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*Appendix 8A*

Record of Monuments and  
Places

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## Appendix 8A Record of Monuments and Places

There are 23 recorded monuments within 3km of the proposed development site.

**RMP No:** WM033-070

Nat. Grid: 24675/23835

Townland: Farthingstown

Classification: Ringfort (Rath \ Cashel)

Altitude OD 200-300'

RMP Notes: A large roughly circular earthen embankment with an earthen bank at its upper edge and an external fosse with outer bank at the N, W and S. The fosse and outer bank are not now present on the E and were probably destroyed here when the farm track which runs N-S along this side site was being made. The banks and fosse are best preserved on the NW and W. The banks are defaced in a few places by animal tracks but there is no indication of an original entrance in the interior the ground slopes up from the perimeter on all sides to a relatively flat central area. I can see no sign of the hut indicated (in pencilled note) on my OS sheet as being to W of centre, but it could conceivably be obscured by the long grass and by some fallen thorn trees just west of centre. No features are visible. The tracks and fosse are overgrown with thorn trees and bushes particularly from the NW around the W to the SW. The site is on a slight rise and is fairly poor land (tillage) on the edge of a bog (to south). There are good views to E and W and to S towards Croghan Hill (Co. Offaly). Dimensions: 50.0m N/S by 53m E/W

20<sup>th</sup> September 1976

B.K. Duffy

**RMP No.:** OF003-003

Nat. Grid: 24829/23573

Townland: Ballyfore

Classification: Potential Site – Aerial Photo Possible

Altitude: OD 200'

RMP Notes: Aerial photograph site (GSI, June 1973, N.586/7, N.486/5, at height 4750')

Nothing visible at ground level. Not marked on 1838, 1884 or 1910/1912.

**RMP No.:** OF003-004

Nat. Grid: 24840/23547

Townland: Ballyfore

Classification: Potential Site – Aerial Photo Possible

Altitude OD 200'

RMP Notes: Aerial photograph site (GSI, June 1973, N.486/5, at height 4750')

Nothing visible at ground level. Not marked on 1838, 1884 or 1910/1912.

**RMP No.: OF003-032**

Nat. Grid: 248758/23783

Townland: Derrygreenagh

Classification: Structure - Peatland

Altitude OD 78'

RMP Notes: Site identified as OF-DGH001 in IAWU. 2003. Archaeological Survey Report: Derryarkin & Brumman Bogs, Co.s Offaly & Westmeath. Unpublished report commissioned by *Dúchas* The Heritage Service.

**RMP No.: OF003-033**

Nat. Grid: 248746/237339

Townland: Derrygreenagh

Classification: Road – Togher (Primary)

Altitude OD 78'

RMP Notes: Site identified as OF-DGH002 in IAWU. 2003. Archaeological Survey Report: Derryarkin & Brumman Bogs, Co.s Offaly & Westmeath. Unpublished report commissioned by *Dúchas* The Heritage Service.

**RMP No.: OF003-034**

Nat. Grid: 248811/237448

Townland: Derrygreenagh

Classification: Structure - Peatland

Altitude OD 78'

RMP Notes: Site identified as OF-DGH003 in IAWU. 2003. Archaeological Survey Report: Derryarkin & Brumman Bogs, Co.s Offaly & Westmeath. Unpublished report commissioned by *Dúchas* The Heritage Service.

**RMP No.: OF003-035**

Nat. Grid: 249865/237811

Townland: Derrygreenagh

Classification: Structure - Peatland

Altitude OD 82'

RMP Notes: Site identified as OF-DGH004 in IAWU. 2003. Archaeological Survey Report: Derryarkin & Brumman Bogs, Co.s Offaly & Westmeath. Unpublished report commissioned by *Dúchas* The Heritage Service.

**RMP No.: OF003-036**

Nat. Grid: 249906/237929  
Townland: Derrygreenagh  
Classification: Road – Togher (Tertiary)  
Altitude OD 83'  
RMP Notes: Site identified as OF-DGH005 in IAWU. 2003. Archaeological Survey Report: Derryarkin & Brumman Bogs, Co.s Offaly & Westmeath. Unpublished report commissioned by *Dúchas* The Heritage Service.

**RMP No.: OF003-037**

Nat. Grid: 249951/237882  
Townland: Derrygreenagh  
Classification: Structure - Peatland  
Altitude OD 80'  
RMP Notes: Site identified as OF-DGH006 in IAWU. 2003. Archaeological Survey Report: Derryarkin & Brumman Bogs, Co.s Offaly & Westmeath. Unpublished report commissioned by *Dúchas* The Heritage Service.

**RMP No.: OF003-038**

Nat. Grid: 249969/237874  
Townland: Derrygreenagh  
Classification: Road – Togher (Secondary)  
Altitude OD 80'  
RMP Notes: Site identified as OF-DGH007 in IAWU. 2003. Archaeological Survey Report: Derryarkin & Brumman Bogs, Co.s Offaly & Westmeath. Unpublished report commissioned by *Dúchas* The Heritage Service.

