

## **Appendix 5.7      Excavations Bulletins**

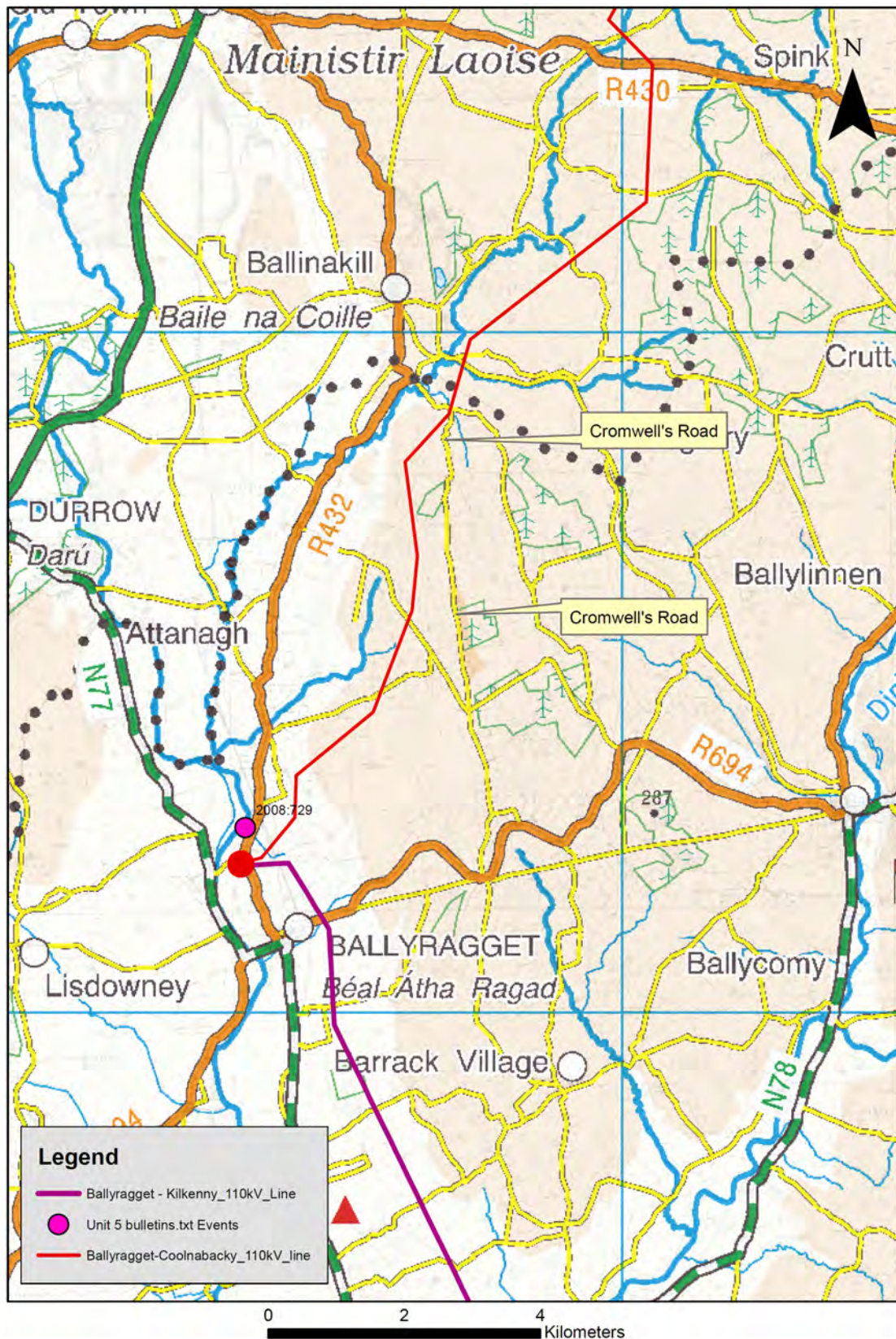
## **APPENDIX 5.7**

### EXCAVATIONS BULLETINS

## EXCAVATIONS ALONG UNIT 5 COOLNABACKY-BALLYRAGGET

*INDEX OF EXCAVATIONS (LOCATIONAL DETAIL ONLY AVAILABLE FOR ONE SITE)*

| <b>x</b> | <b>y</b> | <b>TOWNLAND</b>              | <b>EXCAVATIONS_REF</b> |
|----------|----------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| NONE     | NONE     | BALLYOSKIL                   | 1971:22                |
| N/A      | N/A      | CASTLEGARDENS<br>BALLYRAGGET | 2004:867               |
| 244460   | 172700   | MOATPARK                     | 2008:729               |
| NONE     | NONE     | BALLINACLOUGH LOWER          | 1980-84:0131           |



**Kilkenny**

**2004:0867**

**CASTLEGARDENS, BALLYRAGGET**

No archaeological significance

**S24501708**

**SMR 10:1**

**04E0297**

Kilkenny County Council proposed a development consisting of seven dwellings for the elderly at a site in Ballyragget within the confines of a tower-house with a bawn enclosure. An archaeological impact assessment was required, to include a detailed survey of the boundary wall on the northern side of the proposed development.

Four test-trenches were excavated and nothing was found in these that would indicate the presence of archaeological remains.

