

Appendix 15.2E Known Recorded Archaeological Sites Removed by Excavation

CSS0844: Two pits

Chainage	0+50 (N72 Link Road)	Field Number	N/A
Easting/Northing	154753/101304	Key Constraint	Yes
Legal Status	RMP: C0025-107	Perceived Significance	Local
Townland	Cloghucas South	Distance	50m from edge of site.
County	Cork	Impact	None
Sources of Information	Files of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (Limerick)	Cartographic Information	N/A

Description

Files of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (Limerick)

Two pits: Spread of charcoal flecked ash, two pits separated by oxidised, charcoal flecked clay. Found during Bruff-Mallow gas pipeline construction in 1986.

Mitigation

None, site has been removed by excavation.

CSS 2321: Earthwork

Chainage	81+600	Field Number	N/A
Easting/Northing	150598/143879	Key Constraint	No
Legal Status	RMP: LI021-162	Perceived Significance	Local
Townland	Fanningstown	Distance	Under existing N20
County	Limerick	Impact	None
Sources of Information	Files of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (Limerick)	Cartographic Information	N/A

Description

Files of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (Limerick):

Appears to be Croom Bypass sites 28 & 29. There was an excavation here which found a stick pin but there is no entry in excavation bulletins at www.excavations.ie

Mitigation

None, site has been removed by excavation.

CSS 2353: Mound/Enclosure

Chainage	82+400	Field Number	N/A
Easting/Northing	150562/144626	Key Constraint	No
Legal Status	RMP: LI021-159	Perceived Significance	None
Townland	Fanningstown	Distance	Under existing N20
County	Limerick	Impact	None
Sources of Information	Excavation Bulletin 1997 www.excavations.ie	Cartographic Information	N/A

Description

Excavation Bulletin 1997:240.

This site, a mound 22m in diameter with no enclosing element extant, was first test-trenched by Colin Gracie before construction of the Croom Bypass. Its archaeological merit was proved by the identification of a ditch associated with it and by a medieval stick-pin recovered from one of the trenches (Excavations 1997, 114).

It was suggested by the client, the Roads Design Office of Limerick County Council, that the only intrusive works at the site would be the digging of two parallel toe drains, 180m and 120m long and 1.5m wide. The proposed location of the drains was dug by hand, and any archaeological material was recorded and removed.

The longer of the drain trenches ran adjacent to the enclosure, but no archaeological features were encountered. Two artefacts of interest were recovered from the topsoil in the trench: an iron Jew's Harp and a fragment of medieval local ware.

The second trench cut the eastern edge of the enclosure for a length of 30m. The remainder of the trench yielded only modern features and finds. It was found that the enclosure was encircled by a ditch, which appeared on the north and south side of a platform interpreted as the interior of the ringfort www.excavations.ie

Mitigation

None, site has been removed by excavation.

CSS 2460: Corn-Drying Kiln

Chainage	700 (Northern end)	Field Number	N/A
Easting/Northing	149957/147820	Key Constraint	No
Legal Status	RMP: LI021-180	Perceived Significance	None
Townland	Gorteen	Distance	Under existing N20
County	Limerick	Impact	None
Sources of Information	Excavation Bulletin 1999 www.excavations.ie	Cartographic Information	N/A

Description

Excavation Bulletin 1999:504

Further archaeological investigations were undertaken around the area of a moated site (CSS2459) during construction of the N20/N21 Road Improvement Scheme. In addition to the work carried out on the monument from November 1998 to January 1999 (Excavations 1998:399). This further monitoring of topsoil-stripping revealed the existence of what may be a corn-drying kiln, c. 20m to the north of the moated site.

