

Appendix 17.4 – Archaeological Monitoring Report



CourtneyDeery
ARCHAEOLOGY & CULTURAL HERITAGE

Archaeological Monitoring Report

Kellystown LRD,

Kellystown and Porterstown townlands,

Dublin 15

Planning reference: 312318-21, An Bord Pleanála

Licence Number: 24E0045 extension

ITM centre of site: 705890, 737500

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report describes the results of archaeological monitoring of construction groundworks for a residential development at lands in the townlands of Kellystown, Porterstown, and Diswellstown, Clonsilla, Dublin 15. Monitoring was carried out under licence 24E0045 extension issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland.

The largely greenfield development site, c. 9.2 ha in extent, was subject to an archaeological assessment comprising a desktop survey, field survey, geophysical survey and licensed test excavations. Archaeological testing under licence no. 24E0045 identified an area of archaeological interest and this was fenced off from construction activity and preserved for full archaeological excavation under excavation licence no. 24E0565. Further archaeological testing in lands adjacent to the current development site under licence no. 24E0430 was carried out in May 2024 but no finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified during the course of testing.

Topsoil stripping of the subject site was undertaken in two main phases. It was largely undertaken by mechanical excavators fitted with grading buckets under archaeological supervision though some parts were stripped with the use of bulldozers. The first phase of topsoil stripping from 11th March to 6th April 2024 facilitated the construction of the haul road and central compound. The second phase was undertaken in an intermittent manner from 25th April and removed the remaining areas of topsoil within the red line boundary of the site. The portion of the site on the eastern side of Porterstown Lane had been previously used as a construction site compound in previous decades and no longer contained any meaningful potential for the survival of archaeological remains. Throughout both phases of topsoil stripping, the only features identified of archaeological interest were two undated deposits of burnt material, and both were fully recorded and excavated by the monitoring archaeologist.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. General

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring of topsoil stripping that took place on a site at Kellystown and Porterstown townlands, Dublin 15. Monitoring took place following a recommendation from an Archaeological Impact Assessment report that was produced in fulfilment of a condition of planning permission. Archaeological monitoring took place under an extension to excavation licence 24E0045 that was originally issued for pre-construction test excavations of the development site.

1.2. Site Description

The site is located in a largely greenfield area (Kellystown and Porterstown townlands; Clonsilla and Castleknock Parishes; Castleknock Barony; Co. Dublin; 6" OS sheet 14; ITM centre of site: 705890, 737500). The site is bounded by the MGWR Railway to the north, St. Mochta's FC playing pitches to the north-east, Diswellstown Road to the east, Luttrellstown Community College to the south, and agricultural fields elsewhere. The southernmost part of Porterstown Road runs through the site. The remains of Porterstown House (now derelict and blocked-up) and associated out-buildings along the western side of Porterstown Road were in use up to the commencement of development as a farmer's yard.

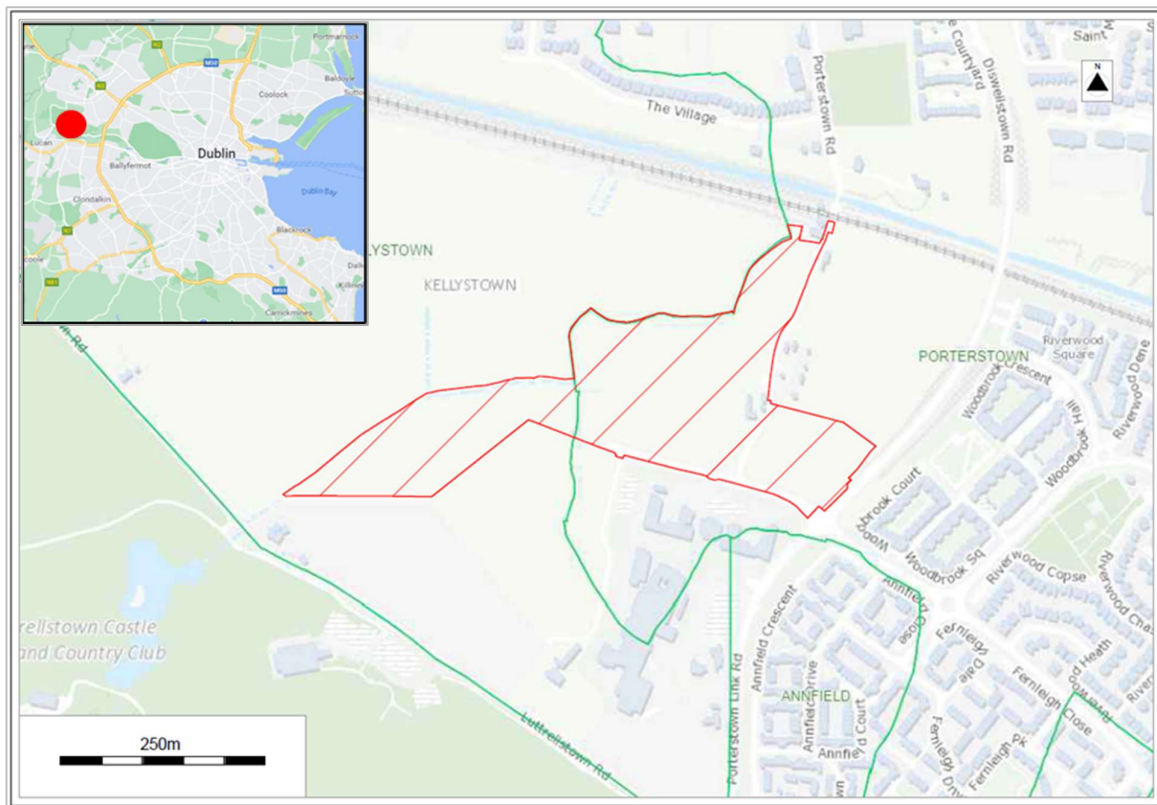


Figure 1 Site location

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The development site straddles two townlands: Porterstown to the east in Castleknock Parish, and Kellystown to the west in Clonsilla Parish, both in the Barony of Castleknock. The site was largely in use as a farm prior to development with only the portion to the east of Porterstown Road fenced off from its surroundings and overgrown with vegetation after its use as a site compound in previous decades. No direct archaeological activity could be associated with the subject site but there are frequent recordings of earlier activity in the wider landscape.

2.1. Prehistoric Period

No standing monuments of Neolithic date occur in the area. However, a habitation site (RMP No.: DU017-010) with an associated stone axe and hollow flint scraper of that date was identified during monitoring of topsoil removal during gas pipelaying in the neighbouring townland of Diswellstown (Gowen 1984).

Evidence for settlement during the Bronze Age occurs in Porterstown, where excavation by Claire Cotter of a cropmark enclosure (Excavations.ie Ref.: 1990:039), probably a levelled ringfort (RMP No.: DU017-005), yielded a sherd of Bronze Age pottery which indicated an earlier phase of activity on the site. A Bronze Age ring-barrow complex in Kellystown (RMP No.: DU013-018), just south of the canal near Clonsilla adds to this picture. The site consists of three conjoined circular features, comprising external banks, internal fosses (ditches) and raised interiors and was subject to archaeological testing in 2006 (Licence No.: 06E0348; Excavations.ie Ref.: 2006:583).

2.2. Early Medieval Period (AD 400 - 1169)

The Early Medieval Period saw the development of a mixed-farming economy managed by kings, nobles and free farmers. Early Medieval settlement in the landscape around the proposed development is evidenced through the presence of ringforts (e.g. RMP No.: DU017-005 and DU017-007). Ringforts typically consist of a circular or sub-circular area (although irregular shapes have been noted recently through the excavation of such features) defined by an earthen bank or by a stone wall with an external ditch. These enclosures were habitation sites or farmsteads, which vary in both size and morphology; from simple univallate enclosures measuring 30m diameter to larger bivallate or trivallate sites in strategic locations. They were not simple isolated homesteads, however, and should be considered within their contemporary settlement landscape, which would have consisted of unenclosed settlements, farms and fields, routeways and natural resources (Stout 2000). Typically, they are sited on good, well-drained soils, usually over the 100m contour, close to a water source, and often located in proximity to routeways (ridges, eskers, moraines).

