

Ancient Places – archaeology on the N5/N59 road project in West Mayo

Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit (ACSU)

Kerri Cleary PhD MIAI





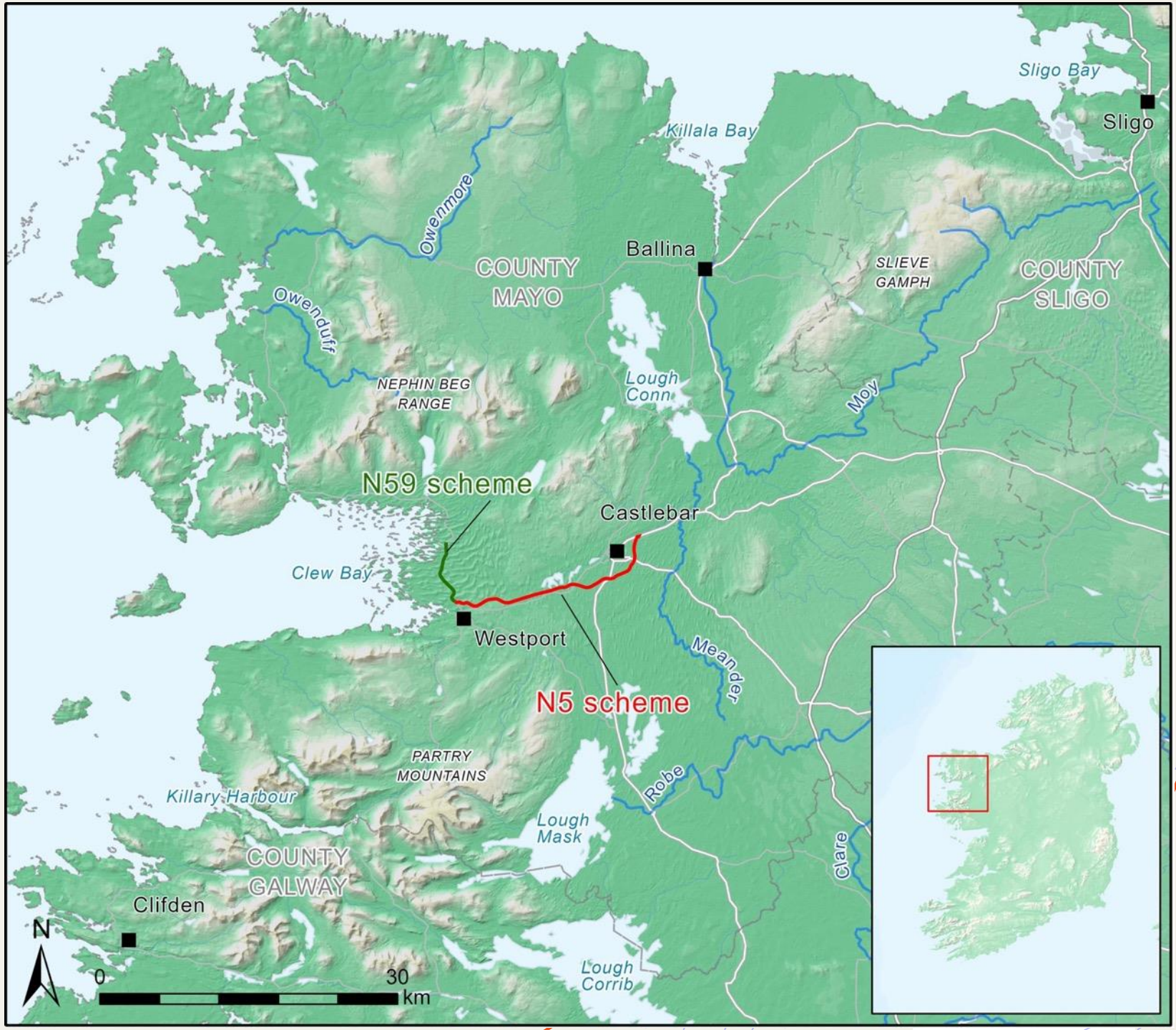
25.5 km road project

N5 between Westport and Turlough

2009-2011 and 2015-2018

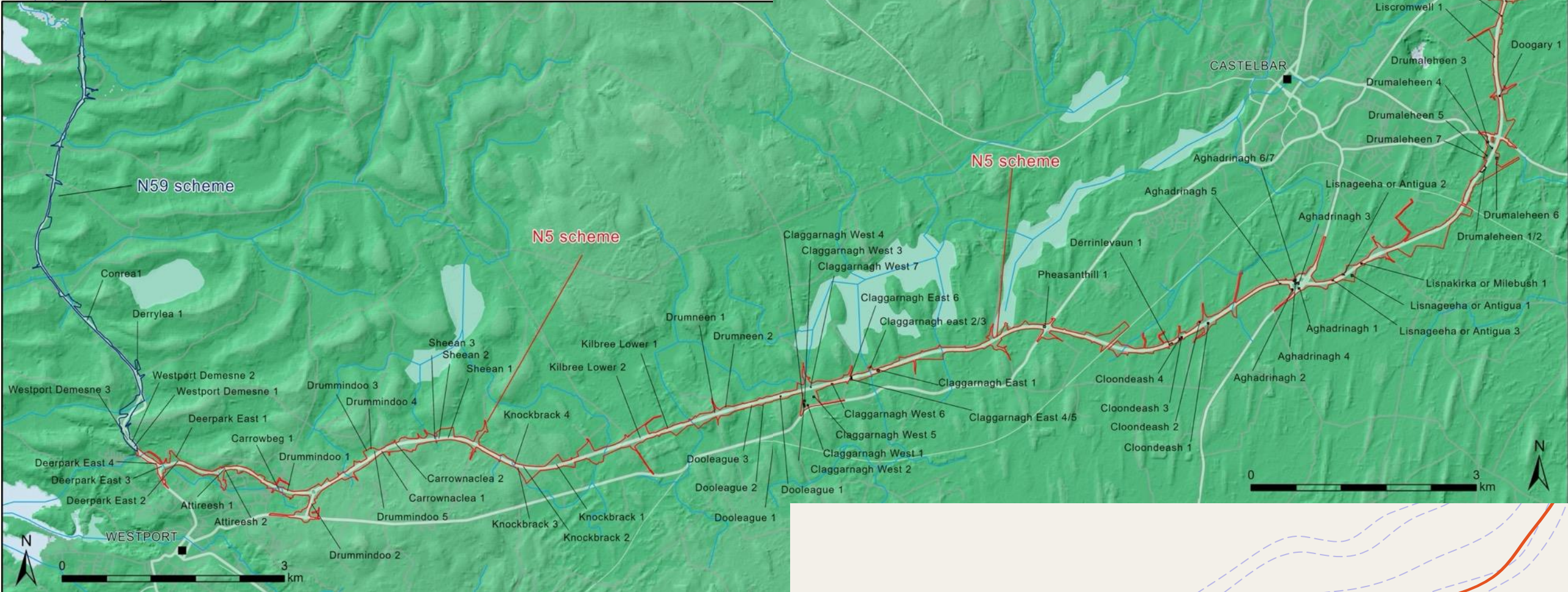
Adjoining Barleyhill to Kilmeena
section of N59 Westport to Mulranny