**RMP No.: OF003-039**

Nat. Grid: 249960/237872  
Townland: Derrygreenagh  
Classification: Post Row - Peatland  
Altitude OD 80'  
RMP Notes: Site identified as OF-DGH008 in IAWU. 2003. Archaeological Survey Report: Derryarkin & Brumman Bogs, Co.s Offaly & Westmeath. Unpublished report commissioned by *Dúchas* The Heritage Service.

**RMP No.: OF003-040**

Nat. Grid: 249960/237872  
Townland: Derrygreenagh  
Classification: Road – Togher (Tertiary)  
Altitude OD 80'  
RMP Notes: Site identified as OF-DGH009 in IAWU. 2003. Archaeological Survey Report: Derryarkin & Brumman Bogs, Co.s Offaly & Westmeath. Unpublished report commissioned by *Dúchas* The Heritage Service.

**RMP No.: OF003-041**

Nat. Grid: 249994/237808  
Townland: Derrygreenagh  
Classification: Structure - Peatland  
Altitude OD 80'  
RMP Notes: Site identified as OF-DGH010 in IAWU. 2003. Archaeological Survey Report: Derryarkin & Brumman Bogs, Co.s Offaly & Westmeath. Unpublished report commissioned by *Dúchas* The Heritage Service.

**RMP No.: OF003-042**

Nat. Grid: 250019/237770  
Townland: Derrygreenagh  
Classification: Road – Togher (Tertiary)  
Altitude OD 79'  
RMP Notes: Site identified as OF-DGH011 in IAWU. 2003. Archaeological Survey Report: Derryarkin & Brumman Bogs, Co.s Offaly & Westmeath. Unpublished report commissioned by *Dúchas* The Heritage Service.

**RMP No.: OF003-043**

Nat. Grid: 250043/237739  
Townland: Derrygreenagh  
Classification: Road – Togher (Tertiary)  
Altitude OD 79'  
RMP Notes: Site identified as OF-DGH012 in IAWU. 2003. Archaeological Survey Report: Derryarkin & Brumman Bogs, Co.s Offaly & Westmeath. Unpublished report commissioned by *Dúchas* The Heritage Service.

**RMP No.: OF003-044**

Nat. Grid: 250006/237691  
Townland: Derrygreenagh  
Classification: Structure - Peatland  
Altitude OD 79'  
RMP Notes: Site identified as OF-DGH013 in IAWU. 2003. Archaeological Survey Report: Derryarkin & Brumman Bogs, Co.s Offaly & Westmeath. Unpublished report commissioned by *Dúchas* The Heritage Service.

**RMP No.: OF003-045**

Nat. Grid: 250006/237691  
Townland: Derrygreenagh  
Classification: Road – Togher (Tertiary)  
Altitude OD 79'  
RMP Notes: Site identified as OF-DGH014 in IAWU. 2003. Archaeological Survey Report: Derryarkin & Brumman Bogs, Co.s Offaly & Westmeath. Unpublished report commissioned by *Dúchas* The Heritage Service.

**RMP No.: OF003-046**

Nat. Grid: 250037/237692  
Townland: Derrygreenagh  
Classification: Road – Togher (Secondary)  
Altitude OD 79'  
RMP Notes: Site identified as OF-DGH016 in IAWU. 2003. Archaeological Survey Report: Derryarkin & Brumman Bogs, Co.s Offaly & Westmeath. Unpublished report commissioned by *Dúchas* The Heritage Service.

**RMP No.: OF003-047**

Nat. Grid: 250043/237683  
Townland: Derrygreenagh  
Classification: Structure - Peatland  
Altitude OD 79'  
RMP Notes: Site identified as OF-DGH017 in IAWU. 2003. Archaeological Survey Report: Derryarkin & Brumman Bogs, Co.s Offaly & Westmeath. Unpublished report commissioned by *Dúchas* The Heritage Service.

**RMP No.: OF003-048**

Nat. Grid: 250028/237679  
Townland: Derrygreenagh  
Classification: Post Row - Peatland  
Altitude OD 79'  
RMP Notes: Site identified as OF-DGH018 in IAWU. 2003. Archaeological Survey Report: Derryarkin & Brumman Bogs, Co.s Offaly & Westmeath. Unpublished report commissioned by *Dúchas* The Heritage Service.

**RMP No.: OF003-049**

Nat. Grid: 250020/237662  
Townland: Derrygreenagh  
Classification: Road – Togher (Tertiary)  
Altitude OD 80'  
RMP Notes: Site identified as OF-DGH019 in IAWU. 2003. Archaeological Survey Report: Derryarkin & Brumman Bogs, Co.s Offaly & Westmeath. Unpublished report commissioned by *Dúchas* The Heritage Service.

