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Interxion DUB15/16

(RKD 20245)

Archaeological Assessment
Profile Park, Clondalkin,
Dublin 22

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behalf of RKD
Architects
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Contents

Introduction	3
Main Findings.....	4
The Profile Park Interxion DUB15 Site	4
Archaeological & Historical Context	6
Mesolithic Period (8000-4000 BC)	7
Neolithic Period (4000-2500 BC).....	7
Bronze Age (2500 - 500 BC)	7
Iron Age (500 BC-500 AD)	9
Early Medieval Period (c.500 AD-1200 AD)	9
Medieval Period to Late Medieval (c.1100AD-1650AD)	9
Modern Period	10
Final Summary & Recommendations.....	10
Historic Maps	11
Photographs.....	15
List of nearest archaeological monuments in RMP.	19
Previous Archaeological Fieldwork in vicinity.....	21
References	22

List of figures:

Figure 1 Site Location.....	3
Figure 2 Site Plan.....	3
Figure 3 Aerial view of site & Surrounds.....	5
Figure 4 Approximate area of undisturbed ground (Google Earth).....	5
Figure 5 Extract from Down’s Survey county map 1656-8	11
Figure 6 Down Survey Baronial Map 1656-8	12
Figure 7 Extract from Rocque's survey of County Dublin 1760	12
Figure 8 Extract from Taylors Map of Dublin 1816.....	13
Figure 9 OS 6 inch map 1837	14
Figure 10 Griffiths Valuation 1856	14

List of plates

Plate 1 Kilbride House, Baldonnell Road.....	15
Plate 2 Portion of Kilbride castle /farmhouse.....	15
Plate 3 Southern portion of proposed site	16
Plate 4 Northern portion of proposed site	16
Plate 5 Portion of Kilbride ‘Castle’ / Stables	16
Plate 6 proposed site from south west.....	17
Plate 7 Western entrance to Kilbride Church	17
Plate 8 Outer wall of Kilbride Cemetery from south east.....	18

Introduction

This desk top survey is carried out on behalf of RKD (architects) in advance of the proposed Data Centre Interxion DUB15/16 at Profile Park, Clondalkin, Dublin 22. The survey will establish if any archaeological and/ or other historical remains exist, or are likely to be uncovered, on the site. It will also summarise the archaeological, architectural, cultural and historical importance of the site, and its surrounds, and recommend additional investigations if warranted.



