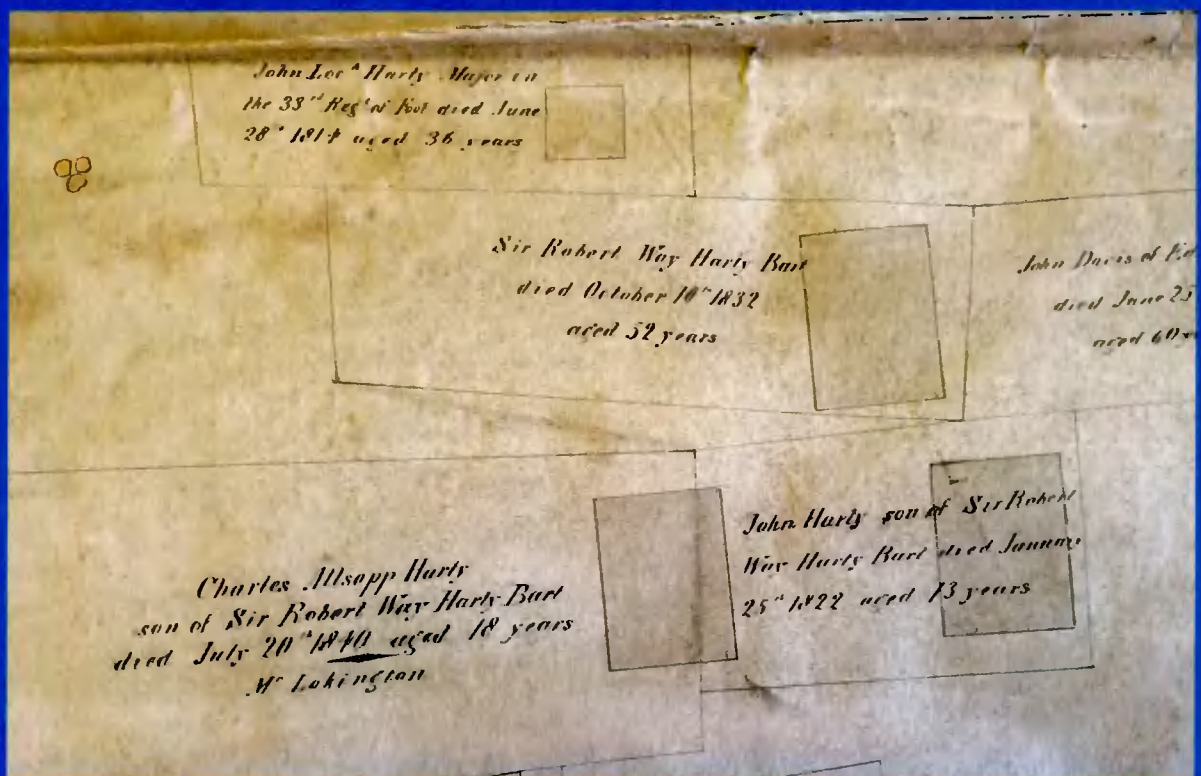


# Archaeological Assessment Grangebrook Avenue/Palmyra, Whitechurch Dublin 16



GIACOMETTI

29/07/2020

RMP DU022-030—

SDCC PP013/20

THE HISTORY OF THE  
CITY OF BOSTON  
FROM 1630 TO 1880



**SITE NAME**

Eight houses at Grangebrook Avenue, Grounds of Palmyra, Whitechurch, Rathfarnham, Dublin 18

**CLIENT**

Beckett Developments Ltd., C/o Terry & O'Flanagan Ltd., F1 Centrepont Business Park, Oak Road, Dublin 12

**RMP**

DU022-030—

**PLANNING**

SDCC Pre-planning ref. PP013/20

**LICENCE**

N/a

**PROJECT REF**

AP2005

**REPORT AUTHORS**

Antoine Giacometti MA MIAI

**DATE**

27<sup>th</sup> July 2020

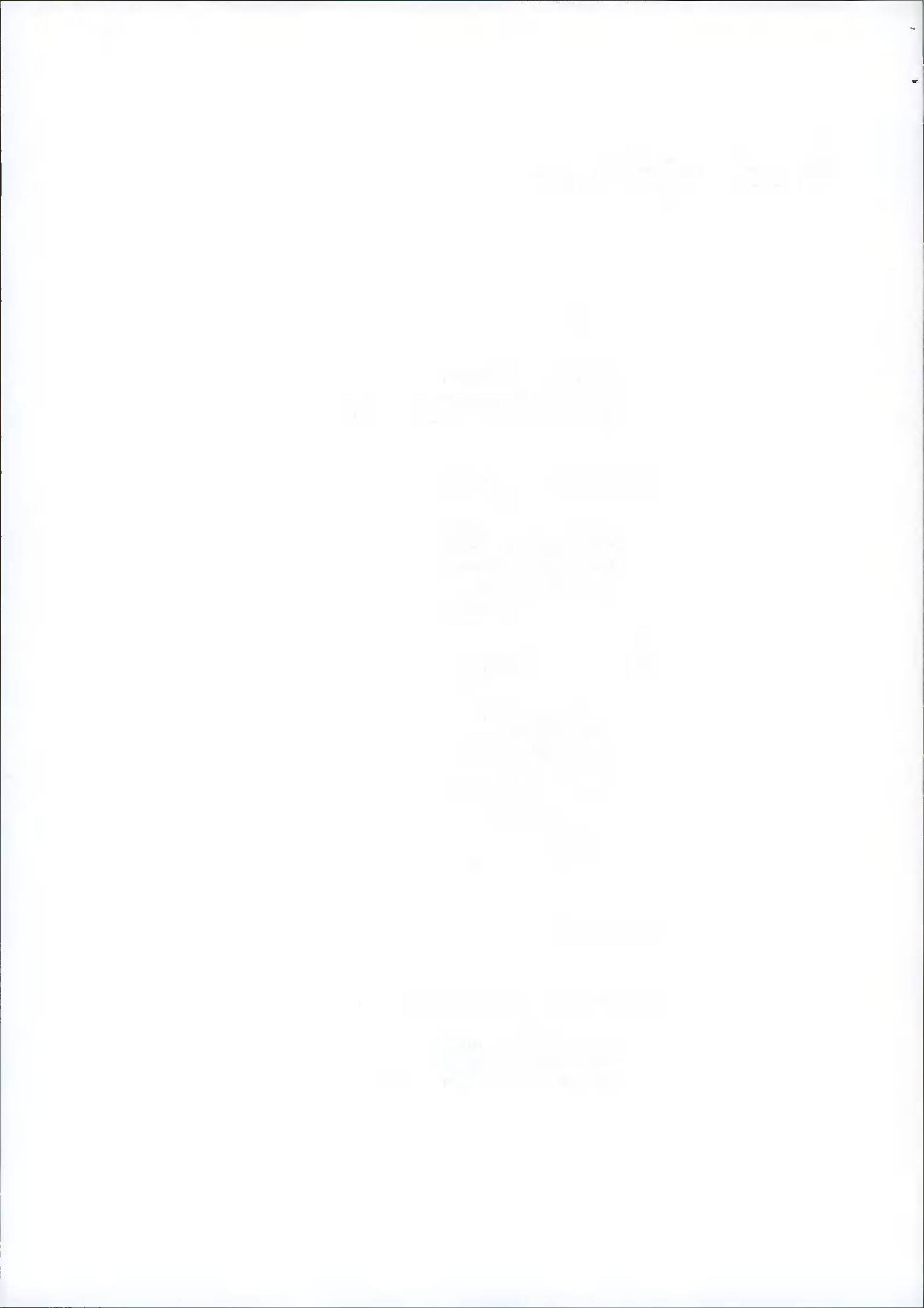
**ABBREVIATIONS USED**

DoACG	Dept. of Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht
SDCC	South Dublin County Council
NMI	National Museum of Ireland
NMS	National Monuments Service
OS	Ordnance Survey
RMP	Record of Monuments and Places
NIAH	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
LAP	Local Area Plan



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# Section 1 Introduction

## Report summary

This is an archaeological assessment of a proposed development of eight houses in the grounds of Palmyra House, Whitechurch, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16. The assessment sets out the archaeological, historical, cartographical and industrial heritage background to the Study Area. Four aspects of heritage are emphasised:

- Whitechurch church and graveyard (Recorded Monument DU022-030-- & Protected Structure 334), dating from the early medieval period, and containing a Rathdown Slab which makes it a significant early (pre-10th Century AD) ecclesiastic site.
- La Touche's family burial ground, dating to c. 1808 and predating Palmyra House.
- Mid-19th century Palmyra House and grounds.
- Mills and millraces in the east of the Study Area, including medieval and 19th century mills.

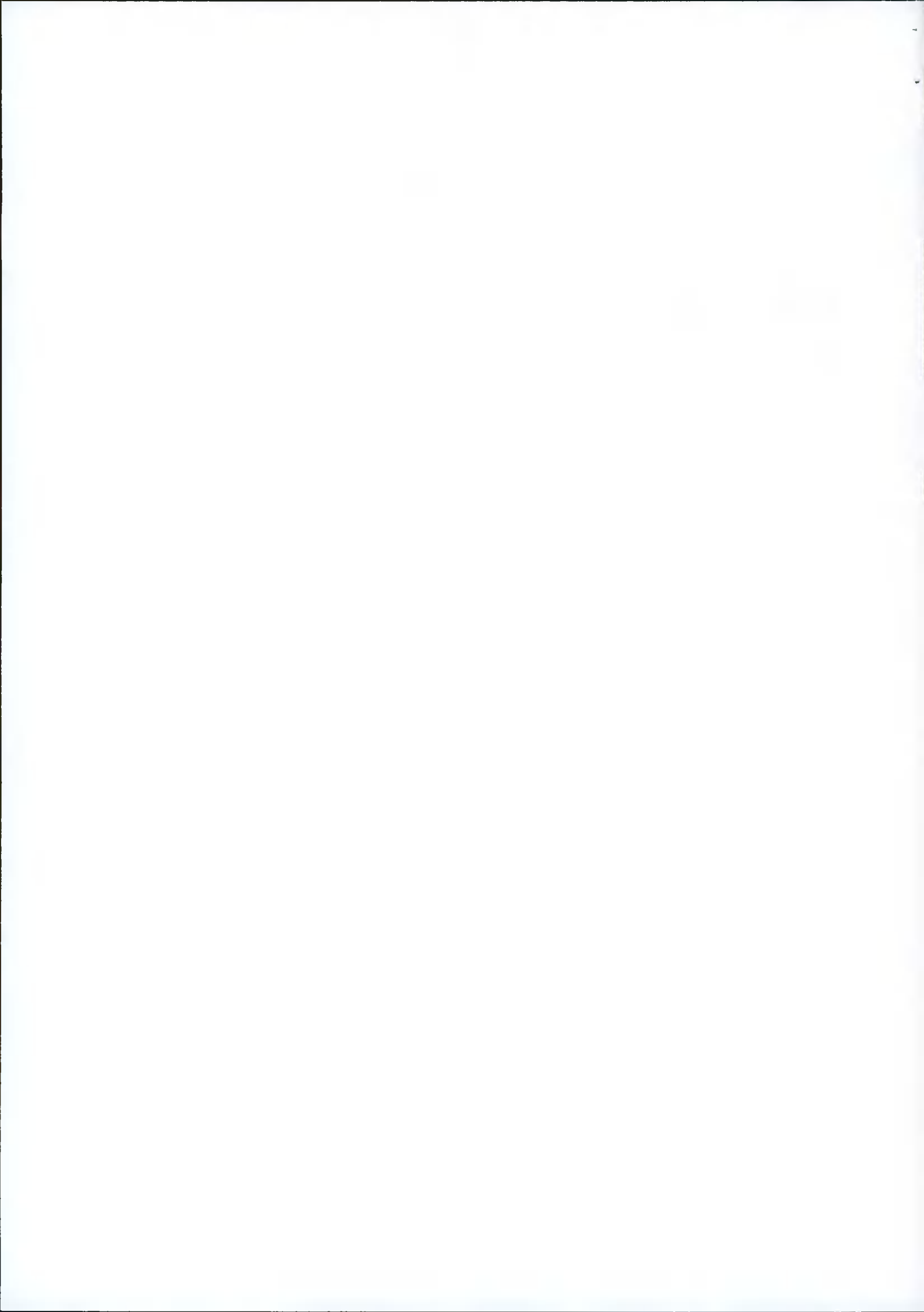
The assessment considers the archaeological impact of the proposed development on these aspects of heritage, as well as on other archaeological remains. Visual impact on the church and graveyard, and the rectangular burial ground, is considered to be minimal and the report recommends that boundary treatment and planting in the north of the proposed development is designed considerately. The developer intends to use the Grangebrook Avenue access for construction traffic to avoid accidentally

damaging the historic graveyard wall, which could happen if the small lane giving access to Palmyra House were used.

The main archaeological impact is in the northern portion of the proposed development, where proposed houses 1 and 2 and associated landscaping and bin storage may lie over subsurface archaeological remains of the ecclesiastic site extending beyond the boundary wall of the graveyard. Test-trenching or geophysical survey of this area is impractical because of trees and site access.

The report recommends that the northern garden area (which contains proposed houses 1 and 2) should be mechanically reduced to natural subsoil under archaeological supervision in advance of groundworks. This should take place after any trees due for removal are removed. Where archaeological material is found to be present closest to the church and graveyard, in the area of the proposed bins and parking, the archaeological features should be tested, recorded and then preserved in situ (which may involve raising the finished ground level here a small amount). Where archaeological material is found to be present under the proposed houses 1 and 2, the archaeology should be assessed, and then excavated unless very significant, in which case other options should be considered. Based on the results of the small archaeological programme above (2), the remainder of the proposed development should have archaeological monitoring of excavation groundworks.







## Study Area location

The Study Area comprises the house and grounds of Palmyra House, Whitechurch Road, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16. It is located to the east of Grangebrook Avenue and west of Whitechurch Road and Marlay Park. The Edmondstown golf club is located to the south with the M50 motorway beyond to the south and west. The Dublin Mountains rise to the south of the site, and Kilmashogue Mountain being directly to the south of the site. The Glin River, which once powered multiple local mills, forms the eastern boundary.

The Study Area is located in Whitechurch townland. The western boundary of the Study Area is also the boundary between Whitechurch and Edmondstown townlands. Both townlands lie within the parish of Whitechurch and the barony of Rathdown in South Dublin.

## Development proposals

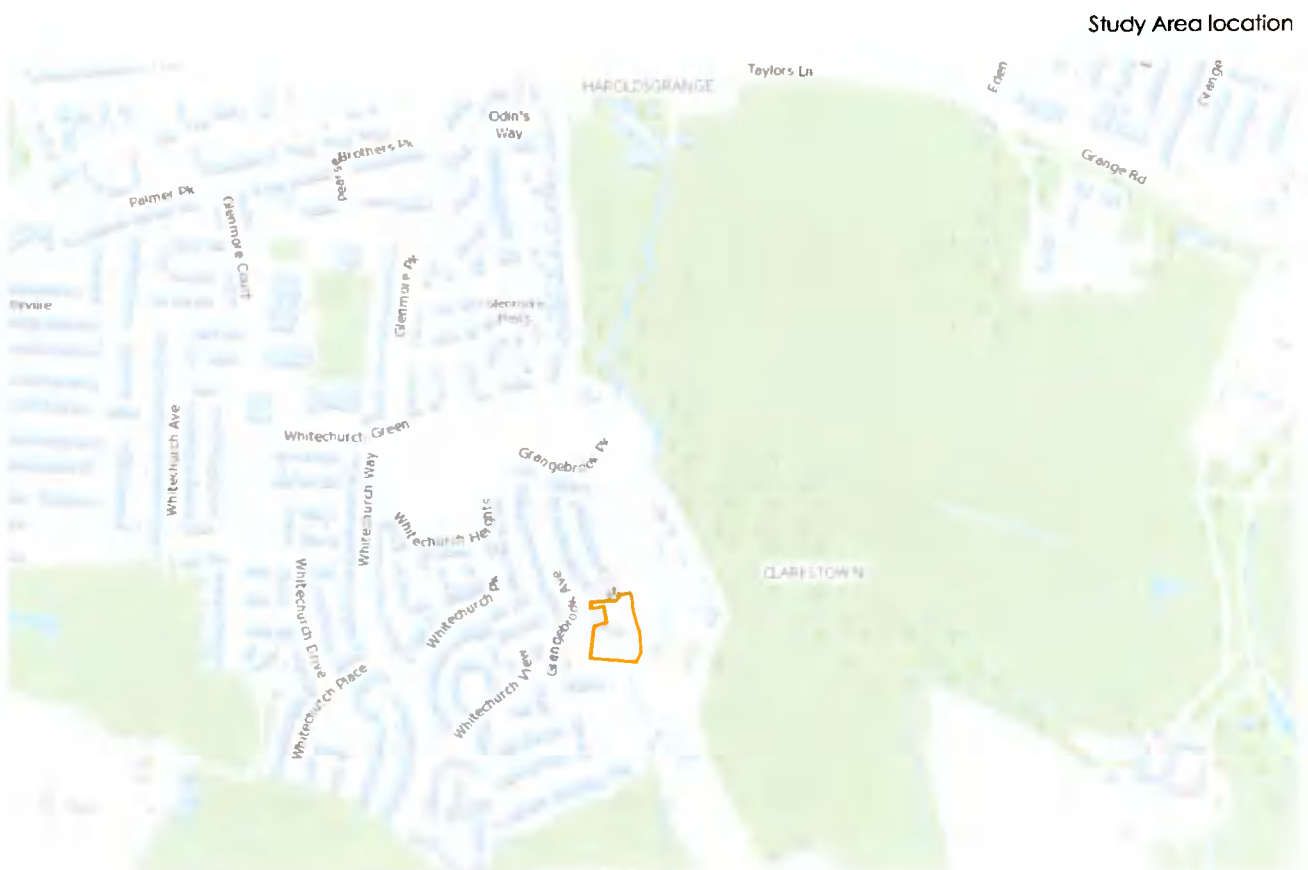
The proposed development site is situated in

the western portion of the Palmyra House Study Area. It extends over 0.22ha of garden bounded to the east by Grangebrook Avenue, to the north by two graveyards, and to the south by the rear of modern houses at 35-45 Grangebrook Avenue (centre-point coordinates 714475, 726375).

The proposed development involves the construction of eight houses fronting onto Grangebrook Avenue. The plans include rear gardens to the east of each house, and a new footpath along Grangebrook Avenue to the west.

## SDCC Development Plan

The South Dublin County Development Plan 2016-2022 deals with heritage, conservation and landscapes in Chapter 9. Whitechurch is located on the southern edge of Rathfarnham. The report acknowledges the formerly industrial nature of villages within the county, such as Rathfarnham, as well noting that many of the villages within the county were established on







Development site location, in west of Study Area

the sites of early ecclesiastic settlements and developed throughout the intervening centuries (SDCC 2016, 152).

Two overarching objectives are listed in the development plan:

HCL1 Objective 1 - To protect, conserve and enhance natural, built and cultural heritage features and restrict development that would have a significant negative impact on these assets.

HCL1 Objective 2 - To support the objectives and actions of the County Heritage Plan, including the preparation of a County Biodiversity Plan.

With regards to archaeology, the Development Plan lists five main objectives:

HCL2 Objective 1: To favour the preservation in-situ of all sites, monuments and features of significant historical or archaeological interest in accordance with the recommendations of the

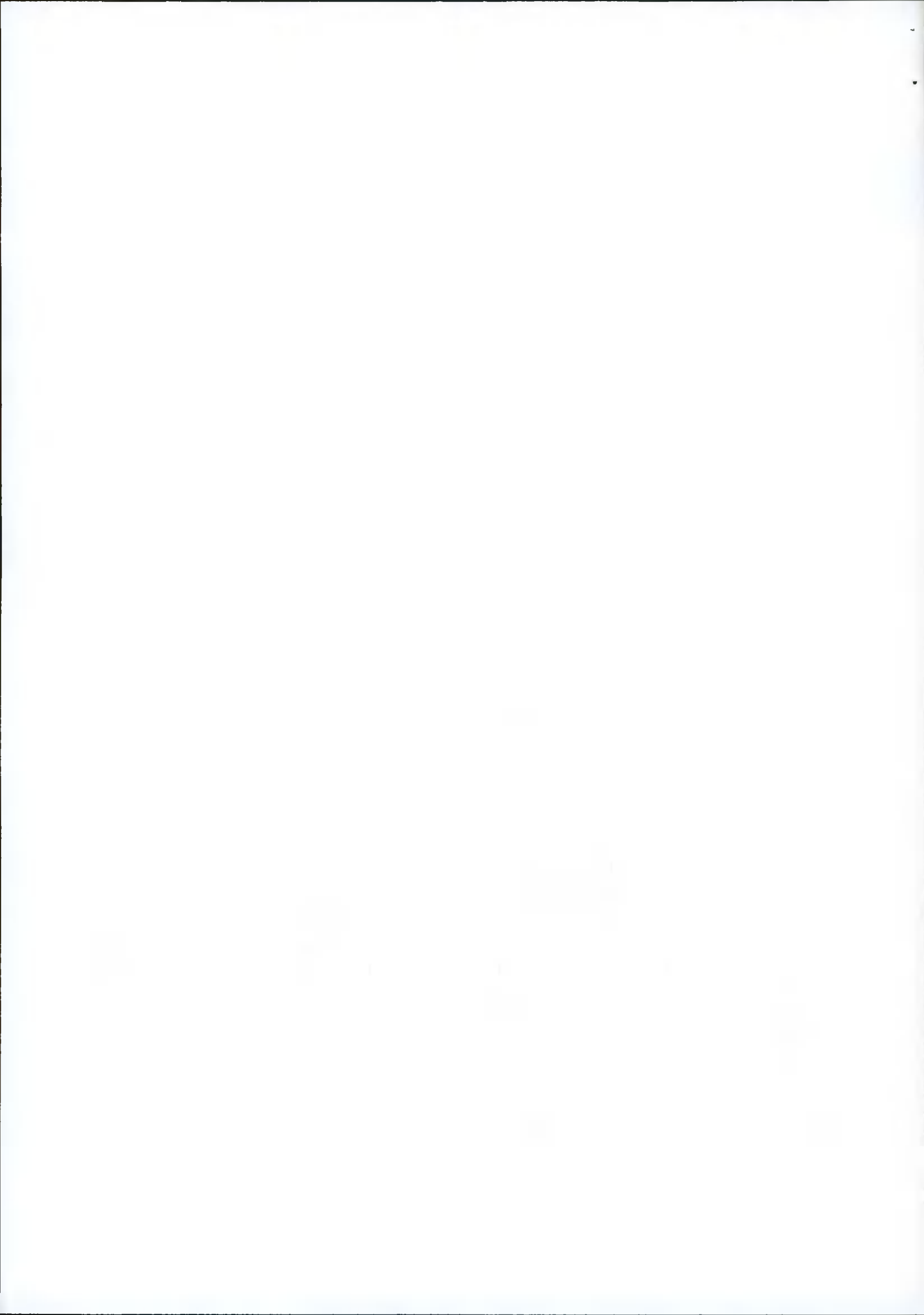
Framework and Principles for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage, DAHGI (1999), or any superseding national policy document.

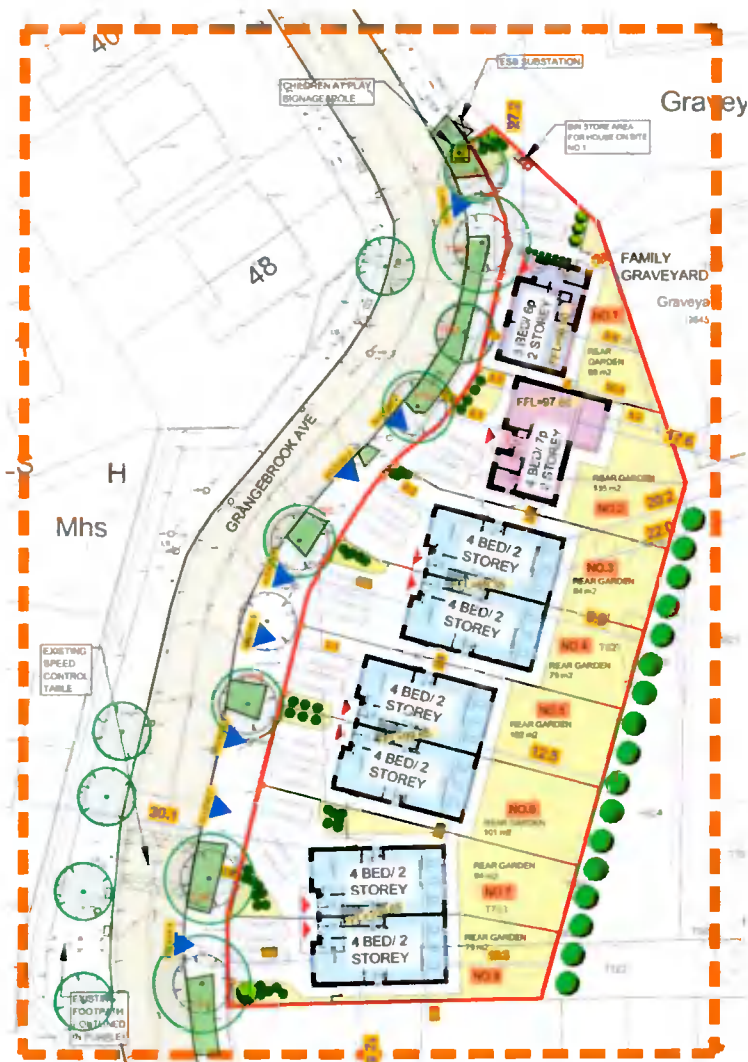
HCL2 Objective 2: To ensure that development is designed to avoid impacting on archaeological heritage that is of significant interest including previously unknown sites, features and objects.

HCL2 Objective 3: To protect and enhance sites listed in the Record of Monuments and Places and ensure that development in the vicinity of a Recorded Monument or Area of Archaeological Potential does not detract from the setting of the site, monument, feature or object and is sited and designed appropriately.

HCL2 Objective 4: To protect and preserve the archaeological value of underwater archaeological sites including associated features and any discovered battlefield sites of significant archaeological potential within the County.

HCL2 Objective 5: To protect historical burial





Development proposals (File D1194\_1-04\_8 HOUSES\_SITE LAYOUT 250\_29.07.2020)

grounds within South Dublin County and encourage their maintenance in accordance with conservation principles.

The Development Plan lists provisions and objectives in relation to Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas.

The Development Plan also recognises that built heritage is not confined to buildings, features and items listed as Protected Structures or located within Architectural Conservation Areas. Modest rural, urban and suburban houses and groups of houses that date from the late 19th century and early to mid-20th century can contribute to the historic character and visual setting of a place. Such structures can also have a distinctive planned layout, architectural detailing or collective interest that

contributes to architectural interest, historic character and visual amenity throughout the County.

The existing dwelling within the proposed development site, known as Palmyra, was constructed in the early 19th century and is likely to fall into this category. The Development Plan lists the following objectives in relation to older buildings, estates and streetscapes:

HCL5 Objective 1: To retain existing houses that, while not listed as Protected Structures, are considered to contribute to historic character, local character, visual setting, rural amenity or streetscape value within the County.

HCL5 Objective 2: To ensure that the redevelopment of older buildings, including extensions and renovation works do not compromise or erode the architectural interest, character or visual setting of such buildings including surrounding housing estates or streetscapes.

HCL5 Objective 3: To encourage the retention, rehabilitation, renovation and re-use of older buildings and their original features where such buildings and features contribute to the visual setting, collective interest or character of the surrounding area.

HCL5 Objective 4: To ensure that infill development is sympathetic to the architectural interest, character and visual amenity of the area.