**RMP No.: OF003-050**

Nat. Grid: 250048/237645  
Townland: Derrygreenagh  
Classification: Road – Togher (Tertiary)  
Altitude OD 80'  
RMP Notes: Site identified as OF-DGH020 in IAWU. 2003. Archaeological Survey Report: Derryarkin & Brumman Bogs, Co.s Offaly & Westmeath. Unpublished report commissioned by *Dúchas* The Heritage Service.

**RMP No.: OF003-051**

Nat. Grid: 250822/238084  
Townland: Knockdrin  
Classification: Post Row - Peatland  
Altitude OD 80'  
RMP Notes: Site identified as OF-KKD001 in IAWU. 2003. Archaeological Survey Report: Derryarkin & Brumman Bogs, Co.s Offaly & Westmeath. Unpublished report commissioned by *Dúchas* The Heritage Service.

**RMP No.: OF003-052**

Nat. Grid: 250926/238189  
Townland: Knockdrin  
Classification: Post Row - Peatland  
Altitude No record  
RMP Notes: Site identified as OF-KKD002 in IAWU. 2003. Archaeological Survey Report: Derryarkin & Brumman Bogs, Co.s Offaly & Westmeath. Unpublished report commissioned by *Dúchas* The Heritage Service.

**RMP No.: OF003-053**

Nat. Grid: 250961/238202  
Townland: Knockdrin  
Classification: Structure - Peatland  
Altitude No record  
RMP Notes: Site identified as OF-KKD003 in IAWU. 2003. Archaeological Survey Report: Derryarkin & Brumman Bogs, Co.s Offaly & Westmeath. Unpublished report commissioned by *Dúchas* The Heritage Service.

**RMP No.: OF003-054**

Nat. Grid: 250960/238311  
Townland: Knockdrin  
Classification: Post Row - Peatland  
Altitude No record  
RMP Notes: Site identified as OF-KKD004 in IAWU. 2003. Archaeological Survey Report: Derryarkin & Brumman Bogs, Co.s Offaly & Westmeath. Unpublished report commissioned by *Dúchas* The Heritage Service.

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*Appendix 8B*  
Topographical Files

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## Appendix 8B Topographical Files, National Museum of Ireland

Townland: Carrick  
Parish: Castlejordan  
Barony: Warrenstown  
County : Offaly  
Reg No. 1966:151  
Monument: None  
Nature of site: Bog  
Find(s): **Upper rotary quern**  
Store: Q28:4  
Acquisition: Gift from Bord Na Móna  
Description: The quernstone was composed of coarse grained sandstone. A handle-hole towards the edge showed signs of polishing through friction.

Townland: Derryarkin  
Parish: Crughan  
Barony: Philipstown lower  
County : Offaly  
Reg No. 1969:836  
Monument: None  
Nature of site: Bog  
Find(s): **Stone Adze head polished**  
Store: D42:8  
Acquisition: Gift from Bord Na Móna  
Description: The adzehead is broken off at butt. The cutting edge is well preserved. It is made of finely textured green/blue stone (green modified volcanic ash) possibly which originates from Co. Cork. Length: 8cm, Thickness: 1.90cm, Width: 5.70cm

Townland: Derrygreenagh  
Parish: Castle Jordan  
Barony: Warrenstown  
County: Offaly  
Reg No. 1985:81  
Monument: None  
Location: OS. Sheet 6 24.7cm E 38.4cm S  
Nature of site: Bog  
Find(s): **Wooden comb**  
Store: 0C28:6  
Acquisition: Gift from Mr. Oliver Egan, Westmeath.

Description: Unfinished comb of boxwood which originally had metal strips attached to the ends. It was found in the summer of 1984 inside a sod of turf about 5-6 feet below surface level. The comb is thought to be 200-300 years old. Length: 15.0cm, Width: 5.5cm, Thickness: 7.0c

Townland: Derrygreenagh

Parish: Castlejordan

Barony: Warrenstown

County : Offaly

Reg No. 1959:751

Monument: None

Nature of site: Bog

Find(s): **Polished stone axehead**

Store: OC28:13

Acquisition: Gift of Ernest Alford, WM.

Description: The axehead is oval in cross-section. The butt is brought to an edge as sharp as the cutting edge. It extremes are well polished the centre is rougher. It was found c.9 feet under the surface of the bog. Length: 10.2cm, Width 4.35cm, Thickness 2.6cm, Breadth 2.3cm.

Townland: Derryiron

Parish: Ballyburly

Barony: Warrenstown

County : Offaly

Reg No. 1987:40

Monument: None

Nature of site: Bog

Find(s): **Wooden shovel blade**

Store: B19:9

Acquisition: Gift of Mr. Patrick Masterson, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

Description: Length: 33.5cm, Width 17.5cm max , Width of fixing end: 8.5cm, Peg hole Diam.: 2.69 x 2.3cm, Blade slot diam.: 4.8 x 3.5cm.