Figure 1 Site Location

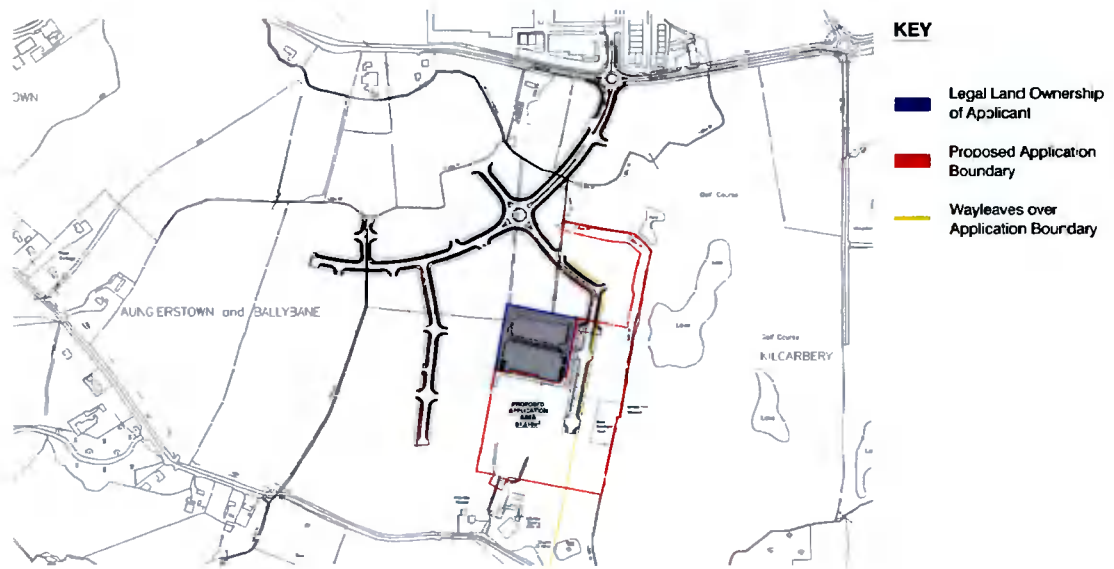


Figure 2 Site Plan

Main Findings

- The surrounding area, including Profile Park, Grangecastle Business Park, and Grangecastle South Business Park, has been the subject of numerous archaeological investigations, revealing a range of archaeological features from the Neolithic to the Medieval era's.
- It is possible that archaeological features remain under the undisturbed portions of ground.
- The site is entirely located within Kilbride Townland, and abuts Kilcarberry Townland to the east.
- The proposed development is close to what is probably an Early Medieval ecclesiastical site Kilbride Church and Cemetery (RMP DU021:005), from which the townland name is derived. The complex is also a protected structure RPS 184 SDCC.
- The proposed site is also close to what is called Kilbride Castle RMP DU021-004, now a disused farmyard and stables.
- Much of the lands are disturbed and unsuitable for geophysical survey. The total undisturbed lands amounts to 1.26 ha approx.
- Archaeological test excavations should be carried out prior to construction.
- The site should be monitored during all sub-surface works associated with the proposed development.

The Profile Park Interxion DUB15 Site

The site includes the recently developed data centre and business park road. The eastern boundary lies adjacent to the Kilcarberry Townland boundary. The north and western boundaries lie within the Profile Park. The southern boundary also lies within Profile Park.



Figure 3 Aerial view of site & Surrounds



Figure 4 Approximate area of undisturbed ground (Google Earth)

The undisturbed ground amounts to 1.26 ha approximately

Archaeological & Historical Context

Kilbride Townland:

The proposed site is situated entirely in Kilbride, within the parish of Kilbride, and the barony of Newcastle. The townland name is derived from an ecclesiastical centre *Cill Bride*, meaning a small cemetery of St Bridget, situated immediately south of the proposed development. The Kilbride ecclesiastical complex (RMP DU021:005), survives as a church and graveyard, and it is likely to have dated to the early medieval period.

In the aftermath of the Anglo-Norman invasion the lands of Kilbride were held by a William Comyn in 1295, residing in Balgriffin in North Dublin. A rent of 5 shillings was paid to him for the rent of Kilbride and Nangor, the latter an adjacent townland to the north. The Comyn family appeared to have lost control of this land at some stage in the 13th century, for in 1307 when it was noted that the tenements of 'Kilbryde and the Naungre' were held by Walter de Kekley from William, son of John de Gabarry, for a rent of 20 pounds¹¹. By this stage the church of Kilbride, presumably now the ruins visible from the site, had been granted as a prebend to an Andrew de Monevea, and later to the canons of St Patrick's Cathedral. This began its long association with St Patrick's Cathedral, similar to the nearby townlands of Ballybane, Nangor, and Aungierstown. At the time of the dissolution, the church was described as an 'old chapel' (McNeill 1950, 75), and by 1630 it had become ruinous (Ronan 1941). The church is now overgrown with vegetation, and only limited features can be observed.

Nearby are the remains of a farmyard and stables that have been designated RMP (RMP DU021:004) on account of several references to a Kilbride Castle on this location. The channel of water through the proposed development, emanates from a watercourse entering the farmyard from the south, under the Baldonnell Road. Much of the fabric of the remaining farmyard walls are of large limestone blocks, and it is possible that some of the fabric belonged to an earlier structure. It is important to note that although the church remains are referred to in earlier maps, there is no reference to a castle.

Nangor Townland:

Apart from the extensive archaeological investigations in Ballybane, a series of excavations in the vicinity of Nangor Castle in Grangecastle Business Park yielded field enclosures, and assorted artefacts, in a series of excavations carried out in what were the grounds and gardens of Nangor Castle in 2000-2001. The gardens stretched out to the west of the castle, extending almost as far as the existing Grange Castle Business Park road, near the Old Nangor Road entrance¹³. Nangor Castle (RMP DU017-134) survived until 1948.