2010-2012 and 2015-2016



63 archaeological sites investigated

40 (64%) prehistoric
burnt mounds or *fulachtaí fia*







Drumlin landscape of hills and hollows



Boggy,
waterlogged
and
sometimes
challenging
conditions

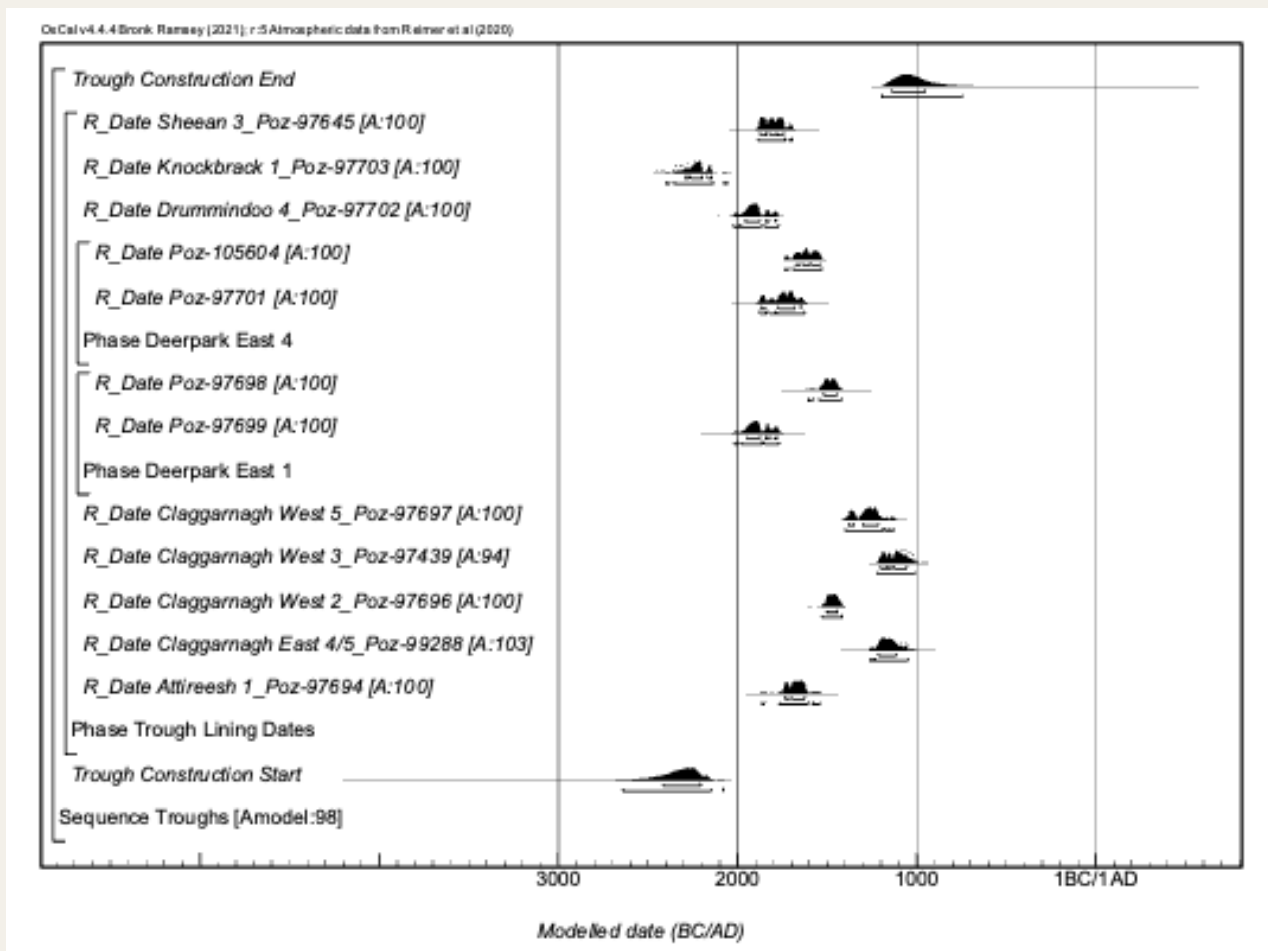


Modelling of radiocarbon dates by Dr Ben Spillane

N5/N59 Burnt mounds

Start date of 2645-2075 BC (95.4% Probability),
probably 2420-2210 BC (68.3% Probability)

End date of 1195-750 BC (95.4% Probability),
probably 1145-955 BC (68.3% Probability)



