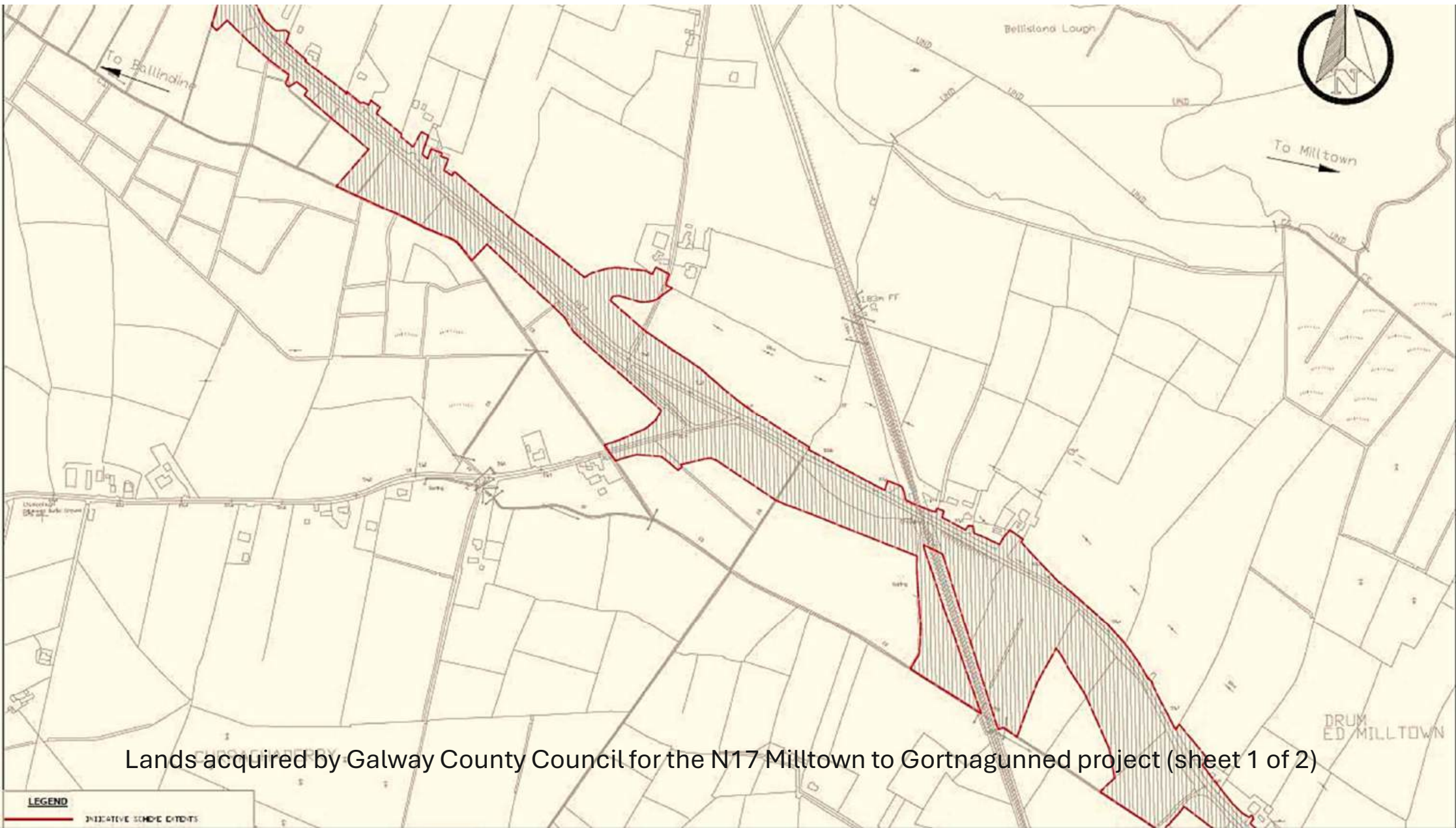


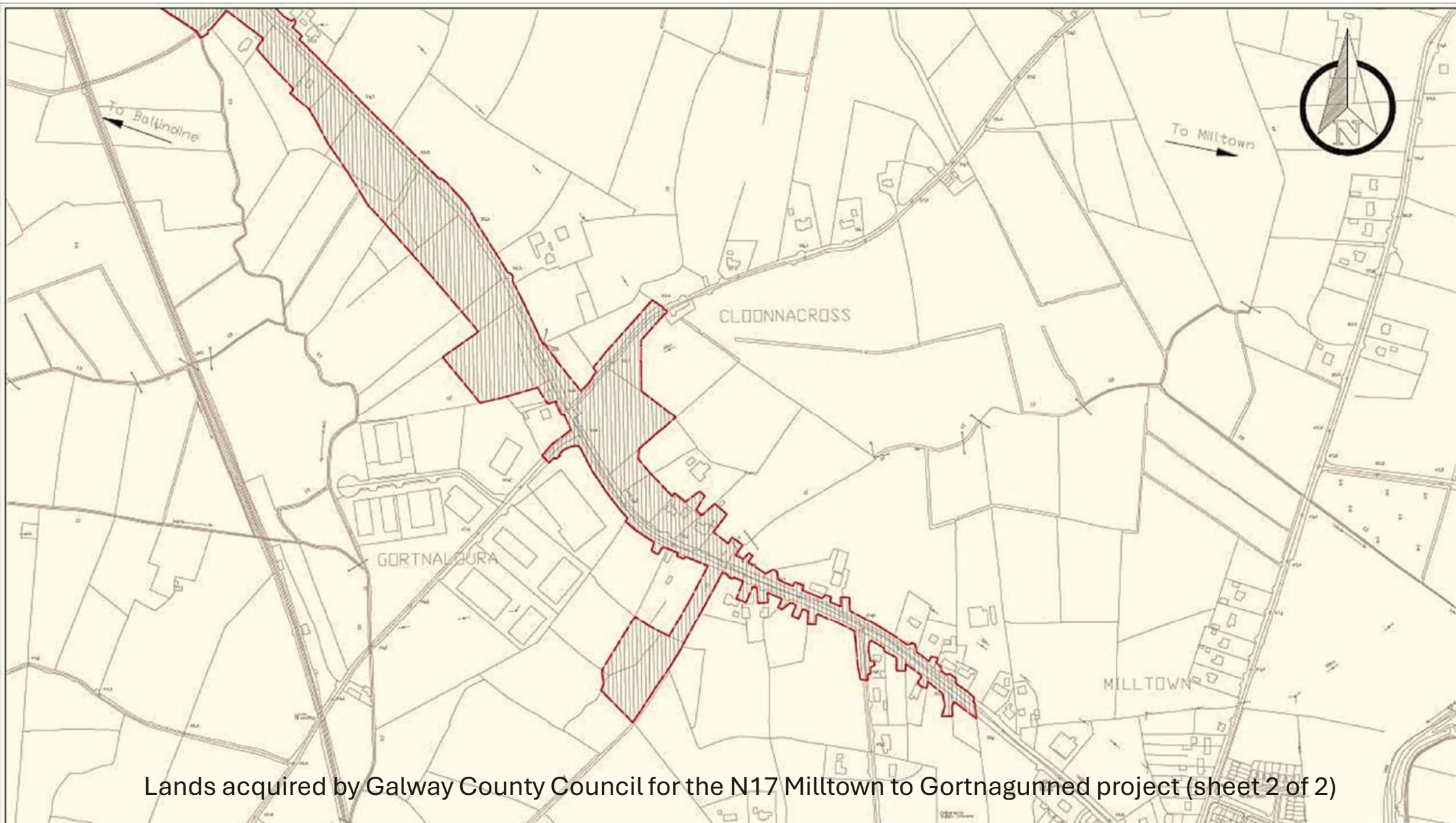
Archaeology of the N17 Milltown to Gortnagunned road project

