IAC Archaeology

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
AT
BLACKGLEN ROAD AND WOODSIDE ROAD, SANDYFORD, DUBLIN 18

ON BEHALF OF: ZOLBURY LTD

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ABSTRACT

This report has been prepared on behalf of Zolbury Ltd., to study the impact, if any, on the archaeological and historical resource of the proposed residential development at Blackglen Road and Woodside Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18 (ITM 717633, 725204). The assessment was carried out by Faith Bailey of IAC Archaeology.

There are three recorded monuments within a 500m radius of the area, the closest of which is an enclosure (DU025-014), c. 220m to the southeast.

A review of the Excavations Bulletin (1970–2024) has shown that no previous archaeological fieldwork has been carried out within the proposed development area. Examination of historic mapping and aerial photography shows that the site has remained as undeveloped land throughout the post-medieval period, and has seen little use in recent decades, being heavily overgrown since at least the beginning of the 21st century. A field inspection confirmed the overgrown state of the site and the marginal nature of the uneven terrain.

Although the proposed development area comprises marginal and rocky terrain, it remains possible that small or isolated features relating to the use of the area during summer agricultural activities, may be present within the site. Ground disturbances associated with the proposed development may have an adverse impact on any such features or archaeological deposits that have the potential to survive beneath the existing scrub on the site and the current ground level.

Due to frequent rock out-cropping across the site and the uneven terrain, it will not be possible to carry out an effective programme of archaeological testing in advance of development. Therefore, it is recommended that all ground disturbances be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist. If any features of archaeological potential are discovered during the course of the works further archaeological mitigation may be required, such as preservation *in-situ* or by record. Any further mitigation will require approval from the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

CONTENTS

ABSTRACT I
CONTENTS II
List of Figures iii
List of Plates iii
1 INTRODUCTION 1
1.1 General 1
1.2 The Development 1
2 METHODOLOGY 3
2.1 Paper Survey 3
2.2 Field Inspection 4
3 RESULTS OF ASSESSMENT 6
3.1 Archaeological and Historical Background 6
3.2 Summary of Previous Archaeological Fieldwork 10
3.3 Cartographic Analysis 10
3.4 County Development Plan 11
3.6 Aerial Photographic Analysis 12
3.7 Topographical Files 12
3.8 Field Inspection 12
4 CONCLUSIONS 13
5 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY 14
5.1 Impact Assessment 14
5.2 Mitigation 14
6 REFERENCES 15
APPENDICES I
Appendix 1 SMR/RMP Sites within the Surrounding Area i
Appendix 2 Legislation Protecting the Archaeological Resource iii
Appendix 3 Impact Assessment and the Cultural Heritage Resource vi
Appendix 4 Mitigation Measures and the Cultural Heritage Resource viii
FIGURES
PLATES

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1 Location of proposed development showing nearby archaeology
Figure 2 Plan of proposed development
Figure 3 Extract from historic mapping showing the approximate location of the proposed development area
Figure 4 Extract from the historic OS mapping (1843 and 1906-09) showing the proposed development area

LIST OF PLATES

Plate 1 Site from eastern boundary, facing west
Plate 2 Centre of site, facing east
Plate 3 Southern boundary, facing northeast
Plate 4 Western boundary from high point at north-western corner, facing south
Plate 5 Blackglen Road at northern boundary, facing northwest
Plate 6 North-western boundary from Blackglen Road, facing south
Plate 7 South-eastern corner of site, stream at townland boundary, facing south-southeast
Plate 8 Remains of wall, facing north

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL

The following report details an archaeological assessment undertaken in advance of a proposed residential development at Blackglen Road and Woodside Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18 (Figure 1; ITM 717633, 725204). This assessment has been carried out to ascertain the potential impact of the proposed development on the archaeological and historical resource that may exist within the area. The assessment was undertaken by Faith Bailey of IAC Archaeology (IAC), on behalf of Zolbury Ltd.

The archaeological assessment involved a detailed study of the archaeological and historical background of the proposed development site and the surrounding area. This included information from the Record of Monuments and Places of County Dublin, the topographical files within the National Museum and all available cartographic and documentary sources for the area. A field inspection has also been carried out with the aim to identify any previously unrecorded features of archaeological or historical interest.

1.2 THE DEVELOPMENT

The development will consist of 192 no. residential units ranging from 2-5 storeys in height, associated resident amenity facilities, a childcare facility, all boundary treatment and landscaping works, site services connections and all site development works to include:

a) Construction of 192 no. residential units, in the form of 6 no. new apartment buildings (A1 – B4), 40 duplexes (C1, C2, C2A) and 14 houses (D1 & D2), to include 33 no. 1-beds, 84 no. 2 -beds, 61 no. 3-beds and 14 no. 4-beds as follows:

- Block A1 (4 storeys) comprising 15 no. apartments (3 no. 1 bed units, 6 no. 2 bed units & 6 no. 3 bed); a crèche facility of approx. 378 sq. m with associated outdoor play space of approx. 170 sq. m; and resident amenity facilities of approx. 33.3 sq. m.
- Block A2 (3-4 storeys) comprising 26 no. apartments (2 no. 1 bed units, 20 no. 2 bed units and 4 no. no. 3 bed units) and resident amenity facilities of approx. 353.6 sq.m.
- Blocks B1 and B2 (2-5 storeys) comprising 51 no. apartments (15 no. 1 bed units, 29 no. 2 bed units, 7 no. 3 bed units).
- Blocks B3 and B4 (2-5 storeys) comprising 46 no. apartments (13 no. 1 bed units, 23 no. 2 bed units and 10 no. 3 bed units).
- Duplex Units C1 (4 storeys), C2 and C2A (3 storeys) comprising 40 duplexes (6 no. 2 bed units, 20 no. 3 bed units and 14 no. 4 bed units).
- House Units D1 and D2 (2 storeys) comprising 14 houses (14 no. 3 bed units).

b) Total Open space (approx. 10,854 sqm) is proposed in the form of public open space (approx. 8, 686 sqm), and residential communal open space (approx. 2,168 sqm). Each residential unit is afforded with associated private open space in the form of a garden/terrace / balcony.

c) The development will be served via a new vehicular access via Blackglen Road. This will be designed as a priority junction with pedestrian and cycle crossings where required to tie in with the Blackglen Road Improvement Scheme.
d) A new toucan crossing is proposed across Blackglen Road just to the east of the new vehicular access. This toucan crossing has been designed as per TL607 of the Cycle Design Manual to allow crossing of pedestrians and cyclists to the northern side of Blackglen Road for improved public transport access.
e) Emergency access only is proposed via Woodside Road.
f) A dedicated wildlife corridor is proposed to the east/south-east side of the site and a public open space (approx. 307 m in length) tree trail to the west/north-west side of the site.
g) Basement/Podium car park areas are proposed below Blocks B1, B2, B3 and B4. A total of 234 no. car parking spaces are proposed, which includes 2 no. car club spaces, 12 no. accessible spaces and 47 no. EV charging spaces (206 no. long-stay spaces, 18 no. visitor space & 10 no. car parking spaces for creche use), in addition to 9 no. motorcycle spaces.
h) A total of 484 no. bicycle spaces are proposed in the form of 442 no. long stay bicycle spaces 42 short-term stay visitor parking.
i) 2 no. ESB substation at surface level.
j) Bin Storage areas for the Duplex blocks are proposed at ground level adjacent to the Duplex blocks.
k) All associated site and infrastructural works to include provision for water services; foul and surface water drainage and connections; internal roads, attenuation proposal; permeable paving; all landscaping works including green infrastructure zones; green roofs; and general plant areas; photovoltaic panels; landscaped boundary treatment; footpaths; public lighting; and electrical services.