**Patrick Neary, 24 Talbots Inch Village, Kilkenny.**

**Kilkenny**

**2008:729**

**Moatpark**

No archaeological significance

**24446 17270**

**08E0368**

A series of test-trenches were excavated on the footprint of the proposed development of a dwelling house and associated siteworks at Moatpark, Ballyragget in compliance with the planning conditions, as the site lies at the edge of the constraint zone of KK005-023-01-03, a motte, castle and chapel site (possible). No features or finds of an archaeological nature were uncovered in any of the trenches opened.

**Anne-Marie Lennon, AML Archaeology, Clonmore North, Cahir, Co. Tipperary.**

**Kilkenny**

**1971:22**

**BALLYYOSKILL**

**Multiple Cist Cairn**

**S474 765**

This site (at ca. 900 O.D.) was not marked on the O.S. sheets of the area. It was discovered in the course of bulldozing operations when two large cuts through the site disclosed the presence of three rectangular cists, two of them empty and the third containing two Vase Food-Vessels, a pygmy cup and some fragments of burnt bone. Rescue excavation revealed the presence of two further cists, both empty. One of them was of miniature

The site lay at the edge of a modern quarry, which had encroached upon it. The cairn had been drastically denuded in fairly recent times and nowhere stood higher than 45cm.

Miss E. Prendergast and Mr. M.F. Ryan, Irish Antiquities Division, National Museum of Ireland