Jerry O'Sullivan TII Archaeologist
Milltown Community Hall
Heritage Week 2025





Lands acquired by Galway County Council for the N17 Milltown to Gortnagunned project (sheet 1 of 2)



Lands acquired by Galway County Council for the N17 Milltown to Gortnagunned project (sheet 2 of 2)

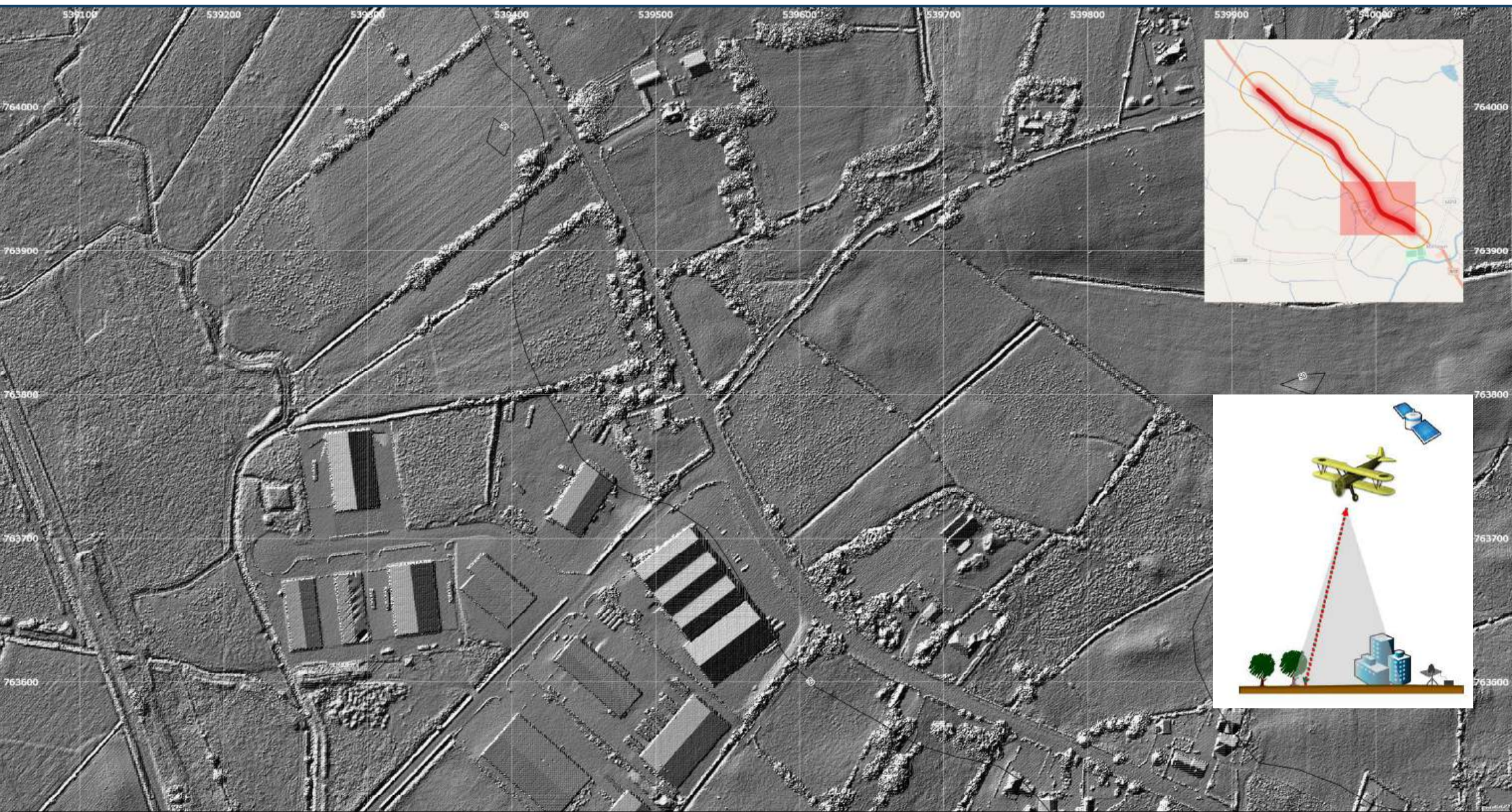


Archaeological Surveys and Excavations by IAC Archaeology

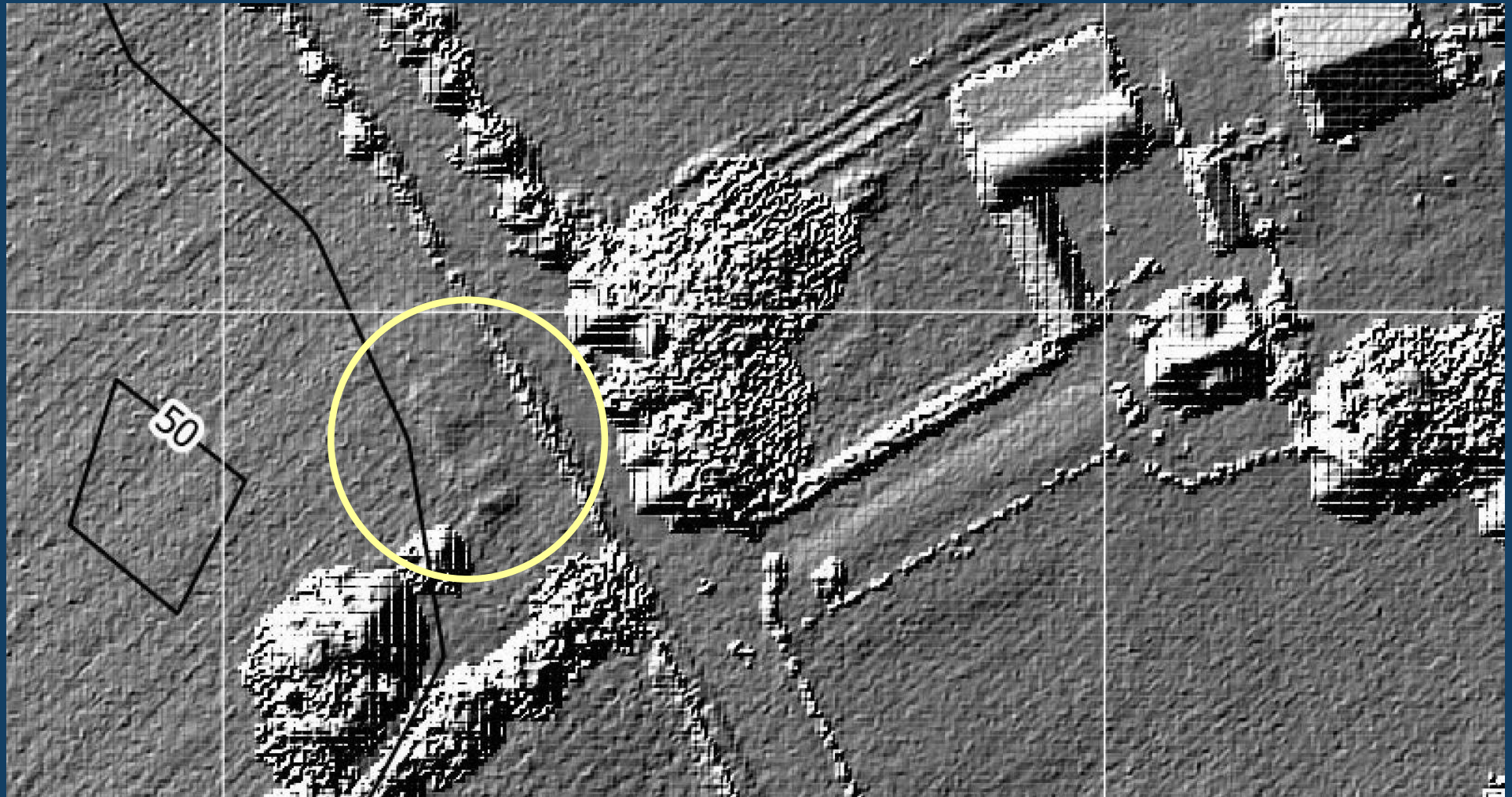
- Bronze Age burnt mounds (5 No)
- Medieval charcoal-making pits (4 No)
- Medieval farmstead: field ditches, grain kilns, ironworking
- 19th-century lime-burning kiln
- Hugh Carey ancestral homestead
- Connolly's Cottage early byre house
- Roadside townland name stones