### Zoning

The map accompanying Development Plan shows that the Study Area lies within an area zoned for residential use with an objective of protecting and improving the residential amenity.

### Local Area Plans

There is currently no Local Area Plan covering Whitechurch.





## Section 2 Archaeological Background

### Recorded Monuments

The Archaeological Constraint Maps, in conjunction with the County Record of Monuments and Places, provide an initial database for Planning Authorities, State Agencies and other bodies involved in environmental change.

The Record of Monuments and Places comprise the following elements: (i) Letters indicating County (DU= Dublin); (ii) A three digit number indicating the relevant Ordnance Survey Sheet Number (e.g. 022); (iii) A three, four or five digit number indicating the dedicated number of the individual site or monument. The information contained below was derived from the on-line records of the RMP ([www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)). Supplementary published sources were also used where possible.

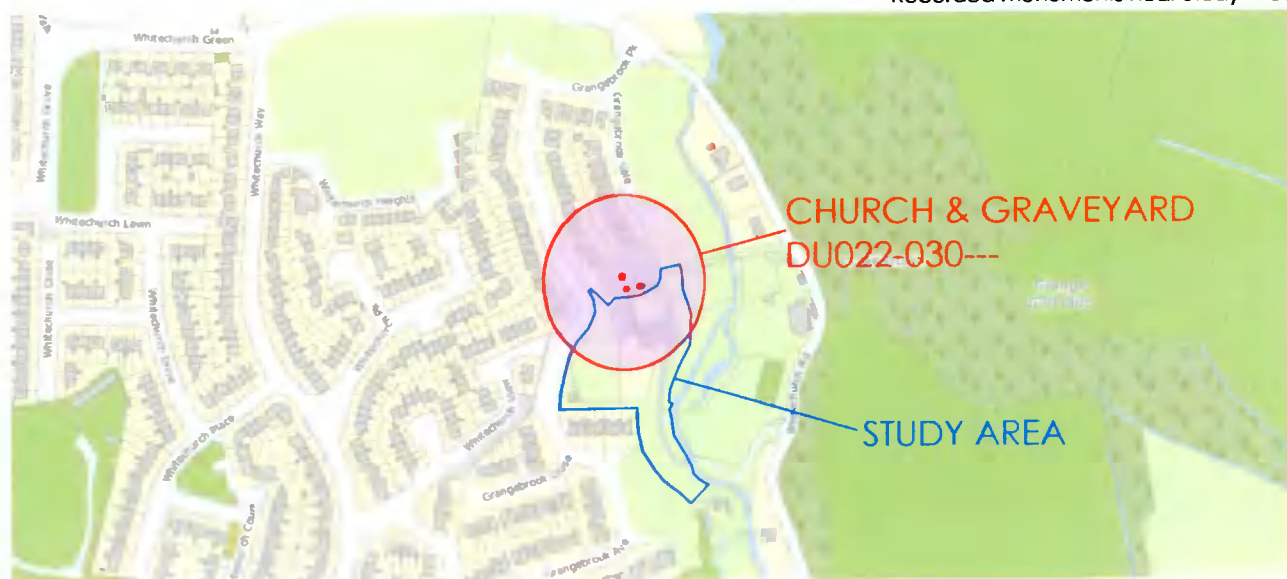
No Recorded Monuments lie within the Study Area. However, a cluster of Recorded Monuments relating to the surviving elements of the church of Whitechurch is located immediately to the north of the Study Area, which en-

croaches on the constraint zone relating to these monuments.

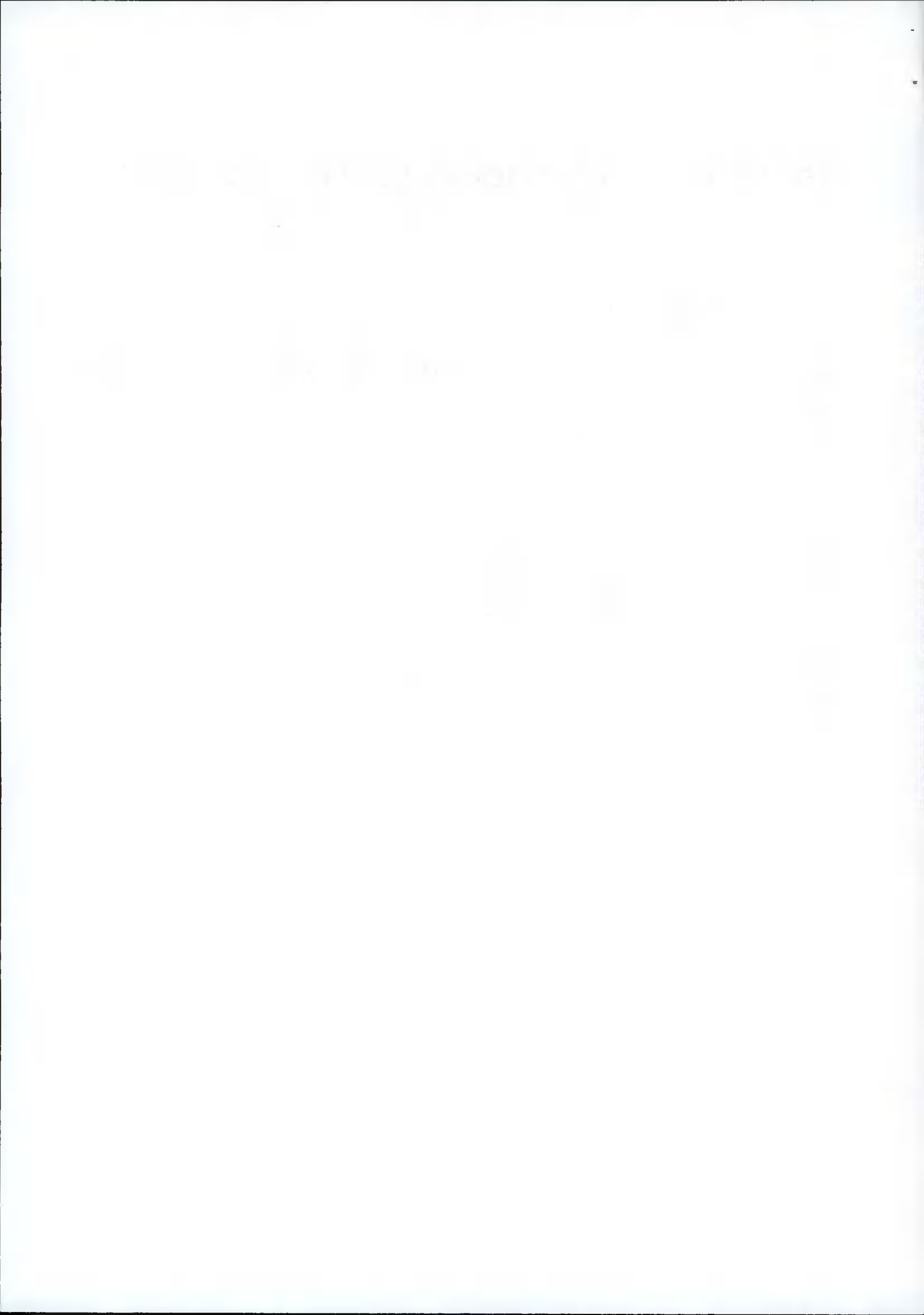
#### *DU022-030— Whitechurch church & g-yard*

The sub-circular walled graveyard is situated on a prominent rise in the surrounding countryside. The graveyard has a straight side to the northwest with the remainder of the boundary curving. The church is located in the northwest corner of the graveyard. It was confirmed to the Abbey of St Mary's in the early 13th century under the name of Killhunsin or the white church (Ball 1905, 64; O Conbhui 1963, 55, 64). It is shown on the Down Survey (1655-6) map. The RMP file for the church states that it: 'comprises a nave and a narrower chancel (nave, int. dims. L 9m, Wth 4.85m; chancel, int. dims. L 6.7m, Wth 3.9m). Built of randomly coursed granite masonry with gables that stand to full height. Entered through a round-arched doorway with chamfered jambs, in the W end of the N wall of the nave. The interior of the nave has two narrow slit opes and opens onto the chancel through a pointed segmental arch. There is a large plain rectangular opening in the E gable'.

Recorded Monuments near Study Area







#### Recorded Monuments in and around Study Area

RMP No.	Type	Location	Distance
DU022-03001	church	Whitechurch	0m N
DU022-03002	graveyard	Whitechurch	0m N
DU022-03003	grave slab	Whitechurch	0m N
DU022-03004	cross slab	Whitechurch	0m N
DU022-03005	font	Whitechurch	0m N
DU022-031	cross	Kilmashogue	600m SSE
DU022-029	flat cemetery	Edmondstown	870m SW

Two early medieval carved stones survived at the church and are now attached to the exterior of the chancel. One is a grave-slab of regular shape with two deeply incised diagonal lines running from corner to corner with a cup-mark at their intersection (Ó hÉailidhe & Prendergast, 1977, 139-140, Swords, K. ed. 2009, 87). The second is a tapered granite stone inscribed with a Greek cross in a circle in the upper portion, from which the shaft of a Latin cross with bosses under the arms descends to the bottom of the stone (Ó hÉailidhe 1982, 139-40, Fig. 53a; Turner 1983, 62-64; Swords, K ed.2009, 72-73).

#### *DU022-031 Kilmashogue cross*

A roadside boulder known as 'the wartstone' is located to the south of the Study Area along the west side of the Whitechurch Road. It has a rectangular mortice in the south end of its upper surface. A small inscribed cross with expanded terminals and the letters 'IL' are also carved into the upper surface of the stone (Turner 1983, 14; O h Ealidhe & Prendergast 1977, Fig. 29, 141-2).

#### *DU022-029 Edmondstown flat cemetery*

An Early Bronze Age flat cemetery, in use some

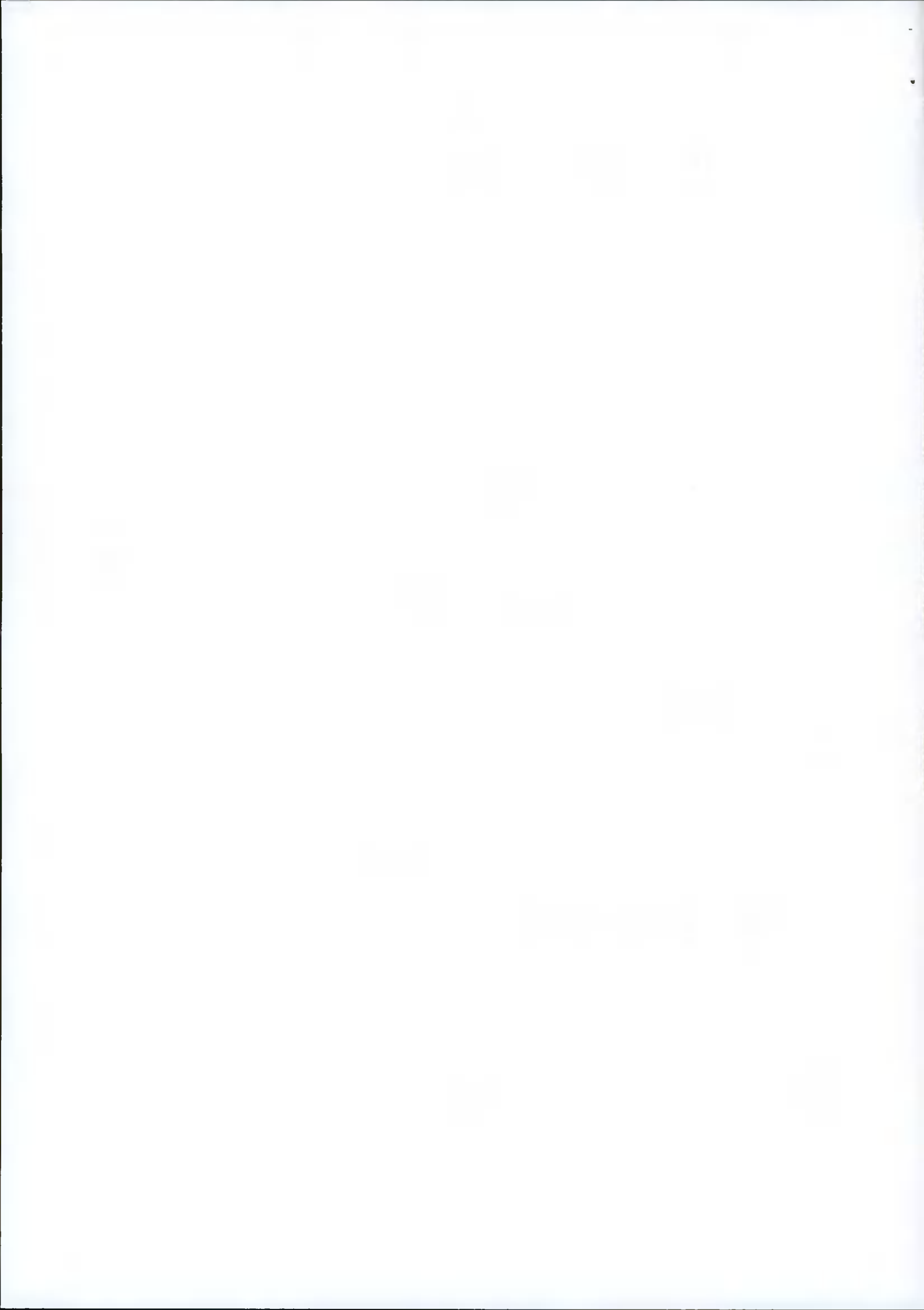
time between 2400 B.C. and 1500 B.C., was identified in the early 1950s and excavated by P.J. Hartnett at the southern end of the Edmondstown Golf Course. It consisted of four rectangular cists forming the nucleus of an additional nineteen burial pits, some containing a number of cremated deposits (Waddell 1998, 156-7). These contained at least 27 individuals, one of whom may have been trepanned (Mount et al. 1993, 21). Thirteen of the graves contained pottery and three contained bone and/or flint artefacts (ibid). Up to twenty complete or partially complete vessels were represented, including three bowl food vessels, three sets of food vessel sherds, four to five vase urns, three encrusted urns, two collared urns, one plain coarse and one missing urn, two pygmy cups, a possible Neolithic sherd, three disc beads, a bone pin and tube, one flint knife, six flint scrapers, three other flints and some quartz (ibid).

#### Topographical Files

The Topographical Files of the National Museum provide information on finds and sites reported to the National Museum including

#### Topographic Files in and around Study Area

Topo. No.	Description	Distance	Find spot
1988:142	Neolithic flint scraper	230m NW	Garden
1951:7-44	Various: flat cemetery excavation	870m SW	Excavation
IA/5/1996	Stone axehead	910m SSW	Surface find near the mouth of a drain
IA/129/1996	Flint scraper and core	1160m NNW	Record not present
1934:464	Bronze quoit or large ring	1400m SE	Garden
IA/131/80	Barbed and tanged arrowhead	1890m NE	Garden
1956:451-7	Wedge tomb excavation	2050m SSE	Excavation



## Archaeological excavations in and around Study Area

Licence	Excav. Ref.	Location	Findings	Distance	Excavator
02E1313	2002:611	Kilmashogue	N/a	600m SSE	A. Carey
18E0481	2018:266	Haroldsgrange	Designed landscape	830m ENE	F. Coyne
01E0149	2001:420	Edmondstown	Vicinity of flat cemetery	870m SW E.	O'Donovan
16E0001	2016:212	Ballyboden	n/a	1150m NW	J. Hession
15E0512	2015-6:267	Ballyboden	N/a	1260m W	P. Duffy
05E1178	2005:541	Taylor's Grange	Prehistoric	1380m SE	C. McCarthy
99E0344	2000:332	Newtown	burnt mound	1390m SW	M. Reid
04E397	2004:636	Taylor's Grange	Charcoal-filled pits	1400m SE	C. Walsh
98E206	2000:314	Taylor's Grange	Prehistoric pit	1410m SE	M. Clinton
10E429	2010:300	Taylor's Grange	Prehistoric & post-medieval	1460m SE	C. McCarthy
E000287	—	Taylor's Grange	Brehon's Chair portal dolmen	1480m SE	V.J. Keeley
96E091	1996:143	Taylor's Grange	Testing beside dolmen	1550m SE	T. Coughlan
98E078	1998:223	Taylor's Grange	N/a	1610m SE	C. Gracie
08E939	2010:236	Ballinteer	N/a	1640m E	D. Leahy
15E0516	2015:350	Scholarstown Rd.	N/a	1770m W	A. O'Sullivan
04E0940	2004:0632	Ballycullen	prehistoric activity	1910m W	G. Dehaene
03E1933	2004:465	Ballinteer	N/a	1900m E	K. Lohan

their find location. None of the files relate to the Study Area, however a number are recorded within 1.5km. In addition to these a barbed and tanged arrowhead of Bronze Age date and a wedge tomb excavation are recorded approximately 2km from the site.

The finds recorded and excavations recorded in the topographical files in the vicinity of the Study Area are indicative of the importance of the South Dublin region in the prehistoric period, particularly in the Bronze Age.

The NMI File 1951:7-44 concerns Hartnett's excavation of the flat cemetery at Edmondstown, which is described above. The finds included urns, food vessels, pygmy cups, beads and flint artefacts along with cremated and inhumed bone.

The NMI File 1956:451-7 concerns a gallery grave (wedge tomb) excavated by Kilbride-Jones in 1951 which included within its cairn two later cists with food vessels, and a third cist with a funerary urn, an animal bone assemblage from the general area, and a 'fireplace' (Kilbride-Jones PRIA 56C (1954), 461-479). In 1991 a fragment of yew charcoal from this excavation was radiocarbon dated (OXA3230) to 1975+/- 80 BP (i.e. Iron Age 100 BC to 50 AD).

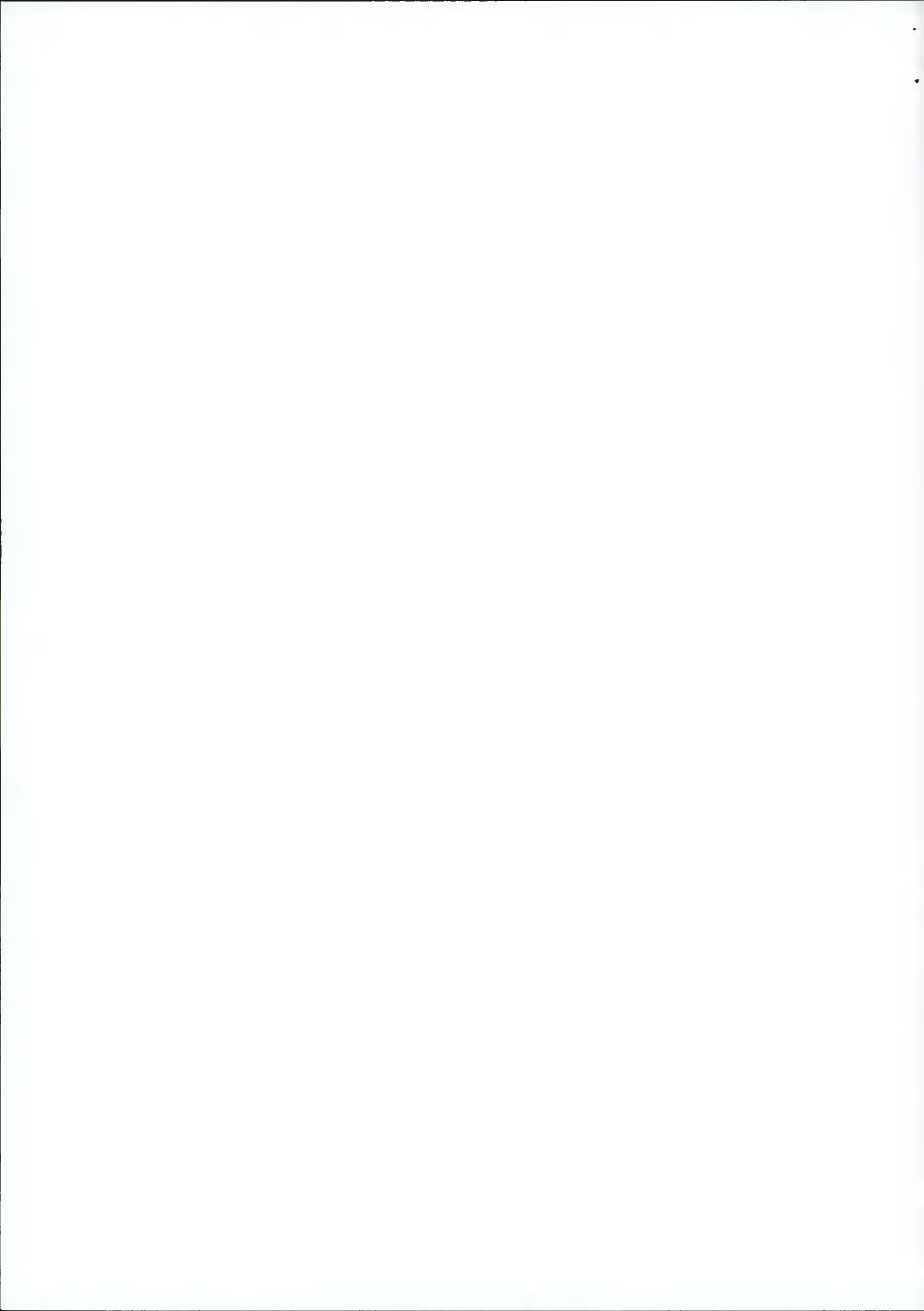
## Previous excavations

Summaries of all licensed archaeological investigations in the Republic of Ireland were published in the annual Excavations Bulletin edited by Isabel Bennett until 2010. This record has now been digitised and is available on-line at [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie). No archaeological investigations have taken place within the Study Area. No excavations are recorded within the townland of Whitechurch, though a number have been carried out within a 2km radius of the site.

The excavations of the wedge tomb in Kilmashogue and the flat cemetery in Edmondstown recorded in the Topographical Files above took place prior to the creation of the excavations bulletins.

In addition to these, an archaeological assessment of the Marley Park depot tower was carried out in 2010 by Antoine Giacometti. A programme of unlicensed monitoring was carried out by Giacometti beside Marlay House in 2016, which identified a number of features associated with the historic house.

Seven of the nearby investigations identified no archaeology, however nine identified, or were in the immediate vicinity of, prehistoric activity. Post-medieval features were identified within the bounds of Marlay Park to the east of the site.



## Industrial Heritage

A number of industrial heritage features are depicted in the vicinity of the Study Area on the various historic maps. To the south of the Study Area a mill complex is depicted on Taylor's map of 1816 labelled 'mills'. A second mill labelled 'Whitechurch Mill' is depicted to the north. Rocque's map of 1760 does not label mills in this vicinity. However, Rocque's map shows the river branching suggesting a millrace was present, and a cluster of buildings depicted to the north where Whitechurch Mill is later depicted may represent the 18th century mill.

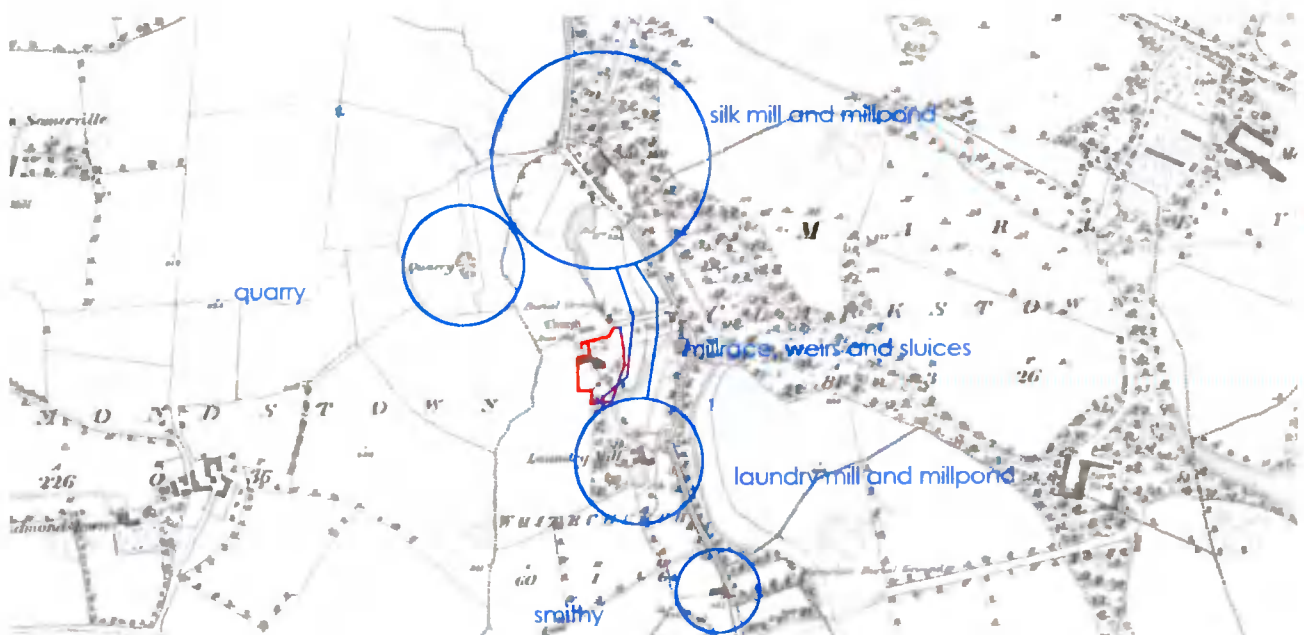
The First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map depicts this in greater detail with the complex to the south now labelled 'Laundry Mill'. A small millpond is depicted to the south of the mill. To the north of the mill a millrace is depicted branching off the Glin River and running along the eastern side of the Study Area and the graveyard to the north to feed a large millpond to the north. This millpond served a second mill labelled 'Silk Mill', which was located on the eastern side of the Whitechurch Road. The ori-

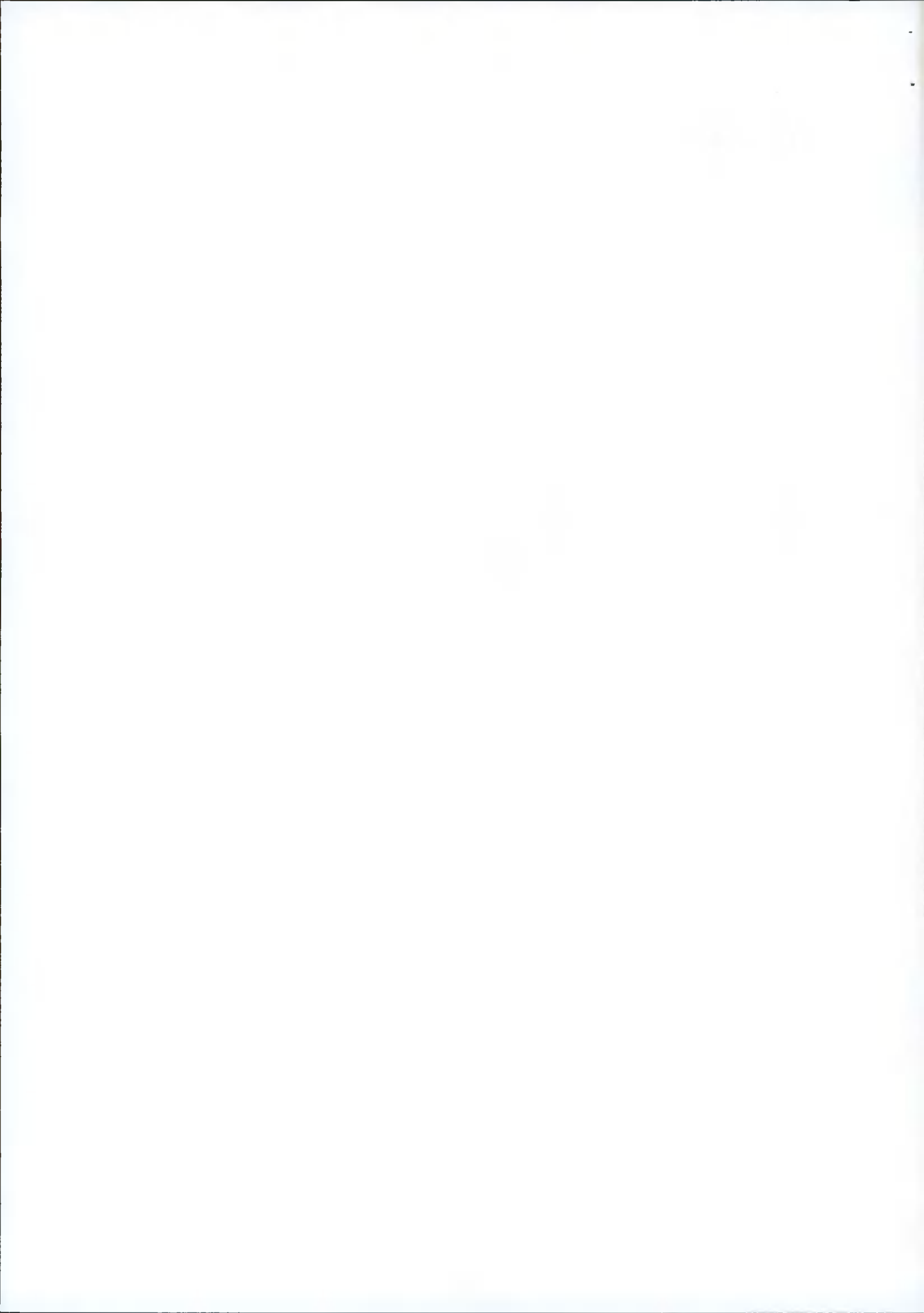
ginal course of the river ran to the east of the mill. Two bridges are depicted on the laneway accessing the Study Area and the graveyard, which cross the river and the millrace feeding the millpond to the north. A further two bridges are depicted where the Whitechurch Road crosses the millrace and river to the north. Two weirs are also labelled.