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*Appendix 8C*  
Excavation Bulletins

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## Appendix 8C Excavations Bulletins

### Offaly

**2002:1559**

#### **Derryarkin Bog, Bunsallagh/Derryarkin/Derrygreenagh**

Peatland survey

**248 238**

**02E0942**

Derryarkin Bog is a Bord na Móna bog that has gone out of milled peat production and was surveyed on behalf of Dúchas as part of the Peatland Survey 2002. Covering an area of 789ha, it lies c. 2km south of Rochfortbridge and is situated west of Bord na Móna's Drumman Bog and north of Ballybeg Bog. It extends into County Westmeath, but all of the archaeological sites discovered were in County Offaly. A total of 29 sites were recorded, including the find spot of a Late Mesolithic Bann Flake recovered by the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit in 2000. The remaining sites occurred in two principal concentrations: 23 in the south-western corner of the bog, and five on the eastern fringe. The south-western concentration consists primarily of small deposits of wood and the remains of three linear sites. All of these were in a very degraded state owing to long-term exposure. A flint flake was also recovered from this area. Two of these sites have been radiocarbon dated to 1937–1644 cal. BC and 1686–1414 cal. BC.

The sites to the east consist of similar small deposits of wood and a substantial plank trackway, which is 68.5m in surviving length, 3.74m wide and 0.26m deep. One of the planks has been dendrochronologically dated to 3643±9 BC or later, making this the earliest dated trackway in Ireland. The site is oriented north–south, extending from Derrygreenagh Hill toward Croghan Hill. A small chert scraper was recovered from the vicinity of this site.

**Cara Murray, Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit, Department of Archaeology, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4.**

### Offaly

**2002:1567**

#### **Derryarkin**

No archaeological significance

**23800 24700**

**01E1126 ext.**

Monitoring was carried out in November 2002 of mechanical peat removal before the construction of the new cement-block factory in Derryarkin Bog, Co. Offaly. The development area, which measured 100m by 150m, was considered to be archaeologically sensitive because of its location within a raised bog.

The original strategy had been to monitor all mechanical peat removal on the site, in an area measuring 100m by 180m. This part of the site had previously been forested. Approximately one-third of the trees had been removed using a bulldozer. There was very little peat remaining above the subsoil over the entire development area, and the removal of the trees had resulted in very disturbed ground. Because the area had been forested, it was recognised that it would be very difficult to identify any archaeological sites within this peat. The underlying subsoil was therefore targeted for archaeological inspection to investigate the potential for pre-bog activity. The heavy plant machinery in use was not conducive to the complete topsoil-stripping of the site. In the central section of the site the ground had also been disturbed, as some oak trees had been extracted for replanting. It was decided that placing linear trenches across the site at 15m intervals would help to determine whether there were any features of archaeological interest within the boundaries of the site without causing further ground disturbance. Six trenches, oriented north-east/south-west, were opened across the site. The peat was mechanically removed, exposing the pre-bog marl and gravel layers. The depth of the peat and marl varied, but their composition remained similar throughout the site. The peat closest to the bog surface was quite disturbed by tree-root systems and their removal. The glacially deposited gravel was, by now, exposed in sections across the site. No archaeological features were identified.

**Jane Whitaker, ADS Ltd, Windsor House, 11 Fairview Strand, Fairview, Dublin 3.**

**Offaly**

**2002:1560**

**Drumman Bog, Carrick/Derrygreenagh/Knockdrin/Garr/Drumman**

Peatland survey

**251 240**

**01E0667**

Drumman Bog is in the north of Bord na Móna's Derrygreenagh works, south of the N6 between Milltownpass and Rochfortbridge, and covers an area of 1249ha. Part of the bog is in County Offaly, and part in County Westmeath. Small sections in the southern and central parts of the bog are in milled peat production; the remainder has been largely milled out, and there is a block of forestry in the eastern part of the bog. A total of 23 archaeological sites were recorded during the survey. These consist of seven toghers, traceable for 15m or less, thirteen small deposits of worked and unworked wood, and three post rows of varying lengths. The largest concentration of sites, two of which are dated to the Middle and Late Bronze Age, is on the fringes of Derrygreenagh Hill.

Four ex situ artefacts were recovered. A barbed and tanged arrowhead was found in the north-eastern corner of the bog, in County Westmeath. An ex situ chert scraper and two fragments of animal horn were also recovered from disturbed contexts. A small ex situ scrap of leather was found close to the main concentration of sites.

**Conor McDermott, Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4.**

**Offaly**

**2001:1089**

**Ballybeg Bog, Barrysbrook/Clonin/ Toberdaly/Togher**

Peatland survey

**251235**

**01E0663**

This bog was surveyed on behalf of Dúchas as part of the Peatland Survey 2001. It is 8km south of Milltownpass to the west of Rhode village and north-east of Croghan Hill. Ballybeg Bog is currently in commercial milled peat production by Bord na Móna, and covers an area of 808ha. The site of a togher, 'the Togher of Croghan' (SMR 10:18(011, 012)), was known from the southern limit of this bog prior to the survey.