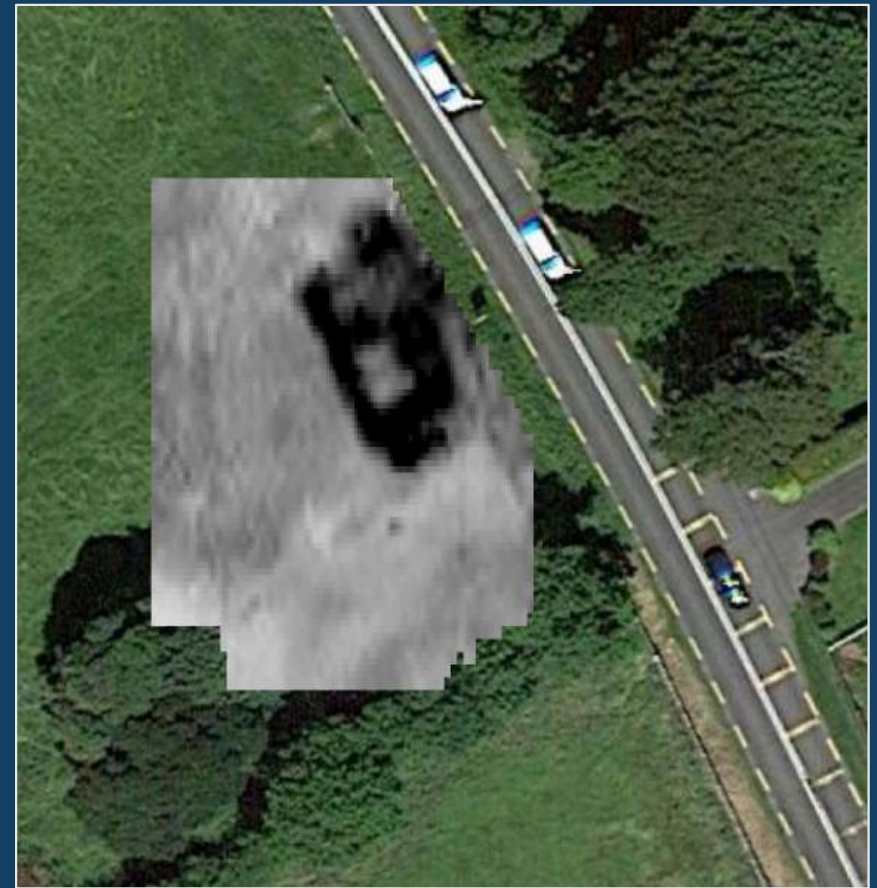
Drone survey image of 'Connolly's Cottage'—an early byre house on the N17 (IAC Archaeology)



Shaded relief model of part of Drum townland using Lidar data (Impact GIS)



Modelled lidar data including the Hugh Carey ancestral house site (Impact GIS)



Electrical resistance survey on the Hugh Carey homestead site in Drum by Dr Ger Dowling with Kat Thomson of IAC Archaeology



Hand-dug test excavations on the Hugh Carey ancestral house site in Drum Muireann Ní Cheallacháin (Excavation Director) and Tim Coughlan (IAC Archaeology)



Test excavations by machine, under archaeological supervision, on the N17 route (IAC Archaeology)