Around the 5th century AD, Christianity was first introduced to Ireland and spread rapidly, fuelled by the establishment of early medieval churches and ecclesiastical centres. Ecclesiastical remains (mostly of a later Medieval date) occur in a number of nearby localities such as Clonsilla (RMP No.: DU013:017001 and DU013-017002) and Coolmine (RMP No.: DU013:019001 and DU013:019002). The church of 'Culmyn' is mentioned in the list of churches for the diocese around 1275 ('Archbishop Allen's Register 1172-1534', MacNeill, 1950). There is also a holy well of unknown date (RMP No.: DU017-011), known as 'Rag Well', located in neighbouring Diswellstown townland.

2.3. Medieval Period (AD 1169 – 1540)

In 1170 the Anglo-Normans invaded Ireland and, in doing so, completely altered the pattern of settlement with an emphasis on tillage and crop production, within defined manorial centres,

replacing cattle-rearing in many parts of the county. Much of the recorded history of the area is associated with the Anglo-Norman period. The surrounding area was favoured by the new settlers and was extensively settled. To the south-east of the proposed site (c. 2.7km), in Castleknock townland, stands an Anglo-Norman motte and bailey (RMP No.: DU017-012001). This form of castle dates to the early phases of the Anglo-Norman conquest of Ireland and consisted of a mound topped by a wooden tower, often with an accompanying enclosure constructed of earth and wood, known as the bailey (Simpson and Duffy 2019). The Castleknock example stands on a steep natural rise at the highest point in the landscape providing extensive views of the surrounding area. It presents as an oval motte, c. 18.5m high, with a stone masonry keep (RMP No.: DU017-012002) and a curtain wall and is enclosed by two fosses.

2.3.1. Medieval Luttrellstown

A number of castles of later date are also located in the area, most notably Luttrellstown Castle (RMP No.: DU0017-004). The proposed development is situated close to the Luttrellstown Desmesne and was likely influenced by its development through time. The name Luttrell is probably a derivative of the French word *loutre*, an otter. One Osbert Loutrel held a farm at Arques in Normandy in 1180 and 1189 (Doubleday & de Walden 1932). The first member of the Luttrell family to come to Ireland was Sir Geoffrey Luttrell who took part in the unsuccessful rebellion by John de Morten (later King John) against his brother, Richard I (the Lionheart). Luttrell lost his lands in England for his efforts though John subsequently restored them to him when he became king.

Sir Geoffrey Luttrell attained a powerful position through his marriage to a daughter of the house of Paganel, a connection which brought estates to his family in various parts of England. The Luttrell family of Dunster Castle in Somerset descends from him also, although there is some dispute about this (see Gibbs 1913).

Luttrell's connection with Ireland appears to have begun in 1204. In the beginning of that year, he was appointed on a commission to settle the disputes then existing in Ireland between the justiciary and the Anglo-Norman magnates of England (Sweetman's Calendar 1171–1251 cited in Ball 1906). Six years later, he accompanied King John on his visit to Ireland where he was one of the paymasters of the mariners and galleyemen employed in the large fleet required for the expedition. Luttrell also formed one of the king's train at Kells, Carlingford, and Hollywood, as well as at Dublin (Ball 1906).

Not long after the king returned to England, Sir Geoffrey Luttrell was sent to Ireland on another mission of state and during the next few years he corresponded from this country with the king. In 1215, he was again in England advising John on all matters relating to Ireland and witnessing many Acts of the king concerning this country. Luttrell received many royal favours including the honour of knighthood but the culmination of John's expression of trust was sending Luttrell as an embassy to the Pope. While on this mission, however, Luttrell died (Ball 1906). His only son is said to have succeeded to his English estates while a daughter, who was given by the king in marriage to one Phillip Marc, is mentioned as heir to his Irish property.

While we know a great deal about Sir Geoffrey, we do not know the exact date of the first castle at Luttrellstown. Despite an extensive two day search of contemporary medieval documents by Dr. Sean Duffy of the Department of Medieval History, Trinity College Dublin, no direct reference to a castle at Luttrellstown could be found (Jordan and Reilly 2001). While mention is made of various Luttrells in primary sources since the time of Geoffrey Luttrell, it is unclear when a castle was first built on this site. Robert Luttrell, an ecclesiastic, was Treasurer of the Cathedral Church of St. Patrick in the mid-13th century but it is not clear if he lived in Luttrellstown (Sweetman's

Calendar 1171–1251 cited in Ball 1906). The only reference to Sir Geoffrey Luttrell's estates in Ireland relates to land in Thomond and from the late 13th century to the mid-14th, a series of references to various Luttrells and property in the Lucan area are recorded.

According to the Christ Church Deeds, (no. 970, cited in Ball 1906), a Robert Luttrell appears to have had some connection with the Luttrellstown neighbourhood. Subsequently, a ford near Lucan belonging to Michael Luttrell is mentioned, and in 1287 a member of the family paid a fine to John de Kerdiff whose family gave its name to Cardiffsbridge in the parish of Finglas. In 1349, some land and a mill at the Salmon Leap near St. Wolstan's were released to Simon Luttrell amongst others, and in a little more than a half century later Robert, son of John Luttrell, dealt with this property. No direct reference to a castle was found in this source.

However, a tantalising piece of information was unearthed by Dr. Duffy in a search of 17th and 18th century peerage documents (Jordan and Reilly 2001). John Lodge in the Peerage of Ireland says that Geoffrey Luttrell was one of King John's "trusted servants who executed several missions in Ireland and on the payment of twenty ounces of gold was granted the lands on which he built his castle" (Lodge 1754, 400). Unfortunately, Lodge does not reference the source from which this information comes so it is impossible to know whether or not it is accurate. However, it would certainly seem likely, given the evidence of various Luttrells associated with this area, that a castle was sited here since the early 13th century.

It is not until the mid-15th century that indisputable evidence is recorded for a castle on this site. However, as noted above, an unbroken succession of the Luttrell family can be traced in the records from the mid-13th century onward.

2.4. Post-Medieval Period

A lot of destruction and damage was done to the lands and castles of the entire parish of Castleknock during the turbulent years of 1630–1670. In the Civil and Down Survey of 1657, the castle at Porterstown is described as small but surrounded by a good orchard, garden and plantation. During the Commonwealth period Symon Luttrell had, in addition to Luttrellstown House, a "greate mation house" at Clonsilla, with buildings valued at £1,000. The main proprietor in Castleknock was Christopher Barnewall, who also held lands in Diswellstown and Carpenterstown (Civil Survey, VIII, 230ff, 241), both located south and east of the demesne.

After the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1664, Porterstown and Luttrellstown were described as the most important dwellings in Castleknock parish. Porterstown was occupied by Roger, First Earl of Orrey, while acting as Lord Justice. The castle, or possibly a more modern house erected near it, was assessed for nine chimneys. Towards the end of the 18th century an arched gateway testified to its former importance, but by that time all other traces of the house had disappeared (Austin Cooper's Notebook, cited in Ball VI 1906).

2.4.1. Post-Medieval Luttrellstown

In the mid-16th and 17th centuries, the castle at Luttrellstown was clearly very substantial and impressive. Thomas Luttrell, who was Chief Justice of the Common Pleas and a very distinguished member of the family, had greatly benefited from the dissolution of the monasteries, including all the lands of Coolmine in Clonsilla parish which had formerly belonged to St. Mary's Abbey (Letters and Papers of Henry V, cited in Ball 1906). At the time of his death in 1554, Luttrell owned a large amount of real estate and shortly after his death, the Crown applied to his executors for a loan of what was, at the time, a very large amount of money. Simon Luttrell, one of Thomas' sons,

eventually inherited Luttrellstown Castle, and during his time there, it was considered one of the principal castles of the county of Dublin.