2 METHODOLOGY

Research for this report was undertaken in two phases. The first phase comprised a paper survey of all available archaeological, historical and cartographic sources. The second phase involved a field inspection of the site.

2.1 PAPER SURVEY

- Record of Monuments and Places for County Dublin;
- Sites and Monuments Record for County Dublin;
- National Monuments in State Care Database;
- Preservation Orders List;
- Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland;
- Cartographic and written sources relating to the study area;
- Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2022–2028;
- Aerial photographs; and
- Excavations Bulletin (1970–2024).

Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is a list of archaeological sites known to the National Monuments Section, which are afforded legal protection under Section 12 of the 1994 National Monuments Act and are published as a record.

Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) holds documentary evidence and field inspections of all known archaeological sites and monuments. Some information is also held about archaeological sites and monuments whose precise location is not known e.g. only a site type and townland are recorded. These are known to the National Monuments Section as 'un-located sites' and cannot be afforded legal protection due to lack of locational information. As a result, these are omitted from the Record of Monuments and Places. SMR sites are also listed on a website maintained by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DoHLGH) – www.archaeology.ie.

National Monuments in State Care Database is a list of all the National Monuments in State guardianship or ownership. Each is assigned a National Monument number whether in guardianship or ownership and has a brief description of the remains of each Monument.

The Minister for the DoHLGH may acquire national monuments by agreement or by compulsory order. The state or local authority may assume guardianship of any national monument (other than dwellings). The owners of national monuments (other than dwellings) may also appoint the Minister or the local authority as guardian of that monument if the state or local authority agrees. Once the site is in ownership or guardianship of the state, it may not be interfered with without the written consent of the Minister.

Preservation Orders List contains information on Preservation Orders and/or Temporary Preservation Orders, which have been assigned to a site or sites. Sites

deemed to be in danger of injury or destruction can be allocated Preservation Orders under the National Monuments 1930 Act. Preservation Orders make any interference with the site illegal. Temporary Preservation Orders can be attached under the National Monuments 1954 Act. These perform the same function as a Preservation Order but have a time limit of six months, after which the situation must be reviewed. Work may only be undertaken on or in the vicinity of sites under Preservation Orders with the written consent, and at the discretion, of the Minister.

The topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland are the national archive of all known finds recorded by the National Museum. This archive relates primarily to artefacts but also includes references to monuments and unique records of previous excavations. The find spots of artefacts are important sources of information on the discovery of sites of archaeological significance.

Cartographic sources are important in tracing land use development within the development area as well as providing important topographical information on areas of archaeological potential and the development of buildings. Cartographic analysis of all relevant maps has been made to identify any topographical anomalies or structures that no longer remain within the landscape.

Documentary sources were consulted to gain background information on the archaeological and cultural heritage landscape of the proposed development area.

Development Plans contain a catalogue of all the Protected Structures and archaeological sites within the county. The Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan (2022–2028) was consulted to obtain information on cultural heritage sites in and within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development area.

Aerial photographic coverage is an important source of information regarding the precise location of sites and their extent. It also provides initial information on the terrain and its likely potential for archaeology. A number of sources were consulted including aerial photographs held by the Ordnance Survey and Google Earth.

Excavations Bulletin is a summary publication that has been produced every year since 1970. This summarises every archaeological excavation that has taken place in Ireland during that year up until 2010 and since 1987 has been edited by Isabel Bennett. This information is vital when examining the archaeological content of any area, which may not have been recorded under the SMR and RMP files. This information is also available online (www.excavations.ie) from 1970–2024.

2.2 FIELD INSPECTION

Field inspection is necessary to determine the extent and nature of archaeological and historical remains and can also lead to the identification of previously unrecorded or suspected sites and portable finds through topographical observation and local information.

The archaeological field inspection entailed the following:-

- Walking the proposed development and its immediate environs.
- Noting and recording the terrain type and land usage.
- Noting and recording the presence of features of archaeological or historical significance.
- Verifying the extent and condition of any recorded sites.
- Visually investigating any suspect landscape anomalies to determine the possibility of their being anthropogenic in origin.

3 RESULTS OF ASSESSMENT

3.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed development area is located in the townland of Balally in the parish of Taney and the barony of Rathdown, County Dublin. The site lies between Blackglen Road and Woodside Road, which form the northern and southern boundaries respectively and is bordered on all other sides by the gardens of modern residential properties. A stream that forms the townland boundary between Balally and Barnacullia, runs along the south-eastern boundary of the proposed development area. There are three recorded monuments within 500m of the site, the closest of which is an enclosure (DU025-014), c. 220m to the southeast (Figure 1).

3.1.1 Prehistoric Period

Mesolithic Period (6000–4000 BC)

Although, recent discoveries in the southwest of the country may indicate an earlier date for human occupation of Ireland (Dowd and Carden 2016), the Mesolithic period is the earliest time for which there is clear evidence for prehistoric activity on the island. During this period people hunted, foraged and gathered food and appear to have had a mobile lifestyle. The most common evidence found to show the presence of Mesolithic communities at a site are scatters of worked flint material, a by-product from the production of flint implements. Small numbers of these worked flint fragments have been found at Dalkey Island, Dun Laoghaire, Rathfarnham and Loughlinstown and may indicate small-scale transient settlement along the riverbanks and seashores of the Dublin area (Corlett 1999, 10).

Neolithic Period (4000–2500 BC)

During the Neolithic period communities became less mobile and their economy became based on the rearing of stock and cereal cultivation. This transition was accompanied by major social change. Agriculture demanded an altering of the physical landscape; forests were rapidly cleared and field boundaries constructed. There was a greater concern for territory, which contributed to the construction of large communal ritual monuments called megalithic tombs, which are characteristic of the period. The most common type of megalithic tomb within the Rathdown area is the portal tomb, although none of these monuments are recorded in the vicinity of the proposed development area. A fragment of a polished axe (NMI 1979:73) has been recorded from the townland of Murphystown, c. 1.6km to the northeast, possibly indicating a Neolithic presence in the wider landscape.

Bronze Age (2500–800 BC)

The Bronze Age saw the use and production of metal for the first time in Ireland. During the Bronze Age, the megalithic tomb tradition declined with a focus on individual burials emerging. Cremated or inhumed bodies were often placed in a cist, which is a stone-lined grave, usually built of slabs set upright to form a box-like construction and capped by a large slab or several smaller lintels. Bronze Age burials

were often accompanied by pottery vessels and may been marked in the past with a mound or enclosing circular ditch.

Evidence for the Bronze Age activity within the wider landscape has been recorded during recent developments. A flat cemetery (DU023-063), recorded along the route of the M50, c. 1.8km northeast of the proposed development area, was identified during monitoring in 2001 (Licence Ref. 01E1229). The site was subsequently excavated under licence 02E0076 and three cremation burial pits were identified (Reilly 2003).

Another site type thought to reveal a glimpse of domestic life at this time is the burnt mound or *fulacht fia*. A common site within the archaeological record, they are usually interpreted as temporary cooking sites, but may have been used for other industrial or even recreational functions, possibly on a seasonal basis. They survive as low mounds of charcoal-enriched soil mixed with an abundance of heat-shattered stones. They are usually horseshoe-shaped and located in low-lying areas near a water source and are often found in clusters. Even when levelled by recent activity, such as ploughing, they are identifiable as burnt spreads in the landscape. A *fulucht fia* (DU022-110) is recorded c. 550m north of the proposed development, along with a linear earthwork (DU022-064). A second *fulucht fia* (DU022-109 is recorded c. 1.5km to the northeast.