Bronze Age Burnt Mounds in Drum and Gortnagunne





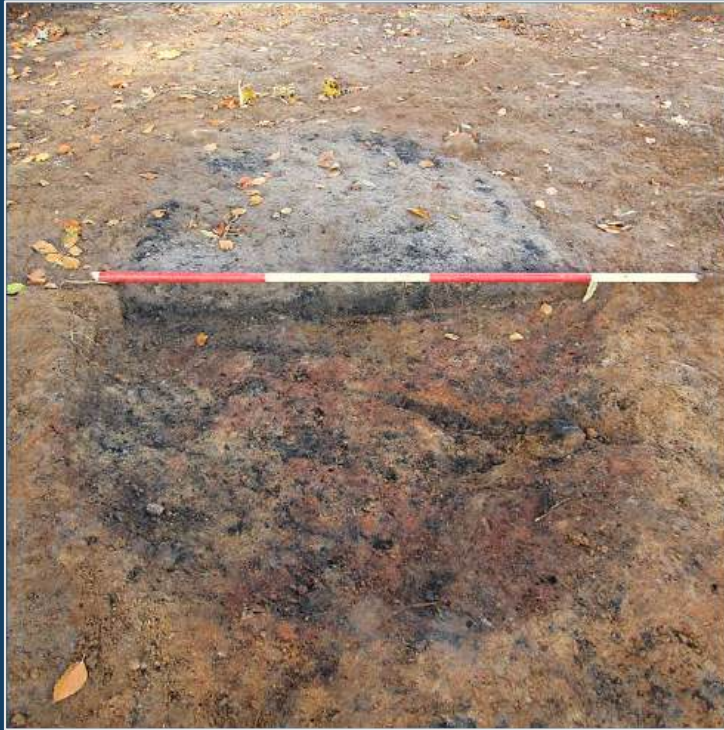
Experimental burnt mound site at Rathbarry, Co. Cork (A Hawkes & J O'Driscoll 2012)





Artist's impression of daily life in Middle Bronze Age round-houses (Dan Tieszsch-Tyler)

Charcoal-making Pits in Drum



Oak charcoal in the base of a medieval charcoal-burning pit



Charcoal burning in the Lake District
(Alfred Heaton Cooper 1905)



Medieval ironworkers often sourced their ore from iron-rich mineral deposits in peat bogs



Replica ironworker's shaft furnace (Robert Seiler, Caherconnell Furnace Festival, Co. Clare 2024)

Medieval Farmstead in Drum

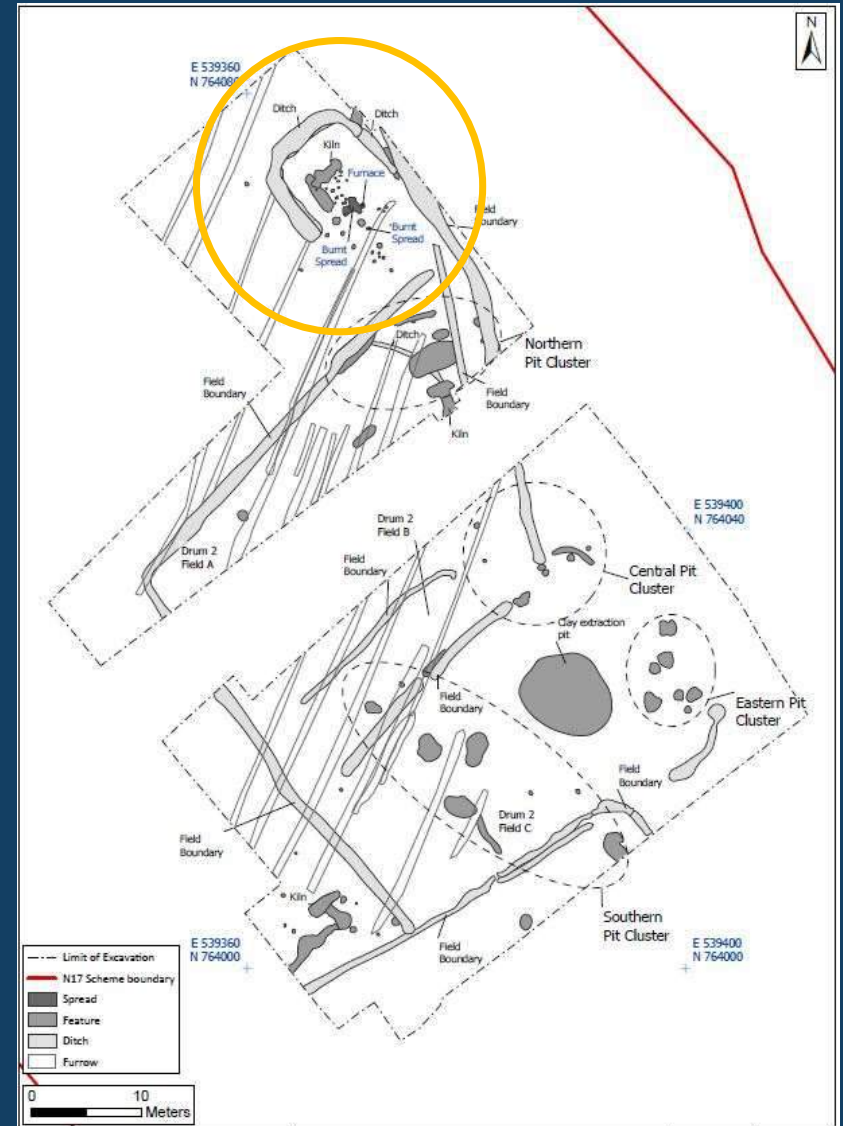
Topsoil stripping in Drum exposed field ditches, grain-drying kilns and a metalworking area on the site of a medieval farmstead (IAC Archaeology)