Kilcarberry Townland:

The adjacent townland Kilcarberry, now the location of a Golf Course, seems to have been derived from *Coill Chairbe*, or the forest of Cairbe. The earliest cartographic reference to it appears to be in Taylor's Map of Dublin 1816, and it may well be a relatively modern, or at least unoccupied, townland until the modern era. Kilcarberry House is shown as a demesne type house at the end of a long straight entrance

way from the Old Nangor Road. The lands adjacent to the proposed site form part of Grange Golf Course.

Below is a summary of the known archaeological remains in the vicinity in their chronological contexts.

Mesolithic Period (8000-4000 BC)

- **The nearest evidence for Mesolithic activity is situated on the banks of the Liffey in Cooldrinagh, Lucan, on what had been a high ridge overlooking the River Liffey, the vicinity of Lucan, 5.5km to the north. A large accumulation of Early Mesolithic flints were recovered here, dating as far back as 7000 BC. A more recent cache of Mesolithic flints was discovered in Baldonnell, x to the south. The Baldonnell cache was discovered in the vicinity of the River Cammock, which feeds the Baldonnell River in the Profile Park. There is therefore a possibility that Mesolithic remains could be exposed on the proposed site.**

Neolithic Period (4000-2500 BC)

Neolithic houses were recovered in Grangecastle Business Park. In 2001 a house was excavated in the northern portion of the Grangecastle Business Park in advance of a large attenuation pond, now a small lake. The house was roughly rectangular in shape measuring 6.05m in length by 4.5m in width and was constructed of oak posts and planking inserted into a foundation trench. Other domestic activity in the vicinity of the dwelling included a number of pits with inclusions of charcoal while artefacts recovered included scrapers, waste flint and a single sherd of Neolithic pottery. Radiocarbon analysis from the site returned dates of between 3941 and 3659 BC (O'Donovan 2003)

Another Neolithic, and possible house, structure was excavated in advance of Microsoft Data Centres DUB 12 & 13 in the Grangecastle Business Park in 2016. The structure was identified by six irregularly spaced post-holes in a roughly hemispherical shape, with several other pits and post-holes scattered around them. The house was dated to the Early Neolithic on account of numerous sherds of early neolithic pottery with clay derived from the Dublin Mountains to the south. The pottery is a carinated bowls type, and is likely to date to 3850-3750 BC. It is associated with the earliest Neolithic settlements in Ireland. Burnt hazel nut shells were recovered suggesting hazel was used as food stuffs. 36 stone implements were recovered, including flakes and blades. (O'Flanagan & Coen, 2018)

- **Neolithic houses have been recovered in the vicinity and it is therefore possible that neolithic remains exist on the site.**

Bronze Age (2500 - 500 BC)

The volume of Bronze Age remains indicate a substantial presence in the general area. The remains are primarily in the form of burnt mounds, and / or *Fulacht fiadh*, (cooking pits), used for heating water through placing heated stones in water-filled pits or troughs. Burnt mounds are generally found in the vicinity of rivers and streams. There were also several dry cooking pits present. Both

burnt mounds and cooking pits are found in the vicinity of the Balldonnell Stream, and the Griffeen River.

Two burnt mounds were excavated in Grange Castle Business Park in July-August 2014 in the Microsoft campus. The first mound included a series of pits, a probable well, several stakeholes and the shallow, scattered remains of the associated burnt mound material. The most significant findings were human bone fragments from the well, suggesting some form of ritual activity. The second site comprised the relatively shallow remains of a burnt mound that sealed much of a cluster of features. These included six pits, two probable troughs, a well with associated gully, several postholes and a significant quantity of stakeholes, a large number of which were concentrated in one large cluster. Smaller cooking pits and burnt mound spreads were identified nearby in advance of DUB 12 & 13. (O’Flanagan & Coen 2016 and O’Flanagan & Andrews, 2016)

Other contemporary sites in the broader vicinity include three burnt mound sites recorded to the north during realignment work on the Griffeen River in the townland of Grange (Tobin, 2004). Another burnt mound was located in the townland of Nangor and excavated in a greenfield area (SMR no.: DU017-084) (Doyle, 2000a).