The Third Edition OS map shows that some changes had taken place. The mill to the south, now simply labelled 'Laundry' is still present, with a number of sluices, weirs and footbridges depicted. The mill to the north with its associated millrace and millpond is no longer depicted, though a weir and footbridge are labelled to the east of the Study Area. Two buildings depicted to the north may be part of the earlier mill complex.

By the Fourth Edition OS map the laundry mill to the south has also disappeared, with only the outline of the building depicted. A number of weirs, sluices and footbridges are still depicted along with a millrace to the south of the former mill.

Industrial heritage in the vicinity of the Study Area







National Inventory of Architectural Heritage in and around Study Area

NIAH Reg. No.	Name	Category	Date	Distance
11216027	Whitechurch Church	Graveyard/cemetery	1700-1740	10m N
11216025	Whitechurch Lodge	Country house	1800-1840	90m E
11216096-11216117	Row of 22 semi-d. houses	Houses	1900-1910	306-592m N
11216026	Moravian Cemetery	Graveyard/cemetery	1740-1760	370m SSE

The site inspection identified the remains of a former millrace along the straightened course of the Glin River directly west of the Study Area. Collapsed post-medieval masonry was present within the millrace at the western edge of the Study Area. This will not be impacted upon by the proposed development.

Other features of industrial interest in the vicinity are also depicted on maps. A smithy and post office are labelled to the south opposite the Moravian burial ground. This building is also depicted on the First Edition OS and on Duncan's map, however it was not labelled. The building is not depicted on Taylor's map of 1816, however a building is depicted in the same position on Rocque's map of 1760. It is possible the building was missed on Taylor's map and that the building in which the post office and smithy are located in the early 20th century is at least 18th century in date.

A quarry is also depicted to the northwest of the Study Area in the vicinity of a house named 'Edmonstown' on Taylor's map in 1816.

## Architectural heritage

The South Dublin County Development Plan 2016-2022 lists a number of Protected Structures in the vicinity of the Study Area.

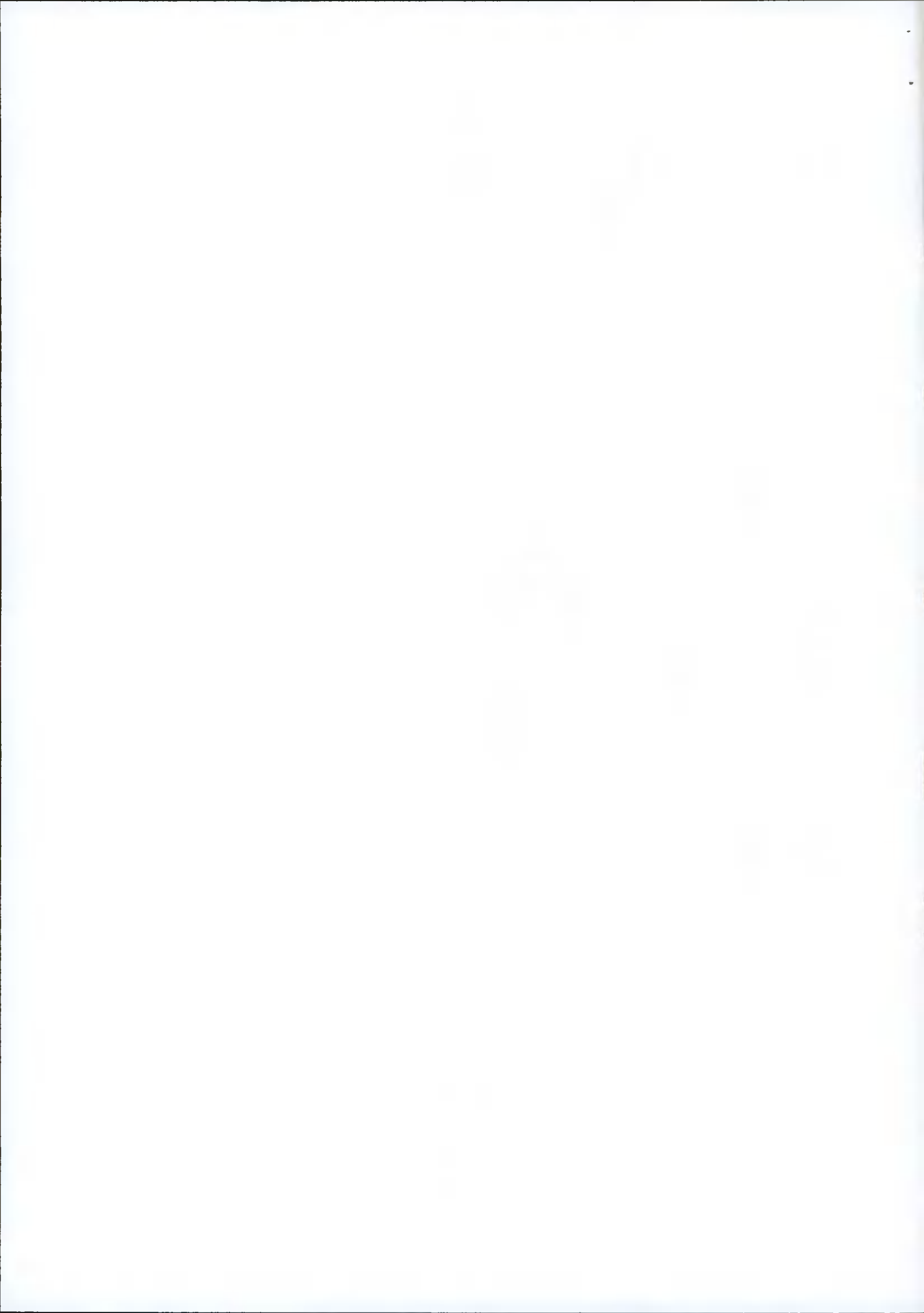
The row of semi-detached cottages on Whitechurch Road and Taylor's Lane, Rathfarnham, located to the north of the Study Area, is listed as an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA).

A number of features are listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) within 500m of the Study Area. None of these are located within the Study Area, however Whitechurch church and graveyard to the north and Whitechurch Lodge to the east are inter-visible with the Study Area. The house within the Study Area, Palmyra House, is not recorded by the NIAH.

A small housing development is currently under construction between the Study Area and Whitechurch Lodge.

Record of Protected Structures in and around Study Area

RPS	Name	Details of protection
296	Grange Golf Club	Entrance pillars and iron arch over with lettering
334	Whitechurch	Ecclesiastic remains, church (ruin), graveyard, font, graveslab(s), cross fragment, bullaun
338	Whitechurch Lodge, Whitechurch Rd.	Two-storey Georgian style house
345	Moravian Cemetery, Whitechurch	Moravian cemetery, entrance gateway with cast iron gates.
352	Whitechurch	Cross base fragment opposite Whitechurch new church
354	Whitechurch Col church, Whitechurch	Stone church, school, graveyard and gateway



## Section 3 History and Cartography

### Placename analysis

The Study Area is located in Whitechurch townland and parish, both of which derive from the ecclesiastic site to the north of the Study Area. This is likely to be descriptive of the church itself, which may have been whitewashed. An alternative name for the church was Kilhunsin or Cill Fhuinnsean - the Church of the Ash, which was recorded in the charter of St Mary's Abbey in the early 13th century ([www.loughgainm.ie](http://www.loughgainm.ie)). In Strongbow's charter of 1174 Whitechurch was called Lessnahuinsenn or Fort of the ash, perhaps referring to an enclosure associated with the church (Corlett 1999, 145). This may also relate to the later name of Whitechurch, with the 'white' referring to the pale colour of ash wood. Whitechurch has been variously known as Alba, with Ecclesia Alba appearing in the charter of St Mary's Abbey and in the Crede Mihi in the early 13th century, and later in a list of churches in the Dublin Diocese

in 1536. Alba refers to Scotland, possibly indicating a Scottish connection with the church. It was also referred to as Balgeeth (Baile na Gaoithe, meaning windy town) in Archbishop Alen's register in the 14th century.

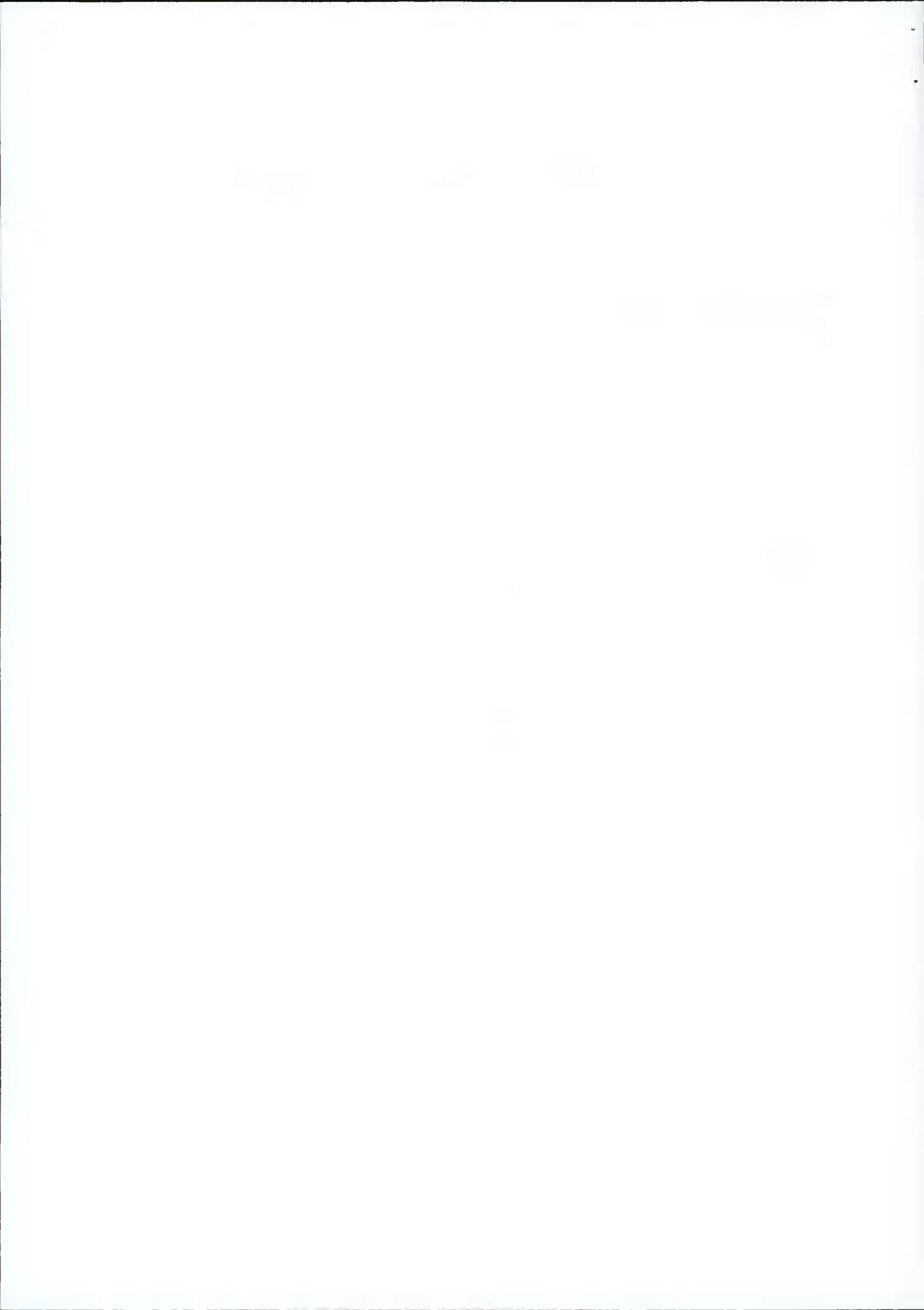
Kilmashogue - Church of Mochióg

Taylor's Grange - The grange or farm of the Taylors. This owes its origin to the Taylor family who lived in the area from the mid-1700s (Shepard 1983, 1).

Edmondstown - also recorded as Edmonstone, Edmonds Town, Edmundstone and Edmondstone, and is probably named after Edmund, the son of Redmond Harold of Kilmashogue who was living in the district in 1582 (Shepard 1983, 3).

Clarkstown - derives from a family name and is recorded from the 18th century ([Down Survey county map. 1650s](http://www.lo-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)







Down Survey map of Newcastle Barony, 1650s

gainm.ie).

Rathdown - the half-barony of Rathdown translates as Rath an Dúin, or ringfort of the fort, which is somewhat unusual. Hogan suggests an alternative name as Rath Oinn or Rath Oind (perhaps fort of the pine or furze), with is referred to in the annals (Hogan 1910). The site of the fort and later castle was to the north of Greystones in Co. Wicklow. The original barony was split in 1606 when Wicklow County was created, with half the barony remaining in Dublin.

Haroldsgrange - Harold is a name believed to be of Danish origin, and an extract from a grant of James I shows the name Grange in the Marches, alias Harralds Grange. Another source states that the Harolds may have descended from the Saxons who came over to Ireland with the Anglo-Norman invaders (Shepard 1983, 1). An earlier name for the townland was Balivkech or Ballykeyth, a derivation of Balgeeth (Baile na Gaoithe, meaning windy town), recorded in a number of charters of St Mary's Abbey from the 12th to the 14th century (www.logainm.ie). This shows the townland was linked with

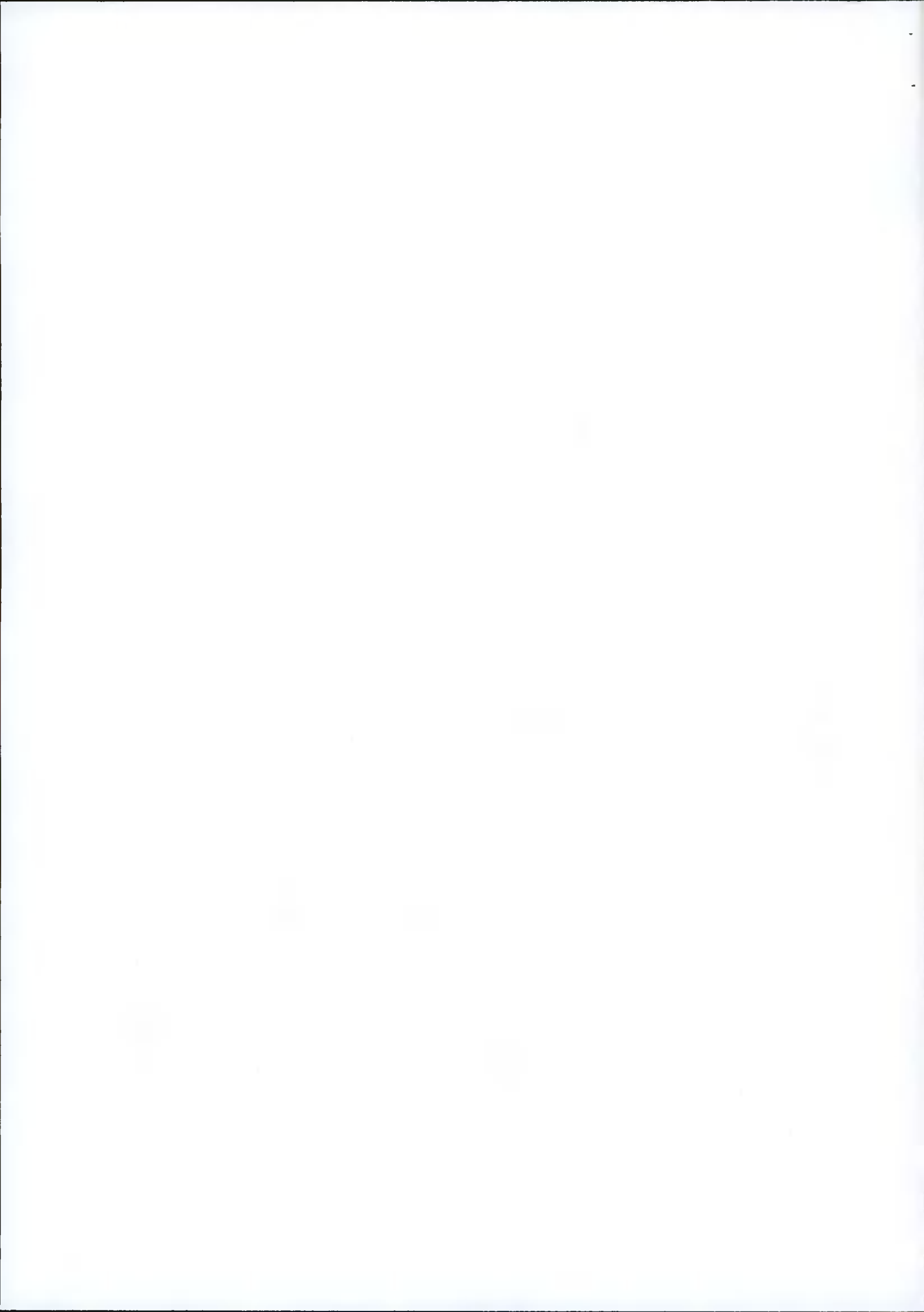
Whitechurch, which it borders.

Ballyboden - (Baile Ui Bhodain) O'Bodan's Town, which is also known as Ballybradon and Ballyboulton. This may derive from the surname Bolton, with Bolton Hall being a prominent residence there in the 19th century. The townland is referred to as being in the possession of St Mary's Abbey in the 13th century (www.logainm.ie).

### Prehistoric period

The archaeological background above demonstrated that the wider area (c. 2km radius) around the development site was occupied during prehistoric times. This includes evidence for Neolithic activity (portal tomb and stray lithic finds), Bronze Age activity (flat cemetery, wedge tomb, fulacht fiadh, stray finds), and Iron Age (the Ballycullen roundhouse and late insertion in the Kilmashogue wedge tomb). These illustrate significant activity in and around Whitechurch over some three millennia BC.

The hills adjacent to the Dublin Mountains to



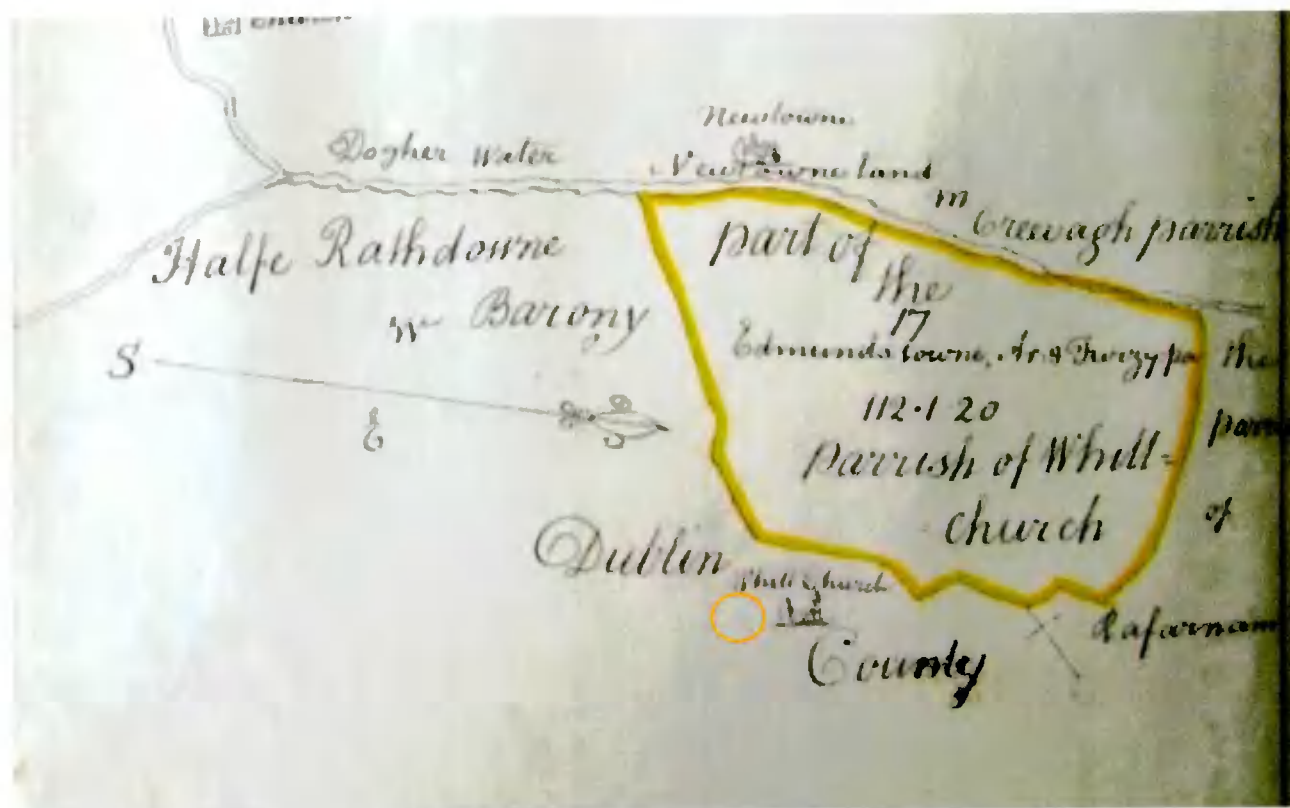


the south of the Study Area: Mountpellier, Tibbradden, Mount Venus, Larchill and Fairy Castle have long been known as the location of prehistoric monuments (Price 1940, 121-4). Many of these take the form of cairns such as those on Mountpellier, Seehaun, Tibbradden, and Fairy Castle mound on Two Rock Mountain. Although of indeterminate date, these mounds and cairns may have been constructed in the third or fourth millennium BC (Waddell 1998, 58) as burial and ritual monuments that articulated the beliefs of their builders relative to, and within, the surrounding landscapes. The monument on Mount Venus, while not covered by an earthen or stone mound, is also of probably prehistoric date, as it was commonly described as a 'dolmen', an antiquarian term used to denote what are now termed portal tombs. A cluster of these features lie across the hills of south County Dublin, including the Brehon's Chair, c. 1.5km to the southeast of the Study Area, and are thought to date from the fourth to second millennia BC (Waddell 1998, 88-90). Their prominent siting and the multiple uses and beliefs associated with them over time reflect their probable roles as 'something more (or

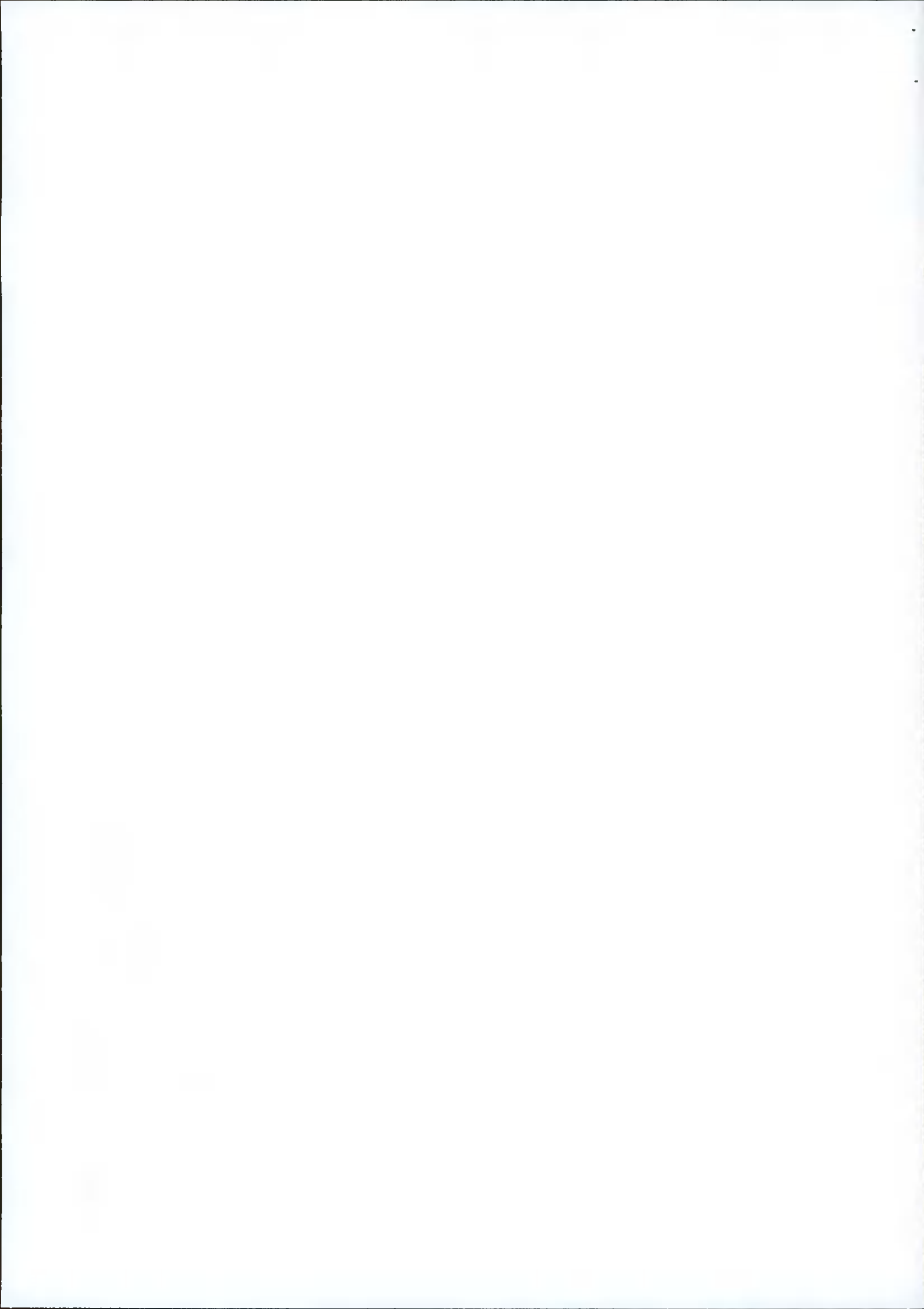
perhaps on occasion something other) than just burial places' (ibid, 99). They may have acted as social and ceremonial centres, as repositories for sacred ancestral bones, and as territorial markers.