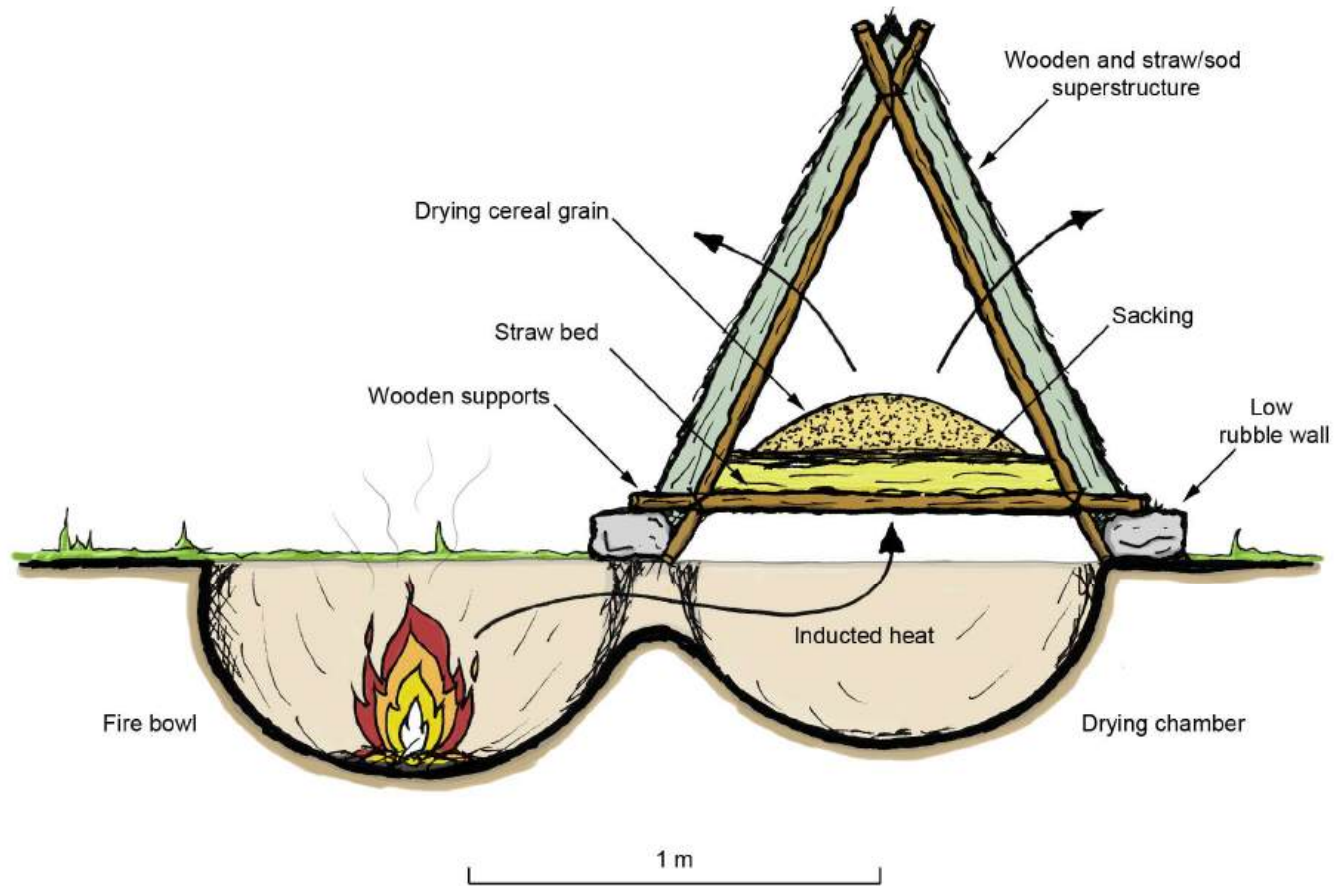




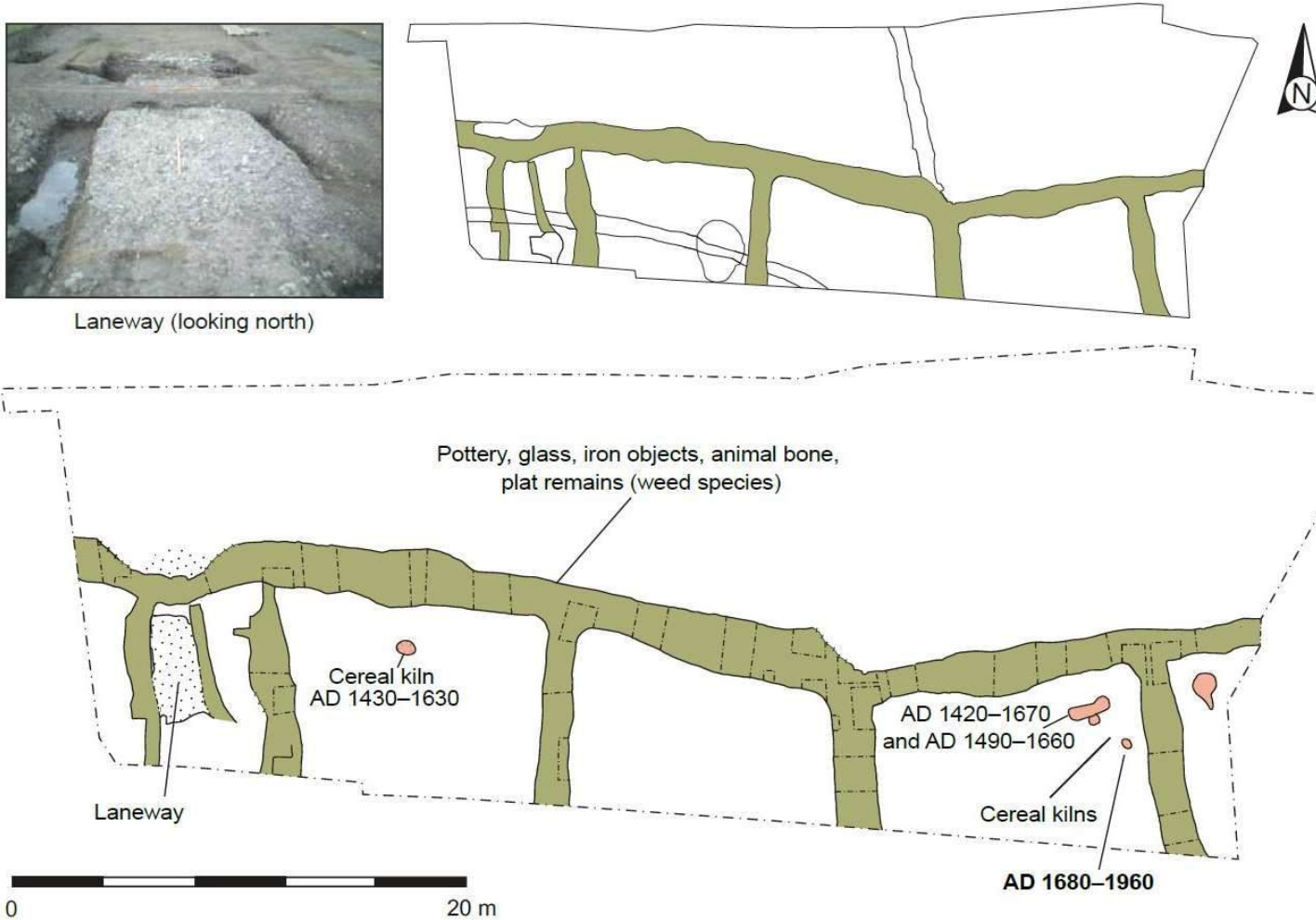


Remnants of a grain-drying kiln in a C-shaped ditched enclosure on the medieval farmstead site in Drum (IAC Archaeology)

