Map: 12
Description: Gold fibula

Gold fibula with hollow evenly expanded terminals and solid bow in good condition found while stacking sods of turf. One terminal damaged. Outer surface of each terminal is decorated with a series of three raised ribs (set concentrically inside the rim). Measurements: max W 14.84cm, undamaged terminal max D 5.6x5.4cm, damaged terminal 5.15x5.95cm, max external width of bow 8.3cm, max internal W of bow 7.1cm, T of bow at junction of terminal 0.6cm, max T of bow 0.83cm Found while stacking sods with a cutting machine.

Townland: Killeenmore
Parish: Geashill
Barony: Geashill
County: Offaly
Reg. No.: 1938:8558-8559
OS Map: 25
Description: 2 Bronze spearheads
Found during ploughing 20 years apart and about ½ mile apart. Bronze Age leaf shaped spearheads.

Townland: Killeigh
Parish: Geashill
Barony: Geashill
County: Offaly
Reg. No.: 1998:25
OS Map: 25
Description: Wood

Piece of wood, charred at both ends, 32.3cm in length, circular in cross section with max D of 2cm

Townland: Killeigh
Parish: Geashill
Barony: Geashill
County: Offaly
Reg. No.: none
OS Map: 25

Description: Carved stone head
Medieval carved stone head. 7 inches x 5 inches made from limestone. Found in rubble by a local man at the site of a reputed nunnery.

Townland: Lislogher
Parish: Castletowndelvin
Barony: Delvin
County: Westmeath
Reg. No.: 1965:54
OS Map: 14
Description: Bronze axehead

Bronze axehead with deep side flanges and stop ridge. Flanges and stop ridge coalesce to form a pocket on each side of the central septum. Found 3m deep while cutting turf in Tighe Estate/Lislogher Bog

Townland: Lislogher
Parish: Castletowndelvin
Barony: Delvin
County: Westmeath
Reg. No.: IA/104/1982
OS Map: 14
Description: Wood

Fourteen pieces of wood collected. At least half natural, the others 'worked' to a point but crudely made

Townland: Mylerstown
Parish: Rathernan
Barony: Connell
County: Kildare
Reg. No.: 1939:508
OS Map: 18
Description: Flint fragment

Townland: Newtownbert
Parish: Kilberry
Barony: Narragh & Reban West
County: Kildare
Reg. No.: IA/18/1967
OS Map: 31

Description:	Bog butter	OS Map:	18
	Roughly cylindrical lump with portions of wicker-work wrapping 6ft below bog surface	Description:	Bronze Axehead
Townland:	Oldcourt	Townland:	Riverdale
Parish:	Kilberry	Parish:	Killucan
Barony:	Narragh & Reban West	Barony:	Farbill
County:	Kildare	County:	Westmeath
Reg. No.:	1945:178	Reg. No.:	1928:640
OS Map:	31	OS Map:	21
Description:	Leather shoe	Description:	Iron Bell
	Leather shoe found at Kilart Bog while cutting turf		Fifth century ecclesiastical bell of iron dipped in bronze. Was found in a bag and has marks from being wrapped in canvas. Found in 1909 in a bog in the townland of Riverdale
Townland:	Oldtowndonore	Townland:	Riverdale
Parish:	Downings	Parish:	Killucan
Barony:	Clane	Barony:	Farbill
County:	Kildare	County:	Westmeath
Reg. No.:	1976:21	Reg. No.:	1828:17
OS Map:	18	OS Map:	21
Description:	Stone Axehead	Description:	Stone Axehead
	A long butted polished stone axehead made from fine grained sedimentary rock, grey brown in colour. Found in a ploughed field reclaimed from bog.		File not present
Townland:	Oldtown	Townland:	Sheean
Parish:	Clonenagh/Clonagheen	Parish:	Kilberry
Barony:		Barony:	Narragh & Reban West
County:	Laois	County:	Kildare
Reg. No.:	1986:38	Reg. No.:	1945:371
OS Map:	17/18	OS Map:	31
Description:	Animal skin	Description:	Leather shoe
	Rolled into a ball, if spread out, flat triangular in shape with cut edges		Found in BnM Kilberry works
Townland:	Park	Townland:	Timahoe East
Parish:	Ballyboggan/Clonard	Parish:	Timahoe
Barony:	Upper Moyfenrath	Barony:	Clane
County:	Meath	County:	Kildare
Reg. No.:	1974:38-41B	Reg. No.:	1943:130-132
OS Map:	46	OS Map:	9
Description:	Hoard	Description:	Timber, yoke & object
	A hoard found in surface soil consisting of a bronze sword (fragment), a hollow bronze ring, chisel, head and shank of sunflower pin		130: A wooden yoke found at a depth of 5ft, made from a single piece of fir in perfect condition 131: Part of a solid wooden block wheel 132: A 'deel' timber found at the same depth as yoke. 2½ft long 1¼inch in diameter with a hole at one end., a wooden yoke
Townland:	Raheens	Townland:	Timahoe East
Parish:	Carragh	Parish:	Timahoe
Barony:	Clane	Barony:	Clane
County:	Kildare		
Reg. No.:	1891:12		