Excavations in advance of the Microsoft Campus also revealed a U-shaped enclosure comprising a curvilinear ditch and an elongated pit or short ditch, with a possible hearth. The cuts may represent slot trenches holding a line of posts or stakes and were of such a depth (0.32m – 0.44m) and width (0.7m – 0.94m) that they could have held load-bearing roof supports. The function of the structure may well be ceremonial due to its unusual shape and absence of any domestic features. (O’Flanagan) & Coen 2018). Three sherds of prehistoric pottery came from the upper fill of the pit alongside several pieces of possible debitage. The pottery likely to be Bronze Age 1600-1400 BC.

East of the Microsoft complex, a Bronze Age ring barrow monument was excavated in advance of what is now the Pfizer pharmaceutical plant in the townland of Kilmahuddrick (DU 017-080---). Ring-barrows are generally characterised by a slightly raised, central circular mound surrounded by a fosse and external bank and the mound is generally no higher than the surrounding bank (Newman, 1997, p157). The ring-barrow at Kilmahuddrick consisted of an uninterrupted circular ditch cutting into natural subsoil and had an external diameter of 12.2m north-south by 12.4m east-west (Doyle 2005, p46). The interior of the enclosure as well as several of the ditch fills contained a number of cremated human bone deposits and the radiocarbon analysis produced a range of dates which show that the monument was first constructed in the Bronze Age but continued in use in up to the Iron Age (Doyle 2005 43-75).

Two cremation pit cemeteries were excavated in 2015-16 in prior to the construction of the DSF in Grangecastle Business Park date centre in Nangor Townland. The pits contained some of the residue of a ritual burning of human remains of such intensity as to whiten the fragment the bones. They are generally dated to the Middle bronze Age and Late Bronze Age (c.1500-500BC), (O’Flanagan & Coen 2017)

- **There are a range of Bronze Age finds recently excavated in the vicinity including *Fulachtai Fiadh*, and cremation pits, and a barrow burial. The extent of Bronze Age features indicate a relatively high density of population compared to the previous eras, and there is a possibility of recovering features from this period on the proposed site.**

Iron Age (500 BC-500 AD)

The Iron Age is an elusive period in Irish prehistory. Iron objects are found rarely and political life in the Iron Age seems to have been defined by continually warring petty kingdoms vying for power.

Features in the wider vicinity which may have an Iron Age date include a bowl furnace and probable charcoal clamp which were discovered during the monitoring of the Grangecastle link road forming the northern boundary of Microsoft campus (McLoughlin 2013).

- **Iron Ages sites are rare although a recent discovery in Grangecastle Business Park reminds us of their existence.**

Early Medieval Period (c.500 AD-1200 AD)

An imposing series early medieval monuments have been uncovered in the general vicinity. In the Grangecastle Business Park a north south alignment of three enclosures was excavated in 2015-15. They included a large double ditched penannular enclosure, a D-shaped enclosure attached to the it, and a circular domestic structure at the southern end. A burial of a male and female was skeletons of two bodies buried in the enclosures have been dated to 8-10th century AD. (O'Flanagan & O'Hora, 2016) The entire complex measured 180m north south and appears to have determined the boundary between Ballybane and Nangor.

More recently a geophysical examination (licence 20R0080 Russell & Breen) of lands within Profile Park exposed the remains of what appears to be an early medieval enclosure adjacent to the Nangor Road.

- **A high concentration of Early Medieval enclosures have been recovered in the general area indicating Grangecastle Business Park to the north, Grangecastle South Business Park to the west, and it appears an enclosure exists within Profile Park adjacent to the Old Nangor Road. The range of enclosures in the area demonstrates the extent of settlement in the area.**
- **Kilbride church and settlement are likely to have been established in the Early medieval era, and burials may well have taken place in lands adjacent to the graveyard in addition to the are enclosed by the walls.**

Medieval Period to Late Medieval (c.1100AD-1650AD)

The late medieval period coincides with the arrival of the Anglo Normans in 1169.

The nearest examples of post invasion medieval settlement nearby are the now demolished Nangor Castle, on the northern side of the Old Nangor Road, and Grange Castle, both of which lie within Grangecastle Business Park. An early reference to Nangor dates to 1307 when it was noted that the tenements of 'Kilbryde and the Naungre' were held by Walter de Kekley from William, son of John de Gabarry, for a rent of 20 pounds. According to Dalton, Nangor belonged in the early 14th century to the De Verdon family, who had extensive landholdings in County Dublin (Dalton J, 1838). The much altered castle was demolished in 1948.