N5/N59 Burnt mounds - Reused, relined, and revisited

+



N5/N59 Burnt mounds - Reused, relined, and revisited



Aghadrinagh 2
1611-1435 BC

Aghadrinagh 4
1125-926 BC

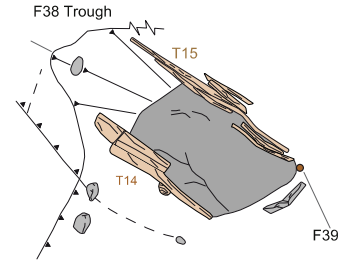
Aghadrinagh 3
1386-1116 BC

Aghadrinagh 6/7
1531-1424 BC

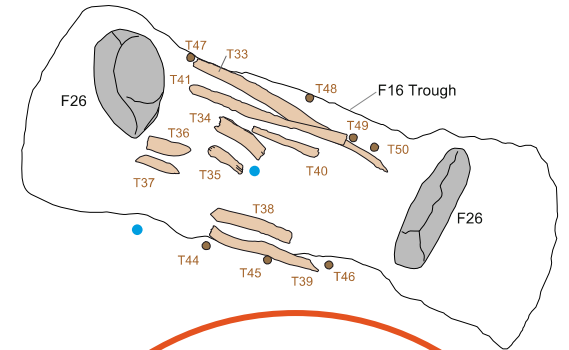
Old palaeochannel



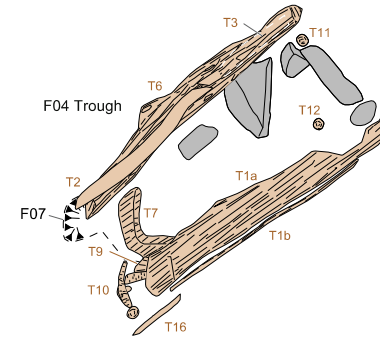
Attireesh 1



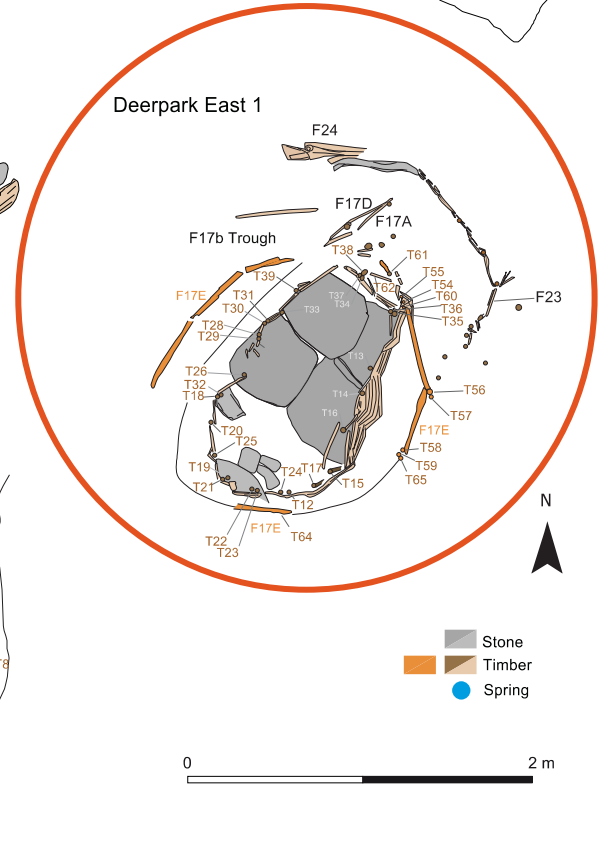
Claggarnagh West 2