A total of 105 sites were identified in this bog. All are located in the southern part, between the area north of the Togher of Croghan and south of a former lake, Lough Nashade. They consist of 31 toghers, one platform, 29 deposits of worked wood, 26 deposits of unworked wood, a dug-out canoe, a prehistoric occupation site and a barrow, along with one complex and one feature. None of the toghers are substantial structures intended to cross the entire bog. Most sites appear to have facilitated utilisation of areas of the bog. Many of the larger structures, such as the barrow, the occupation site, the complex and the platform, are situated close to what may have been an earlier lake shore, and the dug-out canoe was discovered within the area of the former lake.

A total of 25 artefacts were recovered from this bog, many from the vicinity of the occupation site and the barrow (c. 15m apart), including pieces of worked flint and a stone adze. Two wooden artefacts were also recovered, an ex situ bow stave and a portion of a wooden yoke. The dated sites in Ballybeg Bog range from the early Bronze Age for the occupation site to the late Bronze Age for brushwood associated with the wooden yoke.

**Cara Murray, Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit, Department of Archaeology, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4.**

**Offaly**

**2002:1555**

**Barrysbrook**

Small platform

**250893 233351**

**02E1035**

This excavation was carried out at the southern end of Ballybeg Bog, Co. Offaly. Two cuttings were opened at either side of a Bord na Móna drain. They revealed a small wooden platform comprising an upper layer of parallel roundwoods and a lower layer of irregularly laid brushwood. The two layers of wood were exposed in one cutting, but only the lower layer was present in the other cutting as the Bord na Móna field was at a lower level. The oval platform measured 6m by 10m. It was probably a small

dry platform area for hunting or other such activities, which may be ascertained through the analysis of the peat and further, post-excavation research.

**Ellen OCarroll, ADS Ltd, Windsor House, 11 Fairview Strand, Fairview, Dublin 3.**

**Offaly**

**2002:1563**

**Clonin**

Artefact/trough

2513555 233958

02E1197

An artefact was uncovered during the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit survey in 2001. It was originally thought to have been a dug-out canoe but on closer inspection resembled a large trough. The trough was situated in Ballybeg Bog, c. 150m from the dryland edges. It lay upside down and had broken into several pieces. Its base had been milled away. It measured 0.39–0.48m in external width, 0.3m internally and 1.36m in maximum length. It has been identified as alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), a species frequently used in the manufacture of wooden troughs. Remains of the trough were found lying around the area.

**Ellen OCarroll, ADS Ltd, Windsor House, 11 Fairview Strand, Fairview, Dublin 3.**

**Offaly**

**2002:1564**

**Clonin and Toberdaly**

Platform

251235 233352

02E1198

Introduction to sites excavated under licences 02E1198–02E1203, Toberdaly Wood Complex

An area of archaeological and natural wood was identified during the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit survey in the southern end of Ballybeg Bog in 2001. This complex of wood was 150m west of the site excavated under licence 02E1202 (No. 1580 below). The complex was spread over several Bord na Móna fields (110m<sup>2</sup>).

Five excavation licences were taken out to cover the excavation of several platform structures within this complex. Excavation revealed quite substantial wooden sites, which appeared to be distinct wooden platforms situated in a complex of archaeological wood. Trial-trenches dug between the cuttings revealed smaller arrangements of brushwood, which may have linked the platforms to each other. All of the drains in the area were cleaned back and recorded under licence 02E1200 (No. 1576 below). There were some natural trees and tree stumps in the complex. They all appeared to be *Pinus sylvestris* (Scots pine). Pine was also used in the construction of some of the sites, and it is likely that the people who built them used available wood nearby. The other species identified from the sites was *Betula* sp. (birch). This birch was probably selected from the margins of the bog, where birch grows quite readily. The sites were constructed in the fen, using the roots of the fen wood to stabilise the walking surfaces of the sites.

Platform, 02E1198

This excavation was at the northern extent of the archaeological complex in Ballybeg Bog, Co. Offaly. This site comprised an almost square platform structure. The platform was composed of roundwoods (50%), brushwood (40%) and twigs (10%) laid down longitudinally. The platform measured c. 5.4m by 4m and was up to 0.4m deep. The wood has been identified as *Betula* sp. (birch). The platform is an individual feature in a larger archaeological complex.

**Ellen OCarroll, ADS Ltd, Windsor House, 11 Fairview Strand, Fairview, Dublin 3.**

**Offaly**

**2002:1554**

**Barrysbrook**

Unworked wood

251066 233275

02E1034

This excavation exposed a scatter of brushwood and roundwood on the surface of a Bord na Móna production field in Ballybeg Bog, Co. Offaly. The site measured 1.8m in maximum width and was traced for a length of 2.6m. It was composed of around twenty brushwoods arranged sporadically throughout the cutting. The site did not have any structure or orientation. Only one piece of wood was

worked, and it is difficult to determine the function of this site. It may represent stray pieces of wood, possibly from one of the larger toghers or sites 135m to the west and east of this site.