There is little information on Grange Castle but it appears to be a later structure, dating perhaps to the 15th century. Kilbride Castle is referred to only in the 18th century. The current farmyard buildings includes heavy limestone masonry and it may be the case a substantial stone structure existed there, perhaps of the 17th or 18th century.

- **The origins of Kilbride Castle are unknown. The limestone masonry of the farmyard buildings indicate the presence of a substantial stone structure there, dating perhaps to the 17th and 18th century rather than the medieval era. There may well be field systems associated with the 'castle' in the proposed site.**

Modern Period

Ireland in the seventeenth century saw massive social and political upheaval a result of the Confederate wars, the Cromwellian invasions, and the Battle of the Boyne. The impact on the local population was catastrophic resulting in a third of the population dying from warfare, famine and plague. Much of the native population was displaced, and English control over Ireland continued until 1922. The rural landscape became dominated by large demesnes, at least until the second half of the 19th century.

- **Kilcarberry Townland appears to have begun as a 18th century demesne, reflected in the straight boundary separating the site from Grange Golf Course, indicating relatively modern land improvements.**

Final Summary & Recommendations

- The most significant archaeological feature nearby is Kilbride Church and cemetery, located 50m c. south of the boundary of the development site. The church is situated up a pronounced slope from the development site.
- The site is likely to have been the subject of agricultural improvements due the proximity of the Kilbride castle farmyard to the south, including field boundaries, culverted streams etc.
- The surrounding area has yielded a considerable number of archaeological features, particularly in advance of the nearby development of Grange Castle Business Park, and Grangecastle South Business Parks, ranging from the Neolithic period to the medieval era.
- The eastern boundary of the site is formed by the townland boundary separating Kilbride and Kilcarberry Townlands. The latter is probably a modern construct previously part of the more ancient townland of Kilbride,
- Although the Kilbride / Kilcarberry townland boundary may not have an ancient origin, consideration should be given to limit development some distance from the boundary for ecological purposes.
- Archaeological test excavations should be carried out on the site prior to construction.
- All sub-surface works on site should be monitored by a licensable archaeologist.

Neil O'Flanagan 22 June 2021.



Figure 6 Down Survey Baronial Map 1656-8

The accuracy is not great but it is interesting that it refers to Kilbride as 'Bridstowne', and that it lies within unforfeited land, probably on account of its association with St Patrick's Cathedral. Kilbride stretched to lands north of the Cammock River.



Figure 7 Extract from Rocque's survey of County Dublin 1760

Kilbride Church is described as being 'in ruins' in 1760. There are several other buildings shown nearby but no reference to a castle, or indeed to Kilcarberry.

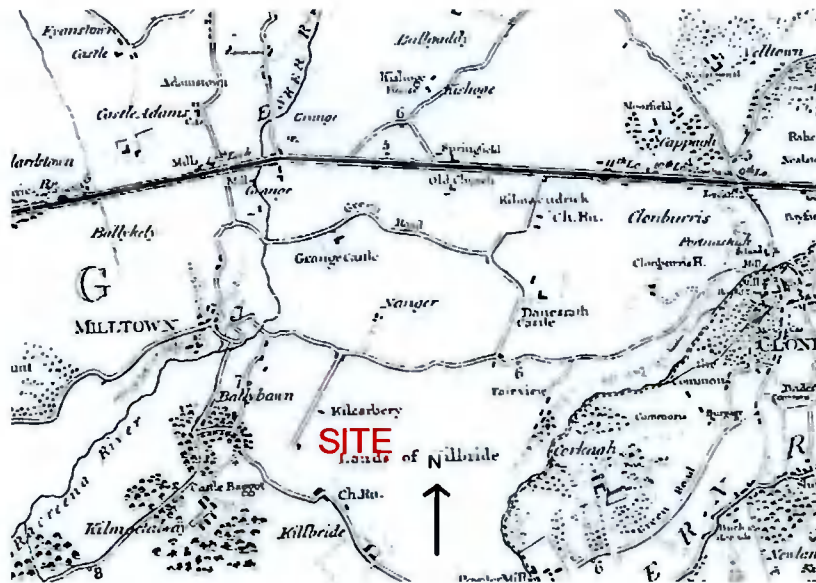


Figure 8 Extract from Taylors Map of Dublin 1816

Kilcarberry demesne is clearly shown suggesting it was laid out since the Rocque survey of 1760. There is also a reference to church ruins (Ch.Ru)