Iron Age (800 BC–AD 500)

Compared to the rest of Irish prehistory there is relatively little evidence in Ireland, as a whole, representing the Iron Age. Development-led archaeological investigations in recent decades have added to our knowledge of the Irish Iron Age. As in Europe, two phases of the Iron Age have been proposed in Ireland; the Hallstatt and the La Tène (Raftery 1994). While there is little evidence of the Hallstatt period in Ireland, La Tène influences are clearly identifiable in the metalwork of the period. There are no Iron Age sites recorded in the vicinity of the proposed development area.

3.1.2 Early Medieval Period (AD 500–1100)

The early medieval period is depicted in the surviving sources as entirely rural characterised by the basic territorial unit known as *túath*. Byrne (1973) estimates that there may have been as many as 150 kings in Ireland at any given time during this period, each ruling over his own *túath*. During this period, roughly circular defensive enclosures known as ringforts were constructed to protect farmsteads. They are typically enclosed by an earthen bank and exterior ditch, and range from 25m to 50m in diameter. The smaller-sized and single banked type (univallate) were more likely to be home to the lower ranks of society while larger examples with more than one bank (bivallate/trivallate) housed the more powerful kings and lords (Edwards 1996). the closest ringfort to the proposed development is recorded c. 1.5km to the southwest in the townland of Tiknock (DU025-011). An enclosure (DU025-014), recorded c. 220m to the southeast, also has the potential to date to this period and represent the denuded remains of a ringfort.

The south Dublin area must have been a relatively densely populated area during this period, especially when considering the number of ecclesiastical establishments within the area, and the close proximity to the coastal resource. It is therefore surprising that there is not greater evidence for settlement in the form of ringforts, within the area. It is of course possible that there was no need for a large number of defended settlements within the area as it was out of reach of the constant attention of the Kings of Meath to the north of Dublin city and the Kings of Leinster to the west of the Wicklow Mountains. It is also possible that many of the sites were removed during the medieval period, when the arrival of the Anglo-Normans and their new techniques of warfare rendered the ringfort obsolete (Corlett 1999, 53).

From the 6th century on the landscape was dominated by scattered rural monasteries, which were often surrounded by large circular or oval enclosures, as is the case with the ecclesiastical remains at Rathmichael (DU026-050), as well as the remains of a church (DU022-036001) and associated enclosure (DU022-036002), recorded c. 770m north of the proposed development area.

3.1.3 Medieval Period (AD 1100–1600)

The beginning of the medieval period is characterised by political unrest that originated from the death of Brian Borumha in 1014. Diarmait MacMurchadha, deposed King of Leinster, sought the support of mercenaries from England, Wales and Flanders to assist him in his challenge for Kingship. Norman involvement in Ireland began in 1169, when Richard de Clare and his followers landed in Wexford to support MacMurchadha. Two years later de Clare (Strongbow) inherited the Kingdom of Leinster and by the end of the 12th century the Normans had succeeded in conquering much of the country (Stout and Stout 1998). The initial stage of the invasion of the country was marked by the construction of motte and bailey castles, none of which are present within the vicinity of the proposed development.

At the time of the invasion the ruling clan of Rathdown were the *MacGillaMoCholmoc* family in the northeast of Wicklow and the *Mac Torcaill* family in the southeast of Dublin. After the Norman conquest much of Rathdown was granted to Walter de Ridelesford, a councillor of Strongbow but Henry II took back some of these lands, as he wanted to keep much of Dublin and its surroundings for himself. A large part of Rathdown then became part of the royal estate of Obrun. This estate included parts of Ballycorus, Kiltiernan, Powerscourt and Corke, near Bray. The King also established a royal forest in the Wicklow Mountains.

The greatest landowner within the region under the Norman regime was the Archbishop of Dublin, who retained those lands owned since before the invasion, including Dalkey, Rathmichael and Shankill. Land in the area that was not under royal or religious ownership, was also granted away to smaller religious establishments. This included lands at Leopardstown, which were granted by Geoffrey and Sara Tyrel to the Leper Hospital of St. Stephen in Dublin. Although the present townland name derives from the word Leper, there is no evidence to suggest that a home for Lepers was established in this area.

There are a large amount of tower houses and fortified buildings within the Rathdown area and this was in part due to the presence of The Pale. The Pale is defined as a hinterland around the centre of Anglo-Norman rule based in Dublin. During the 15th century the 'Subsidised Castles Act' provided grants of ten pounds to encourage the construction of castles to defend The Pale against the native Irish. The Pale was also strengthened in other ways. In 1494 an act of Parliament required landowners to construct a line of defences along the border of The Pale, but it is likely that not all did so. A stretch of the Pale defences does survive c. 2km to the east-southeast of the proposed development area and consists of a bank that is flanked by a ditch either side (DU026-087). There are a number of tower houses also within the wider surroundings of the proposed development that attest to the politically uncertain nature of the area at this time. The closest of these is Kilgobbin Castle (DU025-017001), located c. 1.5km to the east-southeast. Closer to the proposed development, a well is recorded, c. 320m to the southeast, known as O'Grady's Well (DU025-013). This consists of a lintelled passage in the middle of a field, which is thought to be of medieval origin.

3.1.4 Post-Medieval Period (AD 1600–1800)

Following the Gaelic Resurgence of the 14th and 15th centuries, the Tudor era saw a focused attempt to reconquer and pacify the entire country during the reigns of Henry VIII and Elizabeth I. The Elizabethan implementation of the 'Surrender and Regrant' policy allowed the monarch to continue colonising Ireland at a time when the treasury funds were too low to afford a war. The policy was to induce native leaders to put their lands under the protection and ultimate ownership of the crown. The implication was that if they did not, it would be taken away from them anyway. Under the Irish custom the clan itself owned the land, not any individual and this included the chief. He administered it during his lifetime but could not will any part of it on his death at which time it reverted to the charge of the *tanaiste* or appointed successor for the clan, not necessarily his son and heir.

The inducement was that on re-granting the chieftain would personally own the land and could will it in any way he desired, the aim of which was to break up the clan system and to put the lands and the owners within the control of the crown. However, the crown could take the land back at any time and this occurred frequently over the coming years. Confiscated lands were granted to 'undertakers' – suitable English people of the new faith who would undertake to purchase available land at a very low price on agreement that it would be sub-let exclusively to English Protestants. The nine years war waged by a confederation of Gaelic nobles, led by Hugh O'Neill, played out across the country at the end of the 16th century. The Dublin and Wicklow Mountains were during this time forested and impenetrable to the Tudor forces. The O'Byrne leaders of the Wicklow Mountains played an aggressive role throughout the war and the hinterland of Dublin and the landscape containing the proposed development area was subjected to many raids and attacks.

This unrest was followed in the second half of the 17th century by the Cromwellian Restoration and Williamite land settlements. Before 1641, the confiscation was aimed primarily against the Gaelic Irish, but after that date all Catholic proprietors,

comprising mainly Irish and Old English, found their lands subject to forfeiture unless they could prove 'constant good affection' to the English parliament (Goff, 1987).

Following the pacification of the country in the late 17th century, a dramatic rise in the establishment of large residential houses occurred around the country. The large country house was only a small part of the overall estate of a large landowner and provided a base to manage often large areas of land that could be located nationwide. Lands associated with the large houses were generally turned over to formal gardens, which were much the style of continental Europe. During the mid-18th century this style of formal avenue and geometric garden design was gradually replaced by the adoption of parkland, or demesne, landscapes – allowing a large house to be viewed within a natural setting. Although the creation of a parkland landscape involved working with nature, rather than against it, considerable constructional effort went into their creation, earth was moved, field boundaries disappeared, streams were diverted to form lakes and quite often roads were completely diverted to avoid travelling anywhere near the main house or across the estate. A number of these demesnes exist within the wider landscape surrounding the proposed development area, the closest of which is that associated with Fern Hill, c. 700m to the southeast.