Excavation of two large spreads of black, charcoal-rich material revealed the remains of the kiln, which had survived only to ground level. The cut of the kiln was orientated west-east, was 3.5m long and varied from 1.28m to 1.9m wide. Roughly hewn blocks of limestone lined the sides of the kiln, forming the foundations for the main structure. Although no recognisable grain was recovered from the deposits, the kiln was probably used for drying corn, as it is similar in shape and construction to those previously excavated. Although no dating material was recovered from the site, the kiln's proximity to the moated site (CSS2459) and its similarity to other kilns of medieval date give it some link to the enclosure www.excavations.ie

Mitigation

None, site has been removed by excavation.

CSS2474: Enclosure

Chainage	86+500	Field Number	N/A
Easting/Northing	151200/148370	Key Constraint	No
Legal Status	RMP:LI021-122	Perceived Significance	None
Townland	Ballybronogue South	Distance	Under existing N20
County	Limerick	Impact	None
Sources of Information	Excavation Bulletin 1996 www.excavations.ie	Cartographic Information	N/A

Description

Excavation Bulletin 1996:233

A subcircular grassy hollow abutting the main Limerick-Cork road was identified in the EIS of the proposed Annacotty-Adare road improvement scheme as a site of archaeological potential. It has a maximum diameter, at the top, of 26m (east-west). The sides slope quite steeply to a base that is relatively flat and has a maximum diameter of 1 1.5m (north-south); it is a minimum of 0.85m deep (below the level of the surrounding ground). Cattle erosion had exposed an area of bedrock midway downslope on the north-western side of the feature.

A cutting (16m long and 1m wide) was excavated from the centre of the feature southwards and can be divided into two halves on the basis of the stratigraphy found. In the southern half, undisturbed natural, a creamy grey sandy clay, was found between 0.35m and 0.03m below present ground level. However, at a point 7.1 m from the southern end of the trench a sheet of limestone bedrock was uncovered. It was cut at 7.4m from the southern end of the cutting; the cut descended 1m in a series of rough steps between 7.4m and 8.3m from the southern end of the cutting. Owing to the very loose nature of the stony fills, excavation could not be continued beyond a depth of 1 m in the northern half of the cutting; as a result the base of the cut was not found.

This feature is clearly a filled-in quarry-pit; it is not depicted on any editions of the OS 6" map of this area, nor is there any local knowledge of its use. The only finds came from the topsoil and were exclusively modern www.excavations.ie.

Mitigation

None, site has been removed by excavation.

CSS 2476: Ring-Ditch

Chainage	86+400	Field Number	N/A
Easting/Northing	151100/148400	Key Constraint	No
Legal Status	RMP: LI021-167	Perceived Significance	None
Townland	Ballybronogue South	Distance	Under existing N20
County	Limerick	Impact	None
Sources of Information	Excavation Bulletin 1999 www.excavations.ie	Cartographic Information	N/A

Description

Excavation Bulletin 1999:481

This site was discovered during the monitoring of topsoil clearance before construction of the Adare to Annacotty N20/N21 Road Improvement Scheme in July 1999.

Excavation revealed a penannular ring-ditch with a U-shaped profile. The ring-ditch had a maximum external diameter of 7m and a maximum depth of 0.5m. The pattern of silting in the ditch suggests that there may have been an external bank. The main fill of the ditch was a charcoal-rich silt in which fourteen token deposits of cremated human bone were found. One of the deposits contained part of a decorated bone artefact that is similar stylistically to a gaming-piece found in a cremation under a barrow at Cush, Co. Limerick. A copper-alloy spiral ring was also found in this fill. These artefacts suggest a date in the Iron Age for the filling of the ditch and the deposition of the cremations.

The site had been partially destroyed by a machine-excavated engineering test-pit before archaeological investigation www.excavations.ie.

Mitigation

None, site has been removed by excavation.

CSS 2491: Landscape Feature

Chainage	86+900	Field Number	N/A
Easting/Northing	151394/148718	Key Constraint	No
Legal Status	RMP: LI021-169/LI012-138	Perceived Significance	None
Townland	Attyflin	Distance	Under existing N20
County	Limerick	Impact	None
Sources of Information	Excavations Bulletin 1997 www.excavations.ie	Cartographic Information	N/A

Description

Excavations Bulletin; 1997:329

The site consists of a series of low banks, some containing a stagnant pool.