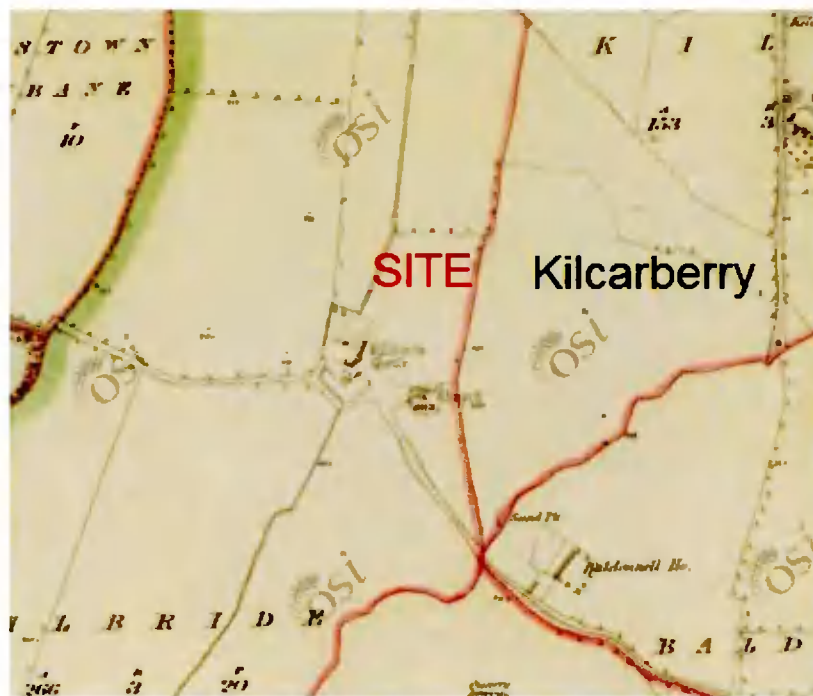


Figure 9 OS 6 inch map 1837

The straight townland boundary of Kilcarberry raises questions on its origins, and could be interpreted as a modern imposition. The absence of Kilcarberry in previous maps suggest that the entire demesne was carved out of another townland, probably that of Kilbride itself. The farmyard buildings here are referred to as a castle. The water channel was constructed by this point suggesting that water run off from tributaries of the Cammock had caused difficulties for farming activities.

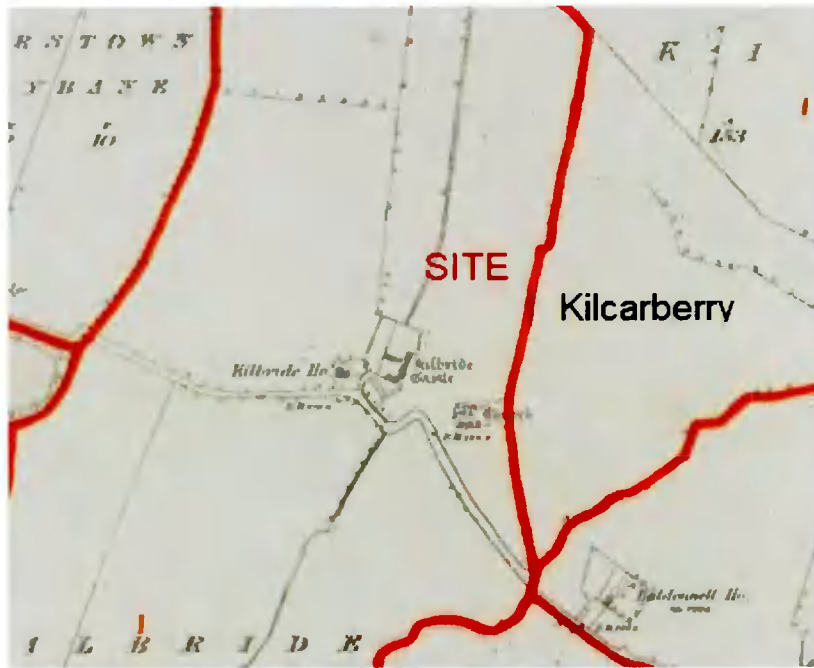


Figure 10 Griffiths Valuation 1856

The Griffiths Valuation map show that the existing Kilbride House was constructed in the decades after the first Ordnance Survey in the 1830's. It is connected to the current farmyard, and 'castle'.