County: Kildare
 Reg. No.: 1950:7
 OS Map: 9
 Description: Axe
 Iron axe, socket (broken) formed by folding tail of the axe over and welding it against one cheek to form a loop. Found during turf cutting operations

Townland: Timahoe East
 Parish: Timahoe
 Barony: Clane
 County: Kildare
 Reg. No.: 1941:1120
 OS Map: 9
 Description: Bronze Spearhead

Townland: Timahoe East
 Parish: Timahoe
 Barony: Clane
 County: Kildare
 Reg. No.: IA/7/1978
 OS Map: 9
 Description: Leather shoe
 Lucas type 3 leather shoe. Section of sole missing at toe and piece missing near heel seam. L26cm, max W 10cm found in a bag of turf from Timahoe

Townland: Timahoe East
 Parish: Timahoe
 Barony: Clane

County: Kildare
 Reg. No.: 1938:8560
 OS Map: 9
 Description: Stone axe (fragment)
 Fragment of a large stone exehead fround in a small pad-dock at Timahoe

Townland: Ummeras Beg
 Parish: Lackagh
 Barony: Offaly West
 County: Kildare
 Reg. No.: none
 OS Map: 21
 Description: Firkin of butter
 Wooden vessel found during turf cutting. No top or bottom, no nails or hoops and filled with butter

Appendix 3

Wood Species Identification

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INTRODUCTION

Forty four waterlogged samples were sent for identification from waterlogged sites in Co Laoism Meath and Kildare and to assess suitability for C14 dating..

MATERIALS AND METHODS

All wood samples were prepared using standard techniques and examined using transmitted light with magnifications of up to 400x on an Olympus BX41 microscope. Material was identified and compared, when necessary, with samples in the wood slide collection housed in the Utrecht University branch of the National Herbarium of the Netherlands and relevant literature (e.g. Schweingruber 1990). The sections cut were examined for signs of infiltration or infestation, which might affect the results if subject to 14C dating.

RESULTS

The anatomy of the material was consistent with the taxa or groups of taxa given in Table 1. When a genus is represented by a single species in the native British flora it is named as the most likely origin of the wood although it must be noted that wood anatomy alone is often not enough to secure identification to individual species. Anatomical characters of the samples studied are consistent with the following taxa: *Alnus* sp., *Betula* sp., *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Corylus avellana*, *Salix* sp., *Populus/Salix* sp., *Acer* sp., *Maloideae* (genera and species cannot be differentiated beyond subfamily on wood characters alone) and *Quercus* sp.. Classification follows that of Tutin et al (1964-1980).

Table 1. Summary of the identifications of the waterlogged wood

Gilltown, Co. Kildare

Sample	Taxonomic affinity	Comments
KD-GTN001a	<i>Alnus</i>	relatively hard and no evidence of decay or infestation
KD-GTN001c	<i>Betula</i>	no evidence of decay or infestation
KD-GTN001d	<i>Alnus</i>	wound tissue present but no evidence of decay or infestation
KD-GTN002	<i>Alnus</i>	no evidence of decay or infestation
KD-GTN002	<i>Betula</i>	very soft/wet, no evidence of decay or infestation
KD-GTN005c	<i>Betula</i>	wet and soft, no evidence of decay or infestation
KD-GTN005e	? <i>Maloideae</i>	no evidence of decay or infestation
KD-GTN005g	<i>Alnus</i>	relatively soft, ?decayed, fungal hyphae present
KD-GTN008	<i>Betula</i>	presence of fungal hyphae

Prosperous, Co. Kildare

Sample	Taxonomic affinity	Comments
KD-PPS001	<i>Fraxinus</i>	no evidence of decay or infestation