**Laois**

**1980-84:0131**

**Ballinaclogh Lower**

Motte environs

**S532905**

No report recieved

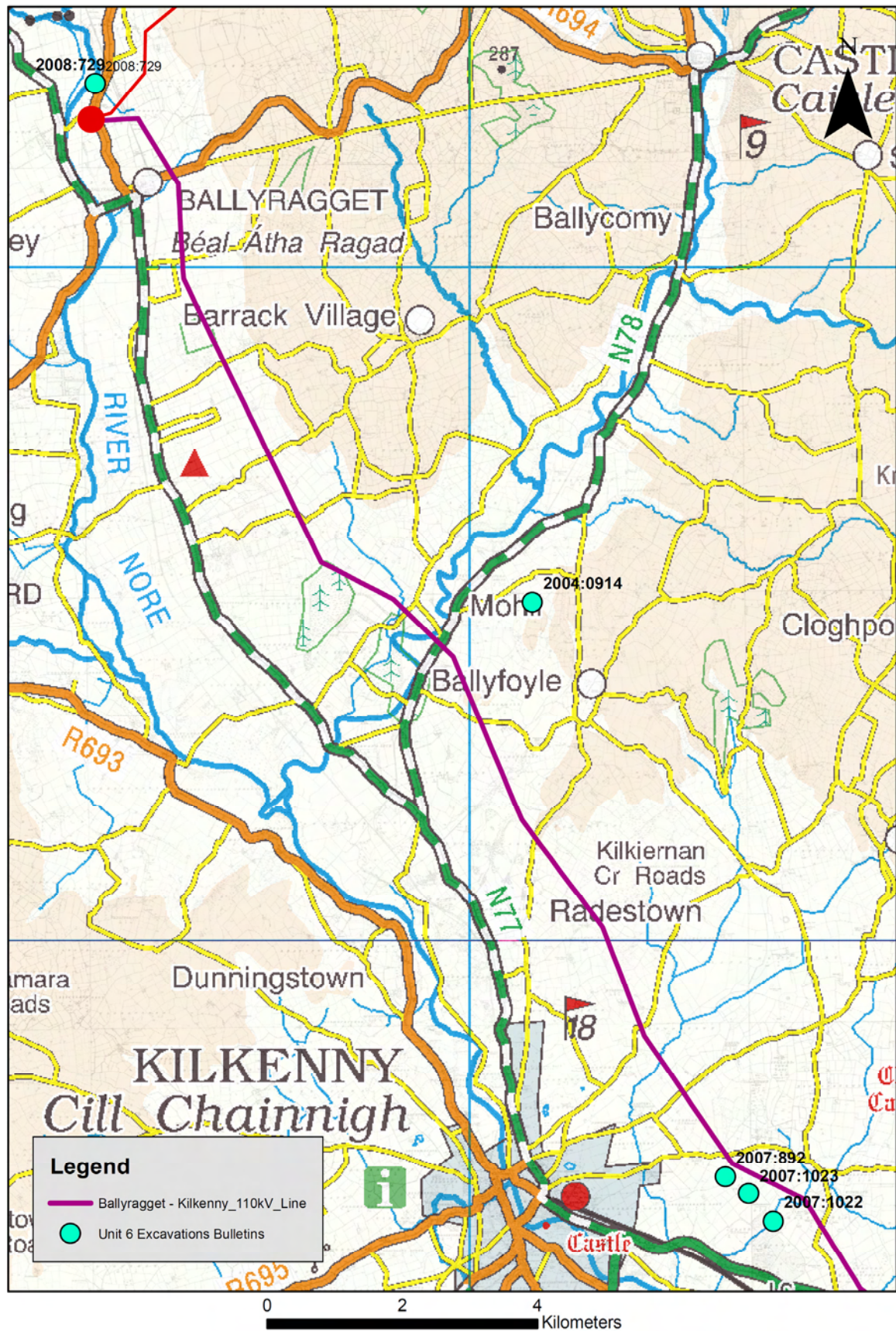
**E. Grogan, UCD**

## EXCAVATIONS ALONG UNIT 6 BALLYRAGGET-KILKENNY

### INDEX OF EXCAVATIONS AND ACCOMPANYING MAP

| x      | y      | TOWNLAND                     | EXCAVATIONS_REF |
|--------|--------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| 254504 | 155826 | TEMPLEMARTIN                 | 2007:1022       |
| 254141 | 156236 | TEMPLEMARTIN                 | 2007:1023       |
| 253793 | 156484 | CELLARSTOWN LOWER            | 2007:892        |
| 250940 | 165000 | MOHILL                       | 2004:0914       |
| N/A    | N/A    | CASTLEGARDENS<br>BALLYRAGGET | 2004:867        |
| 244460 | 172700 | MOATPARK                     | 2008:729        |





**Kilkenny**  
**2007:1022**  
**AR152, Templemartin**  
Kilns

**254504 155826**  
**A032/165; E3849**

This site was located within the N9/N10 Kilkullen to Waterford road scheme along Contract 2, Phase 4B, Knocktopher to Powerstown, on a west-facing slope in heavily ploughed agricultural lands. An area 15m by 15m was stripped of topsoil and two kilns (1.54m by 0.7m by 0.43m depth and 1.85m by 1.28m by 0.47m depth) were observed. Both were keyhole-shaped and aligned south-east/north-west with the flue facing north-west. The base and sides of both had been exposed to intense heat; one exhibited more reddening and may have been the earlier of the two. Charcoal-rich layers overlay the bases in both kilns. Both had then been abandoned and silted up due to natural water action and erosion.