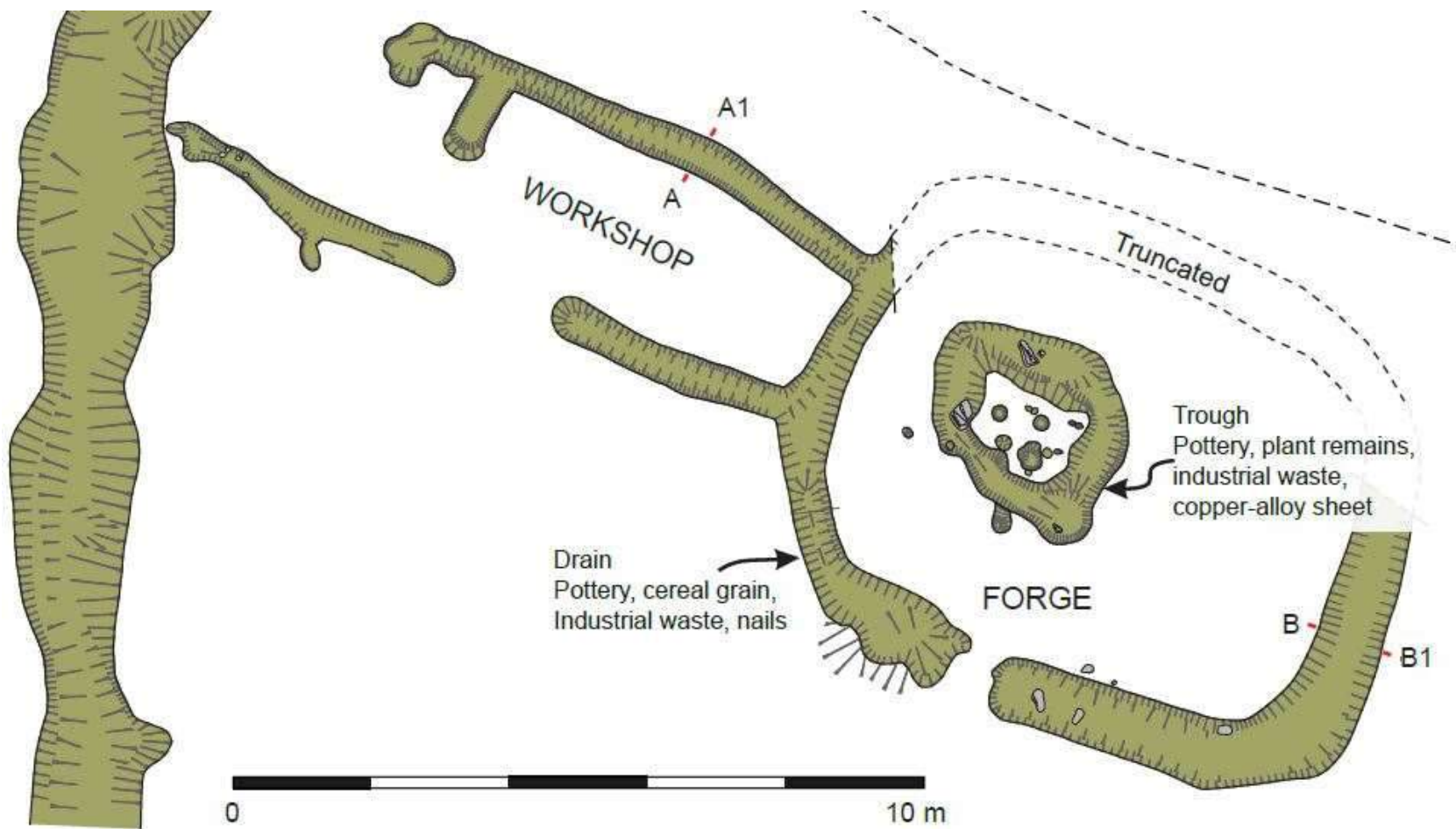




Artist's reconstruction of a medieval grain-drying kiln (Hugh Kavanagh 2023)



Medieval fields on a farmstead at Baltrasna, Co. Meath (Donal Fallon for CRDS Ltd)



Medieval forge on a farmstead at Cookstown, Co. Meath (Richard Clutterbuck for CRDS Ltd)



Artist's impression of a medieval farmstead in Co. Wexford (Jonathan Millar, Rubicon)

Hugh Carey (alias Kirrane)
Ancestral Homestead in Drum



Governor Hugh Carey (1919–2011)

- Born in Brooklyn
- Irish grandparents, Michael Kirrane and Delia Grehan, from Milltown
- Decorated officer in World War II
- Lawyer and entrepreneur
- Senior member Democratic Party
- US Congressman 1960–1974
- Governor of New York 1974–1982
- Peace campaigner Northern Ireland
- Promoted progressive legislation



Tony and Frances Murphy of Milltown Heritage at the Hugh Carey monument in Milltown

'Horseman's' grandson sings his tribute in Milltown

By DAVID KERRY

ONE of the "Four Horsemen" of the Peace Process got a special tribute in Milltown on Sunday. New York Governor Hugh L. Carey, whose grandparents came from this area, is now remembered on a bronze plaque in the village.

And his modern-day bond was his grandson, Erik Carey, who performed "The Ballad of the Great Hugh Carey" during the unveiling ceremony.

Governor Carey, along with Ted Kennedy, Tip O'Neill and Daniel P. Moynihan, laboured the peace in Northern Ireland at the very beginning of the long process that culminated in the Good Friday Agreement.

Born in 1919, he died last August, and the ballad was sung at his funeral in St. Patrick's Cathedral by his companion, Erik Carey.

It is remembered in Ireland for his work for peace here, he is known internationally as the man who saved New York city from bankruptcy in the 1970s.

The story of how Governor Carey's ancestors were traced to Milltown was told by Anne Rodda as part of the Irish James's own Link - People, Places, Culture conference held in Tuam and Milltown at the weekend.

She described finding fascinating Irish tales when she told the Carey and Kirrane - were both anglicizations of the same Irish surname, O'Carraigh. Governor Carey's grandfather was a legend Michael Kirrane on October 14, 1862.

He and his wife Delia Grehan were among the millions of Irish who emigrated to the New World in the 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.

Many angles of the emigrant experience were examined in more than 30 lectures and presentations over the weekend.

The conference was organized by the St. Patrick Society, County Council, Burren University, Malinbeg, New Jersey, the Irish Studies Centre, NUI Galway, and Galway County Heritage Forum.

Further material from the conference will be published in the next edition of *The Irish Herald*.



GOVERNOR COMMEMORATION: Governor Hugh Carey's grandson Erik Carey and plaque in the Milltown Heritage Park on Sunday. Also pictured are Frank Gates, Frances and Tony Murphy of Milltown Development and Deputy Mayor Peter Roche.



COUSINS: Kathleen Reane and Una Reaney, Texas, who are cousins of the Carey family, with Erik's Carey at the unveiling.