While these monumental archaeological sites obviously form conspicuous landmarks within their localities, the prehistoric people of the Dublin Mountains and foothills also disposed of their dead in less visible ways. The flat cemetery uncovered in Edmondstown consisted of four rectangular cists forming the nucleus of nineteen burials, some containing a number of cremated deposits were uncovered (Waddell 1998, 156-7). The use of both stone-lined cists and simple cremation pits, with or without ceramic vessels within the same cemetery, and the presence of both inhumations and cremations shows that these three burial variations were being carried out by the same community, probably at the same time (McGlade 2018, 20). Other Early Bronze Age burials have been uncovered in the wider South Dublin region (Kilmashogue, Ticknock, Newtown Little, Woodside, Kilgobbin, Jamestown, Carmenhall,

Down Survey map of Whitechurch Parish in Newcastle Barony, 1650s









Down Survey map of Rathdown Barony, 1650s

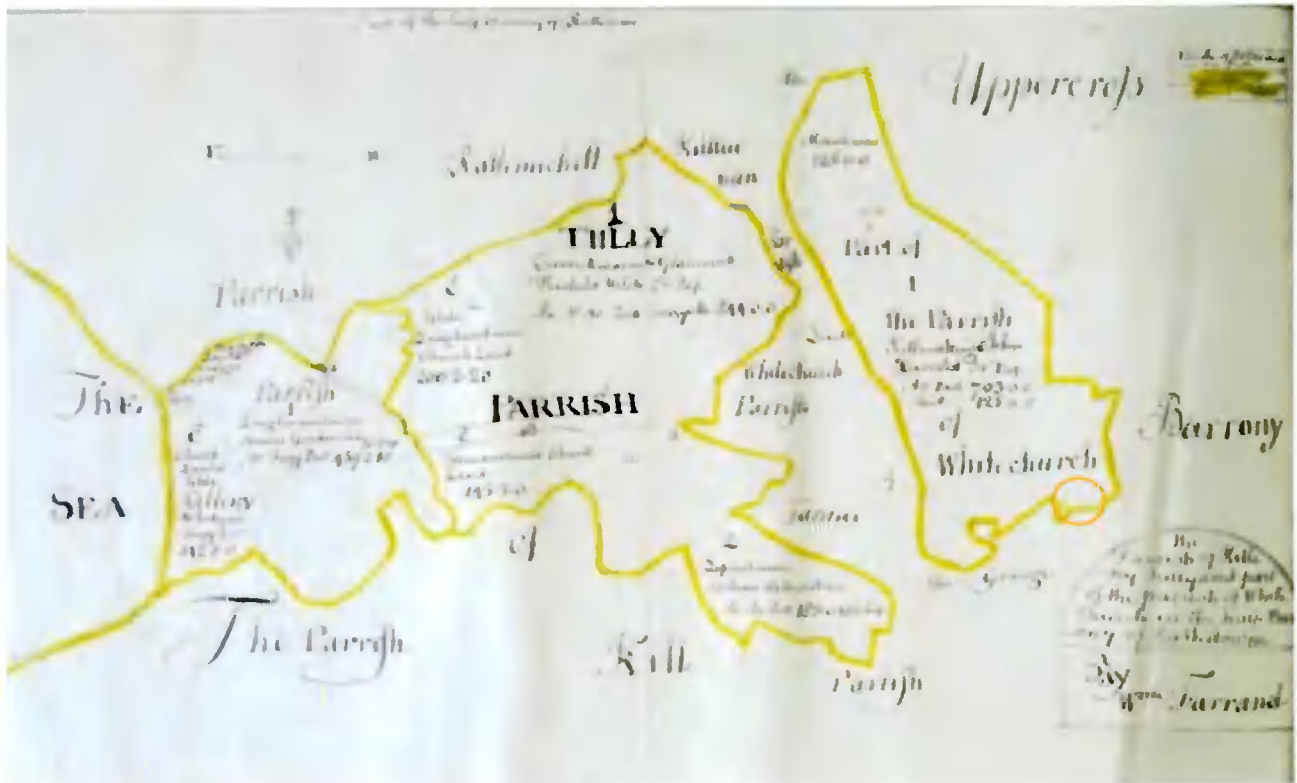
Stillorgan, Deansgrange, Laughanstown and Cherrywood) and demonstrate the variety of burial practices being used, as well as hinting at a well-populated landscape during this period.

Archaeological investigations in Ballycullen and Oldcourt townlands to the west of the Study Area have shed light not only on the way in which prehistoric people treated their dead, but also on their daily lives. A range of hearths, metalworking pits and kilns have been excavated locally (Gracie in excavs 1998:121; Larsson 2003; Giacometti 2016). Settlement evidence from the early Bronze Age has been uncovered along the lower slopes of the Dublin Mountains to the southwest in the vicinity of Kilgobbin, Newtown Little and Woodside (McGlade 2018, 12). To the west of the Study Area an Iron Age (c. 500 BC to c. 400 AD) habitation site that was situated on the crest of a low but marked ridge in Ballycullen townland (Larsson 2003). A high density cluster of archaeological features were interpreted as structural remains, drainage gullies, fire-pits, roughly-cobbled surfaces and other elements of a round house. The finds recovered from these features indicated the range of activities carried out by the occupants on the site. The existence of trading links with a wide

hinterland and across the Irish Sea are suggested by the recovery of slag associated with the possible melting-down of glass. Flint artefacts, such as an arrowhead and flint flakes and scrapers may have been used in hunting and in the processing of wood and animal by-products. Some of the pottery recovered suggests that the wider location of the round house may have undergone several episodes of use over several centuries, as fragments of Dublin-type medieval pottery were recovered from one area of investigations.

Other investigations carried out to the west of the Study Area in Ballycullen, Scholarstown and Oldcourt and to the southwest in Newtown, Kilgobbin and Jamestown yielded evidence of deposits of fire-cracked stone and charcoal-rich soil typical of prehistoric fulacht fiadh. These monuments are generally dated to the Bronze Age, and characteristically consist of a hearth, a mound or spread of fire-cracked stones and burnt material, and a trough. Hot stones would have been dropped into the water-filled troughs or other features to heat the water for cooking or other purposes. The features associated with fulachta fia are almost always built into or near streambeds or areas of water. The fulachta fia





**Down survey (refer maps on pages 10-14)**

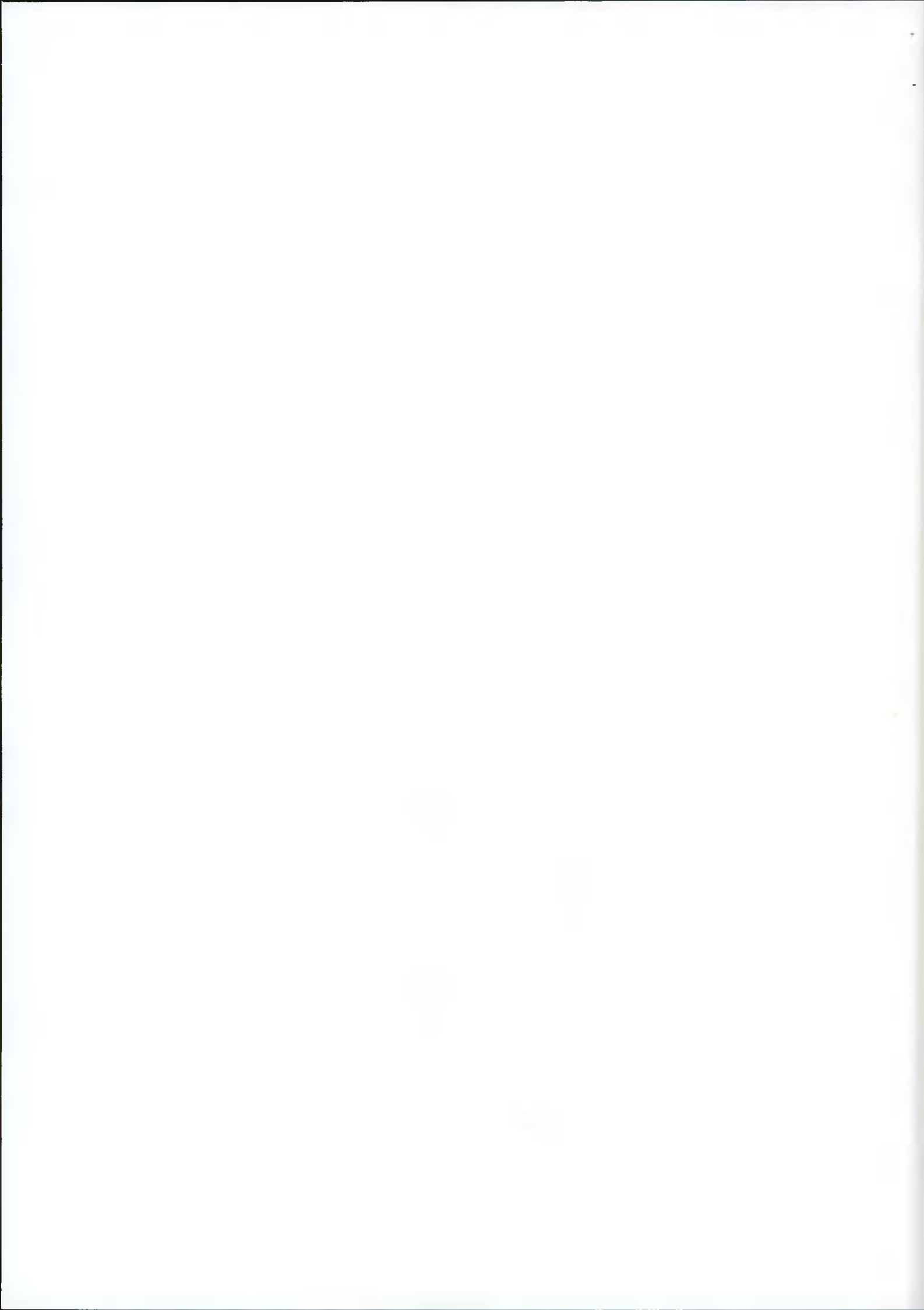
The earliest maps to show the site relate to the Down Survey, which was carried out around 1656. At this time the parish of Whitechurch was divided between two baronies, Rathdown to the east and Newcastle to the west. As such, the Study area is depicted on several maps. The overall county map shows the location of the church in Whitechurch, with the Study Area being located to the south of the church. This also suggests the Study Area lay within Newcastle Barony, however the barony maps show things differently.

The barony maps reveal that at this time Edmondstown lay within Newcastle barony. The church is depicted to the east of this in Rathdown barony, within the parcel of land labelled 'The Grange', relating to Haroldsgrange. As this was unforfeited land it was not depicted in detail. Another unlabelled building is depicted to the south in 'Kilmakeog', which may relate to a mill later depicted to the south of the Study Area on Rocque and Taylor's maps, but was not labelled.

The main point of interest indicated by the Down Survey is that the barony boundary was immediately to the west of the Study Area in the mid 17th century. There is no obvious landscape feature forming the barony boundary at this point. This was shifted to the west of Edmondstown by the time of the Ordnance Survey in the 1830s, at which point the Owendoher River formed the barony boundary.

In the Civil Survey, which accompanied the Down Survey and dates to 1654-1656 the parish of Whitechurch is divided between two baronies, Newcastle to the west and Rathdown to the east. The Study Area lies within the Rathdown portion of the parish. This portion of the parish contained 1020 acres and was split into two parcels of land, Haroldsgrange and Kilmakeog. Haroldsgrange was in the possession of Sir Adam Loftus of Rathfarnham and contained a thatched castle and a garden plot (Simington 1945, 272). The Study Area is likely to have fallen within this parcel of land. Kilmakeog (Kilmashogue) is listed as being in the possession of John Harrold, an Irish papist, who had a 'fee farm' from the Dean of Christ Church (ibid.). An old castle, recorded as being out of repair, along with a garden and an orchard are listed within the townland.

The remainder of the parish within Newcastle contained three parcels of land, Edmondstown, Great Newtown and Scholarstown. Great Newtown and Scholarstown are listed as being in the possession of Sir Adam Loftus, while Edmondstown was in the possession of Walsh of Ballawly, an Irish Papist (ibid., 303). Edmondstown is recorded as being forfeited and having no improvements (ibid., 292).





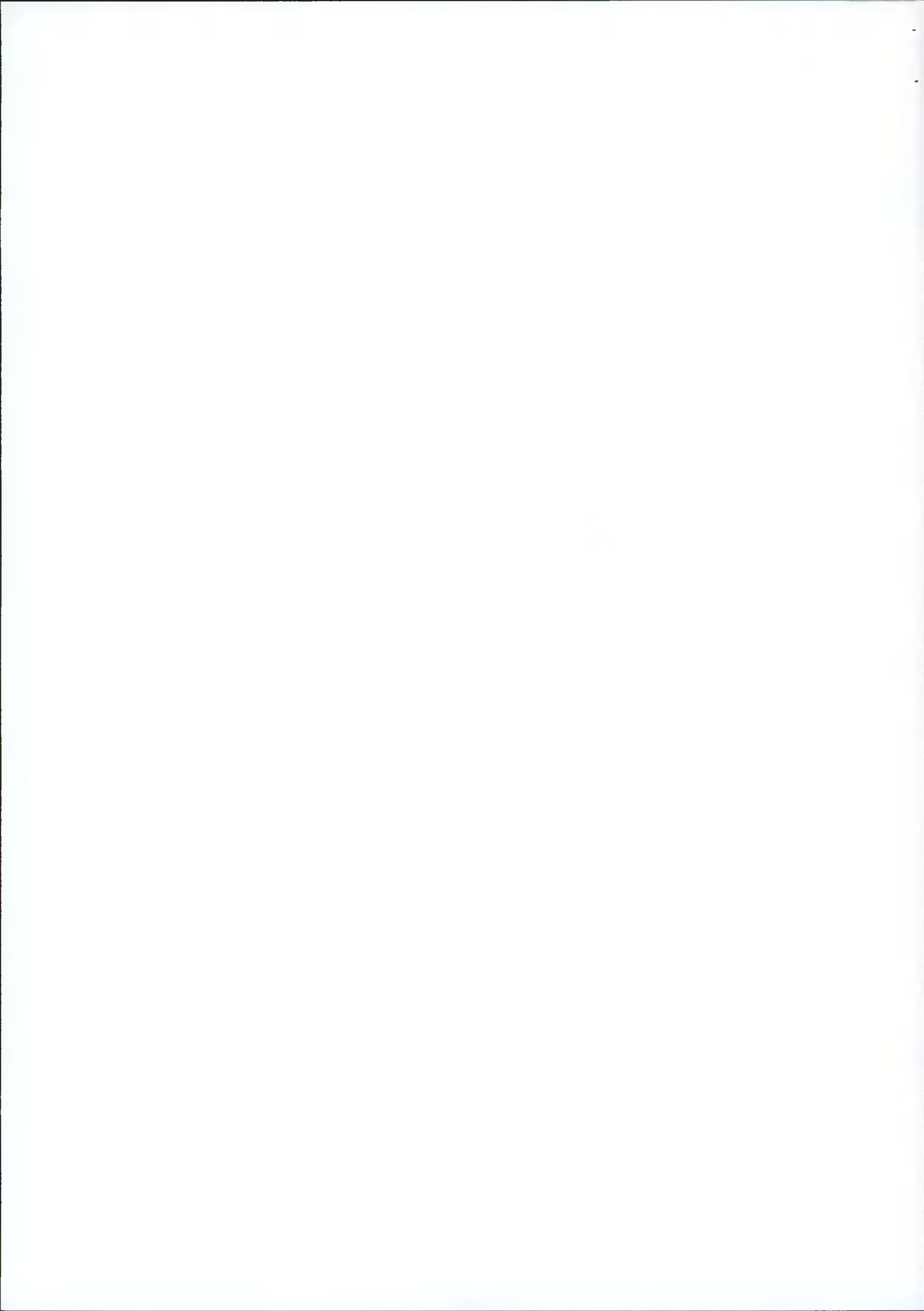
identified near the Study Area included evidence for a light timber shelter (Gracie 1998 in Schol-arstown), wood-lined troughs (Larsson 2003 in Ballycullen and Giacometti 2016 in Oldcourt), one of which was cut into a former stream. The presence of *fulachta fia* locally is directly relevant to the Study Area given its proximity to the Glin River to the east.

The lives and burial practices of prehistoric occupants of the Dublin Mountains were likely to have formed a single continuum of belief, narrative and practice. The derivation of the placename of Bohernabreena townland reflects the ways in which multiple narratives and understandings regarding monuments may be passed down through the centuries in a variety of forms. The 'boher' element can be translated as a road, or routeway, although the term also came to mean a 'territory' or 'place' in the Anglo-Norman period. The '-nabreena' element of the placename is thought to derive from the Irish genitive form of 'brugh', which has been translated as 'hostel'. The name can thus be translated as 'the road of the hostel(s)'. The concept of a network of 'hostels' which acted as 'houses of entertainment [...] where a traveller might partake freely of food and drink supplied by the owner, the Brughfer' (Hegarty 1939, 71) is recorded in early medieval historical sources. In order to adequately provide for his guests, the Brughfer was reportedly 'allowed, by the Brehon laws, 1,000 acres of arable land free of rent' (ibid.). In the imaginations of early medieval scribes and storytellers, the brugh was a centre of community activity, comprising a main house, a separate house for women, a kiln, a mill, a bakehouse, a cowhouse and pig sties to which local people would come in order to learn domestic or athletic skills according to their gender. The fact that such hostels featured in heroic tales and in stories of the supernatural reflects the symbolic and mythical character attributed to them. Megalithic mounds, which were associated with supernatural forces, were often identified with brughs. For example, the passage tombs of the Boyne Valley, Co. Meath were equated with the hostel or dwelling of the mythical Aonghas Óg, son of the god Dagda.

Therefore, the reference to one or more hostels in the placename Bohernabreena and the prevalence of megalithic tombs on the hill-slopes

of the Dublin Mountains together suggest a strong awareness of such monuments and highlight the survival of stories surrounding them into the earlier medieval period and subsequent centuries. Moreover, a wide stretch of the territory lying to the east of the river Dodder from the present townland of Bohernabreena to Friarstown further to the south, was known as Bohernabreena (Price 1944, 109). Thus both the routeway and possibly the monuments themselves were perceived as defining features within the topography and narratives of the area.

The link between lifeways and burial practices is also reflected in local folklore and historical accounts, which suggest that one of the more famous quasi-historical hostelries of the early medieval period was located in the vicinity of Bohernabreena. This was 'Bruidhean Da Derga', or the hostel of Da Derga, which was reported to have been burned by the foster brothers of King Conaire Mor (Hegarty 1939, 71). According to this story, Conaire, who was said to have ascended the throne of Tara in 109 BC, banished his foster brothers from his territories due to their lawless behaviour. They turned to piracy in their exile, and mustered an army which they led in an attack against Tara, burning and pillaging the lands of Meath through which they passed. Conaire, returning from a visit to Munster stopped en route at the hostel of his friend Da Derga where he was attacked and slain by his foster brothers 'on the hearthstone of his host' (Hegarty 1939, 71-2). Although the idea of a route that brought the traveller through Wicklow from Munster en route to Tara may seem somewhat unlikely, Healy (1961, 109-11) has suggested that the main approach to Glenasmole by the Oldbawn crossroads is of considerable antiquity. He further suggested that 'Some traces of this road still survive on the Bohernabreena side [of the Dodder]', and that these originally formed part of the 'ancient Slighe Cualann, one of the main roads from Tara' (ibid.). Morris (1938, 117) argued that the Slighe Cualann crossed the Dodder near Terenure and ran along the eastern side of the river to Oldbawn or Kiltipper, to the west of the Study Area. Some remnants of the road survive in placenames such as Butterfield (Bothar field) near Rathfarnham and an historic name 'Botharcolyn' referring to a carucate of land running through Oldbawn and forming the





northern border of Kiltipper (*ibid.*, 116). This would suggest that a major routeway was present to the north and west of the Study Area from the late prehistoric period.

## Early medieval period

### *The political setting*

At the beginning of the historic period, the Dál Messin Corb were kings in the vicinity of the Study Area with their territory stretching from the coast into Kildare, and they were closely associated with Naas and Liamáin, a hilltop enclosure at Lyons Hill on the Dublin Kildare border (Boazman 2016, 25). The territories of Cualu and Mag Liphí were sub-kingdoms under the Dál Messin Corb at this time (*ibid.*). The suggestion that prehistoric mounds may have acted as territorial markers may have had continued relevance into the early medieval period, as the prehistoric tombs along the ridge of the Dublin Mountains marked the traditional political as well as topographical border-land of the Cualu territory (Saunderson 2008, 5).

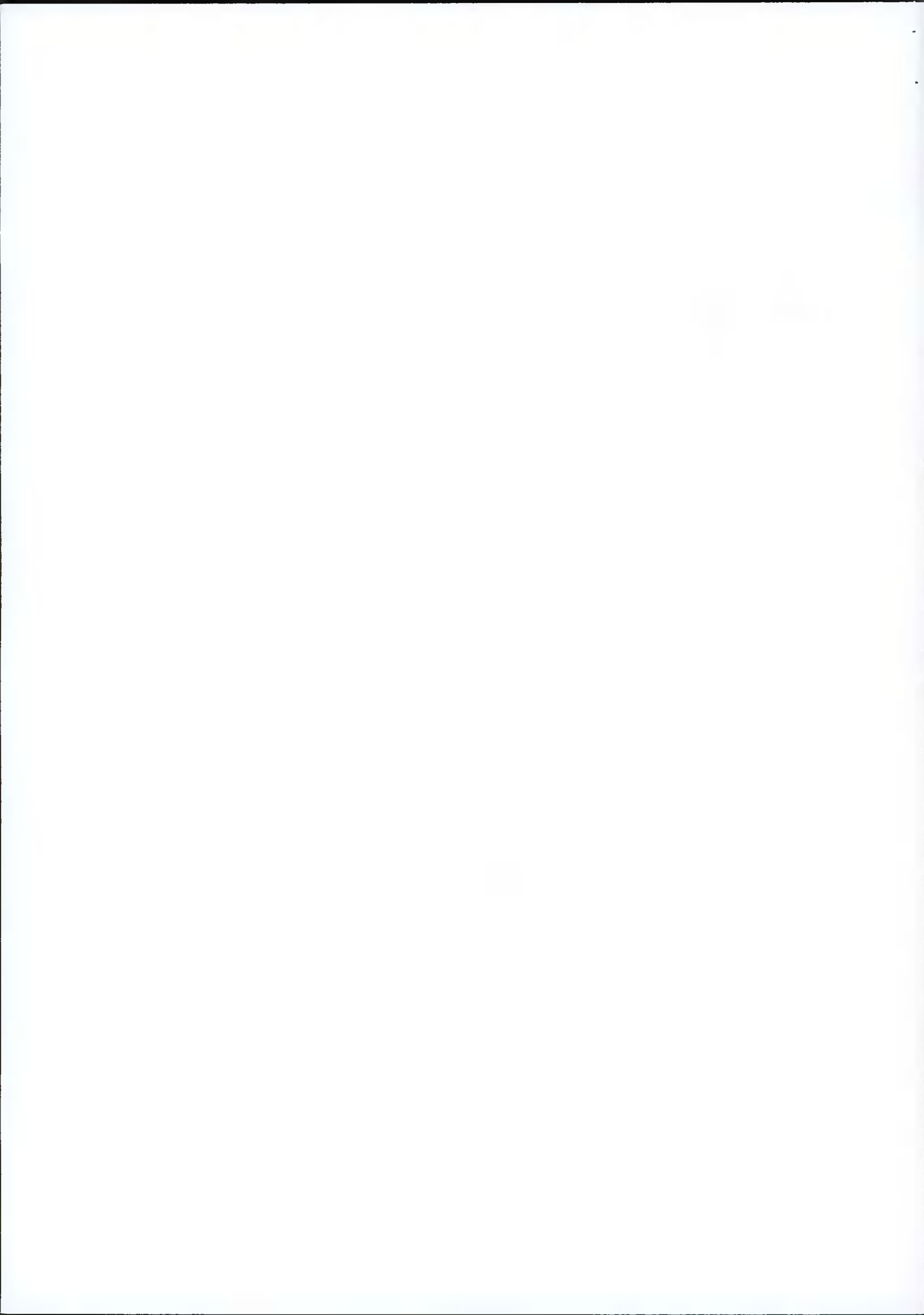
Dalkey Island, on the coast of Cualu, may have been an important point of entry for imported goods in the Conversion period and represented a point of contact with the post-Roman world (Boazman 2016, 27). Control of this site may have been a key factor in the political machinations of the early centuries of the early medieval period until the establishment of Dublin to the north. Cualu was also a fertile area as indicated by excavation evidence of arable cultivation over millennia, and emphasised by documentary references to the 'beer of Cualu' (*coirm Chualann*; Boazman 2019, 17).

The late 6th century marked the rise of the Uí Máil, who superseded the Dál Messin Corb as kings of Cualu around this time, with perhaps the draw of controlling the trading hub of Dalkey influencing their desire for the territory (Boazman 2016, 40). The territory was split between two branches of the kin-group, the Uí Briúin Chualann to the east and the Uí Cheallaig Chualann to the west. The border of these two territories was to the west of Two Rock mountain ridge in the vicinity of the Study Area (Boazman 2010, 178). The territory is believed to have included the townlands of Ballycullen,

Killininny and Kilmashogue, with some indication that it included Edmondstown immediately east of the Study Area and others suggesting it extended as far as Balally and Ballinteer in Taney parish further to the east (Murphy and Potterton 2010, 85). The Uí Briúin Chualann were centred around Killiney, Tully and Shankill (Boazman 2016, 43). The Uí Máil ascendancy was short-lived however and they were challenged throughout the 8th century by the Uí Dúinchada, a branch of the Uí Dúnlainge (Boazman 2016, 42).

The Uí Briúin Chualann made a marriage of convenience with the incoming Uí Dúinchada, forcing out the Uí Máil (Boazman 2016, 43). They ruled under the overlordship of the Uí Dúinchada, with a number of churches established during their period of influence having a Kildare influence, such as Kilbride and Stillorgan (Corlett 1999, 42). From the decline in the numbers of early historic references to the Uí Chellaigh after the 8th century, it is probable that their political power declined, although their descendants continued to occupy the valley of Glenasmole and the Dublin foothills (Price 1940, 127).

With the establishment of the city of Dublin in the 9th century and the extension of Viking control over an extensive hinterland. Hiberno-Norse settlements are suggested in what was then rural south Dublin, such as indicated by the name Balally or Ballawley, meaning Olave's town (Shepard 1983, 1) and at Cherrywood, where a Scandanavian settlement was excavated (Boazman 2019, 22-4). Boazman (2016, 42) suggests an alternative translation of Balally as Baile Amalgada, a family name of the Uí Máil, so it is unclear whether this does suggest Scandanavian occupation. Both of these sites lie to the east of the Study Area and there is further suggestion of Hiberno-Norse occupation to the west at 'Amlíab's Fort' near Ballymount or Clondalkin (Boazman 2019, 21). The ecclesiastical estate of Tully, also to the east of the Study Area and adjacent to Cherrywood, is believed to have been in the possession of the Meic Turcaill, a Scandanavian family that began as mercenaries, invested in land in South Dublin and eventually rose to the kingship of Dublin (Boazman 2019, 33-4). The domain of the Meic Turcaill family extended from Donnybrook to





John Rocque's map of the County Dublin dating to 1760 depicts the Study Area in more detail. No structures are depicted within the bounds of the Study Area, which is shown as being empty fields to the south of the unlabelled Whitechurch church and graveyard. The Glin River to the east of the Study Area is depicted as a steep-sided water course. Interestingly there is a forking of the river to the east, which related to a millrace. The westernmost of these appears to form the site boundary of the Study Area and related to a mill to the north on the eastern side of the Whitechurch Road. While the mill is not labelled, a mill in the same location is depicted on the later Ordnance Survey map in the 1830s.