**Ellen OCarroll, ADS Ltd, Windsor House, 11 Fairview Strand, Fairview, Dublin 3.**

**Offaly**

**2002:1576**

**Toberdaly**

Two platform structures

**251222 233258**

**02E1199**

This excavation was at the southern extremity of the Toberdaly complex (see No. 1564 above). Two sites were uncovered at different levels in the cutting. The first, most recent, was on the field surface and was unlike any of the other sites investigated on this side of the complex. It was composed of a series of longitudinal light roundwood (60%) and heavy brushwood (40%), which were oriented north-south in an organised manner. The measurements of the exposed site were 2.4m by 2m. The roundwoods were 0.7m long and 0.07m in diameter. The brushwoods were on average 0.2m long and 0.03m in diameter. Approximately 10% of the elements in this cutting had worked ends that were created by a metal axe (concave facets). There were fragmented light brushwood elements lying on the eastern side of the cutting. These fragments may once have functioned as transverse elements.

The second, earlier, site was c. 0.25m below the first and was very different in form. This site was traced for c. 10m and was 3.2m wide. It comprised two large roundwoods (tree trunks) underlain by diagonal roundwood and brushwood elements, which were secured in places with pegs. The wood was quite densely packed, with most of it in the northern half of the cutting. A flint convex scraper was recovered from between the largest roundwoods (tree trunks). The scraper was bifacial with possible invasive retouch.

This excavation represents the southern limit of the archaeological complex. The composition of the site, birch roundwood and torn pieces of pine, indicates that it is also part of the larger archaeological complex. Construction methods and materials are similar to those found in the site excavated under licence 02E1201 (No. 1578 below).

**Ellen OCarroll, ADS Ltd, Windsor House, 11 Fairview Strand, Fairview, Dublin 3.**

**Offaly**

**2002:1577**

**Toberdaly**

Two short stretches of togher?

**251226 233310**

**02E1200**

This excavation revealed two short stretches of togher, designated Tracks A and B, which are part of the larger Toberdaly archaeological complex (see No. 1564 above).

Track A was oriented west-north-west/east-south-east and was uncovered in the eastern side of the cutting. It comprised longitudinally laid roundwood and heavy brushwood elements that were laid side by side. Track A measured 1m in exposed width and 1.4m in exposed length. It was visible in a drain face c. 5m east of this site. It was revealed c. 0.5m below the field surface, and, as the field was an old stockpile, this stretch of Track A was situated at a higher level than elsewhere. It was not possible to investigate the entire length of Track A, given its depth below the bog surface and its orientation into the centre of the field.

Track B was on the western side of this cutting. It was oriented north-north-east/south-south-west and was generally composed of 90% roundwood and 10% heavy brushwood elements. Track B was exposed for a width of 3m in this cutting, but it was traced west for a distance of 1.3m and north-west across the entire width of the peat field (14m). It was at a depth of 0.05–0.4m below the field surface. These two toghers appear to be part of a larger archaeological complex that extends for a distance of c. 110m and is up to 15m wide at its north-western extent. The wood from this cutting has been identified as *Betula* sp. (birch).

During the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit survey (2001) a 14C sample was taken from the area surrounding 02E1200. It was dated by University College Dublin to 2576–2294 cal. BC. This date is contemporary with the site investigated under licence 02E1202 (No. 1580 below), Site A (occupation site), which was dated to 2562–2200 cal. BC.

**Ellen OCarroll, ADS Ltd, Windsor House, 11 Fairview Strand, Fairview, Dublin 3.**

**Offaly**  
**2002:1578**  
**Toberdaly**  
Platform  
**251226 233295**  
**02E1201**

This excavation revealed a substantial wooden platform (1.5m by 4.4m) situated in a larger complex of natural and archaeological wood (see No. 1564 above).

Once excavation began, it became obvious that this site was part of the larger complex. It lay 17m south-west of the site excavated under licence 02E1200 (No. 1577 above) and 15m north-west of the site excavated under licence 02E1199 (No. 1576 above), at the southern extent of the archaeological complex. Most of the wood in the cutting was concentrated in a 1m length alongside the drain. The site, 0.6m below the field surface, comprised 85% roundwood and 15% brushwood, which appeared to have been laid in a haphazard manner. The eastern end of the cutting was composed of a series of densely laid transverse roundwoods. The roundwoods were oriented east-west and were up to three layers deep, overlying a small amount of longitudinal brushwood. Some of the roundwood elements reached 4.2m in exposed length, and the average diameter was 0.12m. The structure changed in the centre of the cutting, with the roundwoods running underneath an area of longitudinal heavy brushwood. The brushwood was oriented south-west/north-east and was 2m wide. There was no definite order to the longitudinal elements. The western side of the cutting was very disorganised and irregular in appearance. A series of light brushwood oriented south-west/north-east on this side of this site was uncovered. It is therefore possible that the site is a platform that is connected to the structure excavated at 02E1199 (to the south-east, No. 1576 above), and to the complex, by a light brushwood track, as is the case with the platform 02E1198 (No. 1564 above). The wood has been identified as birch and pine. Much of the pine is splintered and twisted, giving the impression that all available wood was used in the construction.