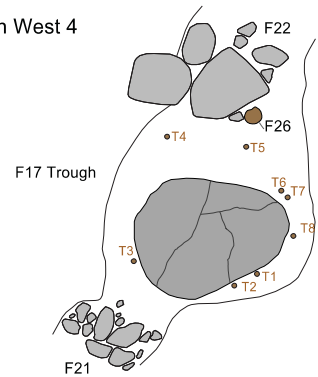
Knockbrack 2



Deerpark East 1



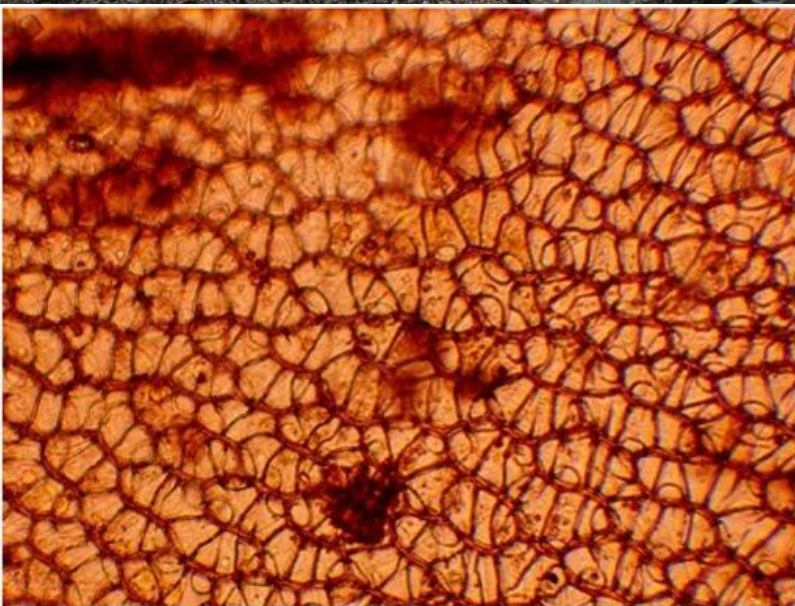
Claggarnagh West 4



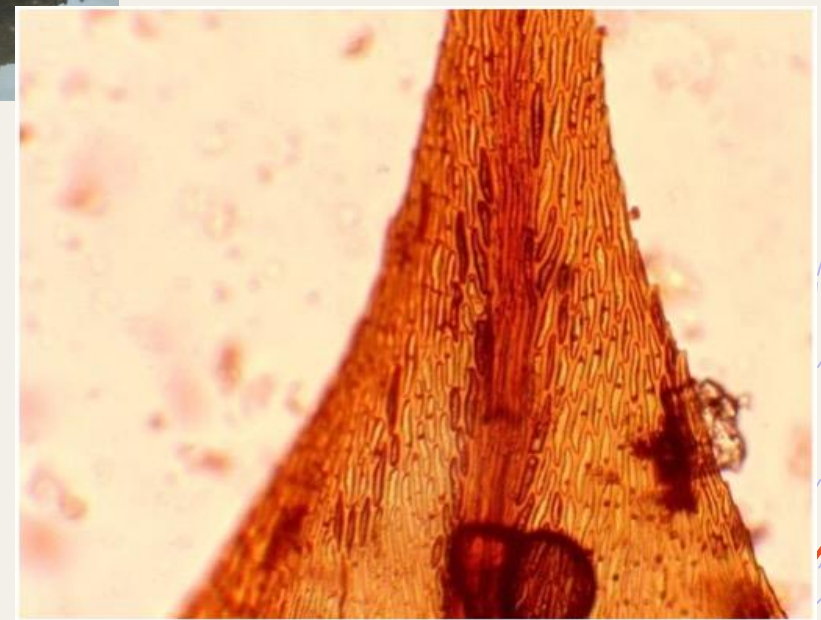
Deerpark East 1 - lower trough



Moss analysis by
Dr Rory Hodd
Claggarnagh West 2



Leaf cells of
Sphagnum cf.
palustre



Part of leaf of
Hygroamblystegium
species

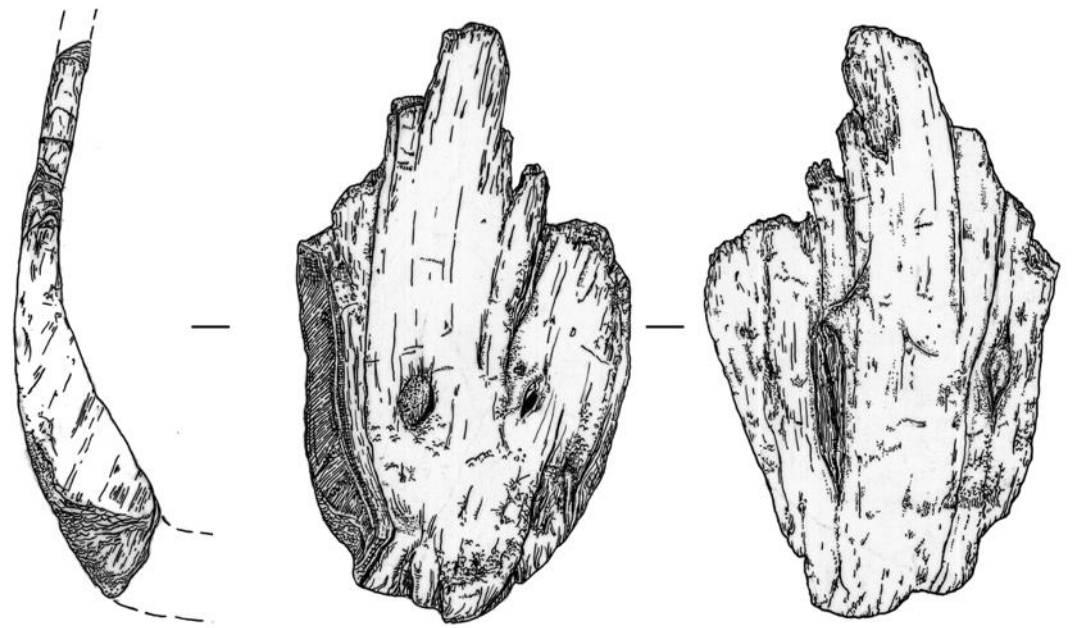
Deerpark East 1 -
lower trough
(artist's impression by
Sara Nylund)