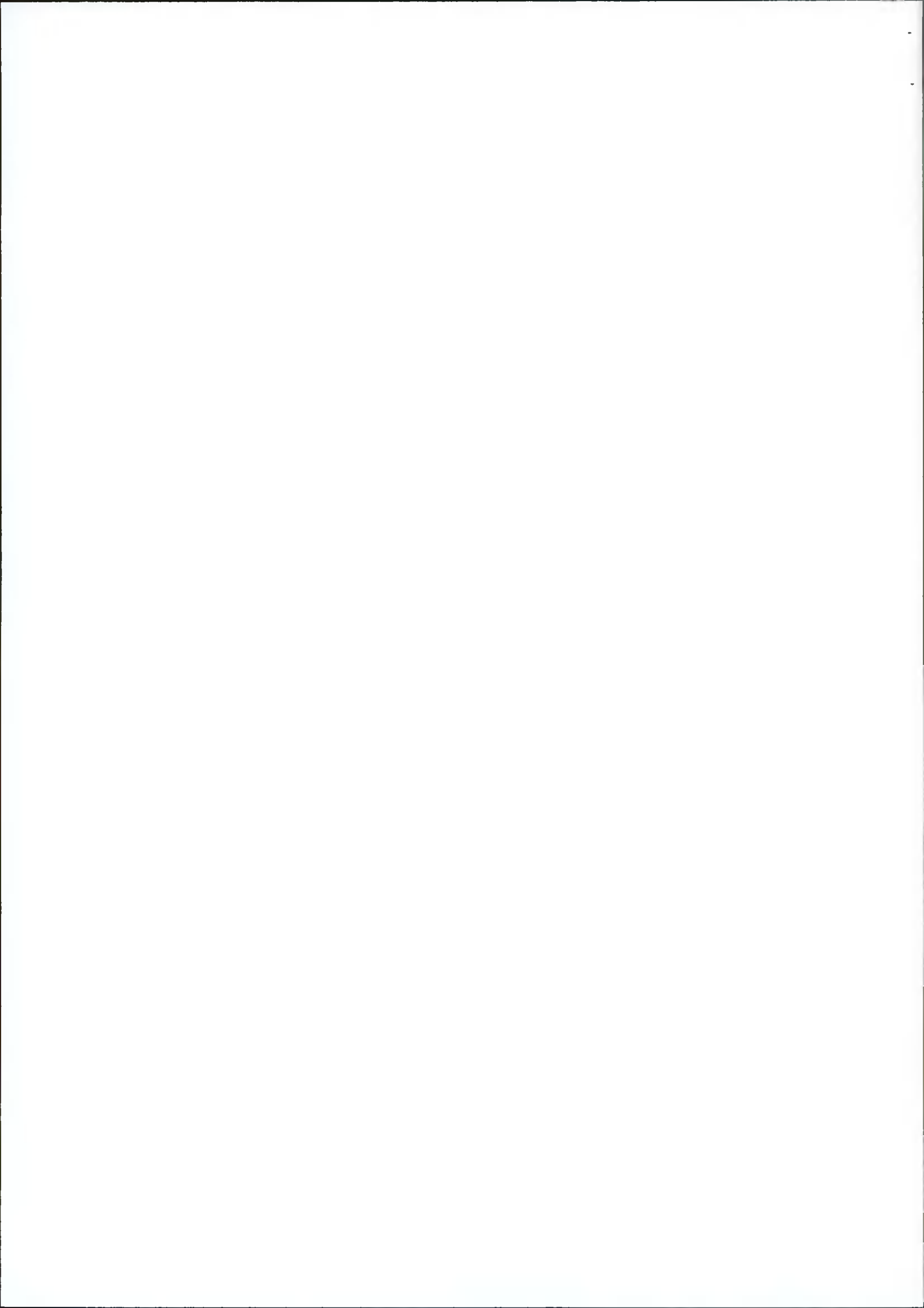
Further to the south a loop in the road is depicted and labelled 'Kilmashogue', with another probable mill building depicted at the northern end of the loop over the river along with two additional buildings and a garden.

Rocque's map suggests there were some changes to the baronies and their boundaries around this time. The Study Area is now depicted as being within Uppercross barony with the barony boundary between Uppercross and Rathdown lying to the east. The southern section of the Glin River formed the boundary to the south while the boundary continued to the northeast with Rathfarnham and Clarkstown lying within Uppercross barony.

Glencree' (Flynn 1986, 12). The influence of the Hiberno-Norse settlement in Dublin reverberated through the political leadership of the South Dublin region from the late 10th to the 12th century, with the Uí Dúinchada, who had been in a strong position at the beginning of the Viking Age, sharing the kingship of Leinster roughly equally with the other two branches of the Uí Dúnlaige, the Uí Fáeláin and the Uí Muiredaig, gradually losing their hold on power from the late 10th century (Boazman 2019, 30). The influence of the Scandinavian settlement is likely to have put significant pressure on the

local Uí Briuin Chualann, and it is possible that this pressure contributed to the apparent assimilation of their lands as well as that of other branches of the Cuala by the MacGiollamocholmog dynasty of the Uí Dúinchada by the 11th or 12th century (Price 1953, 125).

Added to this there is evidence for some Welsh occupation in the region, such as at Brennanstown (Baile na nBretnach); Kilgobbin, which was also known as 'Theachnabretnach', and Tibraddan (Daloe Tige Bretan – The house of the Britain, Dalua) may refer to the founder of





the churches being Welsh or British, or relate to settlements of Welsh allies of the Meic Turcaill being settled on the ecclesiastic lands at a later point (Boazman 2016, 27-31; 2019, 32). There is some suggestion that the Harolds associated with Whitechurch and Harldsgrange, along with the Walshes and Howells in Carrickbrennan and Brennanstown may have formed part of a Welsh community living under Ostman control in the area before the arrival of the Anglo-Normans in 1169 (Murphy and Potterton 2010, 90).

Thus, by 1169, when Anglo-Norman forces invaded, the territory to the west of the Study Area was still known as Uí Briuin Cualann, and was subdivided between Domhnall MacGiollamochoimog, son-in-law to Dermot McMurrough, king of Leinster, and one of the sons of the ruling MacTurcaill king of Viking Dublin (Flynn 1986, 13). The Study Area is self appears to have been at the edge of this territory within the territory of Uí Cheallaig Chualann. This had been controlled by the Uí Dúinchada from the 8th century, however they only appear to have had a tenuous grasp of the area as the Ua Ronáin, who descended from the Uí Máil, held the abbacy of Clondalkin from the 9th to the 12th century indicating they still held some sway in the area (Boazman 2010, 179). Indeed, by the 1170s only Techdolaga (Templeogue) in Uí Cheallaig Chualann is described as being part of the lands of MacGiollamochoimog, with a considerable amount of the previous land holdings of the Uí Dúinchada in Uí Cheallaig Chualann having been given over to the ecclesiastic estate of Tallaght by that time (ibid.).

### *The early medieval church*

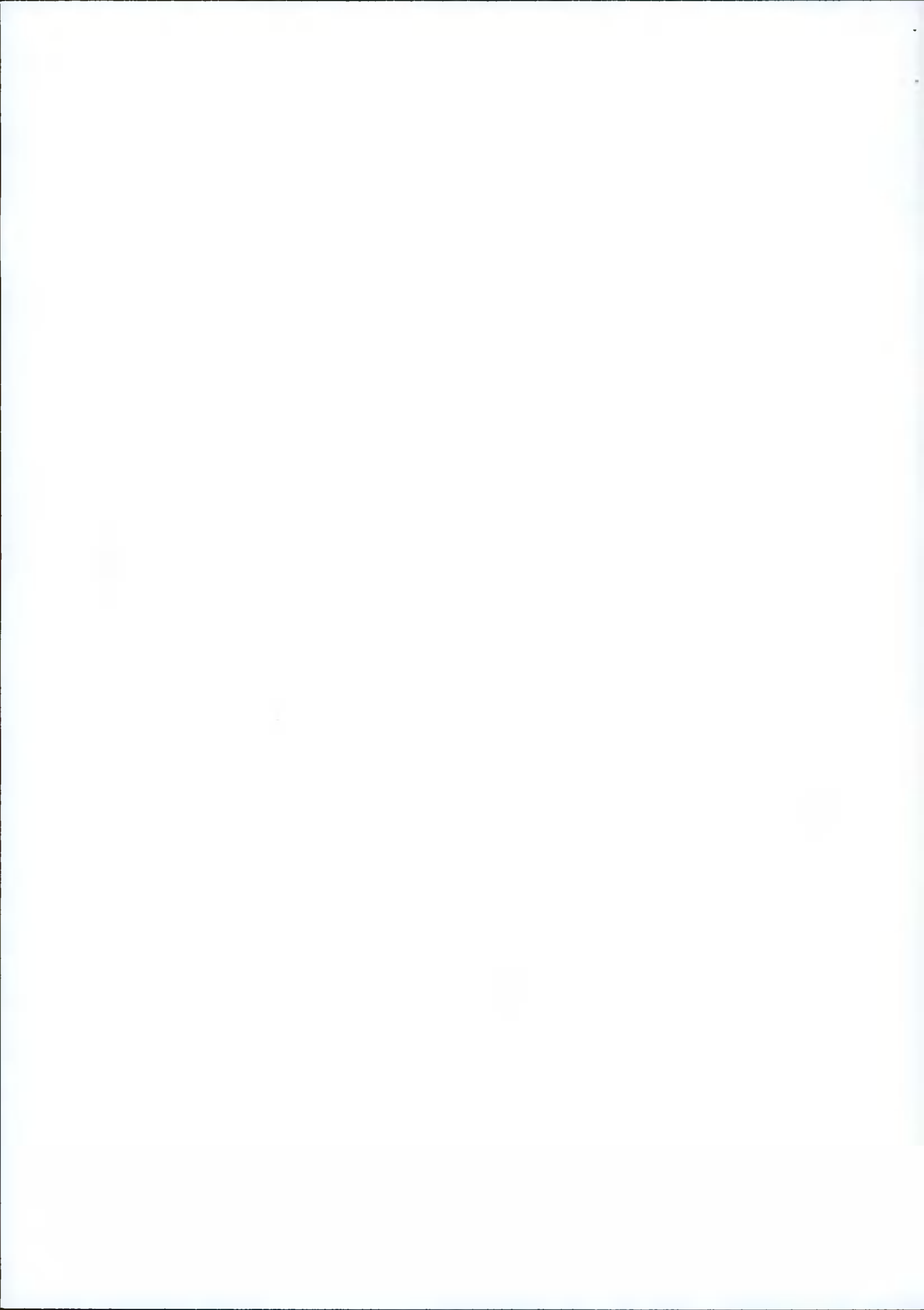
This period also marked the beginning of Christianity in Ireland. The fluctuating allegiances of the populations of the Dublin hills and their leaders is occasionally reflected by the dedication of the churches and ecclesiastical sites which sprang up to serve the religious needs of local people. A significant number of church sites were established near the Dodder, leading Ronan (1942-3, 74) to characterise the wider region as 'a hive of monasteries and hermitages'. This is also true of the wider Cualu territory. A number of early church sites in Cualu preserve the names of early saints, such as Kilmacud, Taney, Carrickbrennan, Killiney and

Clonkeen (Corlett 1999, 38). Others appear to have been dedicated to Welsh or British saints, such as Delgany, Killegar and Kilgobbin (ibid., 41). These may reflect the early wave of Christianity entering the territory. Further churches in the territory were dedicated to saints who had links to the Dál Messin Corb, such as Jamestown, Ballyman, Delgany, Shankill and Kilmacanogue (Corlett 1999, 41), indicating their influence over the founding of new ecclesiastic foundations at the beginning of the early medieval period.

The arrival of the Uí Máil saw a number of new church establishments in Cualu as the new political power attempted to root themselves in the landscape, with Kilmasanton, Balally and Kilgobbin all possibly Uí Máil foundations (Boazman 2016, 42).

The Uí Dúinchada marked their ascent to power in Cualu with the founding of Tallaght in the mid-late 8th century (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 45). Tallaght was the primary establishment of the Céili Dé, (Boazman 2016, 22-3). Prior to this the competing powers in the area and a lack of sustained political dominance may have hindered the establishment of an earlier dominant ecclesiastic site (Boazman 2016, 47). The earlier large ecclesiastic foundation at the northwestern edge of the territory, Clondalkin, had been founded in the 7th century and was initially associated with the Uí Chetig, a minor kingdom further to the west (ibid, 48). It became more aligned to Glendalough in the 8th and 9th centuries and somewhat competed with Tallaght (ibid.). Tallaght's decline in the 9th century coincided with the decline of Uí Dúinchada power in the region (Boazman 2016, 49), though record of the monastery did continue into the 10th century (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 45). There is an indirect reference to Tallaght in 1076-7, when an army was led by the clergy to expel O Ronain, who had assumed the abbacy of Clondalkin, with Clondalkin being granted to the Céili Dé after this (ibid., 31).

The earliest churches were probably made of timber and the original name for Whitechurch, Cill Fhuinseann, may refer to an early church there of ash wood (Corlett 1999, 46). The identification of an early medieval cross slab and a Rathdown slab within the graveyard of the set-



tlement further suggest an early foundation for the church (Ó hÉalidhe and Pendergast 1977, 139). Rathdown slabs are a distinctive group of decorated stone slabs from the Rathdown area, which feature a type of decoration not found

elsewhere in Christian Ireland (Corlett 1999, 45). The decoration is believed to be based on local Viking art styles, though the meaning of the symbolism has been lost over time (ibid.). The saltire cross decoration on the Whitechurch

**Taylor 1816**

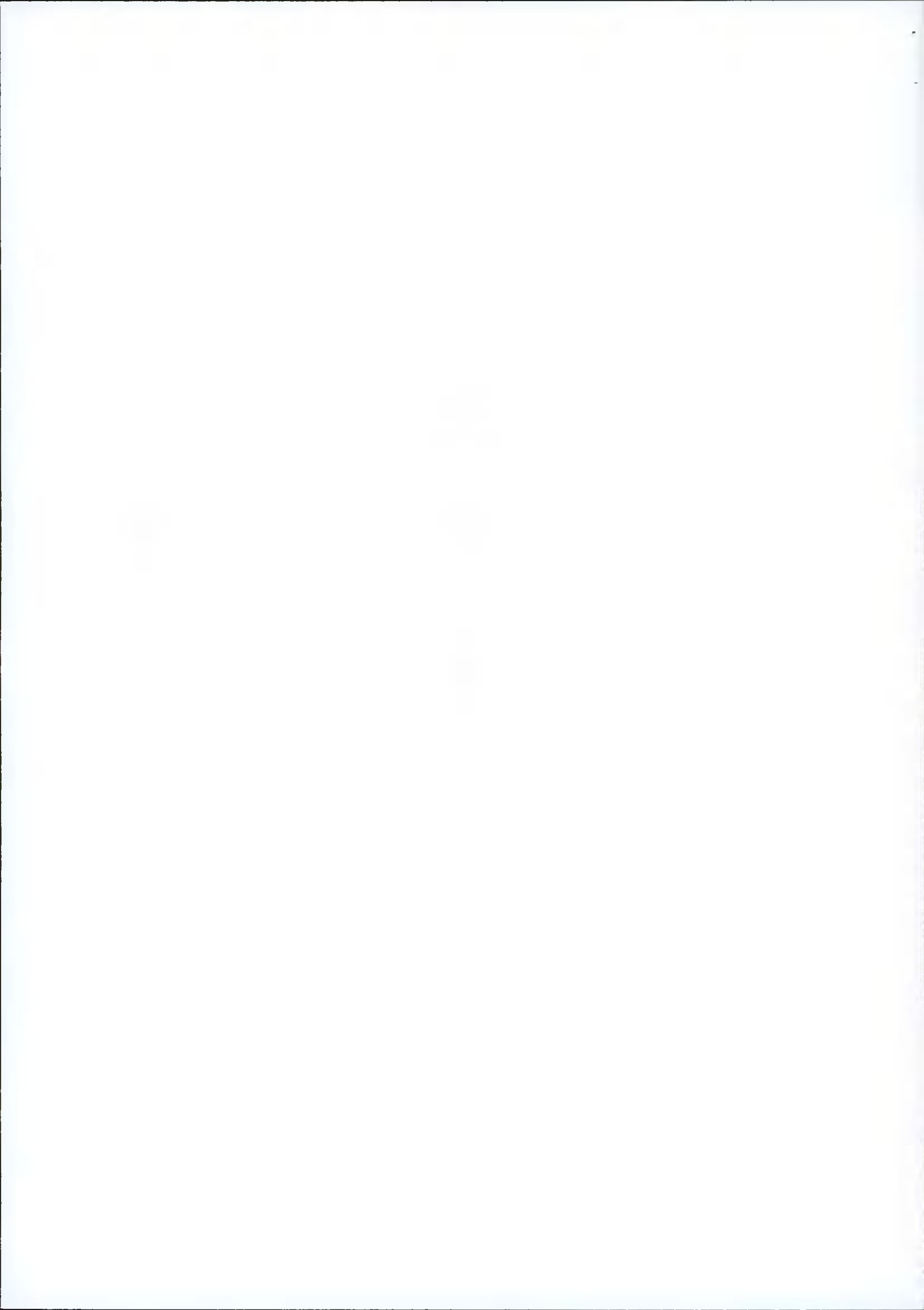
Taylor's map of 1816 does not depict the Study Area in as much detail as Rocque's map of 1760, with features shown being somewhat schematic, however several additional features are now shown in the vicinity of the Study Area. The most significant with regards to the Study Area is a rectangular enclosure labelled 'Latouche's Burying Ground' to the south of the old church and graveyard of Whitechurch. This as the familial graveyard that the Study Area bounds to the north. No additional features are depicted within the Study Area, however contour lines are depicted indicating a slope down towards the Glin River to the east.

To the southeast a U-shaped structure is depicted along the Glin River and labelled 'mills', while to the north a cruciform building on the eastern side of the Whitechurch Road is labelled 'Whitechurch Mill'. A millrace is depicted serving the northern mills. However, it is in a different location to the millrace depicted on Rocque and the later Ordnance Survey map. It is likely that the positioning of the millrace on Taylor's map is not exact. The 'Moravian Burying Ground', which was established between 1740 and 1760 (NIAH records), is depicted to the southeast, which is not depicted on Rocque's map of 1760.

Further to the south the loop in the road and settlement labelled 'Kilmashogue' is again depicted and though the positioning of the buildings is somewhat different to that depicted on Rocque is likely to again show a mill with another two or three buildings.

To the north a plot of land labelled with the unusual placename 'Fields of Odin' is where the country house 'Hermitage' was constructed. The antiquity of this name is unclear as The Hermitage was also occasionally known as 'Odin's Rest', however the name may also refer to the Norse god and be a reminder of the Hiberno-Norse occupation of South Dublin (Downes 1841, 93).







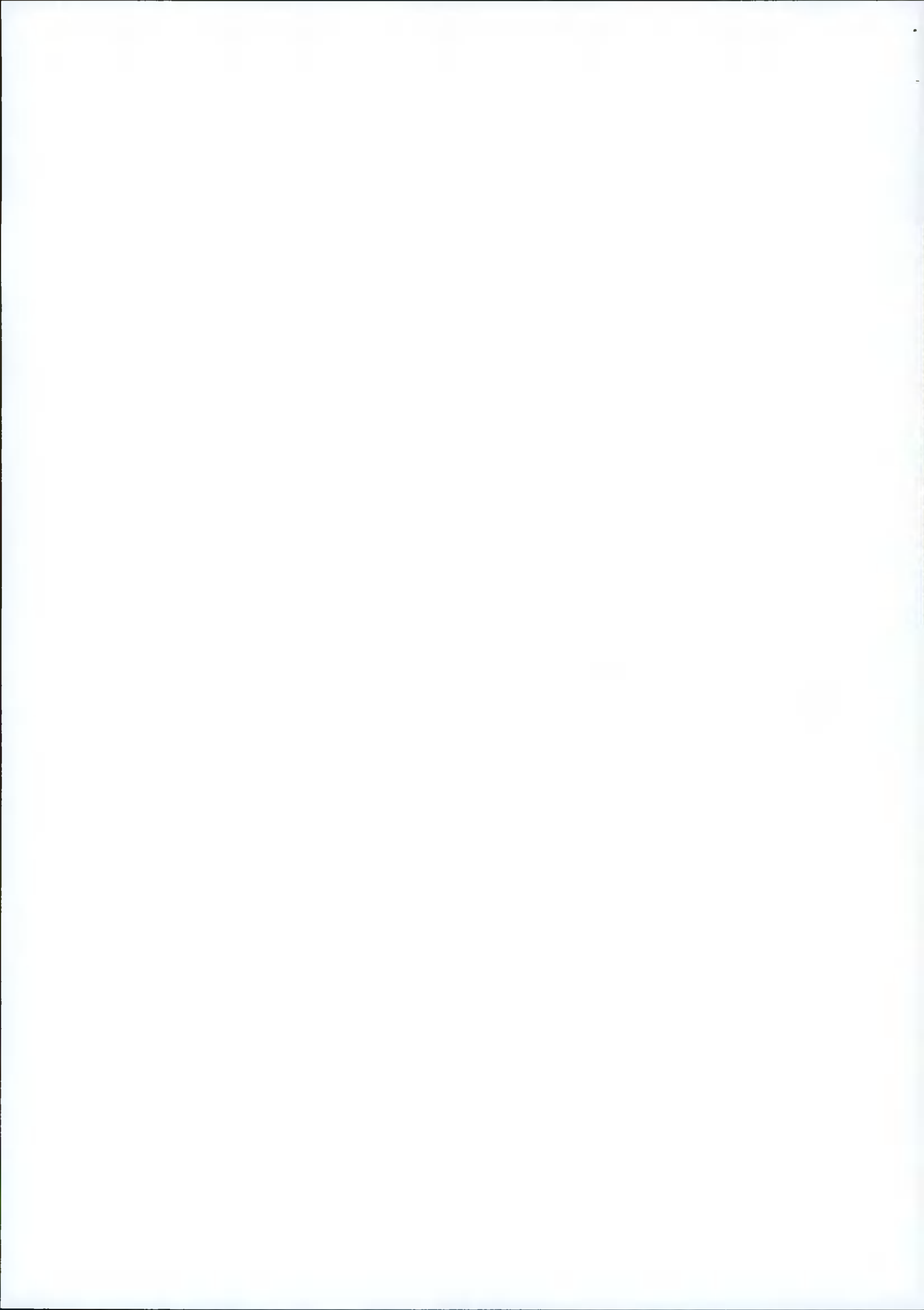
slab is comparable with the examples from Rathfarnham, Dundrum and Kilgobbin (O'Donovan 2002, 141). Interestingly these are the most westerly of the group and may indicate sub-regional variation or a second school of masons within the area. Another was previously known from Cruagh, to the southwest of the Study Area, however this has since been lost. The Cruagh slab was the most westerly of the group.

The foundation date of Whitechurch has not been recorded, however a number of indicators point to an early establishment. Two of the early names for the church, Cill Fhuinseann and Lessfhuinseann suggest a wooden church built from ash, with the latter name further suggesting an associated enclosure ditch may have been present at the site (Corlett 1999, 145). The reference to a wooden church may indicate the church predates the construction of the early stone churches across Cualu in the 10th and 11th century (Boazman 2019, 41). Other church sites with ecclesiastic enclosure ditches in the vicinity, such as Kilgobbin and Taney, were associated with substantial settlement evidence. The cross base located to the south of the Study Area in the vicinity of the current church may have marked the edge of the termon of the ecclesiastic settlement, and may indicate the settlement extended to the south of the church. The identification of an early medieval cross slab and a Rathdown slab within the graveyard of the settlement further suggest an early foundation for the church (Ó hÉalidhe and Pendergast 1977, 139). Rathdown slabs are a distinctive group of decorated stone slabs from the Rathdown area, which feature a type of decoration not found elsewhere in Christian Ireland (Corlett 1999, 45). The decoration is believed to be based on local Viking art styles, though the meaning of the symbolism has been lost over time (ibid.). The saltire cross decoration on the Whitechurch slab is comparable with the examples from Rathfarnham, Dundrum and Kilgobbin (O'Donovan 2002, 141). Interestingly these are the most westerly of the group and may indicate sub-regional variation or a second school of masons within the area. Another was previously known from Cruagh, to the southwest of the Study Area, however this has since been lost. The Cruagh slab was the most westerly of the group.

A carved stone cross currently within the chapel at St Columba's College, Taylorsgrange, was recovered from the remains of a small stone church on Kilmashogue in the late 19th or early 20th century (Ó hÉalidhe and Pendergast 1977, 139). The location of the church was not recorded and has now been lost, however it is likely to have been the ancient church of St Mashoge, from which the townland derives its name (ibid.). The cross is comparable with a group of graveslabs found in Dublin at St Patrick's Cathedral and St Audeon's church, which have been tentatively dated to the 9th century (ibid., 142).

Other possible ecclesiastic sites in the vicinity of the Study Area have not survived but are suggested through place name analysis. For example Price (1944, 108-9), in the course of determining the location and possible extent of the medieval manor of Bohercolyn (itself a reference to the road of Cualann), suggests that one of the medieval names associated with Oldcourt was Tachhonicde, later called Tagony or Stagony. He argues that the present name of Oldcourt, which probably post-dates the early 16th century, was attached to one of the two divisions of the lands of Stagony into Great and Little Stagony (Saunderson 2008). Although the placename no longer survives, a place called 'Tygunny' appeared to the northeast of Oldcourt House on Duncan's map of 1821, while local people referred to the 'steepest part of the road which leads up from Oldcourt to Orlagh [as] 'Gunny Hill' and 'the Gunny' (ibid., 108). This is significant in that 'Tag-', 'Ti-' or 'Stack-' placename elements in the wider Dublin and Meath area are frequently corruptions or phonetic renderings of the Irish 'teach' meaning 'house' or, more often, 'church'. References to both Killinenny and Stagony in medieval sources (Price 1944, 108) suggests that both places were distinct, and potentially centred on two different religious establishments.

A parish system began to form in Ireland between 700AD and 1300AD and by the early 12th century a de facto parish system based on the local community, or tuath, had emerged (McCotter 2019, 37). While this is later replaced by a system based on the English Gregorian reform parish, elements of the earlier tuath-church system survived within the later





#### Duncan 1821

Like Taylor's map, Duncan's map of 1816 does not show the Study Area in detail. The church (in ruins) of Whitechurch is depicted within a rectangular enclosure with the Latouche burial ground depicted as a rectangular enclosure to the south and unlabelled. The mills to the southeast are not depicted, though a branching in the Glin River can be seen and may relate to the mill. To the northeast the Whitechurch mill is not labelled, though a building is depicted in its location.