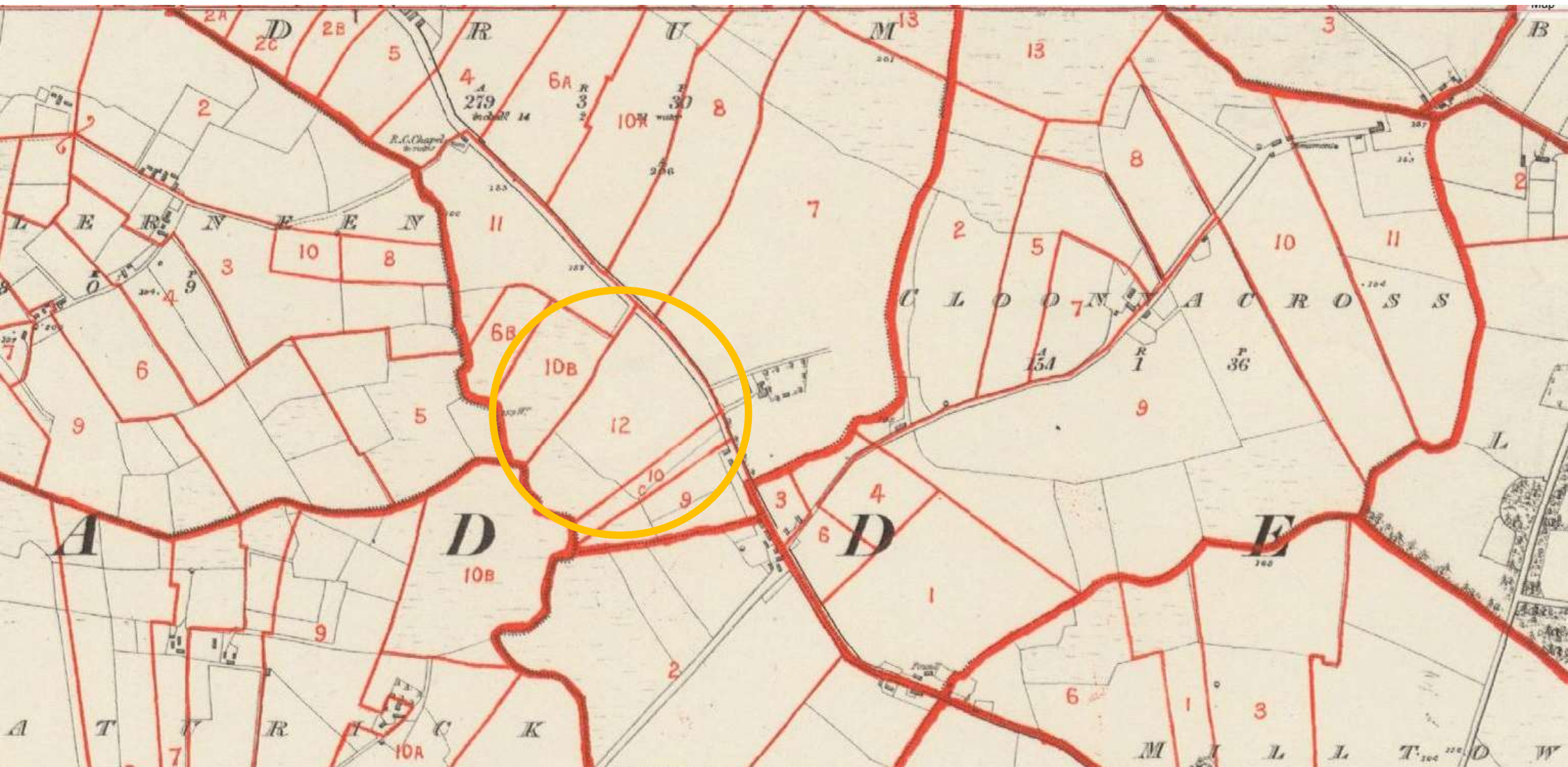
A TRIBUTE: Erik Carey sings his composition "The Ballad of the Great Hugh Carey."



Val Flattery with Frances and Tony Murphy and Frank Glynn
on the site of the Hugh Carey ancestral home in Drum



Muireann Ní Cheallacháin (Excavation Director) with Kat Thompson and Marcus Byrne excavating the Hugh Carey ancestral house site in Drum (IAC Archaeology)



Plot 12 ('Thomas Kirrane...house and nine acres') on Griffith's Valuation Map 1847-1864. The house is not shown here because Griffith's valuations were recorded on an existing, older map (first Ordnance Survey 1838), which pre-dated its construction.



Kirrane House on Ordnance Survey 25-inch map c. 1890 (Tailte Éireann on Historic Environment Viewer)

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1901.

FORM B. 1.—HOUSE AND BUILDING RETURN.

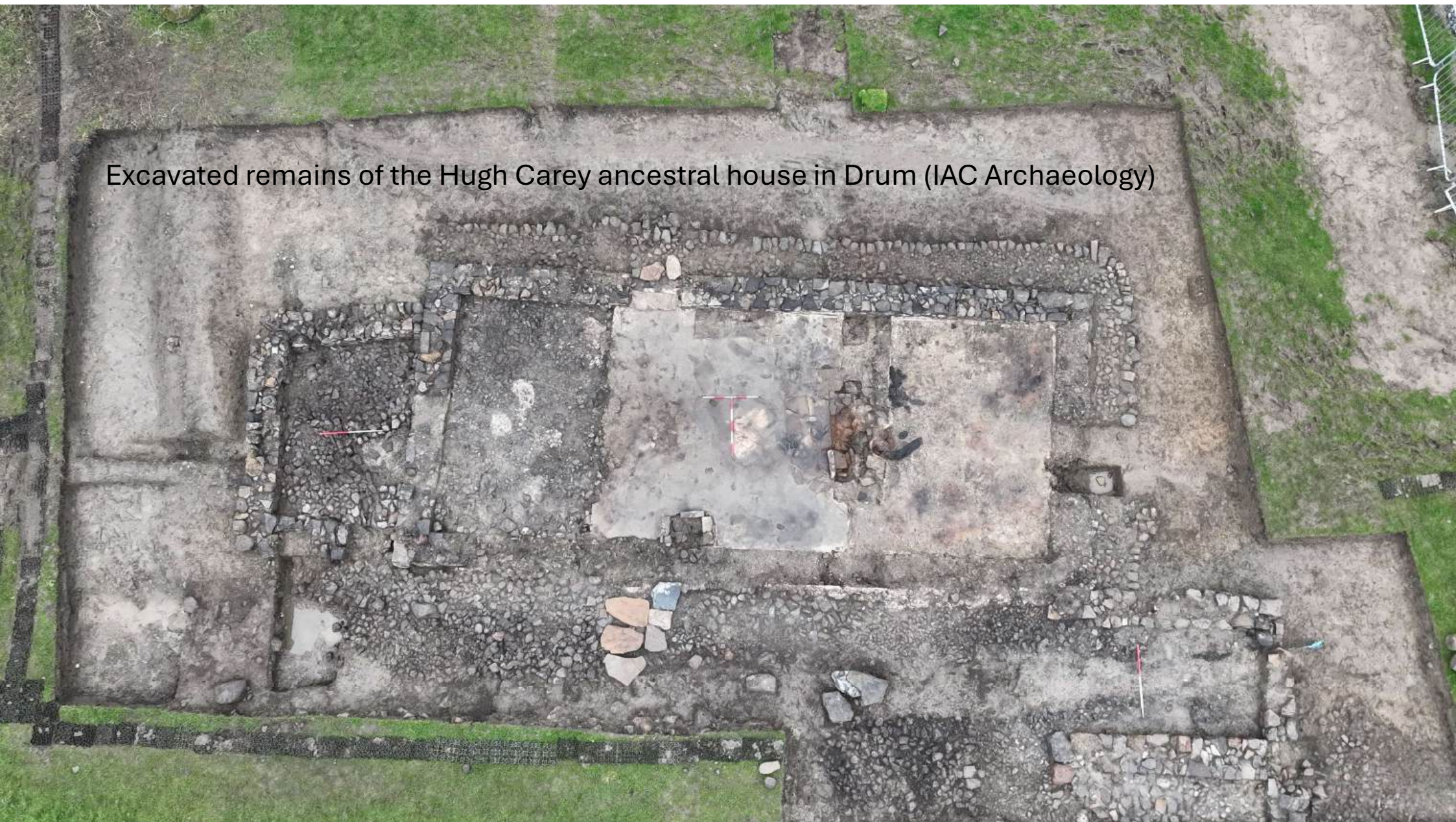
County, *Galway N.W.* Parliamentary Division, *Galway North* Poor Law Union, *Luam* District Electoral Division, *Milltown* Townland, *Drum*
 Parliamentary Borough, _____ City, _____ Urban District, _____ Town or Village, _____ Street, _____ Barony, *Runnemore* Parish, *Runnemore*