3.2 SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

A review of the Excavations Bulletin (1970–2024) has shown that no previous archaeological fieldwork has been carried out within the proposed development area. Two archaeological investigations have taken place in the vicinity, which are summarised below:

Archaeological testing was undertaken in advance of development at Woodside Road, c. 130m south of the proposed development area (Bennett 2006:697, Licence Ref.: 06E0528). A number of small pits of potential archaeological interest were identified, as well as a faint linear feature possibly corresponding to an enclosure identified by aerial photography. Nothing of a more substantial nature was noted.

Two programmes of archaeological monitoring c. 50m north-northeast of the proposed development were carried out in 2001 and 2009 (Bennett 2001:467 and 2009:359, Licence Refs: 01E0459 and 09E0181) revealed nothing of archaeological significance.

3.3 CARTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Down Survey Map of the Parish of Donnybrook and Taney, Rathdown, 1656

These maps were primarily used as a means of identifying land ownership, so little detail of the landscape is depicted. The townland of Balally is marked as 'Ballawley'. No detail is shown in relation to the approximate location of the proposed development area.

Rocque's Map of County Dublin, 1760 (Figure 3)

The townland of Balally is labelled on this map. The proposed development area is located within an open landscape, lying between two roads, which conform largely to the current Blackglen and Woodside Roads. Kilgobbin Church and Castle are marked to the southeast.

John Taylor's Map of the Environs of Dublin 1816 (Figure 3)

This map depicts the area of the proposed development much the same as Rocque's earlier map, although in this case the contours of the Tiknock Hills/Ticknock Mountains are shown, a ridge of which passes through the proposed development area.

First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1843, scale 1:10,560 (Figure 4)

This is the first accurate historic mapping coverage of the area containing the proposed development. As previously shown, the area is depicted lying between two roads matching the current routes of Blackglen Road and Woodside Road. The proposed development area occupies portions of three fields, with two field boundaries marked crossing the area. A small building is depicted in the south-eastern corner and the townland boundary at this corner is marked.

Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1871, scale 1:10,560

There are no major changes to note within the cartography of this map that relate to the proposed development area.

Ordnance Survey Map, 1906-09, scale 1:2,500 (Figure 4)

This map depicts the proposed development area as largely unchanged from the previous editions. An escarpment is marked in the northern portion of the site but the small building in the south-eastern corner is no longer present. The field boundaries remain the same. A new small structure is depicted on the north-western boundary and a well is marked along the eastern boundary.

3.4 COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan (2022–2028) recognises the statutory protection afforded to all RMP sites under the National Monuments Legislation (1930–2014). The development plan lists a number of aims and objectives in relation to archaeological heritage (Appendix 2).

There are three archaeological sites within 500m of the proposed development within the townlands of Woodside (2) and Barnacullia (1), all of which are recorded monuments (Table 1; Figure 1; Appendix 1). The nearest recorded monument is an enclosure of uncertain date (DU025-014), c. 230m southeast of the proposed development in the townland of Woodside.

TABLE 1: Recorded Archaeological Sites

RMP NO.	LOCATION	CLASSIFICATION	DISTANCE FROM SCHEME
DU025-014	Barnacullia	Enclosure	c. 230m southeast
DU025-013	Barnacullia	Well	c. 325m south-southeast

DU022-068	Woodside	House - 16th/17th century	c. 470m east-southeast

3.6 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Inspection of the aerial photographic coverage of the proposed development area held by the Ordnance Survey (1995-2013), Google Earth (2005-2023) and Bing Maps revealed no changes to the proposed development area and its immediate surroundings. The site has remained undeveloped and covered by gorse scrub since at least 1995.

3.7 TOPOGRAPHICAL FILES

A review of the topographical files held by the National Museum of Ireland, failed to identify any archaeological artefacts recorded from the proposed development area or its immediate environs.

3.8 FIELD INSPECTION

The field inspection sought to assess the site, its previous and current land use, the topography and any additional information relevant to the report. During the course of the field investigation the proposed development site and its immediate surrounding environs were inspected.

The proposed development area consists of a plot of land heavily overgrown with gorse (Plates 1 and 2). The area is bounded by mature trees and overgrown hedgerow on the eastern, southern and western boundaries (Plates 3 and 4). To the north the boundary is formed by manicured hedgerows of gardens belong to properties fronting onto Blackglen Road and by Blackglen Road itself (Plates 5 and 6). The site is uneven with frequent granite outcrops, escarpments and hollows, with a general slope from a high point towards the easternmost corner down to the southeast and northeast corners. A stream borders the site at the southeast corner, along the townland boundary between Balally and Barnacullia (Plate 7). A stretch of the remains of a stone wall in the southernmost corner of the site (Plate 8), was noted, which appears to correspond to a field boundary depicted within the historic OS mapping (Figure 4).

No previously unrecorded features of archaeological significance were revealed during the field inspection. The presence of frequent rock outcropping across the site and the marginal nature of the terrain means that the site is unlikely to have been considered suitable for previous permanent settlement. It remains possible that activities associated with the use of the upland landscape during summer months, during the prehistoric and historic periods, may survive within the site.

4 CONCLUSIONS

The proposed development area is located in the townland of Balally, in the parish of Taney and the barony of Rathdown, County Dublin. A stream that forms the townland boundary between Balally and Barnacullia runs along the south-eastern boundary of the proposed development area. There are three recorded monuments within 500m of the site, the closest of which is an enclosure (DU025-014), c. 220m to the southeast.

A review of the Excavations Bulletin (1970–2024) has shown that no previous archaeological fieldwork has been carried out within the proposed development area. Three archaeological investigations have taken place in the vicinity. Only one of these revealed anything of archaeological significance: a number of small pits of potential archaeological interest and a faint linear feature identified during archaeological testing in advance of development at Woodside Road, c. 130m south of the proposed development area.

Examination of historic mapping and aerial photography depicting the area proposed development has shown that it has remained as undeveloped open land throughout the post-medieval period, and has seen little use in recent decades, being heavily overgrown since at least the beginning of the 21st century.

A field inspection was carried out as part of this assessment, which confirmed the site is currently under heavy vegetation. No features of archaeological potential were identified during the course of the field inspection. The presence of frequent rock outcropping across the site and the marginal nature of the terrain means that the site is unlikely to have been considered suitable for previous permanent settlement. It remains possible that activities associated with the use of the upland landscape during summer months, during the prehistoric and historic periods, may survive within the site.

5 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY

Impacts can be identified from detailed information about a project, the nature of the area affected and the range of archaeological resources potentially affected. Archaeological sites can be affected adversely in a number of ways: disturbance by excavation, topsoil stripping; disturbance by vehicles working in unsuitable conditions; and burial of sites, limiting access for future archaeological investigation. Upstanding archaeology can be affected adversely by direct damage or destruction arising from development, from inadvertent damage arising from vibration, undermining etc. and also by indirect impacts to a building's visual setting, view or curtilage.

5.1 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- Although the proposed development area comprises marginal and rocky terrain, it remains possible that small or isolated features relating to the use of the area during summer agricultural activities, may be present within the site. Ground disturbances associated with the proposed development may have an adverse impact on any such features or archaeological deposits that have the potential to survive beneath the existing scrub on the site and the current ground level.