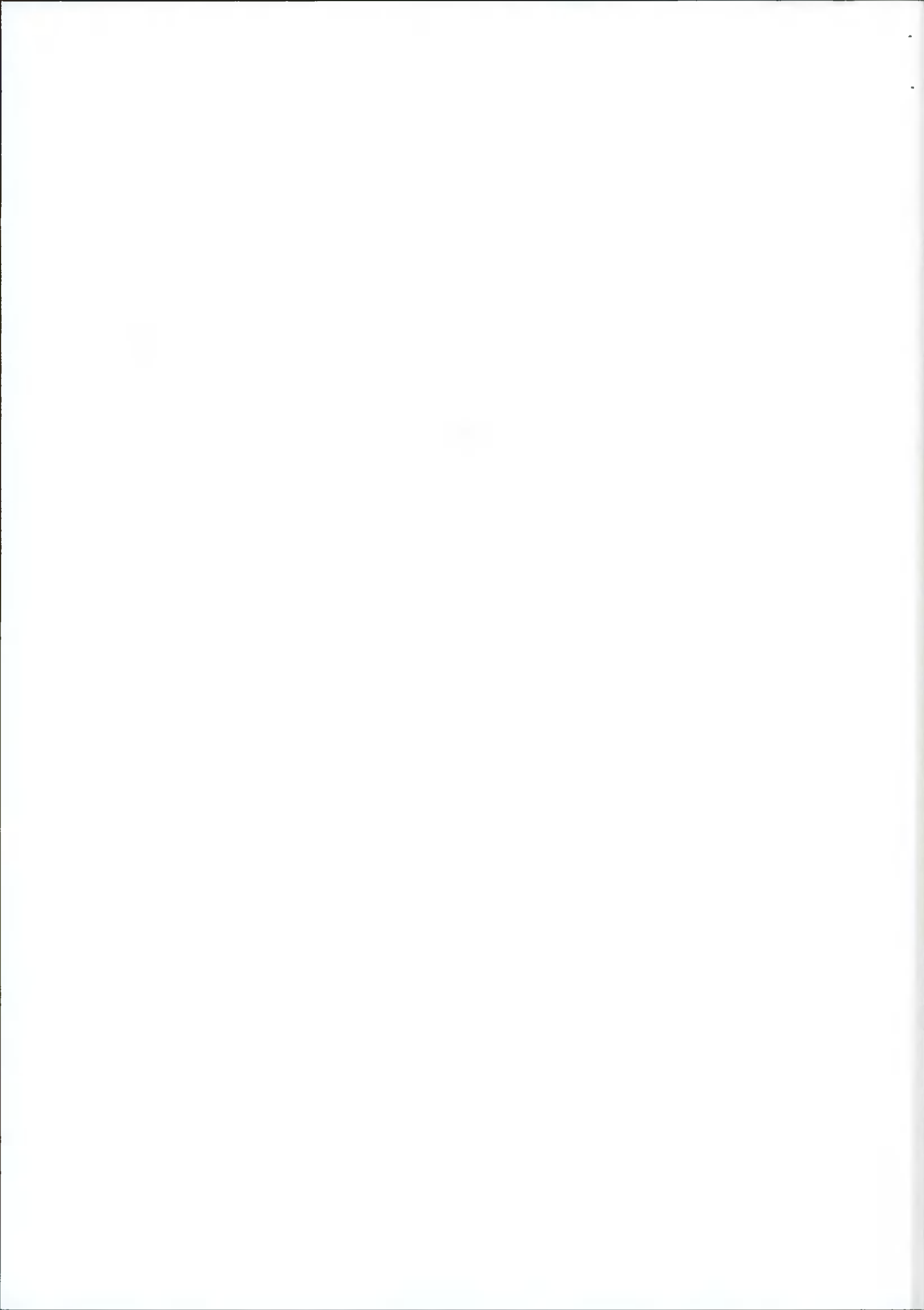
Further to the south the loop in the road and settlement labelled 'Kilmashogue' is no longer depicted, however a cluster of nine buildings is shown in the same location.

reformed parish structure (ibid.). Within the Cualu territory it has been argued that parish boundaries were extant in the 12th century and were probably much earlier divisions (Boazman 2016, 35). The small parish structure of Cualu may have resulted from the promotion of small ecclesiastic establishments by the Uí Dúinchada. Tallaght, being a Céli Dé foundation and therefore devoted to an ascetic life of prayer, poverty and charity, did not produce tax. However the smaller churches could, and their continued promotion by the Uí Dúinchada not only limited the growth of Tallaght, but preserved the older and more fractured landscape of ecclesiastic land holdings in Cualu (Boazman 2016, 52).

Early medieval settlement

The ubiquitous form of early medieval settle-

ment, the ringfort, is not frequently identified across the lands of Cualu, though there are clusters of these settlements towards the south more upland parts of the territory. This is somewhat unusual in an Irish context as this site-type is widespread across the country, however in the Cualu region it may be reflective of the fluctuating politics of the region throughout the early medieval period, and perhaps of the more multi-cultural nature of the populace in the region, with the Scandinavian influence of Dublin, probable Welsh settlements associated with the Walshes, Harolds and Howells, and other outside influences. Early medieval settlement have been identified during archaeological excavations, with the closest being the ringfort to the west of the Study Area in Scholarstown, and indeed it is possible that





these earthen enclosures have been lost over the years in an area that has seen intensive agriculture along with numerous political changes. Evidence of early medieval agriculture has been uncovered in excavations in the vicinity of the Study Area, for example an isolated cereal-drying kiln excavated at Taylorsgrange (Harney et al., 2011, 133).

Hiberno-Norse settlements are suggested in what was then rural south Dublin, such as indicated by the name Balally or Ballawley, meaning Olave's town (Shepard 1983, 1) and at Cherrywood, where a Scandinavian settlement was excavated (Boazman 2019, 22-4). Boazman (2016, 42) suggests an alternative translation of Balally as Baile Amalgada, a family name of the Uí Máil, so it is unclear whether this does suggest Scandinavian occupation. Both of these sites lie to the east of the Study Area and there is further suggestion of Hiberno-Norse occupation to the west at 'Amliab's Fort' near Ballymount or Clondalkin (Boazman 2019, 21). The ecclesiastical estate of Tully to the east of the Study Area, adjacent to Cherrywood, is believed to have been in the possession of the Meic Turcaill, a Scandinavian family that began as mercenaries, invested in land in South Dublin and eventually rose to the kingship of Dublin (Boazman 2019, 33-4). The influence of the Hiberno-Norse settlement in Dublin reverberated through the political leadership of the South Dublin region from the late 10th to the 12th century, with the Uí Dúinchada, who had been in a strong position at the beginning of the Viking Age, sharing the kingship of Leinster roughly equally with the other two branches of the Uí Dúnlaige, the Uí Fáeláin and the Uí Muiredaig, gradually losing their hold on power from the late 10th century (Boazman 2019, 30). Added to this there is evidence for some Welsh occupation in the region, such as at Brennanstown (Baile na nBretnach); Kilgobbin, which was also known as 'Theachnabretnach', and Tibraddan (Daloe Tige Bretan – The house of the Britain, Dalua) may refer to the founder of the churches being Welsh or British, or relate to settlements of Welsh allies of the Meic Turcaill being settled on the ecclesiastical lands at a later point (Boazman 2016, 27-31; 2019, 32).

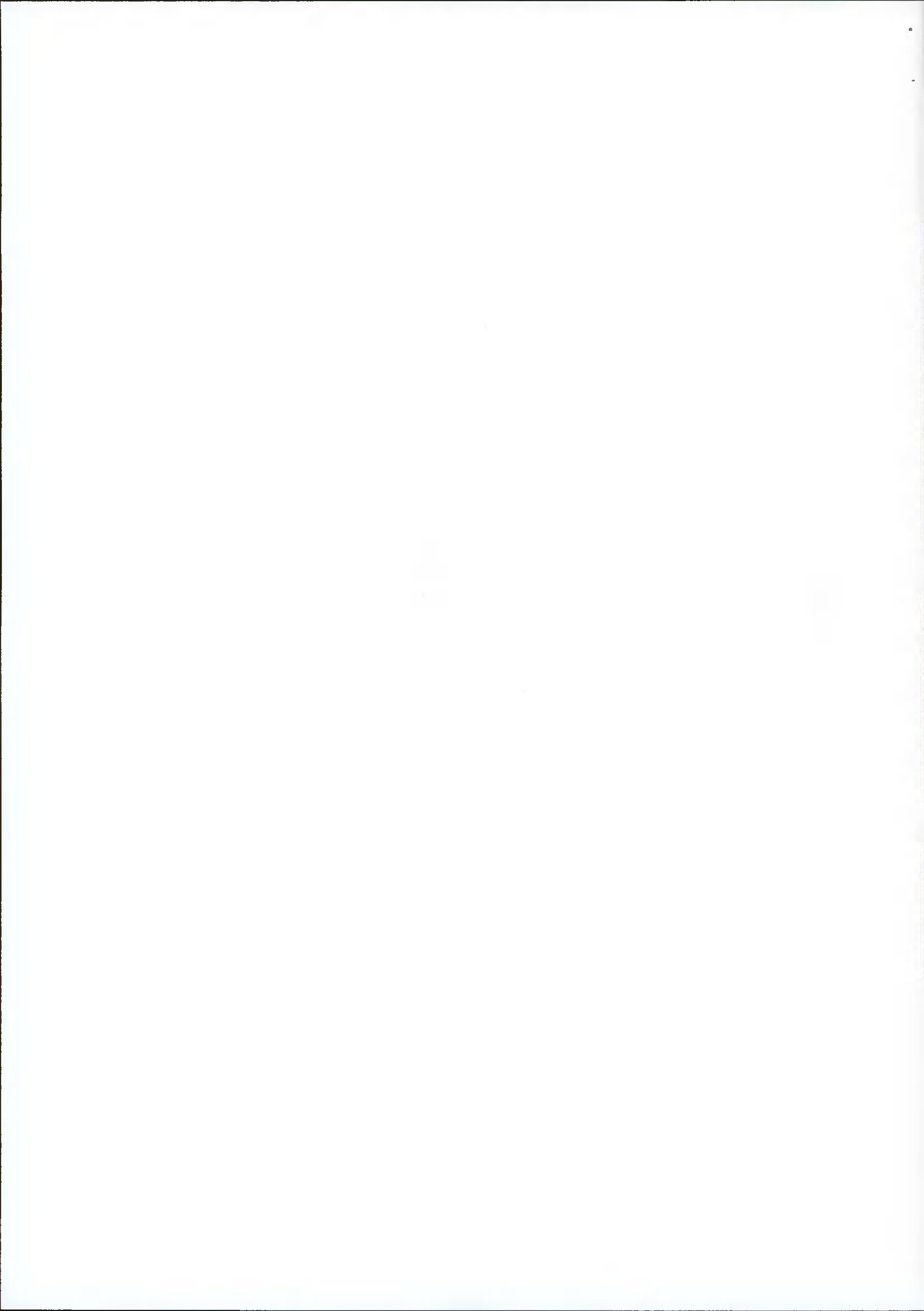
Other settlement types in the vicinity of the Study Area include a cemetery settlement to the

north at Butterfield near Rathfarnham, where an early medieval burial site was identified on an earlier settlement, with the site again being used for settlement in the 12th or 13th century (RMP files, DU022-038001). It is unclear whether this site is an unidentified ecclesiastic settlement or one of the growing corpus of secular sites where burial and settlement are both represented. There is a record of two separate burial sites in the vicinity of Balrothery Hill near Tallaght, one within a sandpit on the hill with skulls retrieved described as being 'small, very thick and of the oldest type of the ancient Irish (Domville Handcock 1899, 46). A second burial area was noted in a field called the Terrets to the west of Balrothery Hill along the banks of the Dodder, where a number of skeletons in separate graves facing east were uncovered (ibid.). The latter burial site is likely to be Christian, however the former may be prehistoric. Only antiquarian references to these burial grounds survive, however at least one of these may be indicative of an unidentified early medieval settlement. Other unenclosed early medieval burials were identified at Murphystown to the east of the Study Area, however an associated settlement was not identified. This points to a varied relationship between settlement and death within the territory of Cualu, with some settlements including burial, others not; many burials taking place at the ecclesiastic site, but not all.

However, it is the ecclesiastic settlements themselves that are perhaps the most relevant when considering the potential of the Study Area. Numerous early medieval ecclesiastic settlements have been investigated in South Dublin, such as at St Nathi's church in Dundrum and at Kilgobbin, where substantial ecclesiastic enclosures were uncovered. The Kilgobbin site may have been constructed on an earlier ringfort and had evidence for substantial iron and bronze production as well as cereal processing (Bolger 2008, 104). These early ecclesiastic sites were not just churches but were settlements in their own right.

## Medieval period

After the Anglo-Norman invasion the lands in the vicinity of the Study Area, then called Bal-



geeth, or windy town, were granted to Thomas the Fleming (Ball 1905, 57). They subsequently passed to Robert de St Michael of Cruagh, whose son, David, married the daughter of Thomas the Fleming. The lands of Balgeeth were given by David de St Michael and his wife to the Abbey of St Mary the Virgin before the close of the 12th century (*ibid.*). The Abbey of St Mary the Virgin was probably the leading house of the Cistercian Order in medieval Ireland (Ó Conbhuí 1961-3, 26). The remainder of the lands in Balgeeth were held by Milo and Adam de Stanton and were granted to the abbey between 1201 and 1220 (Ó Conbhuí 1961-3, 55). The lands of Balgeeth were known as the Grange in the March or Harold's Grange, with the territory including the modern townlands of Harold'sgrange and Taylorsgrange, as well as the small townland of Whitechurch in which the Ecclesia Alba of the original Cistercian settlement was located (Ó Conbhuí 1961-3, 55).

Other outlying lands in the parish passed through various hands in the 13th century, including Adam the forester and his son Richard, before being given to the Priory of the Holy Trinity, being subsequently known as the manor of Ballyardor and Kilmashogue (Ball 1905, 57).

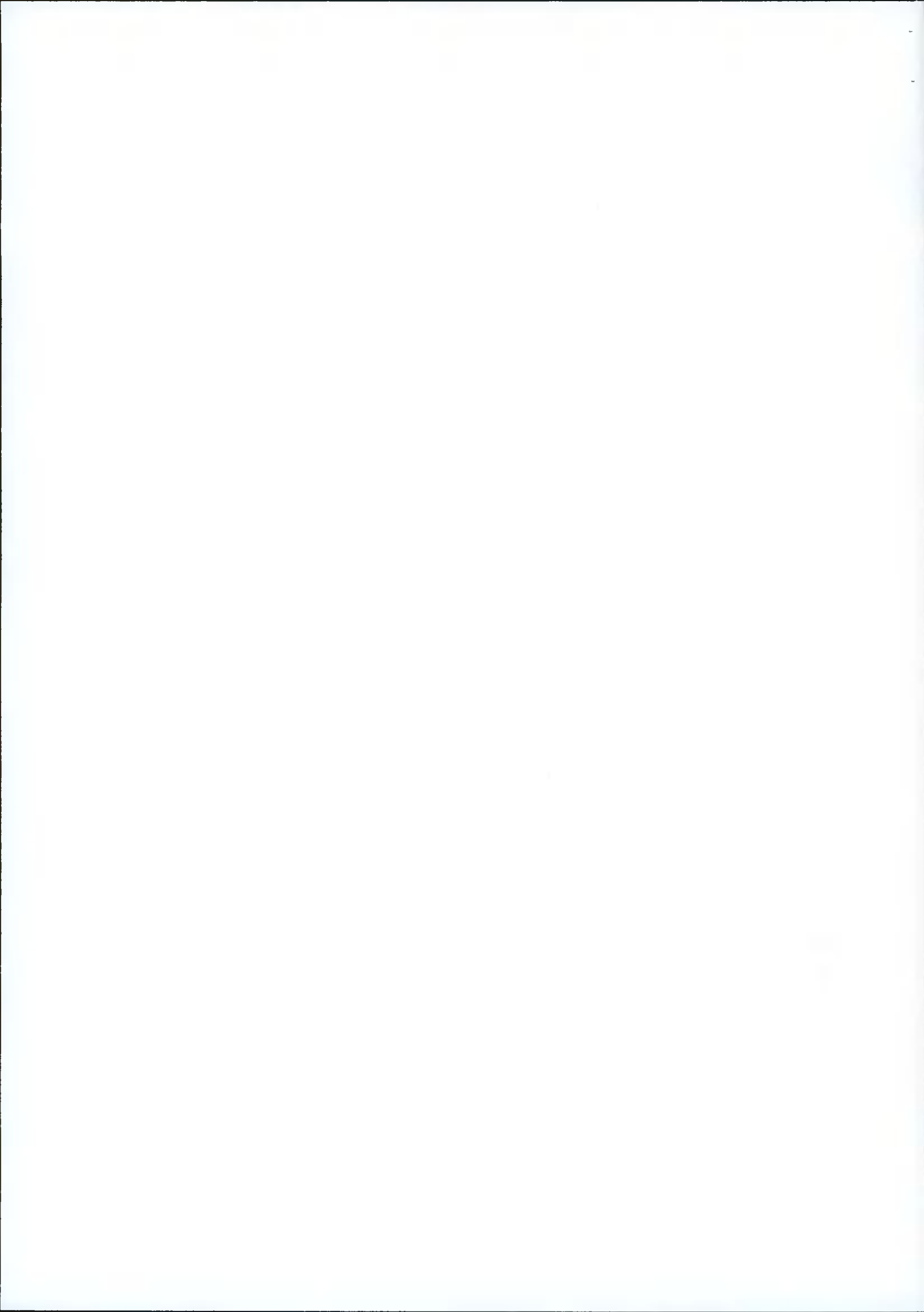
The lands are most closely identified with the Harolds, who became synonymous with the Grange of the March (Ball 1905, 57). This family may have been of Scandinavian origin or have descended from Saxons and arrived with the Anglo-Normans (*ibid.*). They are first mentioned in the vicinity in the 13th century with two knights of that family witnessing deeds in Whitechurch parish, one of which was mentioned as being the owner of lands in Kilgobbin (*ibid.*). At one point their territory extended as close to Dublin as Harold's Cross. Like the Walshes of Carrickmines they became responsible for the protection of the section of the Pale in the vicinity of their territory (*ibid.*, 58). Ball refers to the remains of a castle near St Columba's College in Kilmashogue as the probable stronghold of the Harolds, with the barrier of the Pale running across the northern side of Kilmashogue Hill. This places the Study Area within the Pale, but as the previous name Grange of the Marches suggests, this was along the fringes of the territory under Anglo-Norman control.

In the early years of the Anglo-Norman invasion the Study Area appears to have been in the vicinity of the royal lands of Okelly, retained by Henry II as part of the royal demesne (Murphy and Potterton 2010, 85). This had uncertain territorial boundaries as it did not appear to have had a demesne or administrative caput, however has been argued to have been located to the south of Tallaght along the southern slope of the hills, including Killininny, Ballycullane and Kilmceth (Kilmashogue), and may even have stretched to Balally and Ballinteer in Taney parish (*ibid.*). In the pipe roll of 1235 relating to the returns from the betaghs of Okelly the land of Hamon Hohavelgan (identified as Edmondstown – interestingly 'Ha Velgen' means 'to have the pick or vote' in Norwegian, perhaps a Scandinavian survival) is listed along with Ballyoculan (Ballycullen) and Kilmacheoth (Kilmashogue) (*ibid.*). This would place the royal territory immediately to the west and south of the Study Area. By the end of the 13th century the manor of Okelly had disappeared from the records, at least in name (*ibid.*).

There is a reference dating to 1302-3 of an official William de Moenes, who was in charge of outfitting ship assembled in Dublin to make them suitable for the transporting the horses of the earl of Ulster to Scotland to join Edward I's campaigns, making payments to men cutting rods in the woods of Balikey (Balgeeth or Grange of the Marches), among other places (Murphy and Potterton 2010, 362). This would suggest that the vicinity of the Study Area had woodland cover around this time.

A watermill was built on the Kilmashogue lands in 1516 by John Harold (Ball 1905, 58). After the dissolution of St Mary's Abbey the lands then known as Harold's Grange, described as having a small castle and a water-mill, were granted by Henry VIII to Barnaby Fitzpatrick, Baron of Upper Ossory (Murphy and Potterton, 2010, 422). The chief residence of Lord Upper Ossory was in Co. Laois and due to this absenteeism the tenants of Harold's Grange suffered from soldiers rifling their houses at the close of the 16th century due to the non-payment of county charges by the new owner, who was in dispute over the payments (Ball 1905, 60).







#### First Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1830s

The First Edition of the Ordnance Survey is the first accurate depiction of the Study Area. The parish and barony boundary is now depicted to the west along the western side of Edmondstown townland and is formed by the Owendoher River. The former barony boundary between Newcastle and Rathdown to the west of the Study Area is now just marked as the townland boundary between Edmondstown and Whitechurch. The townland boundary between Whitechurch and Clarkstown mainly runs along the Whitechurch Road.

To the north of the Study Area the church and burial ground of Whitechurch are depicted, with the rectangular enclosure to the south depicted as a garden and not labelled as a graveyard. Within the Study Area two structures are depicted, but not labelled. These relate to Palmyra House, which had been constructed by Thomas Bewley of Lissadell (Shepard 1983, 65), presumably the name of the residence associated with the Laundry mills to the south of the Study Area.

A millrace is depicted running along the eastern boundary of the Study Area, branching off the Glin River. It ran along the eastern side of the church and graveyard to the north and fed into a large millpond on the western side of the Whitechurch Road. This supplied the mill on the eastern side of the road, now labelled 'Silk Mill', which occupied the only portion of Whitechurch townland on the eastern side of the road. To the south of the Study Area a mill labelled 'Laundry Mill' is depicted with a small millpond and millrace further to the south. Wooded ground extends from the mill to the north into the southern portion of the Study Area with a few paths connecting Palmyra and the unlabelled Whitechurch Lodge to the east with the Laundry Mill.

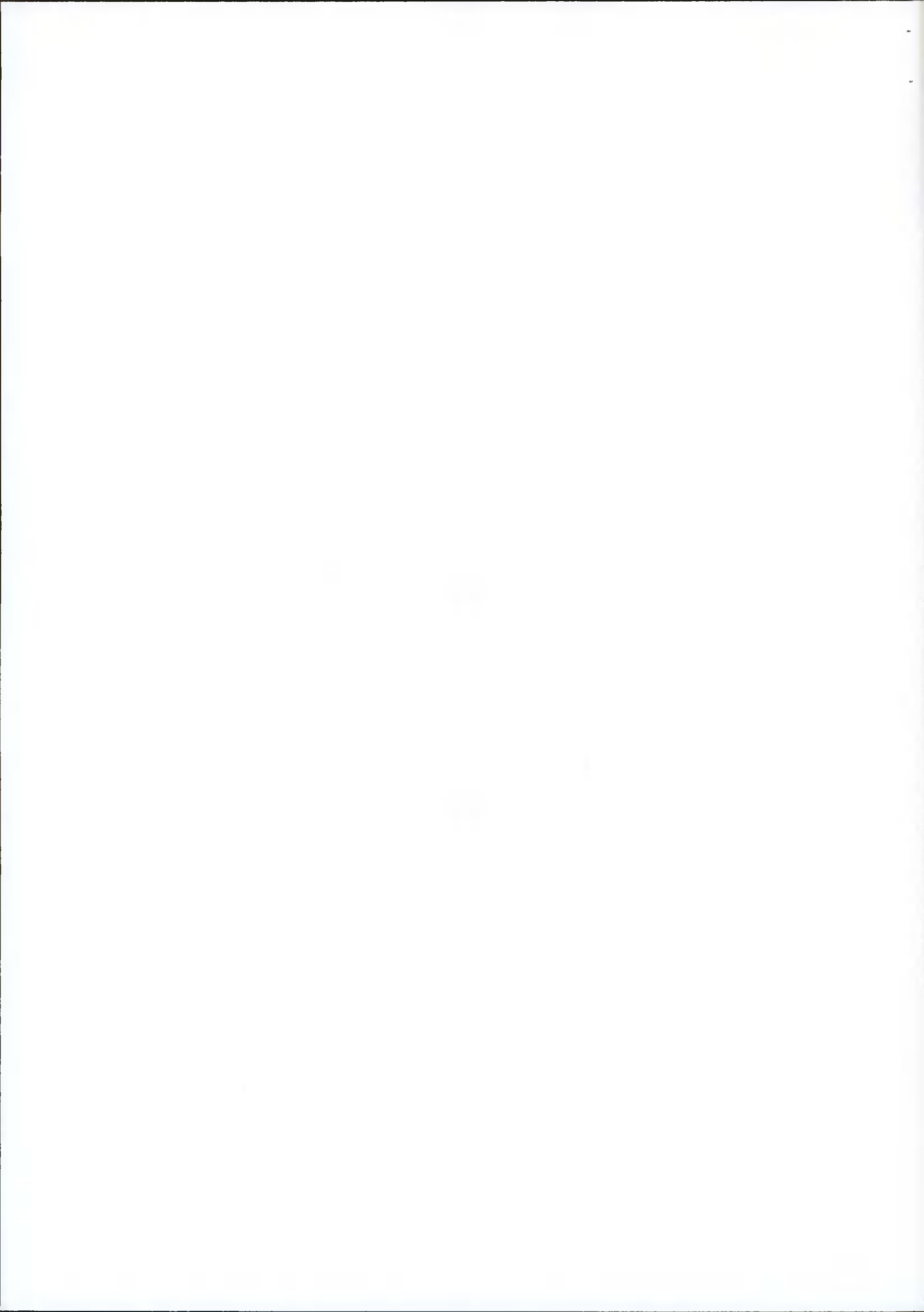
While the Harolds continued to hold lands in Kilmashogue until the rebellion of 1641, the lands of Harold's Grange appear to have changed occupiers before then, with ownership passing through mortgage from the Fitzpatricks to Sir Adam Loftus of Rathfarnham.

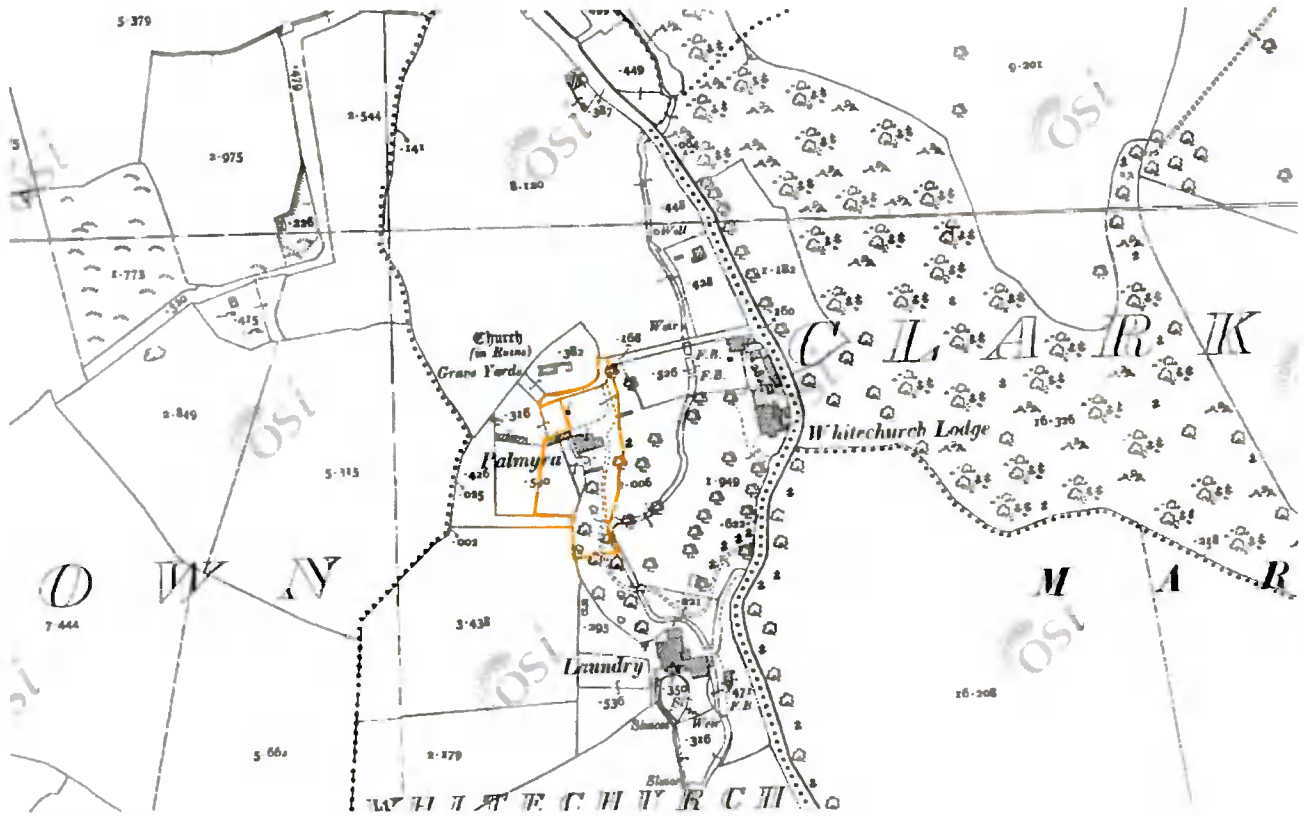
At the time of the Restoration the Harold's castle at Kilmashogue, described as having been thatched, was in ruins (Ball 1905, 61). No other houses containing more than one hearth were present within the lands now comprising Whitechurch parish, then owned by the Loftus

and King families. Eleven houses were present within Harold's Grange and a further ten in Kilmashogue, seven in Edmondstown and one in Ballyboden (*ibid.*).