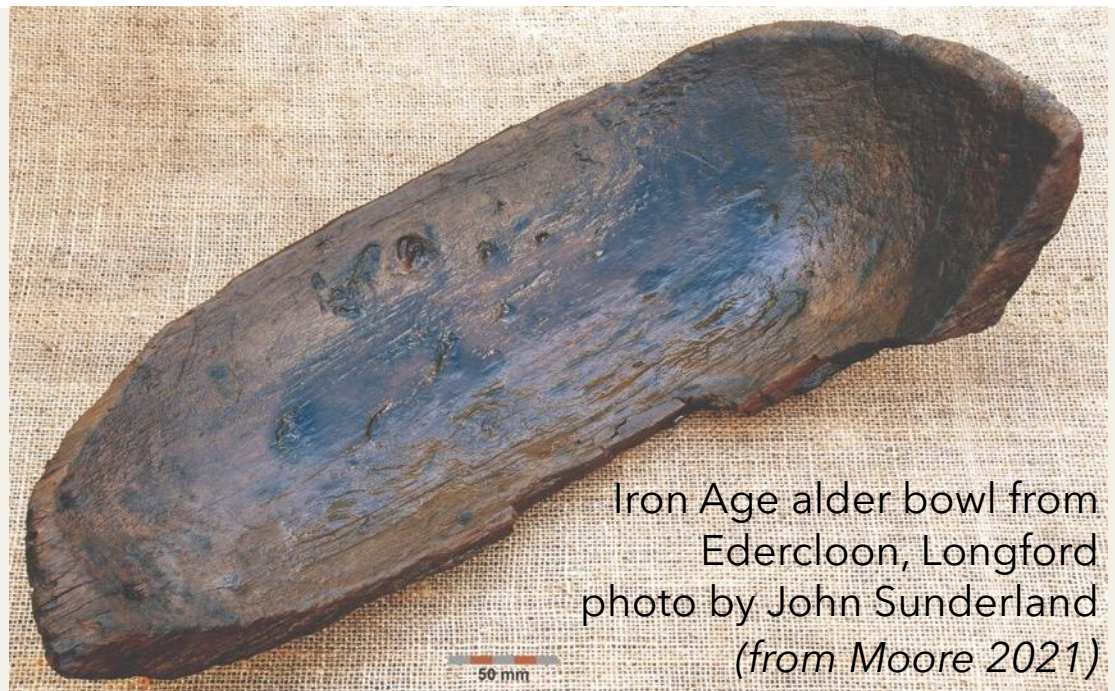
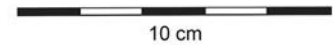


(by Ian Russell)

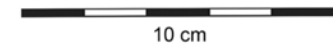
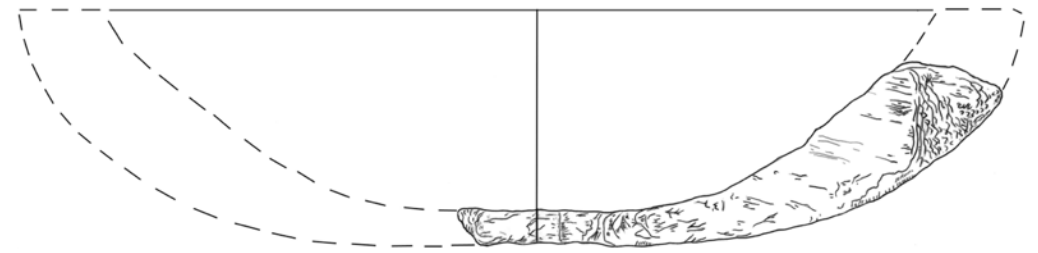
(by Oisín O'Brien)