**Emma Devine, Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, 120B Greenpark Road, Bray, Wicklow.**

**Kilkenny**  
**2007:1023**  
**AR153, Templemartin**  
Pits

**254141 156236**  
**A032/166; E3847**

This site was located within the N9/N10 Kilkullen to Waterford road scheme along Contract 2, Phase 4B, Knocktopher to Powerstown, on a gentle north-west slope. An area 15m by 15m was stripped of topsoil and two pits (0.55m by 0.45m by 0.2m depth and 0.78m by 0.55m by 0.2m depth) were exposed. Neither contained any finds or chronologically diagnostic material.

**Emma Devine, Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, 120B Greenpark Road, Bray, Wicklow.**

**Kilkenny**  
**2007:892**  
**AR154, Cellarstown Lower**  
Medieval rural settlement

**253793 156484**  
**A032/118; E3734**

This site was located within the N9/N10 Kilkullen to Waterford road scheme along Contract 2, Phase 4B, Knocktopher to Powerstown, at the eastern edge of the flood-plain of a small river on a gentle west-facing slope. An area 50m by 50m with an extension 25m to the east was stripped of topsoil. The remains of two structures, a drying kiln and associated features were noted. East-west-aligned Structure 1 (5.7m by 3.8m) was located towards the northern edge of the site and was little more than a rectangular stain which may represent the remains of a sod-built structure; a possible entrance was located in the eastern side. A number of fire-reddened patches were identified internally and may represent hearths and/or burnt-out posts that would have supported a roof (?thatch). North-south-aligned Structure 2 (9.8m by 6m) was adjacent to and west of Structure 1; the western edge of the structure had been truncated by a modern drainage feature. The eastern and southern walls of the structure comprised a deep slot-trench with deep post-pits in each corner; the northern side was represented by a shallower slot-trench and all that remained of the western side was a number of badly truncated post-pits. The slot-trenches could have accommodated sill-beams. Several pieces of slate were recovered from the slot-trench and interpreted as part of a slate roof which would have been supported by several internal posts. An internal hearth area (2.2m by 1.5m) was present within the structure and contained a piece of rotary quernstone. A second piece of quernstone was recovered from a roughly mettalled surface (4.8m by 1.8m) located to the south of the hearth. A stone bowl was recovered from this area during testing. Thirteenth-century King Edward coins and 13th-14th-century glazed pottery sherds were recovered from the slot-trench, indicating that Structure 1 was medieval in date.

The two structures were enclosed by a slot-trench (0.35m width) to the north, south and east, covering an area 13m north-south by 10m, which would have contained a fence. An east-west (flue west) keyhole-shaped cereal-drying kiln (1.7m by 0.7m by 0.35m depth) was located in the south-eastern corner of this enclosure and was divided from the main enclosed area by a curving slot. To the west of the structures a boundary larger than the slot-trench, represented by a small ditch, extended the length of the site north-south and delineated the western extent of the habitation. Several large circular pits were located at intervals within this ditch and have been interpreted as drainage slumps. Some waterlogged leather and 13th-14th-century pottery were retrieved from the ditch fills. A possible gate structure or entranceway was located 34m north of the settlement activity where there was a distinct



5m break in the ditch and four large post-holes were arranged in a square.