#### Post-medieval period

At the beginning of the 17th century, Whitechurch and Cruagh, both inappropriate rectories, were under the charge of Tallaght in 1615 (Domville Hancock 1899, 11), and in the hands of Sir Adam Loftus of Rathfarnham,





#### 1912 Edition Ordnance Survey Map

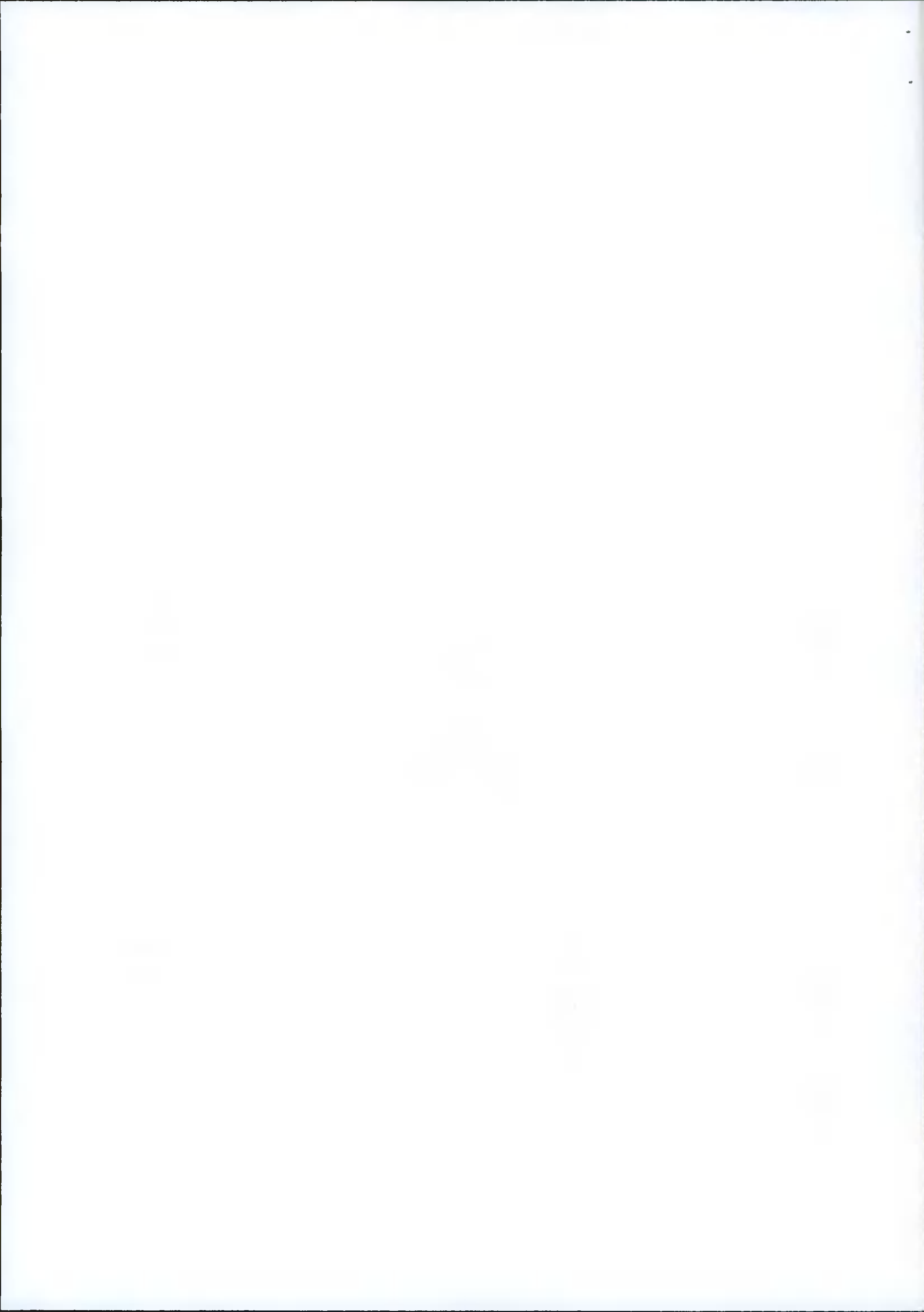
The 1910s Edition of the Ordnance Survey map shows a few changes in the vicinity of the Study Area. The house within the Study Area is now labelled 'Palmyra'. The church to the north is noted as being in ruins and associated with graveyards in the plural, presumably referring to the graveyard around the church and the familial burial ground immediately north of the Study Area. A small narrow rectangular structure is depicted within the Study Area to the south of the main building. A path is depicted running from Palmyra to the south, crossing the Glin River and curving around through parkland to the main Whitechurch Road to the east.

The map shows greater detail for the mill to the south, now labelled 'Laundry', with three sluices, a weir and a footbridge forming components of the complex. The millrace feeding the mill to the north is no longer present, nor is the millpond to the north of the church. One small building is depicted on the site of the earlier 'Silk Mill', however it is unclear if this is the remains of the mill. One of the ancillary buildings of the mill to the west of the road is still present.

Archbishop of Dublin (Ball 1905, 64). Hugh Wilson was collated to the vicarage of Tallaght in 1690, with Whitechurch and Cruagh both being united to Tallaght at this time (Domville Handcock 1899, 15). There are further references to Whitechurch and Cruagh being united with Tallaght in the late 17th and 18th centuries (*ibid.*, 15-19). During the 18th century the church was described as being in ruins (Ball 1905, 64).

Haroldsgrange was acquired from the Loftuses by Thomas Taylor at the end of the 17th century, who built a house there called 'The Grange' (hence 'Taylor's Grange') at which his

family resided until the late 18th century. Much of the lands surrounding the house appear to have been in use as fields during the Taylor's time, and he was known as an eminent agriculturalist (Ball 1905, 61). The house was described in contemporary accounts as being 'a grand house with an ornamental garden and a deer-park near Kilmashogue' and elements of the 17th century house survive within the current Marlay House (McGlade 2016, 5). The Moravian cemetery to the southeast of the Study Area was constructed within the grounds of Marlay between 1740 and 1760. As such it dates to the period when the Taylors were in possession of the grange.





In 1764, the Estate was purchased by David La Touche of French Huguenot origin, Member of Parliament and first Governor of the Bank of Ireland. La Touche extended the original house, and renamed it Marlay after his wife Elizabeth Marlay. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map gives a good indication of the results of La Touche's alterations, with an alteration of how the house is now accessed, from the north, and the addition of the courtyard to the west of the main building. The fields around the house were also developed into an 'English Landscape Style' demesne at this time, with records indicating that work was carried out during 1794-1801. Archer (1801, 16) notes that Latouche was one of the foremost potato cultivators with over 20 acres planted at Marlay and St Catherine's, and also noted that he was carrying out crop rotation with borecole (kale) being planted between the drills for winter cattle feeding. La Touche is also recorded as being in the possession of short-horned Holderness cattle at this time, a Yorkshire variation of the Dutch Friesian breed,

which was seen as an improved breed in the early 19th century (ibid., 49).

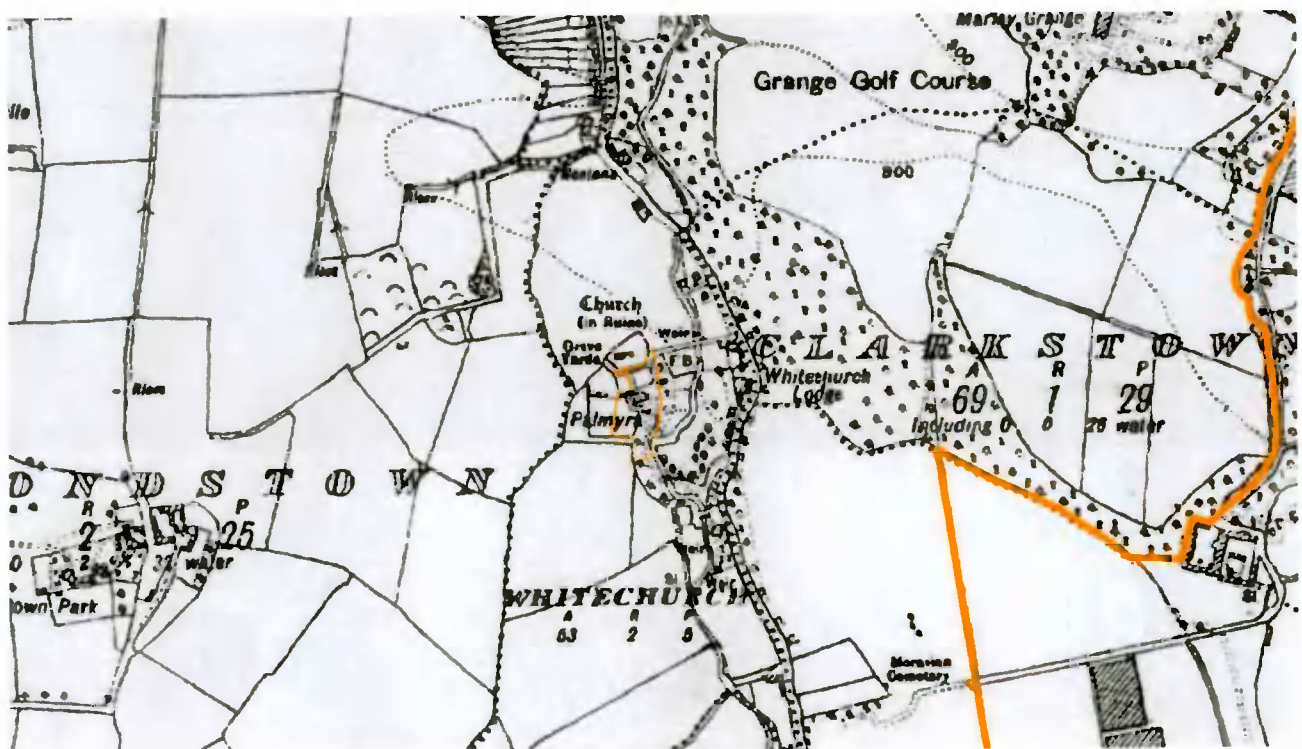
The Marlay House demesne was described in 1801 as having an extremely elegant house with commodious offices and farmyard (Archer 1801, 101). The gardens were extensive and contained a great deal of glass, with abundant varieties of fruit throughout (ibid.). The demesne consisted of over 300 acres, well wooded, watered and planted, and enclosed by a stone wall (ibid.).

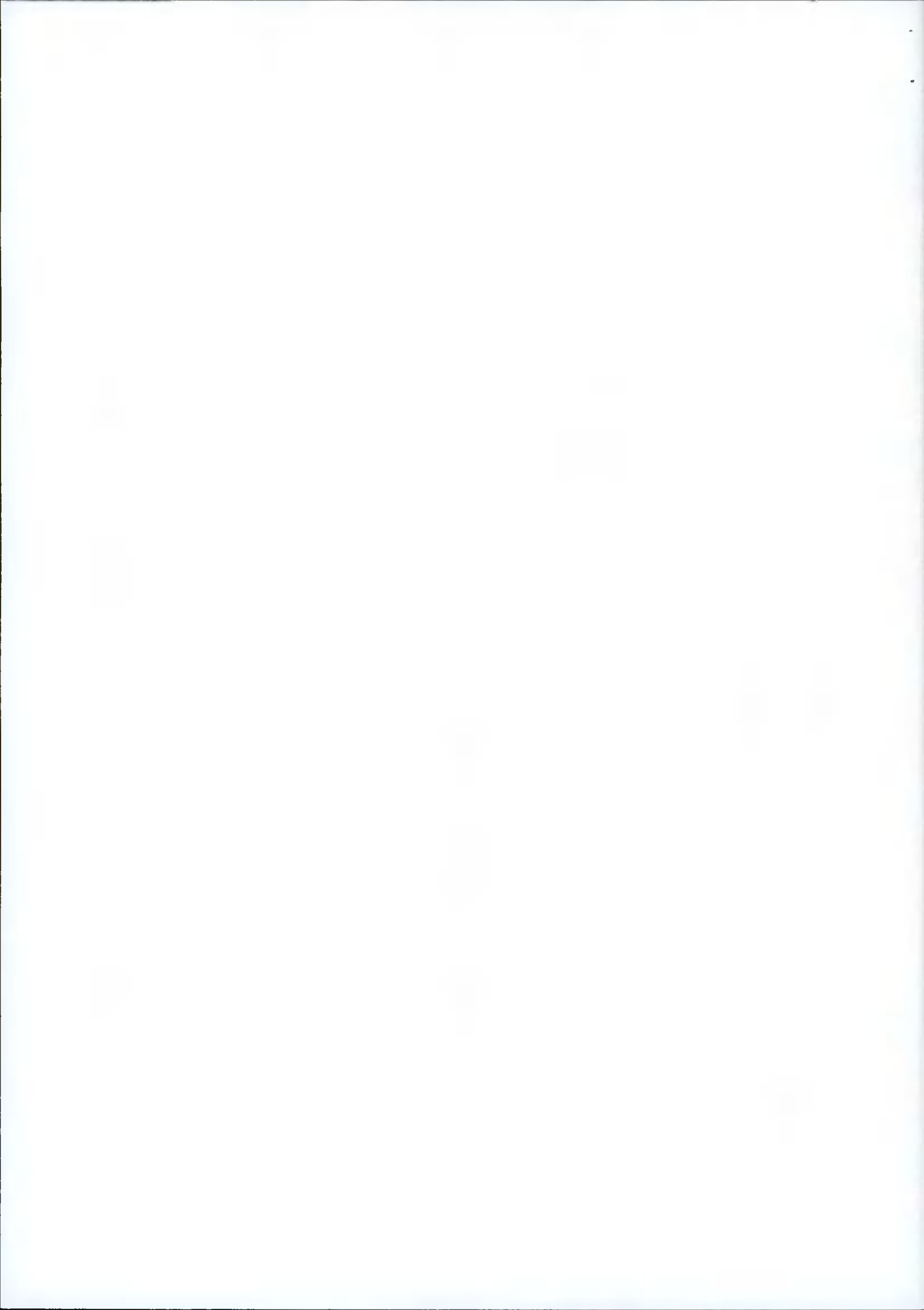
The new church of Whitechurch was erected in 1826 on a site in the grounds of Marlay (Lewis 1837).

Marlay was sold in 1864 to Robert Tedcastle, the well-known Dublin coal merchant, who carried out the Victorian alterations on the house and courtyard. The house was sold on to Philip Love in 1925, and then acquired by Dublin County Council in 1972 and developed as a Re-

#### 1938 Edition Ordnance Survey map

The 1930s edition of the Ordnance Survey again labels the graveyards and church in ruins to the north of the Study Area. Palmyra is again depicted with three structures forming the house and associated buildings. The Laundry to the south is no longer labelled and only the outline of the structure is depicted indicating it was in ruins by this time. A sluice and two weirs are depicted to the south of the former mill. The structures to the north on the site of the former silk mill are also still depicted.









Griffith's Valuation map, mid-C19th

gional Park.

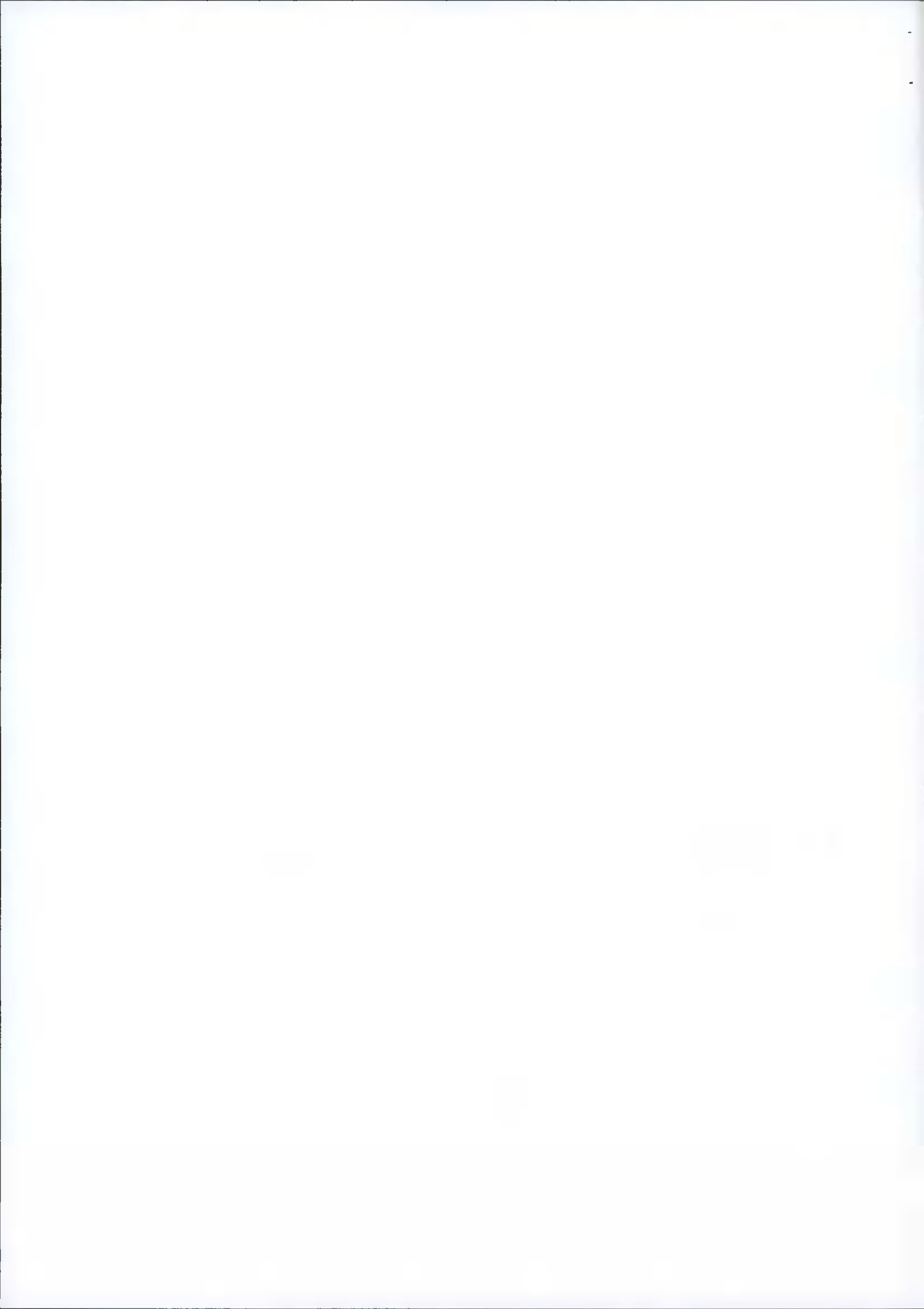
## Palmyra House

Palmyra House was constructed by Thomas Bewley in the early-mid 19th century (Shepard 1983, 65). The Griffith's Valuation maps show the Study Area as parcel 4A, which corresponds to a house, offices and land owned by John Davis, Esq., and occupied by Thomas Bewley Esq in 1848. Thomas Bewley also occupies parcel 4B, which is the wash mill directly south of Palmyra and is also leased from Davis. Bewley is listed as owning two further parcels in the vicinity (4C and 4D) which do not appear to be labelled on the map, and which are occupied by Robert Keen and John Fox, respectively, and he owns lot 3 - Whitechurch Lodge - which he leases to William Swifts, Esq. An obituary in the Freeman's Journal notes that Thomas Bewley

died in 1844, aged 64, at Whitechurch (Freeman's Journal 1844, May 10th Notice of Death).

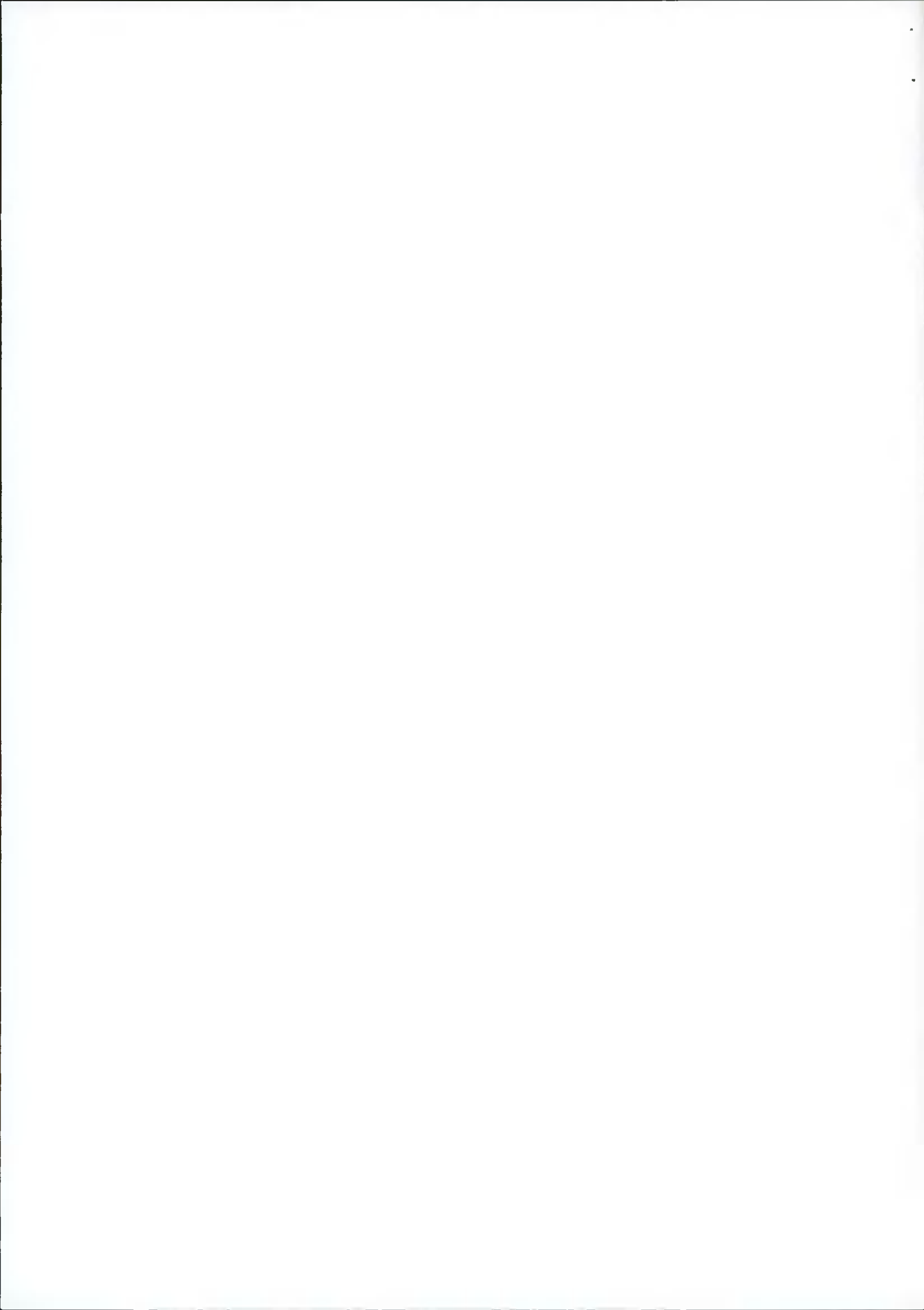
## La Touche's burial ground

An enclosed burial ground separate to the graveyard at Whitechurch and surrounded by the Study Area was first depicted on Taylor's map of 1816 and was labelled 'Latouche's burying ground'. No documentary records of the burial ground could be found, however a number of the gravestones within the graveyard relate to the Harty family, including William Harty, M.D., physician to the King's Hospital, and to the prisons of Dublin (Harty 1832, 53), Sir Robert Harty, Baronet, of Prospect House in Roebuck, who was Lord Mayor of Dublin in the 1830s and died in 1832 (Fisher 2009). Sir Robert Harty raised the issue of Irish distress, which he said was caused by high taxation and





Map of the 'La Touche' graveyard in the National Library (MS 3833) dated 1840





landlord absenteeism and was generally seen as pro-Catholic, drawing the ire of the Tory press in his day (*ibid.*).

Another gravestone relates to Sir George Hornidge Porter, Baronet, Professor of Surgery in the University of Dublin, who died in 1895 (*British Medical Journal Obituary* 1895, 1395). He was for many years one of the best known men in his native city (Norman 1896). His brother, Frank Thorpe Porter, a well-known police magistrate and author (*ibid.*), is also buried in the graveyard.

The gravestone of another doctor, Robert Johns, M.D., licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Vice-president of the Obstetrical society and assistant physician to the Dublin Lying-in hospital (Johns 1843, 101) is also present, along with extended family members. The gravestones indicate the graveyard was active from the early around 1808 to the early 20th century. No gravestones relating to the La Touche family were noted during the site inspection so the reference on Taylor's map is likely to refer to La Touche establishing the private graveyard, with this taking place in the early 19th century. Healy (2005, 78), while making reference to the Moravian cemetery further to the south and on the opposite side of the road, makes reference to an 1840 map of the graveyard setting out the names of those buried within it and remarked on that nearly all had the name Porter, Harly (*sic*) and Davis. This must be an error and in fact relate to the burial ground beside the Study Area as not a single Harty, Porter or Davis are present within the Moravian cemetery (Murphy 2012, 23-36). Healy also noted that the first burials dated to 1808 (2005, 78), which correlates with the gravestones identified during the site inspection, while the Moravian cemetery was established in 1764, with the first burial taking place in that year (Murphy 2012, 6).

A map of the graveyard in the National Library (MS 3833) dated 1840 was examined. It depicts the graveyard as a distinctive sub-square form with a boundary line running east-west halfway through the centre. The northern half of the graveyard is restricted to the Porter family and the graves date from 1808 to 1828. The south-

ern half has the family names of Davis and Harty and date from 1808 to 1840. The largest grave is of Charles Msopp Harty. There are a large number of infant and child deaths from 1808, for example John Harty 10 days old, Susanne Harty 13 months, Anne Davis 9 months, and Susanna Davis 17 years. This may have been caused by a fever epidemic, such as typhus or cholera, which was common in pre-famine Ireland. Outbreaks of fever killed thousands, especially the poor, and are documented in Ireland in 1808 (O'Neill 1973).