E005018_16_1



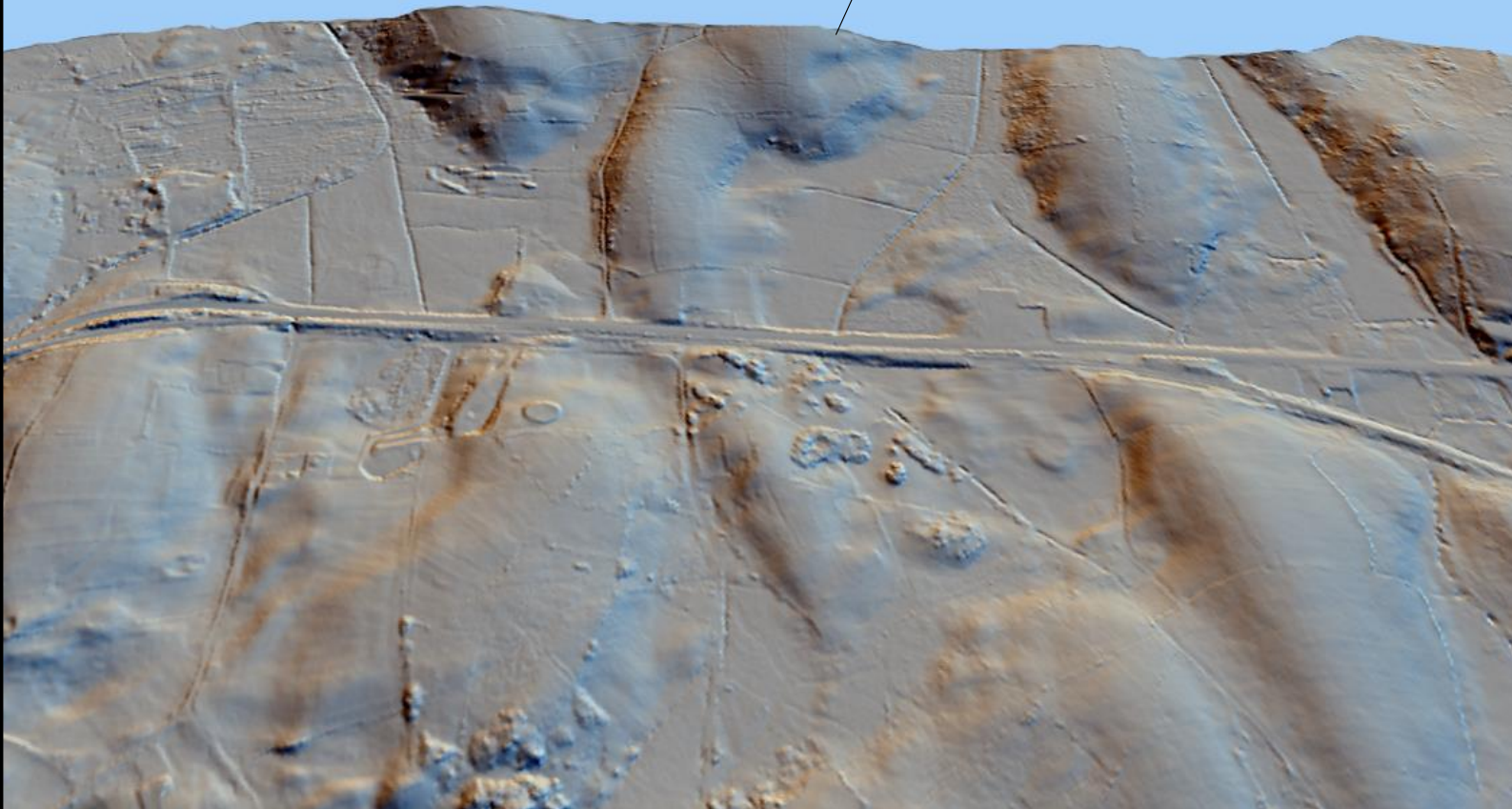
Iron Age alder bowl from Edercloon, Longford photo by John Sunderland (from Moore 2021)



Deerpark East 4



Drumneen 2



Drumneen 2



Early Bronze Age cremation pit burial under excavation (1892-1699 BC)



Late Bronze Age four-post structure (1045-834 BC and 1007-832 BC)

Corn Stack in
Claregalway
(image by Caoimhín
Ó Danachair ©
National Folklore
Collection UCD)



Grain storage
structure
(*horreo*) in
Asturias,
Northern Spain
(image by Meriel
McClatchie)



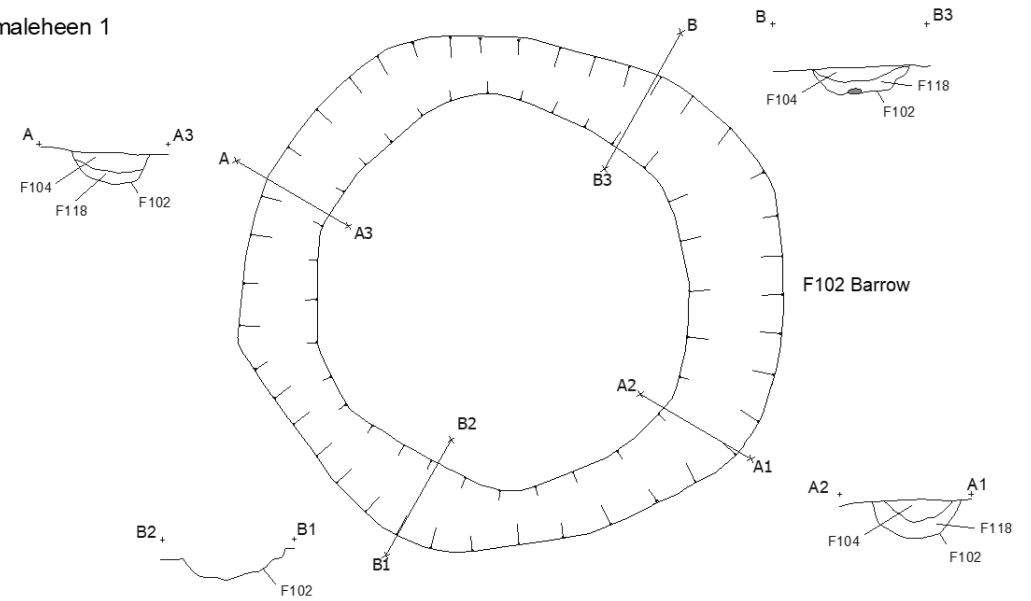
Excarnation Platform
(image by Ivan Lapper © Historic England)