Photographs



Plate 1 Kilbride House, Baldonnell Road



Plate 2 Portion of Kilbride castle /farmhouse



Plate 3 Southern portion of proposed site



Plate 4 Northern portion of proposed site



Plate 5 Portion of Kilbride 'Castle' / Stables



Plate 6 proposed site from south west



Plate 7 Western entrance to Kilbride Church



Plate 8 Outer wall of Kilbride Cemetery from south east

List of nearest archaeological monuments in RMP.

SMR Number	Class	Townland	Description
DU017-034	Castle	Grange	<p>Description: Attached to a farmhouse in flat, low-lying ground. Shown as a castle on the Down Survey (1655-6) map. This is a rectangular tower house with a square tower that projects to the N in the NE corner. The tower house is three storeys high. The walls are plastered but where stonework is visible it is coursed limestone with roughly dressed quoins. The windows are all later insertions. Entrance is in the N wall through a round-headed doorway. There is a murder hole over the entrance lobby which leads into a vaulted ground floor (int. dims. L 7.08m; Wth.5.2m). Access to stair turret is off the lobby through a round-headed doorway. First floor not accessible. Second floor is accessed through a two-centred arched doorway. There is a garderobe chute in the SE corner which is supported by corbels and entered through a narrow round-headed door to a small circular chamber lit by a single ope. The jambs are hammer-dressed. There is a square stair tower or cap house which rises above parapet level (Healy 1974, 22; Mc Dix 1897, XXXIX, 22). A drawing by Beranger in 1773 shows stepped crenellations at parapet level (Harbison 1998, 168-9). In 1997 monitoring and excavation were undertaken in the vicinity of the castle, in advance of the construction of an access road and the excavation of foul sewers for a Business Park at Grange Castle. A curving ditch was identified orientated north-east/south-west. It was 30m in length, 0.8-0.9m deep, and 1.2-2.4m wide. The upper fills contained charcoal, mortar, flint and animal bones, and were aceramic. A decorated bone comb, stick-pin and knife gave the later ditch phase a terminus ante quem of from the 12th to the 13th century AD. A stone causeway, 0.5-0.6m wide and 0.06-0.1m deep, crossed the ditch. The evidence suggests that extensive early medieval and post-medieval activity survives in this area; the ditches can be interpreted as medieval field boundaries (O'Brien, R. 1998, 26-7).</p>

DU017-084	Fulacht Fiadh	Kilmactawley	<p>Description: Monitoring of topsoil-stripping in 2000 revealed the remains of a small fulacht fiadh. This consisted of a small pit or trough, a spread of heat-cracked stone and a linear feature to the south-west of the trough. The pit/trough consisted of a subcircular cut into natural, 0.56m by 1.25m. This spread measured 1.92m north-south x 1.18m with a maximum depth of 0.05m.</p> <p>Approximately 6m to the west of the spread a linear gully feature was revealed. This gully consisted of a cut into natural boulder clay measuring 2.57m north-south x 0.28-0.54m. This had a depth of 0.16m with sharply sloping sides and a flat base. The cut was filled with a moderately compact, mid-brown clay containing frequent pieces of oxidised clay and occasional flecks of charcoal.</p> <p>Infrequent fragments of burnt bone were noted in the fill (Doyle, 2001)</p>
Du017-82	Field System	Nangor	Excavations in 2001 revealed a medieval ditch complex. This appeared to represent the remains of medieval field boundaries with associated water management gullies. Some 1600 sherds of local medieval pottery were recovered and two sherds of imported ware
DU017-037	Castle	Nangor	<p>Description: Located in flat terrain. Named 'Nangor castle' on the 1837 edition OS 6-inch map and 'Nangor castle on site of castle' in the later edition. This indicates that the castle had been incorporated into an 19th-century mansion. All buildings on the site have been recently demolished leaving no surface trace of the earlier building. In 1532 Ffinian Bassenett was residing at Nangor (Ball 1906, 112; Healy 1974, 22; D'Alton 1976, 345 (2nd ed.)). There are earthworks in the field to the south of the castle. Pre-development testing in the vicinity of the castle in 1996 produced evidence for a substantial ditch and an associated shallower linear feature of uncertain date. Trial-trenching in the field bounding the castle site to its south uncovered several lignite cores and slivers, early medieval pottery and metal slag suggesting a date in at least the early medieval period- twelfth/thirteenth century. Several trenches cut through a large ditch located on both the east and west of the field. Human skeletal remains were also uncovered, as were numerous charcoal-flecked irregular features (McConway 1997, 17).</p>
DU021-004	Castle	Castle – not visible	Situated in a narrow valley. There are farm buildings on the site. There is no visible trace above ground (Ball 1906, 66)
Du021-004001	Church	Kilbride	Located in a circular raised graveyard (L 42m, With 30) on the edge of a valley (DU021-005002-). This may be the remains of an early ecclesiastical enclosure (DU021-005003-). In 1228 the archbishop of Dublin granted the church of Kilbride to Andrew de Monevea as a prebend and later conferred it on the Canons of St Patrick's Cathedral (Mc Neill 1950, 75). In 1630 it was described as ruinous (Ronan 1941, 80). This church was attached to St. Patrick's Cathedral and was described at the dissolution in 1547 as an old chapel (Ball 1906, 68-70). Consists of a small rectangular building (int. dims L5.8m, With 3.63m, T 0.85m) with a NW turret in ruinous condition. Formerly entered through an opening in the W end