The Down Survey map of 1655 shows the castle as a large Tudor-style house with bawn walls and plantations with an entrance facing west. This is clearly a culmination of at least two hundred years of enlargement. It is in marked contrast to the castle at Castleknock, for example, which is shown as a very large medieval tower house. During the Civil Survey of 1654–57 which was carried out in conjunction with the mapping, the house was described as a great mansion with twelve chimneys and surrounded by offices with a malt house, a barn, and two stables nearby. All the buildings were slated and the value of one thousand pounds placed upon them shows their large extent. Besides pleasure grounds and ornamental plantations, there were in the demesne a garden with no less than three orchards for the provision of the house and two quarries for the supply of stone. Also attached to the house was a corn mill and a cloth mill, as well as a weir on the Liffey for catching salmon (Civil Survey of the Barony of Castleknock).

This attractive property was confiscated from the Luttrell family under the Commonwealth, but the grandson of Thomas Luttrell (also called Thomas) regained the estate at the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660.

2.4.2.18th & 19th Centuries

Two archbishops of note were born in the general area. Archbishop Patrick Fitzsimmons was born in Clonsilla in 1699 and died in 1769. He reigned in the area during the penal law era which saw the suppression of Irish Catholic population. Archbishop John Thomas Troy was born at Annfield, to the east of the proposed development, in 1739. He became a Dominican monk and was later ordained Bishop of Ossory. On December 3rd, 1789, he became Archbishop of Dublin. He presided over the Catholic Church as it emerged from penal law era and was responsible for the building of Saint Mary's Catholic Pro Cathedral (NIAH Ref.: 50010228) in Dublin city and was the first bishop to be buried in its vaults. He died in 1825.

By the 19th century much of the land in the locality had been acquired by wealthy Dublin families, each landholding centring on the houses of Luttrellstown (RMP No.: DU017-004001; RPS No.: 723; NIAH Ref.: 11361036), Diswellstown, Porterstown, Oatlands (NIAH Ref.: 11361030) and Summerton giving the area much of its present character. The Royal Canal constructed in the late 18th century and the Midland Great Western Railway constructed in the mid-19th century, located to the north of the proposed development, are also important features in the historic landscape of the area and offer a reminder of the industrial heritage of the region.

2.5. Recorded Monuments (RMP / SMR sites)

There are no recorded archaeological monuments (RMP/SMR sites) within or immediately adjacent to the site. The closest Recorded Monument is DU017-0005- Ringfort-unclassified in Porterstown and lies over 500m to the south-east.

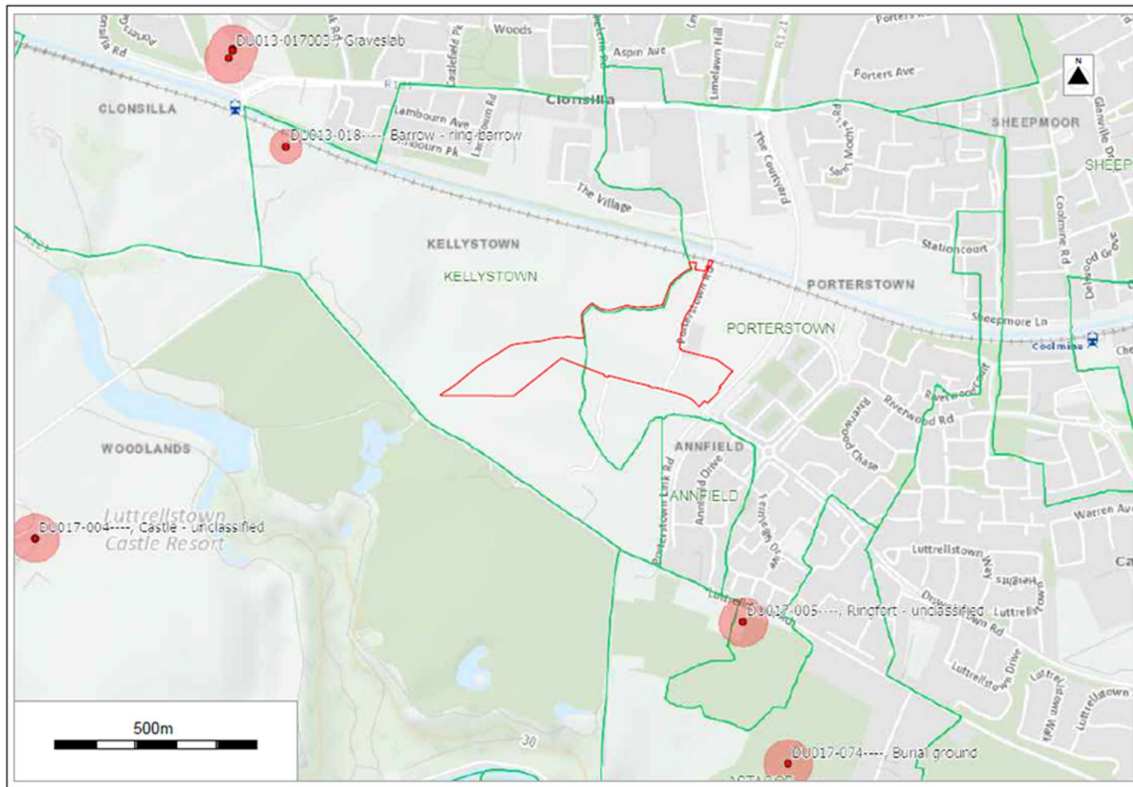


Figure 2 Surrounding RMP / SMR sites

2.6. Cartographic Sources

2.6.1. Down Survey map

The Down Survey maps were produced in the 1650's to facilitate the transfer of lands from Catholic to new Protestant ownership after the Cromwellian Wars of the previous years. No detailed map of the barony or parish was made, presumably because there was no major change of ownership of the estates at that time. The map of county Dublin does not record anything for Kelystown though the symbol for a castle or fortified residence appears to be marked beside Porterstown. Contrary to the modern location of these places, the castle is marked to the north-west of Luttrellstown in the direction of Clonsilla rather than to the north-east of Luttrellstown as is the case in modern times.



Figure 3 Down Survey Map of Dublin (1656)

2.6.2. Roque's Map of County Dublin

The next map of the area is Roque's map of County Dublin published in 1760. While many of the field boundaries are likely stylized rather than accurate recordings, the road network and other major landmarks can be reliably discerned from the modern period. A road is recorded between Porterstown and Luttrellstown via Kellystown. Gone by the time of the first edition Ordnance Survey maps of the 1840's, the route of the road has been preserved in the current or only very recently removed field boundaries of the site. This mid-18th century road may indicate the line of an even earlier route given the medieval origins of Luttrellstown.