During the summer of 1997, in advance of N20/N21 Adare-Annacotty road scheme, two trenches measuring 1m x 10m were manually excavated, orientated roughly north-south.

Tr1 revealed a small ditch 1.6m wide and 0.3m deep, with a bank of redeposited subsoil. No date could be determined.

Tr2 revealed a bank consisting of a series of layers, the lowest of which contained red brick, suggesting a modern date.

The stratigraphic relationship between the banks could not be determined www.excavations.ie

Mitigation

None, site has been removed by excavation.

CSS 2492: Possible Fulacht Fiadh

Chainage	86+900	Field Number	N/A
Easting/Northing	151422/148738	Key Constraint	No
Legal Status	RMP: LI021-178	Perceived Significance	None
Townland	Attyflin	Distance	Under existing N20
County	Limerick	Impact	None
Sources of Information	Excavations Bulletin 1999 www.excavations.ie	Cartographic Information	N/A

Description

Excavations Bulletin 1999:478

The site is in Attyflin townland, c 9km south-west of Limerick City, east of the N20. The site was uncovered during archaeological monitoring of topsoil-stripping before road construction on the N20/N21 Adare to Annacotty road scheme. A rescue excavation was carried out over three-and-a-half weeks in August-September 1999. The site was close to marshy ground within which a fulacht fiadh (CSS2514) was excavated.

Two phases of activity were identified. The earliest phase consisted of a subsoil-cut subcircular pit that may have been a trough. This pit measured 1.8m in maximum diameter and 0.3m in maximum depth. There was evidence for a wooden structure in the form of stake-holes in its base and surround its upper edges. It was filled with black, charcoal-rich soil with frequent fragments of degraded sandstone. There was also a series of shallow, irregular-shaped, subsoil-cut pits and depressions, all with an upper fill of black, charcoal-rich soil with frequent fragments of degraded sandstone. It is unclear, however, whether any of these were hearths, owing to the lack of evidence for in situ burning. No artefacts or animal bone were recovered from any of these features.

The second phase of activity consisted of ploughmarks running in three directions, east-west, north-south and north-west/south-east. Excavations Bulletin 1999.

Mitigation

None, site has been removed by excavation.

CSS 2514: Fulacht Fiadh

Chainage	87+500	Field Number	N/A
Easting/Northing	151824/149180	Key Constraint	No
Legal Status	RMP: LI012-137	Perceived Significance	None
Townland	Attyflin	Distance	Under existing N20
County	Limerick	Impact	None
Source of Information	Excavations Bulletin 1999 www.excavations.ie	Cartographic Information	N/A

Description

Excavation Bulletin 1997:328

An assessment was carried out at this site in advance of construction of the N20/N21 Adare-Annacotty road scheme.

On inspection, the site consisted of an elongated mound, approximately 12m x 8m, which was overgrown with trees and brambles. It is situated close to a stream, which now forms part of a field boundary, as well as another fulacht fiadh.

Manual excavation revealed the mound to have been constructed of a series of layers of burnt and heat-shattered stones within a dark brown to black silty soil. No artefacts were recovered which could conclusively date the feature. It is intended to further excavate this site during the summer of 1998. Hopefully, that excavation will reveal evidence of a trough and datable artefacts.

Excavation Bulletin 1998:380

This site was previously tested at the assessment stage of the Adare-Annacotty N20/N21 road scheme (Excavations 1997:328 above). It was identified as a burnt mound. As the road will destroy the site, full excavation took place during the summer of 1998.