N5 barrow monuments - Drumaleheen 1 & Drumaleheen 3

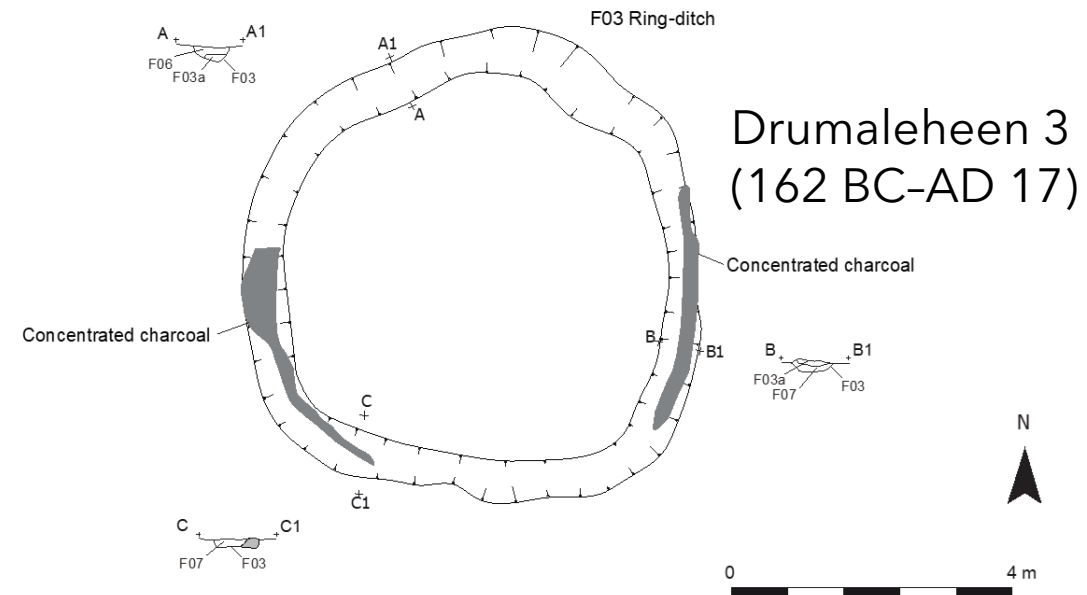
Drumaleheen 1
(1735-1516 BC)



Drumaleheen 1



Drumaleheen 3



13th/14th-century smithing hearths and water troughs - Kilbree Lower 1

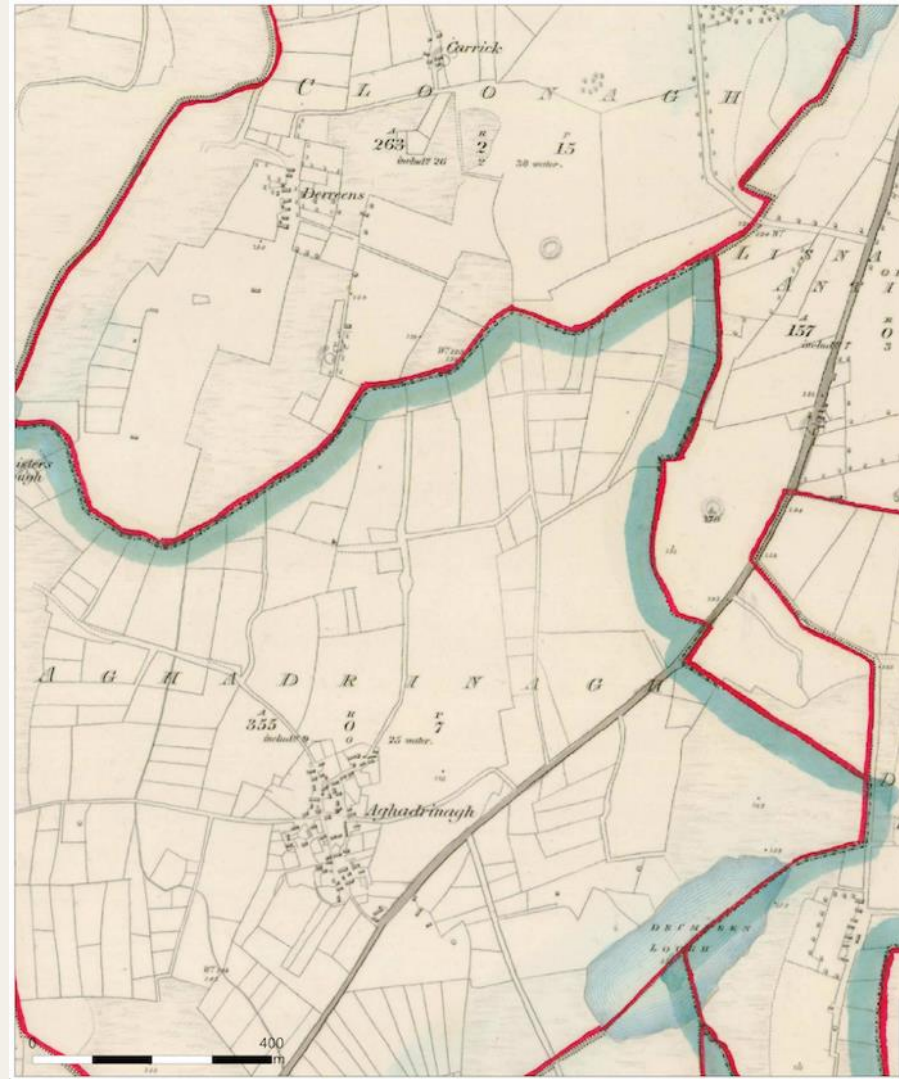


Very large (4.6-10.0 kg)
slag cakes
(image by Angela Wallace)