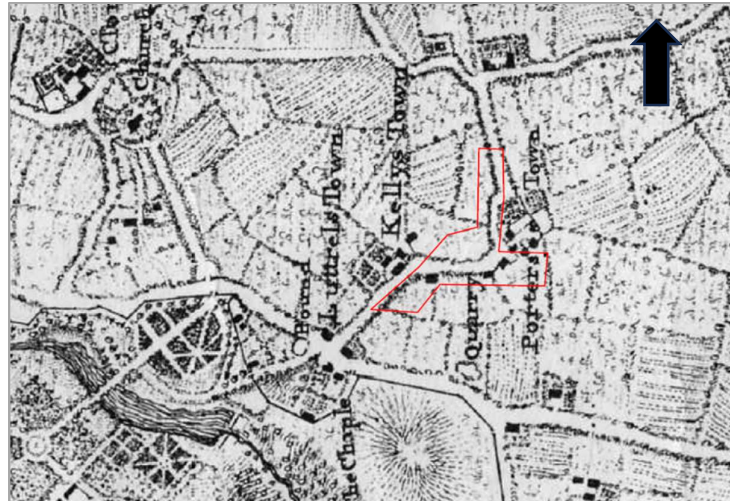


Figure 4 Roque map of County Dublin 1760 with approximate site boundary in red

2.6.3. Ordnance Survey Maps

The first edition map of 1839-41 is the first reliable map of the site with features that can be clearly discerned from the modern period. Many of the field boundaries recorded on the map are still in place with the Royal Canal constructed to the north and several buildings of note also, such as gate lodges, chapels and parochial schools still in place. Unfortunately, a fold in the maps around the area that includes the location of Porterstown House and does not allow us to see details of that area at this time. A later map, historic 25" to the mile (not shown), shows an extensive farmhouse with associated outbuildings called Porterstown House in place around the turn of the 20th century.

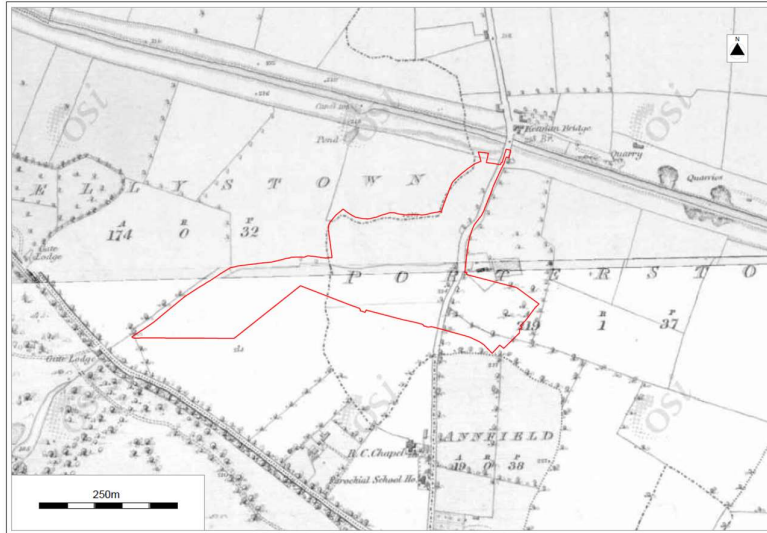


Figure 5 First edition OS map (1839-41)

2.7. Aerial Photography

Study of aerial imagery can be very useful in greenfield sites such as here to help in identifying previously unknown archaeological sites. However, no increased archaeological potential was noted from the study of aerial imagery (1995, 2000, 2005, 2011-13, 2018, Google Earth 2008-2024). The growth of the surrounding suburban developments and new road layouts can be traced including the disturbance of the portion of the subject site to the east of Porterstown Road.



Figure 6 Aerial image Google Earth 2022



Figure 7 Aerial image OSi 2000, note disturbed SE corner

2.8. Previous Archaeological Investigations

Several investigations have taken place in the vicinity of the subject site. While several have not produced any archaeology, two excavations have produced significant findings: the remains of a ringfort in the south of the townland of Porterstown and the confirmation of prehistoric ring-barrows in Kellystown. Summaries of the excavations that took place in the vicinity of the subject site are presented in the Table below.

Table 1 Previous archaeological investigations

Location	Licence No./ Bulletin Ref.	Summary
Porterstown	n/a / 1990:039	Test excavation, led to discovery of RMP site DU017-005 Ringfort
Kellystown	06E0348/2006:583	Test excavation to further investigate RMP site DU013-018 Ring-barrow. 3 trenches were dug and it was confirmed that the features revealed represented the remains of a ring-barrow.
Porterstown	098E0537/2009:579	Excavation of trial pits and boreholes for a Metro project were archaeologically monitored. No features, deposits or material of archaeological significance were identified during the monitoring of the works in Porterstown
Porterstown	09E0096/2009:299	A small link road in the Porterstown link scheme, measuring 420m in length, was tested. No archaeological remains were found.
Porterstown	21E0320/2021:202	Test excavations took place on 10 June 2021 in dry, sunny conditions. Seven trenches 340 linear metres in total, were excavated. Topsoil was 0.43-0.56m in depth. Below that lay a light brown/yellow ploughzone or transitional horizon 0.1-0.2m in depth overlying the subsoil. Subsoil comprised a brown and grey silty-clay with occasional limestone. No features, deposits or material of archaeological significance were identified during the test excavations.

In 1990 a ring ditch was excavated in Porterstown (90E0021). A post hole in the interior yielded a fragment of Bronze Age pottery. In 2006 test trenching was carried in the townland of Kellystown on the site of three conjoined probable prehistoric barrows (RMP DU013-018). The programme of

test trenching (06E0348) located an internal bank in one of the three circular features. Deposits noted in the other two test trenches were tentatively identified as bank collapse which may be overlying and obscuring further ditches and features. The presence of a ditch in one of the circular features established that the feature was a type of ring-barrow known as an embanked ring-ditch (Lynch 2006, 14). In 2002 an archaeological assessment (Licence 02E1422) was carried out on the grounds of St Mary's Church. As part of the assessment a single test trench was excavated to the north of the vestry to establish the archaeological potential of the site. The first feature identified was a circular cut with a diameter of 0.82m and a depth of 0.42m. The excavation of the trench continued and at a depth of 0.65m, some polished wood was uncovered. Subsequent cleaning of the wood revealed a coffin extending into the east facing section. The test trench extended further east and disarticulated human bones were found (Kavanagh 2002, 16). An excavation was carried out in 2004 (Licence 04E0033) in advance of the building of an extension to the vestry of St Mary's Church. The coffin found during the 2002 testing was removed by undertakers for reburial. Fragmentary remains of a second coffin were found underneath and were also removed for reburial. These two coffin burials were confirmed to have been interred in the 1960s and were judged not to be of archaeological significance. Thirty-two burials were recorded in the section to the west of the crypt, of which, thirty were exhumed and two remained in-situ under the crypt boundary wall (Kieth 2005, 25).

2.9. Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland

A polished stone axehead, NMI ref. 1979:104, has been found in the townland of Kellystown while another polished stone axehead, NMI ref. 1980:30, was also found in the townland of Sheepmoor to the east. These artefacts are usually considered to date from the Neolithic (c. 4000-2500 BC) period.

3. GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY, LICENCE NO. 23R0523

A magnetic gradiometry geophysical survey of the residential development site and some surrounding lands took place under detection device consent no. 23R0523 by TerraDat in two phases: November 2023 and January 2024. Three areas of archaeological interest were identified, Sites 1, 2 and 3. Sites 2 and 3 were outside the current subject site.

3.1. Site 1

This area extends from the western corner of the field for approximately 120m eastwards. In the west of the area, some broad (4m), moderately high-amplitude, positive linear magnetic anomalies run parallel to the northern margin of the field for approximately 85m. These anomalies may be early courses of the stream that runs along the boundary.

Over the first 55m from the field corner, a series of at least 5 (and maybe 7) positive magnetic anomalies of similar character but slightly narrow run SSE perpendicularly away from this boundary. These are suggestive of some form of agricultural activity in elongated plots rather than regular 'ridge-and-furrow' type ploughing, perhaps harnessing water from, or draining water into, the bounding channel.

At around 55m from the corner, the boundary channel(s) swings slightly more to the north.

At 90m from the corner, where the boundary channel lies just outside the survey area, is the western side of a sub-rectangular enclosure that extends 42m SSE from the channel. The western side starts from the north approximately perpendicular to the channel but swings slightly S. Its course is prolonged to the S by a lower amplitude anomaly that is approximately parallel to the

NNW-SSE anomalies in the west corner of the field. The western side of the enclosure turns NE for 13m before returning to the channel (in a somewhat sigmoidal way) at a point approximately 25m NE of the N end of the western side. Strands of more closely N-S anomalies complicate this E side of the enclosure, perhaps suggesting reworking of the E of the enclosure. These anomalies suggest a ditched enclosure bounded to the N by the channel and on the other sides by a ditch 1.5m to 3m in width. Internally, the enclosure shows a narrow positive linear anomaly with a 10m long S side and a 13 m long E side forming a sub-enclosure, centred upon [705528, 737472] against the western side.