**Emma Devine, Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, 120B Greenpark Road, Bray, Wicklow.**

#### **Kilkenny**

**2004:0914**

#### **DUNMORE CAVE, MOHIL**

Early medieval/Viking

**25094 16500**

**SMR 14:17**

**04E1517**

Dunmore Cave is a National Monument in State Care and has been open as a show cave since the 1970s. The Annals of Ulster, the Annals of Inisfallen, the Annals of the Four Masters and the Chronicon Scotorum all record for the year AD 928 or AD 930 that Derc Ferna - believed to be an earlier name for Dunmore Cave - was the site of a Viking massacre (Dowd 2004, 275). Indeed, a collection of Viking material, including nine silver coins dating to around AD 928, were found during excavations in the cave in 1973 (Drew and Huddart 1980, 17). In 1999, a second collection of Viking material - thought to be of late 10th-century date - was discovered at the site, including fourteen Anglo-Saxon silver pennies, a silver penannular arm-ring, hack silver, strap tags and sixteen conical-shaped objects woven from silver wire (Wallace and Ó Floinn 2002, 223). Since 1699, visitors to Dunmore Cave have commented on the quantity of human remains contained in the cave and a series of 19th- and 20th-century excavations at the site also involved the recovery of human bones (Dowd 2004, 464-7).

In the 1970s a lighting system was installed in part of Dunmore Cave to facilitate public access. In 2004 it was decided to upgrade the existing system and this involved ground disturbance, which required archaeological supervision. A trench (38.2m by 0.35m by 0.3m) was excavated by hand beside the steps leading down from the visitor centre to the cave entrance. Deposits here consisted of quite disturbed silty sand and in part involved digging through the pre-existing 1970s cable trench. Builders' rubble and modern debris were encountered, in addition to a few animal bones and sherds of modern chinaware and glass. This trench continued inside the cave for 12.6m, where it was dug through clayey silt that sloped down from the entrance. A sample of c. 40% of the excavated material from this stretch of cable trench inside the cave was wet-sieved through a 3mm mesh sieve. Plastic, modern debris and a small quantity of bones were recovered. The excavated material was backfilled into the cable trench after the cables were laid.

The lighting system upgrade also involved excavating by hand three trenches inside the cave adjacent to three existing electrical distribution board cabinets. These trenches were dug to facilitate the foundations of extensions to each of the existing structures. This work was monitored and all the excavated deposits were wet-sieved through a 3mm mesh sieve. The main distribution board box (MDBB) is located c. 10m east of the cave entrance. The extension trench (1.8m by 0.7m by 0.1m deep) was excavated through a layer of silt which contained builders' material, modern debris, plastic, bones and half a typical early medieval shale/lignite bracelet. Sub-distribution Board Box 1 is located 5m south of the MDBB. The related trench (1.1m by 0.9m and between 0.08m and 0.2m deep) was excavated through sandy silt which again contained fragments of builders' material, modern debris and bones. Sub-distribution Board Box 2 is located in an area of the cave called Haddon Hall and c. 7m opposite a large calcite formation known as the 'Buffalo'. Builders' rubble, modern debris, bones and the shank of an early medieval bronze ringed pin were found during sieving of the clayey silt from this trench (1.8m by 0.7m by 0.2m deep).

Several clusters of ex situ human and animal bones had been exposed at different locations throughout Dunmore Cave for a number of years. Upon consultation with the DoEHLG, it was decided to record and remove these bones from the cave under the above licence. A bronze ringed pin and a blue glass bead were found amongst one scatter of bone.

The shale/lignite bracelet fragment, the two bronze ringed pins and the blue glass bead found during the lighting system upgrade in Dunmore Cave are roughly contemporaneous with the known Viking material from the site. Similarly, the skeletal material recovered is consistent with the preponderance of human remains that have been discovered in the cave over the past two centuries.

**Marion Dowd, Kilcummin, Castlegregory, Co. Kerry.**

**Kilkenny**

**2004:0867**

**CASTLEGARDENS, BALLYRAGGET**

No archaeological significance

**S24501708**

**SMR 10:1**

**04E0297**

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**Patrick Neary, 24 Talbots Inch Village, Kilkenny.**

**Kilkenny**

**2008:729**

**Moatpark**

No archaeological significance

**24446 17270**

**08E0368**

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**Anne-Marie Lennon, AML Archaeology, Clonmore North, Cahir, Co. Tipperary.**