The M7 Kildare Town Bypass, built in 2001, extends 12 km and skirts the large town of Kildare. In 1993 the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the scheme recommended that a small number of high potential areas be tested for archaeological remains before construction. An aerial survey in 1996 identified seven areas of possible archaeological potential. The subsequent investigations at the Curragh and other areas revealed no archaeological features or sites.

The EIS had also recommended that the entire scheme be subject to archaeological monitoring during construction. The archaeological work was undertaken by Valerie J Keeley Ltd on behalf of the National Roads Authority and Kildare County Council.

The archaeological monitoring took place during 2001 and 2002 and resulted in 18 sites being revealed. Those considered to be of archaeological potential were located within the townlands of Cherryville, Loughlion, the Curragh, Frenchfurze, Grey Abbey, Mooretown, Mayfield and Tully East. Half of the archaeological sites revealed were burnt mounds which typically date to the Bronze Age. The remainder dated from the Neolithic up to the medieval period.

1. Bronze tweezers
Bronze tweezers found during excavations at the medieval site at Cherryville. (Photo Valerie J Keeley Ltd)

2. Stone axes
Stone axes found during excavations at Cherryville. (Photo Valerie J Keeley Ltd)

3. Medieval buckle
Medieval buckle found on medieval site uncovered at Cherryville. (Photo Valerie J Keeley Ltd)

Archaeologists excavating features under a polytunnel at Cherryville.

Excavations at the Bronze Age site uncovered at Frenchfurze.

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Various areas of the site had been extensively disturbed by the later medieval and post-medieval activities, and the post-excavation work is now almost complete, with radiocarbon dating and environmental analysis results being incorporated into the final archaeological reports.

### Iron Age & Medieval

The Curragh

The Curragh, which is an extensive archaeological landscape in the west, includes the remains of a Bronze Age hillfort and several enclosures.怄is part of a large settlement area which has been extensively disturbed by later activities, and the post-excavation work is now almost complete, with radiocarbon dating and environmental analysis results being incorporated into the final archaeological reports.

### Miscellaneous Site

Further work

Post-excavation work is now almost complete, with collaborative dating and environmental analysis results being incorporated into the final archaeological reports.