The SE corner of the enclosure shows an almost N-S positive linear anomaly forming an external tangent. Similarly oriented linear segments occur parallel to this and to the east. These anomalies appear to curve slightly as they pass towards the present southern edge of the field. They appear to be agricultural lineations (furrows?) rather than discrete archaeological features. Indeed, they are close in alignment with the much lower amplitude NNE/SSW agricultural lineation visible over much of the eastern half of the field. These observations may suggest that the enclosure lies in a triangular gap between two early fields.

The final elements of this site (although excluded in large part from the site boundary) are very low amplitude positive magnetic anomalies that appear to delimit an enclosure extending to the SE of the main enclosure just described. These anomalies are barely above background noise, and the significance of this apparent enclosure (or field) is uncertain.

3.2. Site 2

This area includes two lengths of divergent irregular, narrow positive magnetic anomalies. They leave the southern site boundary at [705684, 737423], passing to [705679, 737469] and [705713, 737472]. The eastern branch may swing NW to [705697, 737478] and possibly context with the end of the western branch around the NW of the area anomaly interpreted above a field pond, although this section is at background levels. These anomalies may constitute an irregular enclosure of approximately 58m x 32m. The location of the 'pond' with the NW corner of this potential enclosure may be significant or may be a coincidence.

A broad sinuous positive magnetic anomaly extends south-eastwards for about 75m from the southern tip of this potential enclosure. It terminates after a short section of parallel ditches in what appears, possibly, to be a gateway at [705742, 737373].

3.3. Site 3

This site covers a possible ring ditch (centred upon [705651, 737419]), marked by a very low amplitude positive annular magnetic anomaly. The anomaly is barely above background variation, and the identification of this as a potential ring ditch must be considered very tentative. If it is a circular anomaly, it is 9m in diameter with a ditch 1m to 1.5m wide, possibly open to the SSE.



Figure 8 Greyscale image of geophysical survey results, 23R0523

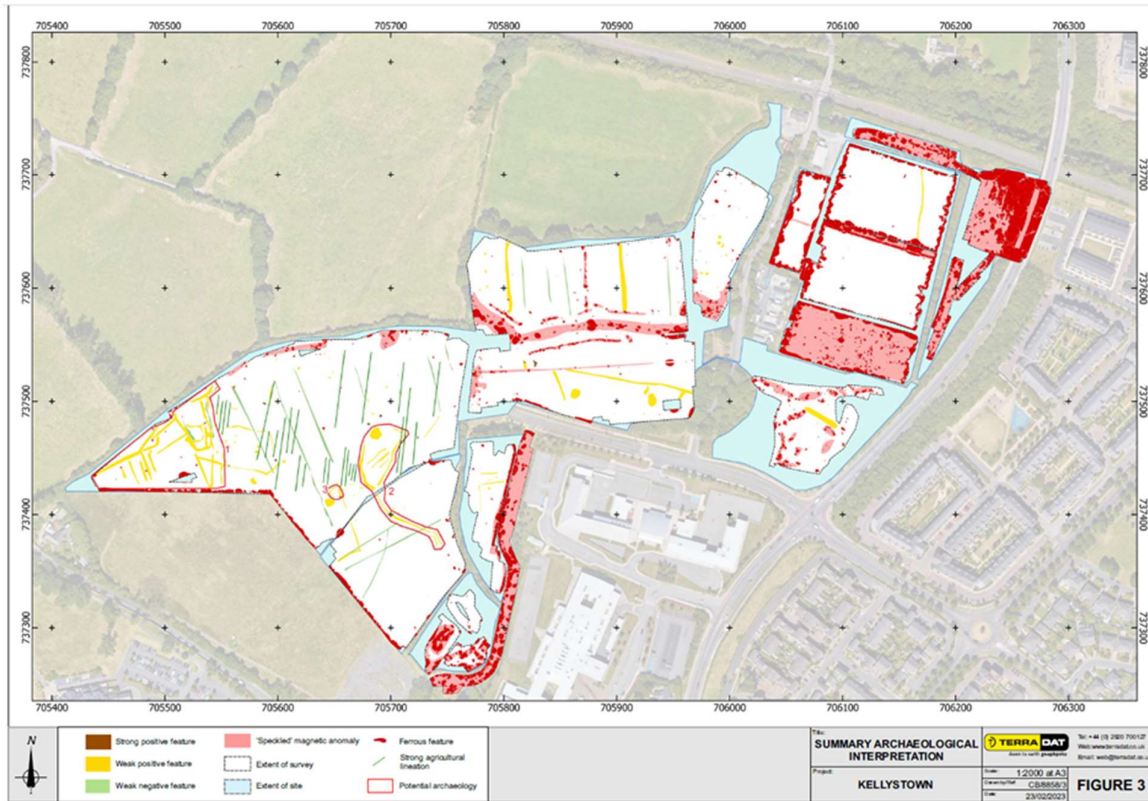


Figure 9 Interpretation results of geophysical survey, 23R0523

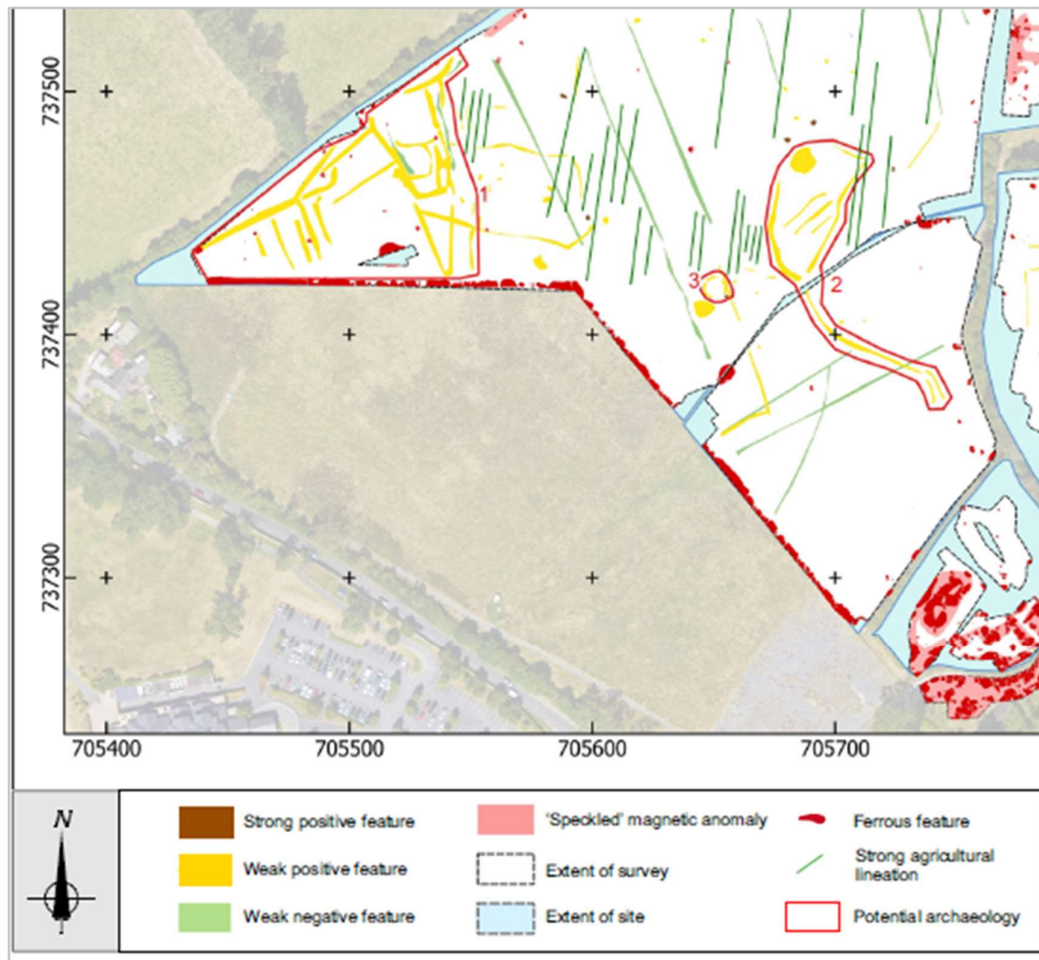


Figure 10 Close up of south-western corner of interpretation results of geophysical survey, 23R0523