Sample	Taxonomic affinity	Comments
KD-PPS002	Alnus	no evidence of decay or infestation
KD-PPS003	Corylus avellana	no evidence of decay or infestation
KD-PPS004	Alnus	relatively hard and no evidence of decay or infestation
KD-PPS005	Alnus	relatively hard and no evidence of decay or infestation

Allen, Co. Kildare

Sample	Taxonomic affinity	Comments
KN-ALN002	Betula	presence of fungal hyphae

Cashel, Co. Laois

Sample	Taxonomic affinity	Comments
LS-CSL001	Salix	presence of frass
LS-CSL003	Fraxinus excelsior	relatively soft but no evidence of decay or infestation
LS-CSL004	Alnus	very wet, no evidence of decay or infestation
LS-CSL008a	?Populus/Salix	presence of abundant frass and fungal hyphae
LS-CSL008c	Alnus	signs of degradation
LS-CSL008e	Alnus	relatively hard and no evidence of decay or infestation
LS-CSL008e	Acer	relatively hard and no evidence of decay or infestation
LS-CSL008h	Salix	presence of frass
LS-CSL011	Alnus	compressed, presence of frass and decay
LS-CSL018	Populus/Salix	presence of fungi

Coolnacartan, Co. Laois

Sample	Taxonomic affinity	Comments
LS-CTN001	Salix	fungal hyphae and invertebrates present
LS-CTN002	Salix	very dry, no evidence of decay or infestation

Kinnegad, Co. Meath

Sample	Taxonomic affinity	Comments
ME-KND001b	Acer	very soft, decay and presence of epidermal cells, palynomorphs and fungal hyphae
ME-KND001c	Alnus	no evidence of decay or infestation
ME-KND004	Quercus	relatively soft/wet but no evidence of decay or infestation
ME-KND005a	Populus/Salix	no evidence of decay or infestation
ME-KND006a	Corylus avellana	no evidence of decay or infestation
ME-KND006a (2)	Alnus	relatively hard and no evidence of decay or infestation
ME-KND007a	Corylus avellana	relatively hard and no evidence of decay or infestation
ME-KND008a	Alnus	no evidence of decay or infestation
ME-KND010	Alnus	presence of a few fungal hyphae
ME-KND011a	Betula	no evidence of decay or infestation
ME-KND012a	Alnus	no evidence of decay or infestation
ME-KND013a	Acer	relatively soft, fungal hyphae present
ME-KND014	Alnus	no evidence of decay or infestation
ME-KND015	Maloideae	relatively soft but no evidence of decay or infestation
ME-KND016	Alnus	relatively soft but no evidence of decay or infestation
MD-KND017a	Betula	no evidence of decay or infestation
ME-KND019a	Corylus avellana	no evidence of decay or infestation

DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

The size of the wood samples all indicate that the material are from organs less than 100 years old and therefore any error introduced through the 'old wood effect' would be less than the error in the 14C dating (i.e. 50 years). Of the 44 samples studied most were found to be suitable for 14C dating as they showed no evidence of decay or infestation, which could lead to contamination of the 14C signal. However there were several, namely KD-ALN002, KD-GTN005g, LS-CSL001, LS-CSL008a, LS-CSL008c, LS-CSL008h, LS-CSL011, LS-CTN001, ME-KND001b, and possibly LS-CSL018 that are not considered suitable for dating purposes.

Fungi target wood and thus do not introduce fresh carbon into the system, which might otherwise lead to contamination and affect the 14C dating. Moreover within waterlogged material it could be assumed that the wood source is, and has been, that in which the fungi has been found. In principle the fungi would then have a 14C date equivalent to that of the wood but since this is an open system this cannot be guaranteed. Selective digestion by fungi may also result in a changed 13C/12C ratio on which the 14C dates are calculated. Therefore any wood specimen showing the presence of fungi is not considered suitable for dating purposes.

The presence of other organic entities such as palynomorphs, epidermal cells, invertebrates, frass etc (see Table 1) also have the potential to affect the 14C date and therefore material exhibiting the presence of these entities, are also not considered suitable for dating purposes.

Of the material deemed suitable for dating, the subsample to be used should be from (i) relatively dry material and (ii) inner wood, rather than outer wood (especially if the material has been wrapped in clingfilm) to reduce any possible contamination from non-coeval organics in the water infiltrating the material and from the carbon in the plastic bags and/or clingfilm respectively.

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