			(now damaged). Built of randomly coursed masonry. There is an aumbry in the E end of the N wall of the church. The E window has a S jamb of tufa. There are remnants of another window in the W end of the S wall. The NW turret (L1.35m, Wth 0.77m, H1.78m) is entered through a lintelled doorway off the church. It has a corbelled roof. There are traces of a stairwell on the S side of the turret (Ni Mharcaigh, 1997, 268-269).
Du021 108	Enclosure	Ballybane	Not indicated on any OS map a large concentric enclosure is visible as a crop-mark on an aerial photo. A second enclosure (DU021-109- ---) is visible to the SW (recently excavated)
Du021 109	Enclosure	Ballybane	Not indicated on any OS map this enclosure is as a crop-mark on an aerial photo. A second larger enclosure (DU021-108----) is visible to the NE (recently excavated)

Previous Archaeological Fieldwork in vicinity

Site	Licence	Director	Type	Investigation
Profile Park	20R0080	Russell and Breen	Various	Geophysical survey
SDCC (triangle) site, Grangecastle Park	19R0113	Joanna Leigh	Disturbed ground	Geophysical Survey
Grangecastle South Business Park	18E0282	James Hession	Brunt mounds & medieval ditches	Excavation
Castlebaggot Sub-Station, Grangecastle South Business Park	17E0394	Neil O'Flanagan	Prehistoric ditch	Excavation
Grangecastle South Business Park	16E0531	Stirland, O'Siorain & Breen	Early medieval enclosures	Excavation
DSF, Grange Business Park	14E0453	Neil O'Flanagan	Various Medieval - Prehistoric	Excavation
DUB06 et al, Grange Business Park	13E0471	Neil O'Flanagan	Various Medieval - Prehistoric	Excavation
Grange Business Park	13E043	Gill McLoughlin	Iron Age clamp / furnace	Monitoring
Grange, Grange International Business Park	04E0299	Red Toibin	Burnt Mounds	Excavation

Grange International Business Park	05R032	Joanna Leigh	Various	Geophysical Survey
Kishogue, Grange International Business Park	01E0061	Ed O'Donovan	Neolithic House	Excavation
GRANGE/KILMAHUDDRICK/NANGOR (GRANGE CASTLE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS PARK)	00E0718	Ian Doyle	Fulacht Fiadh	Monitoring
GRANGE/KILMAHUDDRICK/NANGOR (GRANGE CASTLE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS PARK)	00E0448	Ian Doyle	Ringbarrow	Excavation

References

The following information sources were used for the survey:

- The Record of Monuments & Places database from www.archaeology.ie;
- Excavations bulletin excavations.ie
- Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland
- Cartographic sources
- Aerial photographs
- Published and unpublished archaeological inventories
- Documentary sources including local and national histories.
- List of protected structures South Dublin Council Council.