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**Offaly**  
**2002:1579**  
**Toberdaly**  
Togher  
**251517 233325**  
**02E1203**

This site was recorded as a light brushwood togher on the field surface and in opposing drain faces by the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit in 2001. It was recorded as being 5.5m long, 1.66m wide and 0.16m deep. The site could not be found in 2002 and may have been destroyed by Bord na Móna milling.

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**Offaly**  
**2002:1580**  
**Toberdaly and Clonin**  
Stone-enclosed sub-square site and associated hearths  
**251359 23370, 251383 233346**  
**02E1202**

Sites A and B were 15m apart on fen-wood carr peat at the eastern extent of Ballybeg Bog, Co. Offaly. These sites were recorded by the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit, during its survey in 2001, as a prehistoric occupation site (Site A) and a barrow (Site B). Site A extended over an area of 40m by 15m, but, owing to time constraints, only 5m<sup>2</sup> of it was excavated. It comprised a series of stone hearths and associated charcoal spreads. The hearths had been milled by Bord na Móna machinery and were quite disturbed, although some were clearly discernible as subcircular hearths, each defined by a ring of stones. They measured on average 12m in diameter and contained charcoal 0.05m deep. There was a thin layer of charcoal throughout the area under investigation, and underneath the charcoal spread was forest-floor material, comprising leaves and organic matter. It appeared that the hearths were constructed in the middle of an old pine/birch forest/wood. Many natural birch and pine roots were present throughout the area.

Site B was clearly indicated by the green vegetation that grew over the stone bank. This green vegetation was in stark contrast to the brown peat in which the site lay. On excavation and removal of the vegetation, it was noted that the site was a sub-square stone enclosure. The bank comprised a stone

spread, 1.5m wide and 0.2m deep. The external dimensions of the enclosure were 9.5m north–south by 8.5m, and the internal dimensions were 7m by 8m. Because of time constraints, only half of this site was fully excavated. The excavation of the interior revealed a series of tree roots underneath which was a charcoal spread covering a forest-floor level. The charcoal spread was no more than 0.05m deep but was generally 0.03m. No entrance feature was discerned during excavation, and the stone bank was probably no higher than revealed during excavation. No sockets for posts were present in the bank, which indicated that the stone bank was never intended to be a high wall or a barrier fence, and it must have functioned as a demarcation of an area for a certain function.

The excavations at this site produced a few primary flint flakes and some flint debitage. The function of this site is unclear, as there was no evidence of post-holes, pits or any funerary activity. The site may have simply been a hunting pen or hide for the exploitation of the animals and birds that would have lived in and on the surrounding fen. The fens would have supported beds of reeds, rushes and sedges, with pools of open water as well as small streams running through them, and would have provided a suitable habitat for wildfowl that would have not been available on dry land.

The Bord na Móna drain sections, in between Sites A and B, were cleaned up and investigated. It was clear from them that there were more stone spreads in the Bord na Móna field between Sites A and B. The sections produced a stratigraphic sequence similar to that recorded during the excavation of both Site A and Site B. Further investigations are needed in this area to determine the nature and the relationship of the deposits between Sites A and B.

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**Offaly**

**2002:1581**

**Togher**

Worked wood

**251059 232852**

**02E0930**

This licence covers the excavation of some wood in a palaeo-channel (the remains of an old stream or water source) in Ballybeg Bog, Co. Offaly (No. 1583 below, 02E0932). There was no orientation to the wood, and it did not appear to have been a carefully constructed wooden site. Excavation of the site revealed four large brushwoods and a scatter of smaller brushwoods. The wood was in poor condition where it had been exposed on the surface of the bog and was concentrated in the centre of the palaeo-channel, where it had no apparent orientation. The brushwoods, which have been identified as *Corylus avellana* (hazel), averaged 0.02m in diameter and were 0.1–1m long. Two of the larger brushwoods were cut to wedge-points. A small amount of bark remained on the wood. The palaeo-channel was quite wide and shallow at this point, 1.8m wide and 0.6m deep. There was a thin layer of dark brown organic peat at the bottom of the channel, containing twigs and leaves.

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**Offaly**

**2002:1582**

**Togher**

Togher

**250864 232831**

**02E0931**

This excavation was carried out c. 170m south of the site excavated under licence 02E0930 (No. 1581 above) in Ballybeg Bog, Co. Offaly. Excavation revealed the milled remains of a linear togher and associated peg/post. The site measured 1.7m in maximum width and was traced for a length of 2.3m. It comprised two milled ash roundwoods and a post. An ex situ horn-core was uncovered 10m to the east of this site.