5.2 MITIGATION

- Due to frequent rock out-cropping across the site and the uneven terrain, it will not be possible to carry out an effective programme of archaeological testing in advance of development. Therefore, it is recommended that all ground disturbances be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist. If any features of archaeological potential are discovered during the course of the works further archaeological mitigation may be required, such as preservation *in-situ* or by record. Any further mitigation will require approval from the National Monuments Service of the DoHLGH.

It is the developer's responsibility to ensure full provision is made available for the resolution of any archaeological remains, both on site and during the post excavation process, should that be deemed the appropriate manner in which to proceed.

Please note that all recommendations are subject to approval by the National Monuments Service of the Heritage and Planning Division, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

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CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Down Survey Map of the Parishes of Donnybrook and Taney, Rathdown, 1656

Rocque's Map of County Dublin, 1760

John Taylor's Map of the Environs of Dublin, 1816

Ordnance Survey maps of County Dublin, 1843, 1871, 1906-9

ELECTRONIC SOURCES

www.excavations.ie – Summary of archaeological excavation from 1970–2024.

www.archaeology.ie – DoHLGH website listing all SMR/RMP sites.

www.osiemaps.ie – Ordnance Survey aerial photographs dating to 2000-2013 and 6-inch/25-inch OS maps.

www.heritagemaps.ie – The Heritage Council web-based spatial data viewer which focuses on the built, cultural and natural heritage.

www.googleearth.com – Satellite imagery of the proposed development area.

www.bingmaps.com – Satellite imagery of the proposed development area.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 SMR/RMP SITES WITHIN THE SURROUNDING AREA

SMR NO.	DU025-014
RMP STATUS	yes
TOWNLAND	Woodside
PARISH	Kilgobbin
BARONY	Rathdown
I.T.M.	717864, 724931
CLASSIFICATION	Enclosure
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 230m southeast
DESCRIPTION	Located in upland pasture on the lower NE slopes of Three Rock Mountain. An aerial photograph taken in 1978 (BKS 2776139/40) shows a semi-circular platform defined to the E by a field boundary running NE-SW (dims. N-S 28m; E-W 18m). Not visible at ground level.
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	DU025-013
RMP STATUS	Yes
TOWNLAND	Barnacullia
PARISH	Kilgobbin
BARONY	Rathdown
I.T.M.	717866, 724825
CLASSIFICATION	Well
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 325m south-southeast
DESCRIPTION	A lintelled passage in the middle of a field forms the approach to a stone covered well known as O'Grady's Well (NMI:1962). Thought to be medieval in date.
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

SMR NO.	DU022-068
RMP STATUS	yes
TOWNLAND	Woodside
PARISH	Kilgobbin
BARONY	Rathdown
I.T.M.	718197, 725037
CLASSIFICATION	House - 16th/17th century
DIST. FROM DEVELOPMENT	c. 470m east-southeast
DESCRIPTION	The original house at Woodside is likely to date from the 1690's (Rob

	Goodbody Pers coms). It had the front façade replaced in the 1890's but the original house survives to the rear
REFERENCE	www.archaeology.ie/ SMR file

APPENDIX 2 LEGISLATION PROTECTING THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

The cultural heritage in Ireland is safeguarded through national and international policy designed to secure the protection of the cultural heritage resource to the fullest possible extent (Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands 1999, 35). This is undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the *European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage* (Valletta Convention), ratified by Ireland in 1997.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

The *National Monuments Act 1930 to 2014* and relevant provisions of the *National Cultural Institutions Act 1997* are the primary means of ensuring the satisfactory protection of archaeological remains, which includes all man-made structures of whatever form or date except buildings habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes. A National Monument is described as 'a monument or the remains of a monument the preservation of which is a matter of national importance by reason of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching thereto' (National Monuments Act 1930 Section 2). A number of mechanisms under the National Monuments Act are applied to secure the protection of archaeological monuments. These include the Register of Historic Monuments, the Record of Monuments and Places, and the placing of Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders on endangered sites.

OWNERSHIP AND GUARDIANSHIP OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS

The Minister may acquire national monuments by agreement or by compulsory order. The state or local authority may assume guardianship of any national monument (other than dwellings). The owners of national monuments (other than dwellings) may also appoint the Minister or the local authority as guardian of that monument if the state or local authority agrees. Once the site is in ownership or guardianship of the state, it may not be interfered with without the written consent of the Minister.

REGISTER OF HISTORIC MONUMENTS

Section 5 of the 1987 Act requires the Minister to establish and maintain a Register of Historic Monuments. Historic monuments and archaeological areas present on the register are afforded statutory protection under the 1987 Act. Any interference with sites recorded on the register is illegal without the permission of the Minister. Two months' notice in writing is required prior to any work being undertaken on or in the vicinity of a registered monument. The register also includes sites under Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders. All registered monuments are included in the Record of Monuments and Places.

PRESERVATION ORDERS AND TEMPORARY PRESERVATION ORDERS

Sites deemed to be in danger of injury or destruction can be allocated Preservation Orders under the 1930 Act. Preservation Orders make any interference with the site

illegal. Temporary Preservation Orders can be attached under the 1954 Act. These perform the same function as a Preservation Order but have a time limit of six months, after which the situation must be reviewed. Work may only be undertaken on or in the vicinity of sites under Preservation Orders with the written consent, and at the discretion, of the Minister.

RECORD OF MONUMENTS AND PLACES

Section 12(1) of the 1994 Act requires the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (now the Minister for the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage) to establish and maintain a record of monuments and places where the Minister believes that such monuments exist. The record comprises a list of monuments and relevant places and a map/s showing each monument and relevant place in respect of each county in the state. All sites recorded on the Record of Monuments and Places receive statutory protection under the National Monuments Act 1994. All recorded monuments on the proposed development site are represented on the accompanying maps.

Section 12(3) of the 1994 Act provides that 'where the owner or occupier (other than the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands) of a monument or place included in the Record, or any other person, proposes to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of, any work at or in relation to such a monument or place, he or she shall give notice in writing to the Minister of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands to carry out work and shall not, except in case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Minister, commence the work until two months after giving of notice'.

Under the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2004, anyone who demolishes or in any way interferes with a recorded site is liable to a fine not exceeding €3,000 or imprisonment for up to 6 months. On summary conviction and on conviction of indictment, a fine not exceeding €10,000 or imprisonment for up to 5 years is the penalty. In addition, they are liable for costs for the repair of the damage caused.

In addition to this, under the *European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1989,* Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) are required for various classes and sizes of development project to assess the impact the proposed development will have on the existing environment, which includes the cultural, archaeological and built heritage resources. These document's recommendations are typically incorporated into the conditions under which the proposed development must proceed, and thus offer an additional layer of protection for monuments which have not been listed on the RMP.

THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000

Under planning legislation, each local authority is obliged to draw up a Development Plan setting out their aims and policies with regard to the growth of the area over a five-year period. They cover a range of issues including archaeology and built heritage, setting out their policies and objectives with regard to the protection and enhancement of both. These policies can vary from county to county. The Planning and Development Act 2000 recognises that proper planning and sustainable

development includes the protection of the archaeological heritage. Conditions relating to archaeology may be attached to individual planning permissions.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2022–2028

Policy Objective HER1: Protection of Archaeological Heritage
It is a Policy Objective to protect archaeological sites, National Monuments (and their settings), which have been identified in the Record of Monuments and Places and, where feasible, appropriate and applicable to promote access to and signposting of such sites and monuments.