4. TEST EXCAVATIONS, LICENCE NO. 24E0045

Test Excavations under licence 24E0045 took place on 16th-19th January 2024. They were in response to a planning condition for a residential development under planning ref. ABP-312381-21, item no. 21. They followed on, and were informed by, a geophysical survey of the site. This survey was undertaken by TerraDat (UK) under licence 23R0512.

The principal result was the discovery of archaeological remains in the south-western corner of the site in Trenches 1-3. These trenches had been placed to investigate an area termed Site 1 in the geophysical survey that recorded numerous weak or minor positive anomalies interpreted as a sub-rectangular enclosure within a field system with other associated features. Test slots in several of the features identified late medieval pottery and while all of the features may not be from this period, the identified evidence indicates the presence of a significant medieval settlement in this location. A summary of the trenches is presented in the Table below.

Table 2 Summary of Test trenches, 24E0045

Trench No.	Orientation	Dimensions (in metres L x B x D)	Comment
1	NE/SW	231 x 1.8 x 0.4-0.6	Contained features F3-F11 & F20, medieval pottery retrieved from ditches F7, F8 & F11
2	NE/SW	182 x 1.8 x 0.4-0.65	Contained features F12-F16
3	NE/SW	150 x 1.8 x 0.5-0.9	Contained features F17-19
4	E/W	88 x 1.8 x 0.45-0.6	No features, very stoney subsoil on higher point of trench
5	E/W	150 x 1.8 x 0.4-0.6	Contained drain F21 in E end, non-archaeological
6	E/W	150 x 1.8 x 0.4-0.6	No features except for modern rubble-filled drains
7	E/W	150 x 1.8 x 0.4-0.6	No features except for modern rubble-filled drains
8	NE/SW	112 x 1.8 x 0.35-0.6	Contained furrows in S end, non-archaeological
9	NE/SW	104 x 1.8 x 0.4-0.6	Contained furrows in S end & ditch F22 in central part, non-archaeological
9 trenches in total: 1317 linear metres			