NOTE A.—When a Townland or Street is situated in two Parliamentary Divisions, or in more than one District Electoral Division or Parish, or is partly within and partly without a Parliamentary Borough, City, Urban District, Town, or Village, a separate Return should be made for each portion.

HOUSES.											FAMILIES, &c.							
No. of House or Building.	Whether Built or Building.	State whether Private Dwelling, Public Building, School, Manufactory, Hotel, Public-house, Refreshment-house, or Shop, &c.	Number of Inhabitants and Persons enumerated as Persons.	Is House Inhabited.	PARTICULARS OF INHABITED HOUSES.					CLASS OF HOUSE.	No. of Families in each House.	Name of the Head of each Family residing in the House.	No. of Rooms sampled by each Family.	Total Number of Persons in each Family.	Date on which First A. was entered.	Number of Persons in each Family who were born in the Parish, &c.	Name of the Landholder (if any) or whose Holding the House is situated, whether that name appears in column 11 or not.	No. of Acres in the Holding of a Landholder.
					WALLS.	ROOF.	ROOMS.	Windows in Front.	Is the House entered in columns 4, 7, 8, 9, & 10, and other the Front of House.									
(Col. 1)	(Col. 2)	(Col. 3)	(Col. 4)	(Col. 5)	(Col. 6)	(Col. 7)	(Col. 8)	(Col. 9)	(Col. 10)	(Col. 11)	(Col. 12)	(Col. 13)	(Col. 14)	(Col. 15)	(Col. 16)	(Col. 17)	(Col. 18)	
1	Built	Private Dwelling	5	Yes	1	1	2	3	7	2nd	1	Henry Flattery	3	7	April 1901	0	Henry Flattery	—
2	Do	Do	4	Do	1	0	2	3	6	2nd	1	John Heneghan	2	10	Do	0	John Heneghan	—
3	Do	Do	3	Do	1	0	2	3	6	2nd	1	Sarah Kerrane	1	1	Do	0	Sarah Kerrane	—
4	Do	Do	4	Do	1	0	2	2	5	2nd	1	John McHugh	3	12	Do	0	John McHugh	—
5	Do	Do	2	Do	1	0	2	2	5	3rd	1	Thomas Morney	1	3	Do	0	Thomas Morney	—
6	Do	Do	4	Do	1	0	2	2	5	3rd	1	James Daly	2	3	Do	0	James Daly	—
7	Do	Do	4	Do	1	0	2	2	5	3rd	1	Catherine Conroy	2	6	Do	0	Catherine Conroy	—
8	Do	Do	4	Do	1	0	2	3	6	2nd	1	Michael Conroy	2	7	Do	0	Michael Conroy	—
9	Do	Do	1	Do	1	0	1	1	3	3rd	1	Michael Mullane	1	2	Do	0	Michael Mullane	—
10	Do	Do	2	Do	1	0	2	0	3	3rd	1	Elizabeth Flattery	1	6	Do	0	Elizabeth Flattery	—
11	Do	Do	0	Do	1	0	1	1	3	3rd	1	Margaret Murphy	1	3	Do	0	Margaret Murphy	—
12	Do	Do	0	No	1	1	2	2	6	2nd	1	Catherine Conroy	0	0	Do	0	Catherine Conroy	2

The first detailed national census of Ireland in 1901 records Sarah Korrane as the householder and sole occupant in the Hugh Carey ancestral house in Drum.

Excavated remains of the Hugh Carey ancestral house in Drum (IAC Archaeology)





Hugh Carey ancestral house: detail of lime render (internal) and rubble wall construction



Hugh Carey ancestral house: detail of cobbled floors in the house and an attached outbuilding









A surprising find at the Hugh Carey ancestral house site was a British infantry captain's sword from the Napoleonic Wars (1803–15), possibly a treasured family heirloom.





Thousands of Irishmen fought in the Napoleonic wars. Was there an ancestor of Hugh Carey at Waterloo?

Communicating Archaeology



From Milltown to Manhattan Hugh Carey's ancestral home



Hugh Carey was born in Milltown, New Jersey, on August 1, 1917. He was the son of Hugh Carey Sr. and Mary Carey. He attended Milltown High School and then the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in 1939. He then served in the United States Army during World War II. After the war, he worked for the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and then for the New York State Department of Public Safety. He was elected to the New York State Assembly in 1958 and served until 1962. He was then elected to the New York State Senate in 1962 and served until 1970. He was the Governor of New York from 1974 to 1982. He died on August 1, 1997, at the age of 79.



Some sources of information

Historic Environment Viewer

<https://heritagedata.maps.arcgis.com>

Interactive maps of archaeological sites and monuments and heritage buildings

Digital Repository of Ireland

<https://dri.ie>

A new 'national library' of cultural and scientific information including archaeological reports in the TII Digital Heritage Resources

TII Archaeology and Heritage

<https://www.tii.ie/technical-services/archaeology>

Information from the Archaeology and Heritage section at TII including books free to view and download

Acknowledgements

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Lidar data modelling	Nigel Malcolm (Impact GIS)
Resident Engineer for the Council	Tony Gallagher
Project Engineer for the Council	Seán Breathnach
TII Project Archaeologist	Jerry O'Sullivan

A special thank you to all the Landowners along the N17 Milltown to Gortnagunned road project who facilitated the archaeological investigations on the route in 2024.