Policy Objective HER2: Protection of Archaeological Material in Situ
It is a Policy Objective to seek the preservation in situ (or where this is not possible or appropriate, as a minimum, preservation by record) of all archaeological monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places, and of previously unknown sites, features and objects of archaeological interest that become revealed through development activity. In respect of decision making on development proposals affecting sites listed in the Record of Monuments and Places, the Council will have regard to the advice and/or recommendations of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DCHG).

Policy Objective HER3: Protection of Historic Towns
It is a Policy Objective to promote and protect the Historic Town of Dalkey as identified by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DCHG) (consistent with RPO 9.27 of the RSES).

Policy Objective HER4: Carrickmines Castle Site
It is a Policy Objective to support the implementation of the (Archaeological) Conservation Plan for the Carrickmines Castle Site.

Policy Objective HER5: Historic Burial Grounds
It is a Policy Objective to protect historical and/or closed burial grounds within the County and encourage their maintenance in accordance with good conservation practice and to promote access to such sites where possible.

Policy Objective HER6: Underwater Archaeology
It is a Policy Objective for all developments, which have potential to impact on riverine, intertidal and sub-tidal environments to require an archaeological assessment prior to works being carried out.

APPENDIX 3 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND THE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL REMAINS

Impacts are defined as 'the degree of change in an environment resulting from a development' (Environmental Protection Agency 2017). They are described as profound, significant or slight impacts on archaeological remains. They may be negative, positive or neutral, direct, indirect or cumulative, temporary or permanent.

Impacts can be identified from detailed information about a project, the nature of the area affected and the range of archaeological and historical resources potentially affected. Development can affect the archaeological and historical resource of a given landscape in a number of ways.

- Permanent and temporary land-take, associated structures, landscape mounding, and their construction may result in damage to or loss of archaeological remains and deposits, or physical loss to the setting of historic monuments and to the physical coherence of the landscape.

- Archaeological sites can be affected adversely in a number of ways: disturbance by excavation, topsoil stripping and the passage of heavy machinery; disturbance by vehicles working in unsuitable conditions; or burial of sites, limiting accessibility for future archaeological investigation.

- Hydrological changes in groundwater or surface water levels can result from construction activities such as de-watering and spoil disposal, or longer-term changes in drainage patterns. These may desiccate archaeological remains and associated deposits.

- Visual impacts on the historic landscape sometimes arise from construction traffic and facilities, built earthworks and structures, landscape mounding and planting, noise, fences and associated works. These features can impinge directly on historic monuments and historic landscape elements as well as their visual amenity value.

- Landscape measures such as tree planting can damage sub-surface archaeological features, due to topsoil stripping and through the root action of trees and shrubs as they grow.

- Ground consolidation by construction activities or the weight of permanent embankments can cause damage to buried archaeological remains, especially in colluviums or peat deposits.

- Disruption due to construction also offers in general the potential for adversely affecting archaeological remains. This can include machinery, site offices, and service trenches.

Although not widely appreciated, positive impacts can accrue from developments. These can include positive resource management policies, improved maintenance and access to archaeological monuments, and the increased level of knowledge of a site or historic landscape as a result of archaeological assessment and fieldwork.

PREDICTED IMPACTS

The severity of a given level of land-take or visual intrusion varies with the type of monument, site or landscape features and its existing environment. Severity of impact can be judged taking the following into account:

- The proportion of the feature affected and how far physical characteristics fundamental to the understanding of the feature would be lost;
- Consideration of the type, date, survival/condition, fragility/vulnerability, rarity, potential and amenity value of the feature affected;
- Assessment of the levels of noise, visual and hydrological impacts, either in general or site-specific terms, as may be provided by other specialists.

APPENDIX 4 MITIGATION MEASURES AND THE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE

POTENTIAL MITIGATION STRATEGIES FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE REMAINS

Mitigation is defined as features of the design or other measures of the proposed development that can be adopted to avoid, prevent, reduce or offset negative effects.

The best opportunities for avoiding damage to archaeological remains or intrusion on their setting and amenity arise when the site options for the development are being considered. Damage to the archaeological resource immediately adjacent to developments may be prevented by the selection of appropriate construction methods. Reducing adverse effects can be achieved by good design, for example by screening historic buildings or upstanding archaeological monuments or by burying archaeological sites undisturbed rather than destroying them. Offsetting adverse effects is probably best illustrated by the full investigation and recording of archaeological sites that cannot be preserved *in situ*.

DEFINITION OF MITIGATION STRATEGIES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

The ideal mitigation for all archaeological sites is preservation *in situ*. This is not always a practical solution, however. Therefore, a series of recommendations are offered to provide ameliorative measures where avoidance and preservation *in situ* are not possible.

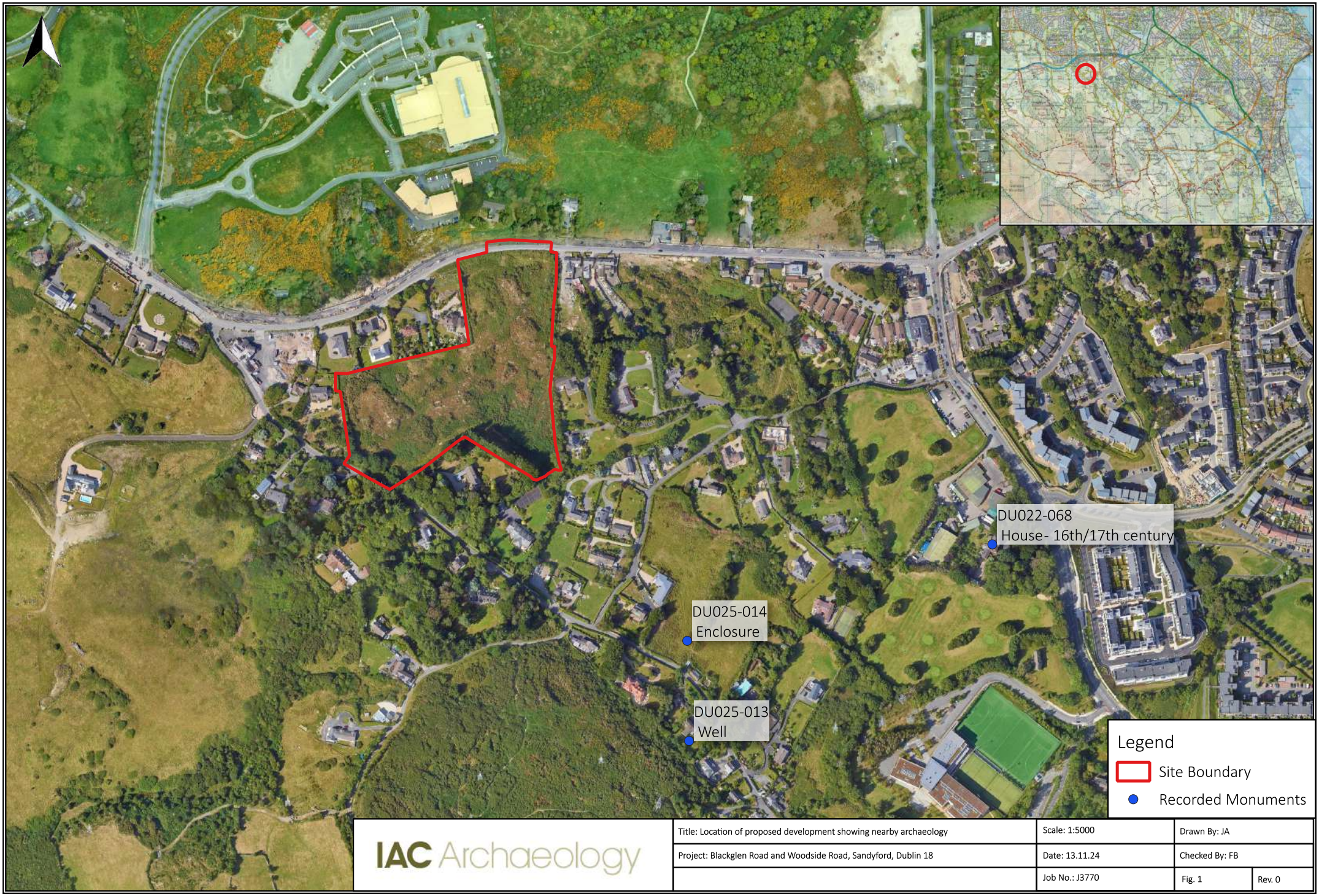
Archaeological Test Trenching can be defined as 'a limited programme of intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate' (CIfA 2020a).