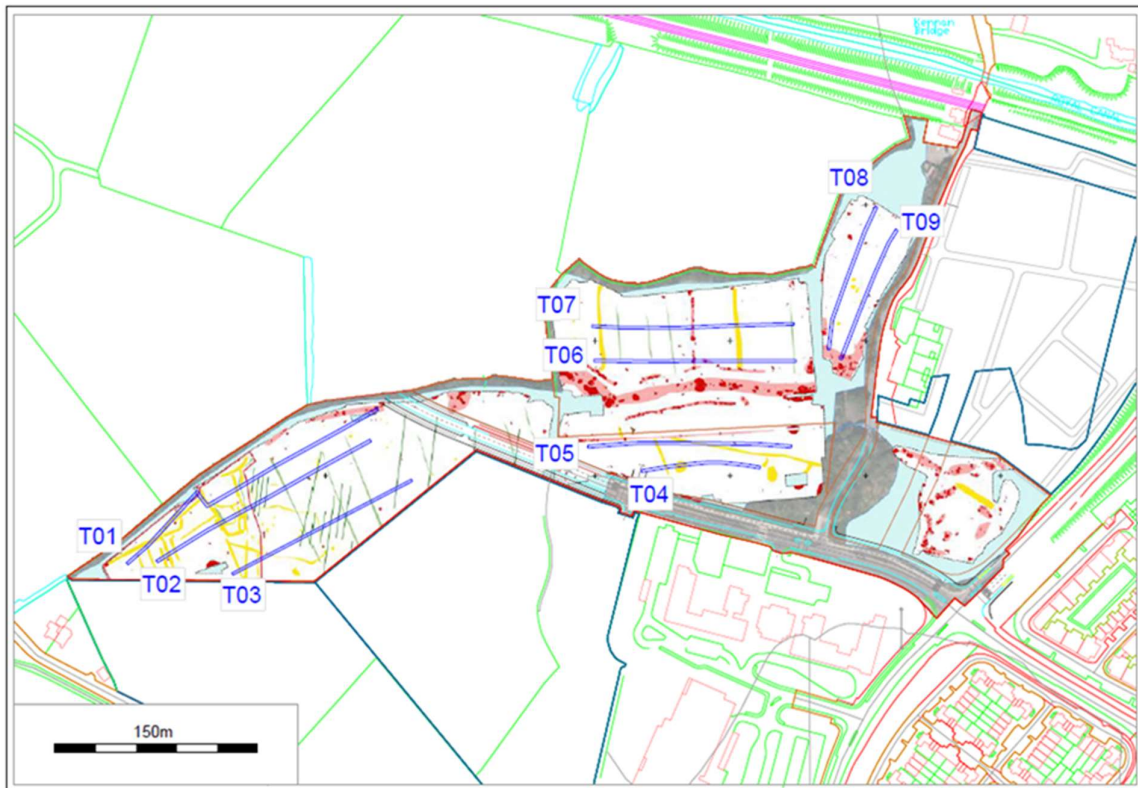


Figure 11 Test trench layout over geophysical survey interpretation results

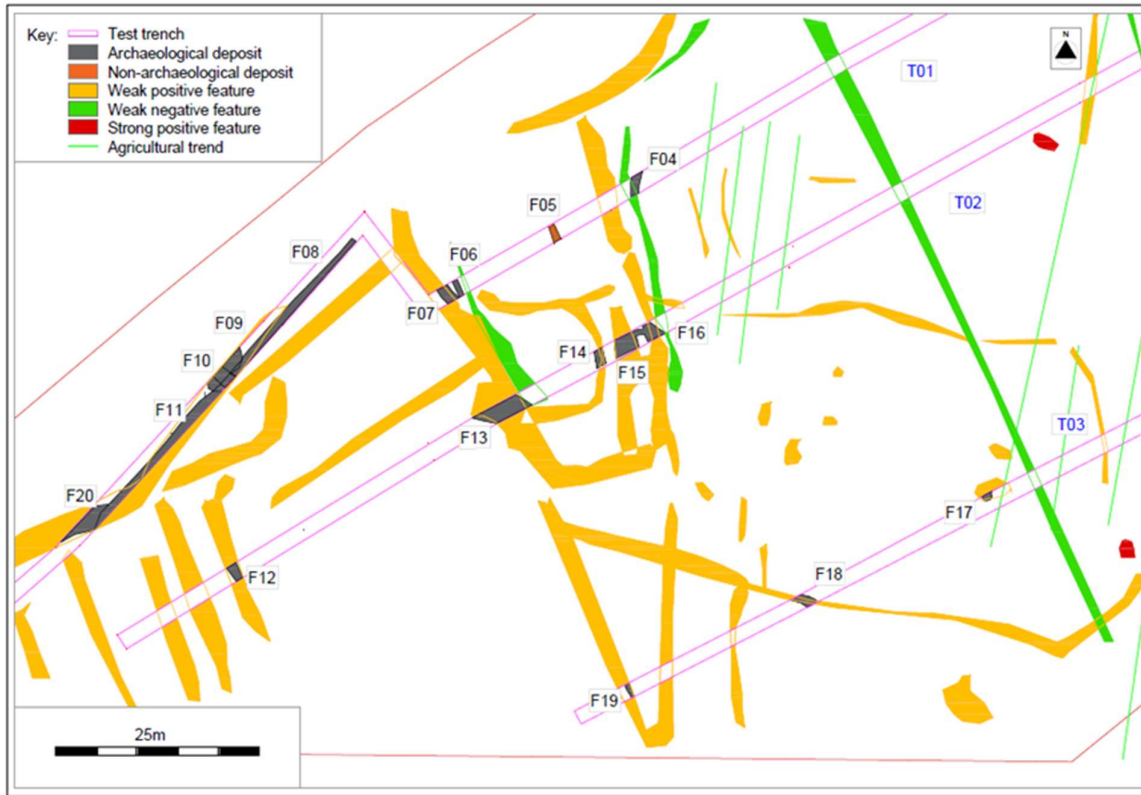


Figure 12 Details of archaeological area 1, Trenches 1-3, 24E0045

Table 3 Context register 24E0045

Feature No.	Feature	Description	Trench
F1	Topsoil	Humic mid brown layer	All
F2	Natural Subsoil	Mottled brown & grey stoney clay with some patches of stonier or sandier areas	All
F3	Furrow	0.55m W x 0.12m D; linear in plan, shallow concave sides, flattish base; filled with a friable brown silty clay with stone inclusions	1
F4	Ditch	1.00m W x 0.45m D; linear in plan, U-shaped profile, steeply sloping sides, flattish-concave base; filled with a friable brownish grey silty clay with frequent stone and occasional animal bone and snail shell inclusions	1
F5	Lintelled drain	c. 1.00m in width; no test slot excavated; 18 th -19 th century lintelled drain	1
F6	Furrow	0.6-0.65m W x 0.12m D; linear in plan; cuts or is truncated by F7 ditch; filled with friable light greyish silty clay with stone inclusions	1
F7	Ditch	1.6m W x 0.50m D; linear in plan; cuts or is truncated by F6 furrow; U-shaped in profile, steeply sloping sides, concave base; filled with an upper fill 0.25m in depth of friable brown silty clay with animal bone, snail shell and occ. charcoal inclusions and a basal fill of 0.25m in depth of friable brownish grey stoney (~20% of fill, small & medium sized) silty clay; contained medieval pottery sherd.	1
F8	Ditch	22m L x >1.1m W x >0.25m D; not fully exposed or excavated to base; linear in plan; filled with friable greyish brown silty clay with animal bone & stone inclusions; contained medieval pottery sherd	1
F9	Deposit	6.3m L (NE/SW) x >1.8m W; irregular in plan; truncated by row of medium-large stones F10; comprised of a dark grey silty clay with frequent animal bone, charcoal & heat-affected stone inclusions.	1

Feature No.	Feature	Description	Trench
F10	Stones or wall?	A row of medium (up to 0.2m in greatest dimension) & large (> 0.2-0.5m greatest dimensions) undressed limestones orientated NW/SE across the trench; overlying or cutting burnt deposit F9; of uncertain archaeological origin; top of stones <0.3m below present ground level; possible remains of wall	1
F11	Ditch	Orientated similar to F8, possible continuation of F8 with deposit F9 & stones F10 in between; orientated NE/SW; 22m L x >0.9m W x 0.45m D; not fully exposed or excavated to base; filled with upper fill 0.15m D of friable light brown silty clay & basal fill of 0.3m D of friable or loose stoney dark grey silty clay with animal bone, snail shell inclusions. Contained medieval pottery sherds.	1
F12	Ditch	1.1m W x 0.30m D; linear in plan; filled with a friable light brown silty clay with frequent stone & occasional charcoal & animal bone inclusions; Cu-alloy narrow band or strap (55mm L x 7mm W x <1mm T) was retrieved from the clean-back of this feature	2
F13	Deposit	Irregular in plan; in location of geophysical linear feature, no test slot excavated; 4.2m W; comprised of friable light brown silty clay with stone & animal bone inclusions	2
F14	Deposit	Linear in plan; in location of geophysical linear feature, no test slot excavated; 1m W; comprised with friable brown silty clay with stone inclusions	2
F15	Deposit	Irregular in plan; in location of geophysical linear features, no test slot excavated; 2.8m W; comprised of friable brown silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions; joined to F16 by narrow linear feature, possible furrow	2
F16	Deposit	Irregular in plan; in location of geophysical linear feature, no test slot excavated; 1.00-2.3m W; comprised of friable silty clay with stone inclusions; joined to F15 by narrow linear feature, possible furrow	2
F17	Deposit	Irregular in plan; 1.8m NE/SW x >0.8m x 0.1m D, extends out of trench to NW; comprised of dark grey with red & black mottling silty clay with heat-affected stone & charcoal inclusions	3
F18	Ditch	Linear in plan; 1.05m W x 0.18m D; sloping sides, concave base; filled with a light brown silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions	3
F19	Furrow	Linear in plan; 0.45m W x 0.1m D; sloping sides, concave base; filled with a friable light brown silty clay with stone and animal bone inclusions.	3
F20	Deposit	6.3m SE/NW x >1.8m; no test slot excavated; comprised of friable brown silty clay with stone & animal bone inclusions	1
F21	Ditch	Linear in plan; 2.00 m W x 0.7m D; filled with friable greyish brown silty clay with a concentration of medium sized stone inclusions near the base of the ditch	5
F22	Ditch/drain	Linear in plan; 2.1m W x 0.4m D; filled with friable greyish brown silty clay with a concentration of medium sized stone inclusions in the centre of the ditch	9

5. EXCAVATION SUMMARY, LICENCE NO. 24E0565

The excavation at Kellystown principally identified the remains of a late medieval (12th-14th century) settlement in the form of ditches, metallised surfaces, kilns and poorly surviving stone-built structures. A substantial post-medieval horizon indicated by the presence of pottery and other artefacts and the re-cutting and use of some of the late medieval ditches and boundaries hints at the possibility of continuing use of the settlement for several centuries.

Cartographic evidence from Roque's map of county Dublin points to the location of an 18th century road leading to Luttrellstown estate along the line of the north-western field boundary with a cluster of likely domestic buildings and gardens on the far side of the road called Kellystown. The site here likely reflects the agricultural and subsistence activities of the inhabitants of a late

medieval estate whose main locus of activity was nearby. The buildings and gardens recorded at Kellystown on the 18th Century map may represent the location of the late medieval village if continuity of settlement occurred. By the time of the first edition Ordnance survey maps of the 1840's, the road and settlement of Kellystown were no longer extant and the lands recorded as large blank fields in agricultural use.

Post-excavation analysis is on-going for the artefacts and environmental material recovered during the course of excavation. These will be subject to specialist analysis while some charred material will be submitted for radiocarbon dating to support the dating and analysis of the site. When all the specialist reports are completed and radiocarbon dates available, they will be incorporated into a final excavation report for the site.

6. ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, LICENCE NO. 24E0045 EXT.

Topsoil stripping was largely undertaken with mechanical excavators fitted with grading buckets. Small sections of topsoil were removed by bulldozer. The first phase of removal of topsoil began on Monday 4th of March 2024 and was in preparation for the assembly of the site compound and access roads. The topsoil was generally at a depth of 0.4m, although there were areas where it extended to a depth of 1 metre. Spoil was stockpiled on site adjacent to the compound area. This phase was completed on Monday 11th.



Plate 1 Aerial view of Phase 1 topsoil stripping, looking south

During the first phase, two small features were exposed which were fully recorded and excavated. Both features (F3 and F4) were observed as small spreads of charcoal and burnt clay. While undated, their depth under the topsoil suggests they are not of very recent origin.