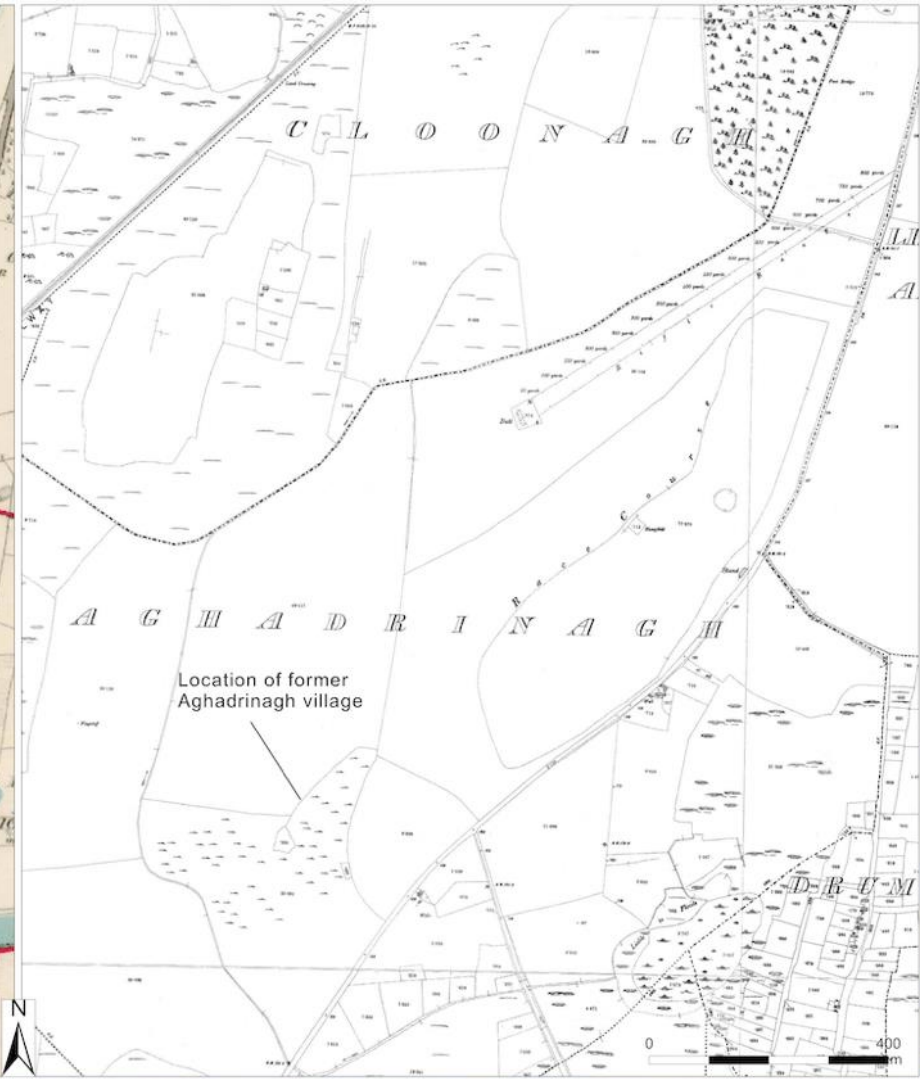
18th- and 19th-century life in West Mayo - Aghadrinagh



The 3rd Earl of Lucan
(engraving by D. J. Pound,
c. 1860)



6-inch OS map, surveyed 1837



25-inch OS map, surveyed 1895

(© Tailte Éireann)

18th- and 19th-century life in West Mayo - Claggarnagh East 1



Larkin's
Post
Road
map,
1808



Bald's
map of
Mayo,
1809-17



6-inch
OS map,
1837



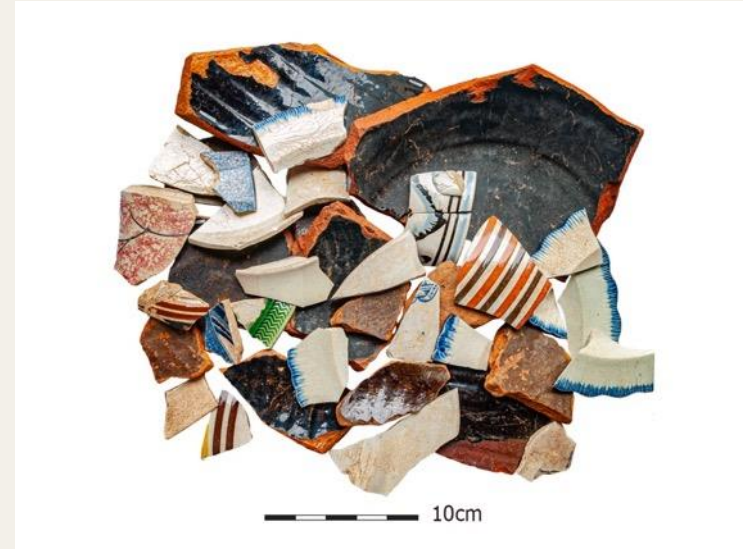
John Cooper Ashton
Collection 1888-1936
(© University of Glasgow
Special Collections)



18th- and 19th-century life in West Mayo - Claggarnagh East 1



John Cooper Ashton Collection 1888-1936
(© University of Glasgow Special Collections)



15E4692_15_11



3cm

15E4692_15_8



5cm

Reconstructing past lives in West Mayo



Acknowledgements

The excavation directors - Siobhan McNamara, Leo Morahan, Donald Murphy, Joe Nunan and Ian Russell - and all those who worked on the sites.

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.....and many more to be found in the book next year!