Full Archaeological Excavation can be defined as 'a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. The records made and objects gathered during fieldwork are studied and the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the project design' (CIfA 2020b).

Archaeological Monitoring can be defined as 'a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be

disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive (CIfA 2020c).

Underwater Archaeological Assessment consists of a programme of works carried out by a specialist underwater archaeologist, which can involve wade surveys, metal detection surveys and the excavation of test pits within the sea or riverbed. These assessments are able to access and assess the potential of an underwater environment to a much higher degree than terrestrial based assessments.



IAC Archaeology

Title: Location of proposed development showing nearby archaeology	Scale: 1:5000	Drawn By: JA	
Project: Blackglen Road and Woodside Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18	Date: 13.11.24	Checked By: FB	
	Job No.: J3770	Fig. 1	Rev. 0



Proposed Ground Floor Site Layout Plan

APPLICATION SITE AREA (OUTLINED IN RED)

LANDS IN OWNERSHIP OF APPLICANT (OUTLINED IN BLUE)

CPO LANDS PERMANENT LAND TAKE (HATCHED IN YELLOW)

CPO LANDS TEMPORARY LAND TAKE (HATCHED IN ORANGE)

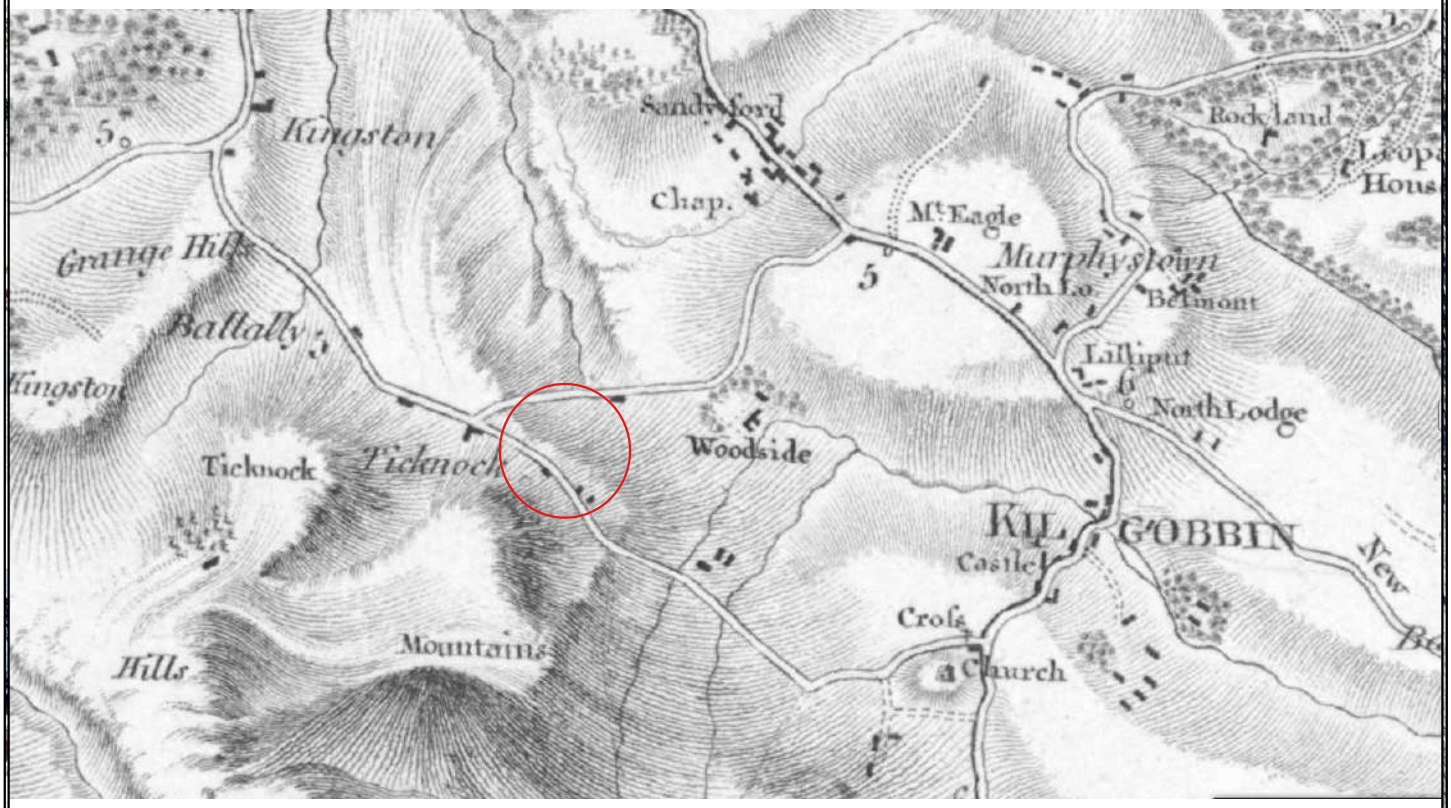
LANDS TAKEN IN CHARGE BY DCC SUBJECT TO LETTER OF AGREEMENT (OUTLINED IN BLUE AND HATCHED IN BLACK)

IAC Archaeology

Title: Plan of proposed development	Scale: NTS	Drawn By: DL	
Project: Blackglen Road and Woodside Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18	Date: 14.11.24	Checked By: FB	
	Job No.: J3770	Fig. 2	Rev. 1