F3 was composed of a thin lens of dense charcoal and occasional pockets of scorched clay. Roughly oval in shape, it measured 3.5m by 2.2m with a shallow undulating depth of 0.15m. The form of the feature did not clearly identify itself in nature. The dense charcoal may point to an association with a kiln of some description or a similar feature, though no material remains pointed to what particular use it may have had. No charred cereal material that would point to an agricultural kiln was observed, and neither was there any slag or similar waste material to identify a kiln used in a manufacturing process. It is possible that the original feature was entirely ploughed out and

truncated during the centuries of industrialised agricultural in the 18th and 19th century, with only the lens of burnt material surviving beneath the ploughed soil.

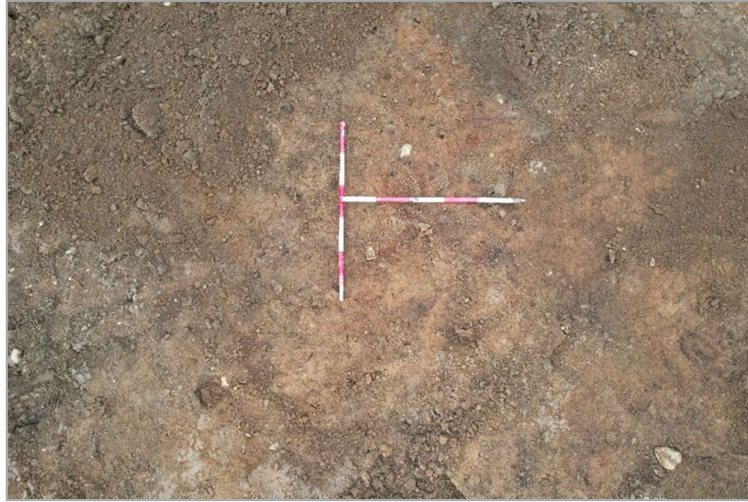


Plate 2 Aerial view of burnt deposit F3

Similarly, F4 was observed as a dense pocket of charcoal, though much smaller and more regular in form. Approximately oval, with a diameter of 0.6m, the feature gave the impression of being the base of a shallow bowl-shaped pit. It is possible that this may be the truncated base of the bowl of a kiln, with all its upper structure long since ploughed away. As with the previous feature however, no material finds within the single, charcoal rich fill evidenced what the nature or purpose of such a kiln may have been.

Both features were resolved by the monitoring archaeologist, and though their nature was not fully understood, the records will be included in the results of excavation 24E0565 which took place between June and August 2024.

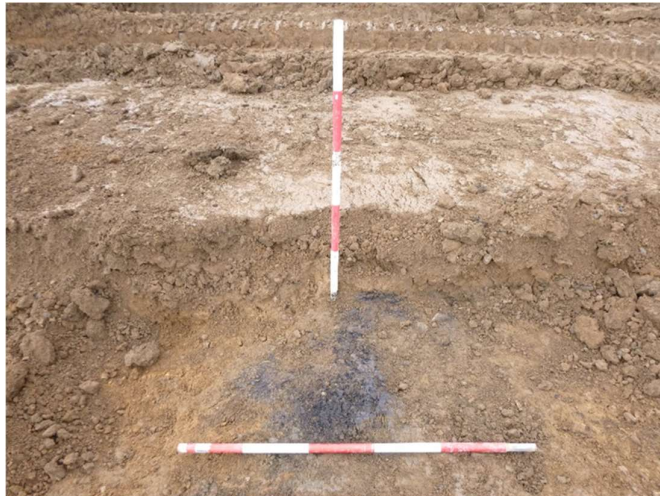


Plate 3 Charcoal rich deposit, F4

The only other feature of note observed during Phase One, was a shallow spread of post medieval demolition material (F5) which was observed near the northern boundary ditch of the compound area. This consisted of broken red brick and tile fragments as well as shattered limestone

fragments. This material is likely to be the remains of a demolished building that has otherwise left no trace on the site which was devoid of foundation trenches or any evidence of a building in the vicinity. The brick fragments were a coarse hand fired type, probably dating from the 17th or 18th century, and certainly earlier than the 19th century, lacking the uniformity and solidity of factory produced bricks of this later era. The tile fragments were also typical of a similar date, being curved terracotta style ceramic roof tiles.



Plate 4 Phase 1 topsoil stripping completed, looking north

This deposit (F5) was revealed just beneath the sod and within the topsoil and consisted of only a thin lens of this fragmentary demolition material, approximately 6m by 3m with a depth of 100mm. Considering the features proximity to the surface sod and the lack of any inclusions of a potential medieval date in its make-up was enough to disregard it as having any archaeological significance.



Plate 5 Spread of post-medieval demolition material

A single sherd of medieval ceramic was recovered from the topsoil during monitoring, though no associated feature was identified. This sherd was slightly crudely made, with a thumb indent on the rim and had a relatively fine, hard fired orange ceramic fabric. The piece was retained and will be included with the material finds of excavation 24E0565, which retrieved a large quantity of ceramic of a similar typology.

The second phase of topsoil stripping began to the north of the site compound and access road from 25th March. During this work a single feature was observed, F6. This feature was a much-disturbed stone lined drain which could be seen to run from south-west to north-east for approximately 10 metres, though much of it was disturbed by later activity. The drain was composed of rough limestone fieldstone and occasional fragments of broken hand fired red brick. The partial bowl of a clay pipe was recovered from within the feature and is likely to date to an early 19th century.



Plate 6 Post-medieval F6 field drain

The feature was recorded as F6 but was considered to be a relatively modern agricultural purpose and of no archaeological significance. No other features of note were observed and only a single sherd of glazed medieval ceramic was recovered as a stray field from the topsoil. However, a flint core, typical of waste material from tool manufacture was also recovered from the topsoil. No feature was observed in association, but this find does highlight the potential for bronze age or neolithic activity on the site in prehistory.

No other features, deposits or material finds were observed during the remainder of the topsoil removal.



Plate 7 Aerial view of topsoil stripping north--east of compound, looking south-west

Table 5 Soil Profile and Table of Features observed during topsoil stripping.

Context no.	Layer	Description	Depth below PGL
F1	Topsoil	Loose friable mid brown silty	0.00m to 0.50m
F2	Subsoil	Orange, brown compact silty clay	0.30m to 1.00m
F3	Burnt Spread	Spread of charcoal and burnt clay	0.50m
F4	Burnt Spread	Shallow pit with charcoal	0.50m
F5	Disturbed material	Shallow spread of post medieval demolition material	0.15m
F6	Stone lined Drain	10m visible of disturbed drain in Phase 2	0.20

7. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological monitoring of the construction groundworks associated with a residential development took place under licence 24E0045 ext. issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland. Monitoring took place in response to a recommendation contained in an Archaeological Impact Assessment Report produced under An Bord Pleanála planning ref. 312381-21. The largely greenfield development site, c. 9.2 ha in extent, was subject to an archaeological assessment comprising a desktop survey, field survey, geophysical survey and licensed test excavations prior to construction. An area of archaeological interest was discovered in the south-western corner of the site and was excavated under licence no. 24E0565.

Topsoil stripping of the remainder of the site was undertaken in two main phases. It was largely undertaken by mechanical excavators fitted with grading buckets under archaeological supervision though some parts were stripped with the use of bulldozers. The first phase of topsoil stripping from 11th March to 6th April 2024 facilitated the construction of the haul road and central compound. The second phase was undertaken in an intermittent manner from 25th March and removed the remaining areas of topsoil within the red line boundary of the site. The portion of the site on the eastern side of Porterstown Lane had been previously used as a construction site compound in previous decades and no longer contained any meaningful potential for the survival of archaeological remains. Throughout both phases of topsoil stripping, the only features identified of archaeological interest were two undated deposits of burnt material, and both were fully recorded and excavated by the monitoring archaeologist.

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