The mound measures c. 15m x 13m and is slightly crescent-shaped. It was constructed of layers of heat-shattered stone, within charcoal-stained soils. Within the hollow area of the crescent, roughly on the northern side of the mound, a trough was uncovered. This measured c. 4m east-west and was 3.2m at its widest north-south. The trough was shelved or stepped, being 0.4m below present ground level, dropping to 0.7m at its deepest

The area surrounding the burnt mound, along the line of the road, was mechanically stripped of topsoil to investigate whether there were any associated structures. A random scatter of post-holes or small pits was uncovered, which did not appear to form any structure or pattern. It is most likely that they belong to the phase of activity of the burnt mound.

No artefacts that could date the site were uncovered, but it is most likely of Bronze Age date www.excavations.ie

Excavation Bulletin 1999:479

Monitoring of topsoil-stripping along the proposed route of the N20/N21 Limerick bypass resulted in the discovery of a fulacht fiadh within the townland of Attyflin, Co. Limerick. The site was c. 500m east of the N21 road, within the vicinity of a number of known areas of archaeological activity, including known area of archaeological activity, including New Site B (c. 500m to the east), AR7 (c. 2km to the south-west) and AR6 (c. 3km to the south-west).

The site survived as an elongated mound 17m long x 9m wide x 0.35m high. Excavation of the mound revealed it to be an accumulation of dump material, consisting of a mix of heat-shattered limestone stones and charcoal-rich soil, characteristic of this type of site.

A small trough was uncovered under the south-west quadrant of the mound. The trough was rectangular (2.1m long, 1m wide, 0.28m deep) and oriented north-west/south-east, with steep sides and a flat base.

Another, more substantial subsoil-cut feature was found 1.3m to the north of the trough. Excavation of this feature revealed the existence of a large, oval pit, 0.14m x 2m x 1.2m deep. The pit was orientated north-east/south-west, with the southern half appearing to have a stepped side, while the northern sides were more vertical. It had been filled by a number of deposits of burnt and shattered limestone rock, along with a number of silt deposits. A few small fragments of animal bone were recovered from these fills, along with two fragments of wood, neither of which had been visibly worked.

Around the east edge of the pit, where the break of slope for the pit cut was gentlest, twelve stake-holes were uncovered and excavated. There was very little pattern to the stake-holes in plan, except for one possible line of double post-holes running north-south along the edge of the pit. Disturbance on the opposite side of the pit in the form of later drains meant that it was not possible to tell whether there was a corresponding set of post-holes on the west edge. However, it is suggested that these stake-holes represented the remain of either a windbreak or a structure spanning the width of the pit. Excavations Bulletin 1999.

Mitigation

None, site has been removed by excavation.

CSS 2515: Excavation - Miscellaneous

Chainage	87+500	Field Number	N/A
Easting/Northing	151824.0001/149180.0001	Key Constraint	No
Legal Status	RMP: LI012-139	Perceived Significance	None
Townland	Attyflin	Distance	Under existing N20
County	Limerick	Impact	None
Sources of Information	Archaeological Survey of Ireland (Limerick) and Excavation Bulletin 1998 www.excavations.ie	Cartographic Information	N/A

Description

Archaeological Survey of Ireland (Limerick)

A group of pits and postholes in vicinity of a burnt mound excavated by Audrey Gahan in 1998

Excavation Bulletin 1998: 379

During 1997 Cia McConway carried out an assessment at this monument (Excavations 1997, 110-11, 96E379) that showed the site to be a burnt mound with possible later activity. The proposed Adare- Annacotty N20/N21 road, while not directly removing the mound itself, will pass very close to it. Therefore, it was decided that topsoil in the affected area be removed under archaeological supervision.

An area of c. 22m (roughly north-south) by 11m was stripped by mechanical digger using a toothless bucket. Removal of the topsoil revealed evidence of a random scatter of small pits or post-holes. In all, 23 features of this nature were excavated. Although no artefacts that could date the features were uncovered, it is most probable that they relate to one or both of the two phases of activity on the site.

Mitigation

None, site has been removed by excavation.