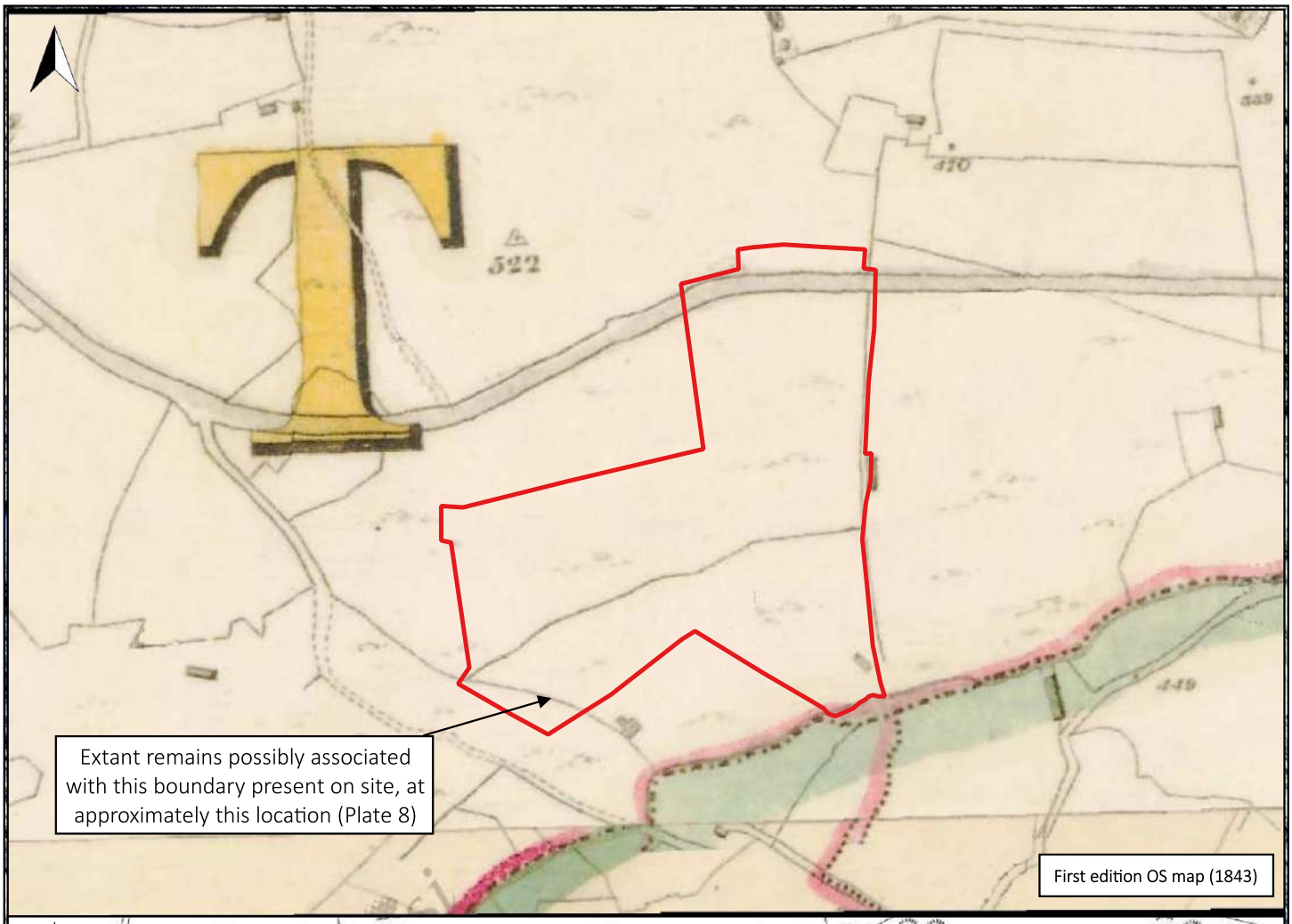
John Rocque, An actual survey of the County of Dublin, 1760

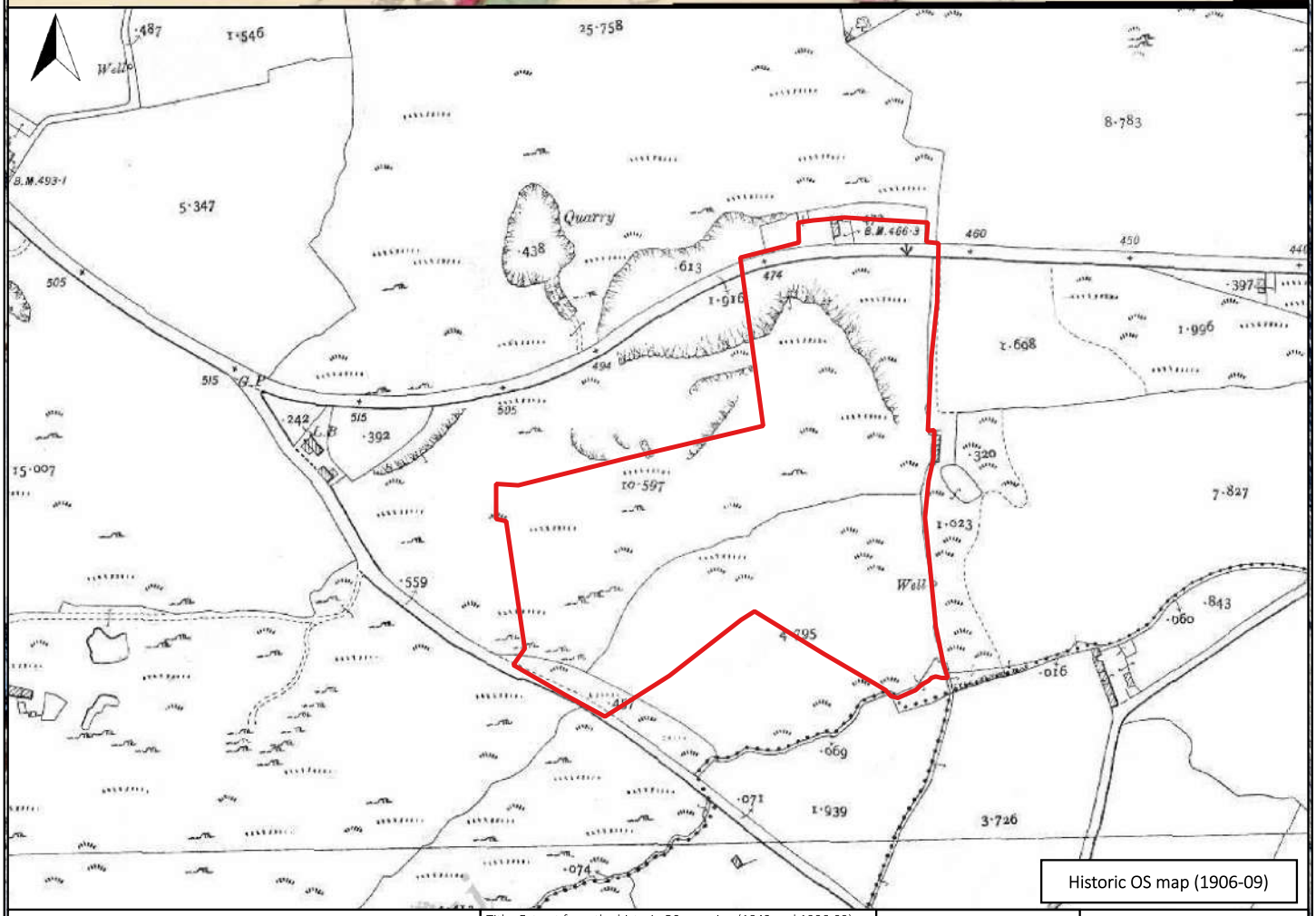


John Taylor, Map of the environs of Dublin, 1816

IAC Archaeology

Title: Extract from historic mapping (1760 and 1816) showing the approximate location of the proposed development area	Scale: NTS	Drawn By: JA	
Project: Blackglen Road and Woodside Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18	Date: 13.11.24	Checked By: FB	
	Job No.: J3770	Fig. 3	Rev. 0





IAC Archaeology	Title: Extract from the historic OS mapping (1843 and 1906-09) showing the proposed development area	Scale: 1:3700	Drawn By: JA
	Project: Blackglen Road and Woodside Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18	Date: 13.11.24	Checked By: FB
		Job No.: J3770	Fig. 4 / Rev. 0



Plate 1 Site from eastern boundary, facing west



Plate 2 Centre of site, facing east



Plate 3 Southern boundary, facing northeast



Plate 4 Western boundary from high point at north-western corner, facing south



Plate 5 Blackglen Road at northern boundary, facing northwest



Plate 6 North-western boundary from Blackglen Road, facing south



Plate 7 South-eastern corner of site, stream at townland boundary, facing south-southeast



Plate 8 Remains of wall, facing north