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**Offaly**  
**2002:1583**

**Togher**

Hurdle panel

**251060 232852**

**02E0932**

A palaeo-channel (the remains of an old stream or water source) was situated at the southern end of Ballybeg Bog. It meandered in a south–north direction and could be traced across the Bord na Móna field surfaces by poorly humified yellow Sphagnum peats. It was traced northward for a distance of over 550m, after which it appeared to run into a large Sphagnum pool or an extremely wet area. The source of the palaeo-channel at its southern end was difficult to determine, as it broke into several large, shallow pools. The palaeo-channel itself varied in width and depth along its length. It was 3m at its widest point and 1.4m at its deepest, in the central area of the bog. This palaeo-channel contained archaeological sites, which were excavated at several points along its length.

One of these sites was the remains of a hurdle panel. A hurdle structure is composed of wooden rods woven around wooden sails to form a panel. The hurdle panel was at the southern end of the palaeo-channel. The excavation revealed a panel comprising three double sails interwoven with around 40 rods. The panel was 2.6m long, 1.6m wide and 0.11m deep. From preliminary analysis, the wood used for the construction of the hurdle appeared to be *Corylus avellana* (hazel). Bark was noted on most of the wood. The palaeo-channel, which was also excavated at this point, was 2.6m wide and U-shaped in profile. It was not very deep and was only excavated to a depth of 0.4m.

The hurdle panel was probably constructed on dry land and then carried out onto the bog. It would have been laid down over the stream/palaeo-channel to give access to the other side of the bog.

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**Offaly**

**2002:1584**

**Togher and Barrysbrook**

Wooden structures and platform

**02E0929**

This licence covered the excavation of a series of wooden structures constructed within a palaeo-channel and a wooden platform at the end of the palaeo-channel (No. 1583 above, 02E0932). The wooden structures varied in complexity and size and were found over a length of 350m.

The wood was not continuous along the 350m length of the palaeo-channel. Generally, the sites excavated at the southern end of the palaeo-channel were small, loosely scattered arrangements of wood, and those at the northern end were of trackway type. The sites at the southern end of the channel averaged 1.2m wide, 2m long and 0.4m deep. They were generally composed of around twenty brushwoods, with occasional roundwoods, arranged in a non-structured fashion. Some of the wood associated with these small, discrete sites had worked ends, suggesting that the sites performed a function and were not naturally occurring. The sites most likely represent small foot holdings of wooden branches laid down in the palaeo-channel as a safe crossing-point.

The palaeo-channel was composed of three layers of peat at most locations investigated. The upper layer was yellow Sphagnum cuspidateum peats, which probably represented the flowing water; the middle layer was more humified, orange/brown Sphagnum peats; and the bottom layer was dark brown peat with many organics, such as twigs and leaves.

The trackway excavated along the northern length of the palaeo-channel averaged 2.5m wide and 0.3m deep and could be traced, albeit with some significant gaps, for a distance of 250m. The togher was composed of several roundwoods laid longitudinally across the site, with brushwood and twigs interspersed between the roundwoods to form quite a robust construction. The roundwoods averaged 1.2m long and 0.1m in diameter. The brushwood had similar lengths but averaged 0.02m in diameter. This togher, which ran along the northern end of the palaeo-channel, joined up with the platform.

This large multi-layered platform represents the known terminal of the palaeo-channel and was in the central area of the bog, c. 200m from the nearest dry land. The platform was constructed near a large Sphagnum pool. The wooden platform was exposed on the field surface and was in moderate to poor condition. The wood was dry and brittle owing to prolonged exposure and repeated milling.

Roundwood elements accounted for c. 25% of the exposed structure. The remaining 75% comprised brushwood. The roundwoods clearly functioned as structural stabilisers, but their positions within the platform do not point to a highly organised or carefully planned construction. It may be suggested that any available wood was used in the construction of this platform, given that untrimmed tree branches formed part of the structural elements. It appears that this site may have been constructed using layers

of very similar wood, and no definite super- or substructure was noted. The platform measured 13m by 10m and had a maximum depth of 0.4m. Preliminary analysis of the wood indicates that the majority was *Pinus sylvestris* (Scots pine) and *Betula* sp. (birch).

Only two finds/artefacts were retrieved during the excavations along the length of the channel and at the wooden platform, and therefore it is difficult to conclude why these sites were constructed and what type of activities were carried out on the platform. The two artefacts were a large blackthorn rod, 1.21m long and 0.05m in maximum diameter, slightly pointed at one end and rounded at the other, and an octagonal wooden artefact, 1.2m long and 0.18m in diameter. The function of these artefacts is as yet unknown.

Two sites along the line of the palaeo-channel have been dated at University College Dublin by the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit to 1365–919 BC and 1108–800 BC, and the platform at the end of the channel was dated to 2282–1952 BC. These dates suggest that the platform was not in use at the time that the sites were constructed along the line of the palaeo-channel. The palaeo-channel may have been crossed only at the southern end of the channel, and at the northern end it appears to have been used as a natural route. The channel would have been a natural route across a peat bog that would have been a large expanse of treacherous *Sphagnum* pools and overgrown grasses, and the platform may have been used as a hide or hunting platform to provide access to animals and plants that were not readily available on the dryland fringes.

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