It is possible that the burial ground to the north of the Study Area represents a familial graveyard associated with the Harty, Porter, Davis and Johns families. There is also a possibility of a medical connection between the original interments.

## Milling

As previously mentioned a watermill was present at Harold's Grange after the dissolution of St Mary's Abbey (Murphy and Potterton, 2010, 422). And another was built on the Kil-mashogue lands in 1516 by John Harold (Ball 1905, 58). The exact location of these mills is unclear, however it is possible that one of them was a precursor to one of the mills in the immediate vicinity of the Study Area in the 19th century. There is some confusion over the longevity and identification of some of the mills along this stretch of the Glin River, however mills appear to have been present in two locations, one along the eastern side of the Whitechurch Road to the north of the Study Area and one to the south on the western side of the road.

Healy (2005, 77) suggests that the northern mill may also be the site of one of two paper mills which operated here in the 18th century. In 1756 William Mondett and Moses Varney came from England and built a mill in Whitechurch at a cost of £1,400 (*ibid.*). This mill was involved in the manufacture of gold and silver paper for the purpose of 'preserving gold and silver lace from tarnishing' (Shepard 1983, 62). By 1763 they had built a second mill in the same locale for making press and purple papers (*ibid.*).

Year	Area	Population	Area	Population	Area	Population
1850	...	...	...	...	...	...
1860	...	...	...	...	...	...
1870	...	...	...	...	...	...
1880	...	...	...	...	...	...
1890	...	...	...	...	...	...
1900	...	...	...	...	...	...
1910	...	...	...	...	...	...
1920	...	...	...	...	...	...
1930	...	...	...	...	...	...
1940	...	...	...	...	...	...
1950	...	...	...	...	...	...
1960	...	...	...	...	...	...
1970	...	...	...	...	...	...
1980	...	...	...	...	...	...
1990	...	...	...	...	...	...
2000	...	...	...	...	...	...



Table 1. Population and area of the study area.

There is a significant positive correlation between the area of the study area and the population of the study area. This is shown in Figure 1, which is a scatter plot of population versus area. The data points show a clear upward trend, indicating that as the area of the study area increases, the population also tends to increase. This relationship is statistically significant, as indicated by the p-value of 0.001.

The results of the regression analysis are shown in Table 2. The regression equation is  $Y = 0.0001X + 1000$ , where  $Y$  is the population and  $X$  is the area. The coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) is 0.85, indicating that 85% of the variation in population can be explained by the variation in area. The p-value for the regression coefficient is 0.001, which is highly significant.

It is important to note that the population of the study area is not only a function of the area, but also of the time period. This is shown in Figure 2, which is a line graph of population versus time. The population of the study area has increased steadily over the years, from 1000 in 1950 to 10000 in 2000.

The results of the regression analysis are shown in Table 3. The regression equation is  $Y = 0.0001X + 1000$ , where  $Y$  is the population and  $X$  is the area. The coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) is 0.85, indicating that 85% of the variation in population can be explained by the variation in area. The p-value for the regression coefficient is 0.001, which is highly significant.

The results of the regression analysis are shown in Table 4. The regression equation is  $Y = 0.0001X + 1000$ , where  $Y$  is the population and  $X$  is the area. The coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) is 0.85, indicating that 85% of the variation in population can be explained by the variation in area. The p-value for the regression coefficient is 0.001, which is highly significant.



The laundry mill to the south of the Study Area was started around 1830 by Mr. Bewley beside his residence, Lissadell, and remained in the same family until 1880 (Shepard 1983, 65). Lewis noted that bleaching grounds and an extensive laundry were attached to the works of Mr. Bewley (Lewis 1837). Bewley is also recorded as building Palmyra, the house within the Study Area, and Whitechurch Lodge to the east, indicating the land to the north of the laundry mill belonged to the mill at this time.

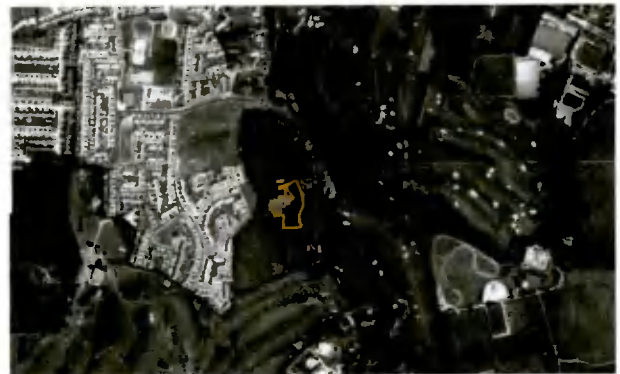
It was subsequently operated by Caroline Thacker and after 1899 by Mr. Willoughby. It closed down around 1930. Shepard noted (1983, 65) stories that the Black and Tans sent their laundry up here but due to the considerable number of items going astray very soon ceased to do so. In 1910 the Whitechurch Laundry Co. Ltd. had branches in Blessington Street and Charlemont Street in Dublin.

## 20th century Palmyra

The 1915 Post Office Dublin Directory and calendar lists the Baily family, including John F., Francis, and Miss N. as residents at Palmyra. The entry for Francis reads: Baily, Fras. Probate court, Palmyra'. In Porter's Guide for the same year a Miss Whelan is listed as an occupant of Palmyra. J.F. Bailey is listed as the occupant in the Dublin Directory in 1934 and in Thom's Directory for 1928, 1932 and 1935.

Thom's Directory lists P.T. Cremer as an occupant of Palmyra in 1939, with the Dublin Directory of 1940 listing the same occupant. The Dublin Directory also lists Henry Maguire as an occupant at Palmyra in 1940.

In the 1970s and 1980s Thom's directory lists the Perry family at Palmyra.

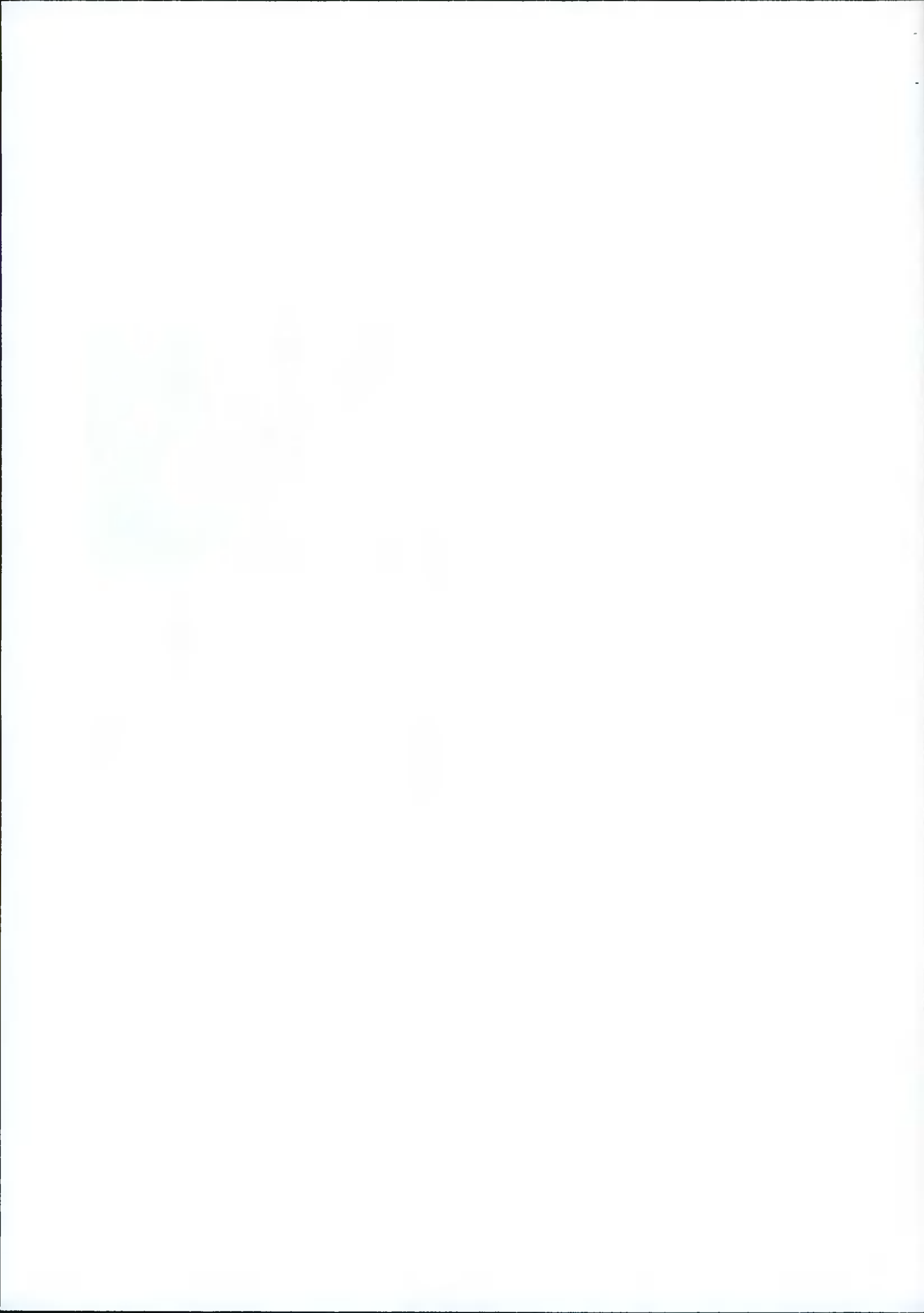


### Aerial imagery

The aerial image of the Study Area from 1995 (above in black and white) shows that development had taken place to the west of the Study Area by this time. The curving line of the new road to the north gives a false impression of a curving boundary to the church as this is not present prior to the laying out of the new estate. There is no indication of the millpond to the north of the graveyard, though darker ground can be seen to the west of the road where the building associated with the former silk mill was previously located. The two main buildings within the Study Area can be seen with the eastern portion of the site heavily wooded and the area in the immediate vicinity and to the southwest of the house more open garden.

The aerial image from 2000 shows no major changes within the Study Area. Additional development had taken place to the north of the church and to the southwest of the Study Area, with an access road now present along the western boundary of the site. This development was built on the former millpond of the silk mill and the access road to the northeast ran across the former building associated with the mill on the western side of the road. A new building can be seen on the site of the former laundry to the south. It is unclear whether this was present on the 1995 image also due to the heavy shadows on the earlier image.

The aerial image from 2005 and 2005-2013 do not show any further changes within the Study Area or the immediate vicinity. The more recent satellite imagery depicts some additional development to the northwest of the church. Some additional development was started to the east between 2017 and 2018 between Palmyra and Whitechurch Lodge (see above Digital Globe colour image).



## Section 4 Site inspection

### Introduction

An inspection of the Study Area was carried out by Philippa Barry on 31st January 2020. An additional second inspection of the early graveyard was carried out by Steve McGlade on 22nd February 2020, and of the millrace and weir by Antoine Giacometti in 19th June 2020.

### Palmyra house grounds

The Study Area is in the townland of Whitechurch, surrounded by the townlands of Edmondstown, Ballyboden, Taylorsgrange and Newtown. It is accessed via a narrow lane off Whitechurch Road. The laneway leads uphill and to the west before a diversion turns south to the gates leading to the house, while the lane continues to the west where it terminates in an entrance to lands associated with the house. Blocked up access to the White Church (Killhunsin/Balgeeth) and Graveyard (RMP DU01795, DU01800, DU022-030001) and a small pedestrian gate to the family graveyard are also off the lane. A second electronic gated entrance is further south on Whitechurch Road. This driveway runs along a valley and up to the house via a bridge crossing the Kilmashogue river.

Palmyra House was constructed by Thomas Bewley in the early-mid 19th century (Shepard 1983, 65). It is not listed as a Protected Structure nor is it listed on the NIAH. The main front door to the house is east facing, as is a possible boot room entrance that is set back from the front door. The southern face of the house has double doors and windows. The eastern side of the property is given over to car-parking, beyond which is densely wooded as it drops down to the river. The northern half of the property contains a small private burial ground, a large outbuilding orientated north to









south and another rectangular building running east to west. The three buildings are connected externally only.



The northern building is later and appears to be of concrete block construction with corrugated iron roofing. An earlier unit is visible on the maps, but this has either been knocked or incorporated into the current structure. It has two doors and three windows facing east. The rear of that building likely incorporates the boundary wall of the family graveyard. No windows face onto the graveyard.



The east/west building is visible on the 25" map and appears to be a rubble wall construction with heavy rendering. It is most likely a similar age and fabric to the house. The east face contains a large garage door. Another smaller door is located to the rear of the house and from the smaller field at the rear of the property, it appears that an access was at one point made through the west facing wall but later blocked up. There are four small windows on the south facing wall. The north wall incorporates the boundary for the family graveyard and no windows are inserted along that side.



There are two front lawns; one to the north of the house edged with the boundary wall and mature trees. On the southern side of the house is another small lawn enclosed by gravel paths, a low (0.5m) boundary wall and wrought iron gate to the east and a higher level of lawn and shrubbery to the east. The lower level gravel path extends to the rear of the house where access to the large outbuilding is provided. There is also a former toilet and a possible tank or pond abutting the large outbuilding. A Runwell No. 3 pump (circa 1917) is intact and attached to the rear wall of the house.

Two series of granite steps, the lower enclosed by a rounded wall, lead from the rear entrance to the two levels of rear garden. A retaining wall, which appears to be of regular mortared rubble construction but is heavily rendered, extends from the outbuilding, around the gravel path and over to a more southerly set of steps leading to two garden paths. A modern concrete block addition is parallel to wall enclosing the steps and was likely intended to provide more

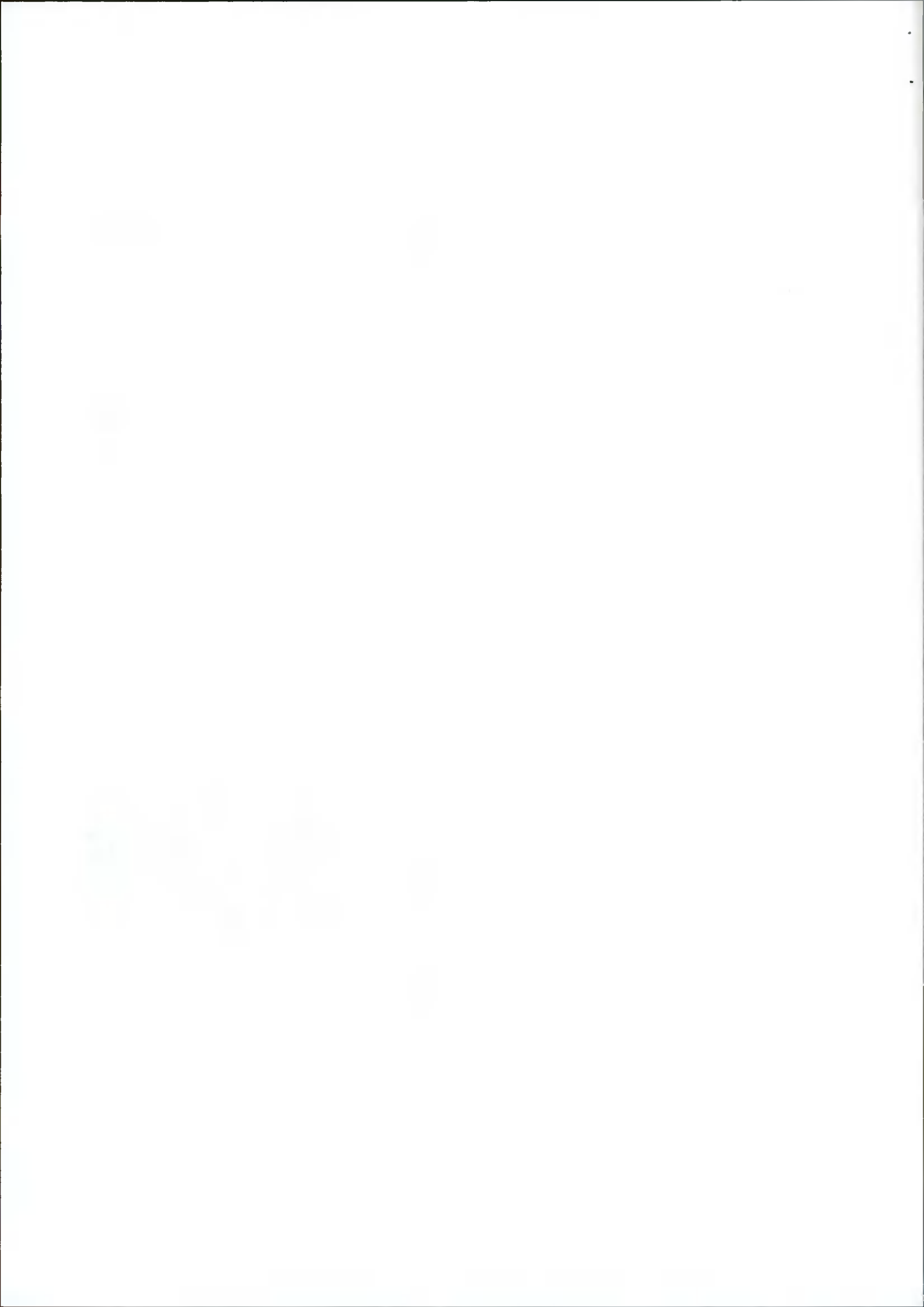




shelter. Approaching the garden from the rear of the house, the long outbuilding is to the north or right-hand side. A hedge runs north to south and the main development will take place west of this edge. Beyond the hedge on the northern side of the property, a series of trees are planted in two lines. North of trees is a later break in the tall boundary wall, where a large metal gate is now hung. The boundary wall is in four courses made up of large and small boulders with mortar. The break is repaired and faced in regular bricks and granite. Through the gate to the north is a small field. On the historic 25" map, this field is larger, before the construction of Grangebrook Avenue and estate. Two buildings are recorded in the field, any trace of the smallest building has been removed by the construction of the modern wall and the remains of the largest is visible due to the windows cut into the wall but the footprint of the remainder of the building is not visible. The field is traversed by a large sunken path coming from the gate (with cattle-grid) to the laneway. A modern steel gate and fence separates the field from the lane and the plot to the north which is related to the church. An earlier wrought iron gate is still extant. The western boundary of this field is modern concrete wall, while the eastern boundary is made up of the private graveyard wall, a painted rounded wall (suggestive of a lean-to) and the west-facing wall of the outbuilding, through which a break has been made and blocked up, repaired with concrete blocks. There is a clear break between the outbuilding and the boundary wall. The boundary wall has been rebuilt in parts on the southern side, with the bottom two courses being original. Several trees line either side of the earlier boundary walls and the interior of the concrete wall.

The larger garden is bisected by a garden path passing through a break in the hedge. A small glasshouse is situated in the northwest of the garden, to its rear are a series of ridges and furrows that suggest earlier gardening activity. The garden path runs east to west before turning towards the south-west corner of the plot where another corrugated iron-roofed outbuilding, with at least two rooms is located. Two wrought iron gates have been repurposed in this building. West and south of the outbuilding, the









ground level drops by up to a metre. Trees form a boundary on the upper interior level, while the outer limits are new concrete sheet walls related to the construction of the housing estate to the west. The lower level may have been intended as drainage or a pathway. Possible remnants of the 25" boundary lines are manifest in wire fencing. Rubble, possibly from an earlier boundary wall is visible throughout. A cache of pebbles possibly deposited by one of the dogs is tucked under a tree where the dogs cross between the lower level and the garden. At the eastern end of the lower level pathway, it joins with a foot-path that runs from the bridge up to the house and garden.

### The laneway

The boundary wall of the 13th century church is similar in construction to that of the wall surrounding the house (hereinafter the Palmyra wall). The church wall however has slightly irregular rubble coursing and a very slight batter. It bulges in parts and may be comprised by vegetation on its northern side. A Dublin-made, wrought iron gate hangs between the church and house walls but is not original and an untidy modification was made to the Palmyra wall to hold it. East of this gate, the house wall is remade with blocks and may have been whitewashed. As one passes through the gate, the lane is mossy and covered with leaves. Part of the house wall has evidence of being rendered at some stage, perhaps as insulation for northernmost outbuilding. An insulated pipe runs from the outbuilding through the wall and down into the laneway ground.

A break in the Palmyra wall is the entrance to the private graveyard described below. The lane continues west to a gateway with original wrought iron gates, now also sealed by a steel gate. The pillars holding this gate and one to the west abutting the church wall may be contemporary with the construction of the Palmyra wall. The turret-like capping on the pillars appears to be later, the northern gate pillar being the best example.

Between the western two pillars is a wall broken by two granite pillars. They have an appearance





of being ex-situ and the space between them is filled with rubble stones. The wall is heaving mossed over but appears to be quite damaged. Perhaps this was another entrance to the White Church, but it was not accessible. A tree is growing out from where the Church wall meets the pillar. It has loosened a large part of the mortared wall which is likely to collapse into the Church boundary.

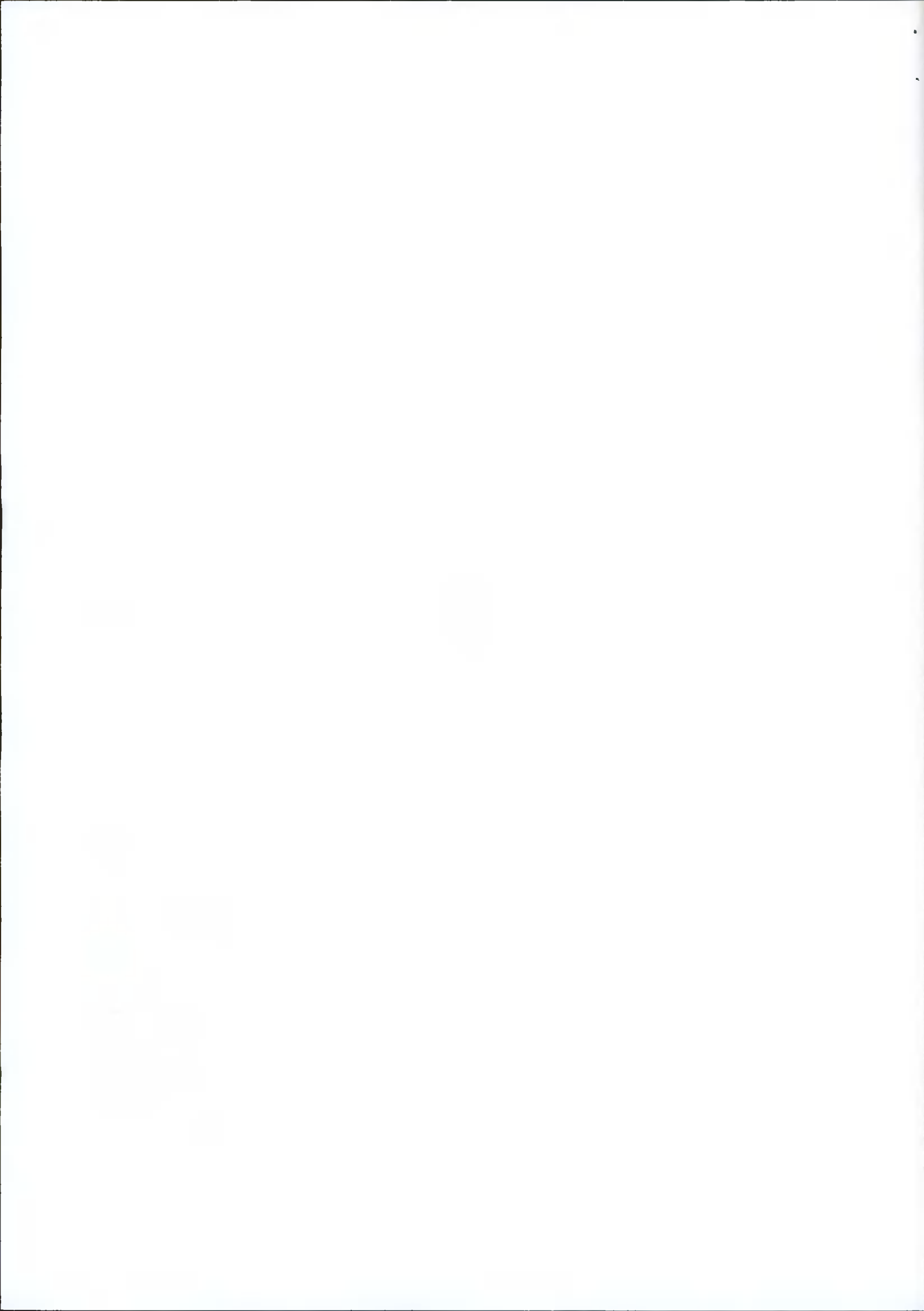
## The private graveyard

The Private Graveyard is accessed via a wide arched gateway with wrought iron gate from the lane. On entering the graveyard, one sees six supine granite markers close to a tree on the left, three upright gravestones and pointed obelisk markers at the rear and another supine marker to the right. The main surnames present are Porter (early 1800s, Harty, Baronet (late 1800s) and Harty (early 1900s). Infants, children and adults are present. Names likely to lead to further study include Sir Robert Harty Bart and George Hornidge Porter, Baronet – Surgeon in Ordinary to the Queen in Ireland. Robert Johns buried with his five children (one being George Porter) and at least four others. Beneath a tree in the southwest corner, Sarah Thorpe Porter is buried with her grandson, John Graves, the son of Robert Newell Esq. Several burials occurred in 1808 making the graveyard earlier than the house. Some rises in the ground suggest other burials that may no longer be marked. A few the earlier makers are too weathered to read.

The western wall of the graveyard is abutted by the modern outbuilding. Its corrugated iron roof rests on the wall, suggesting that it form part of the structure. Some rendering of the wall has been carried out to the northwest. The centre of the wall is brick and shows collapse, perhaps where the earlier structure from the 1833 map was removed. In the same area, a gran-

ite bench has been badly damaged. The rubble wall continues from there to the southern wall, which again appears to have been used to build the earlier outbuilding, as the corrugated iron roof rest on the wall. The northern wall in which the arched gateway is located has been







rebuilt or had its height increased at some stage to match that of the Church wall. It may have been an upgrade to the arched gateway. It is visible on both sides of the wall. A brick pillar on the external northeast corner of the graveyard wall demarcates where the Palmyra wall construction started. The outer face of the wall has been rendered, ivy protecting the upper render but likely encouraging the weathering away of the lower render.

Given the delicate nature of the Church wall, it would not be advisable to permit machinery access to this lane during any phase of construction.

### The church and graveyard

A locked gate and high walls prevent access to the Church and Graveyard. It appears that the only viable entrance would be the pedestrian gate on the lane way. A fine cut granite entrance houses an arched wrought iron gate. An unsympathetic repair to the rubble Church wall has been made on the northern side. A remainder of the church boundary wall can be found in the Grangebrook estate abutting an ESB substation.

Further down the lane towards the Whitechurch road, a large break has been made in the boundary wall and hoarding erected. This suggests a separate development. Some preliminary works appear to have been carried out.

The bridge and boundary wall near the entrance to Grangebrook park have a similar construction to the Palmyra and Church walls.





## Section 5 Impact Assessment

The archaeological assessment has set out the archaeological and cultural heritage baseline of the Study Area. The key items are set out below.

- Whitechurch church and graveyard (Recorded Monument DU022-030-- & Protected Structure 334), dating from the early medieval period, and containing a Rathdown Slab which makes it a significant early (pre-10th Century AD) ecclesiastic site. Subsurface remains associated with the monument may extend beyond the existing boundary wall of the graveyard, potentially into the proposed development site.
- La Touche's burial ground, dating to c. 1808 and predating Palmyra House. Not a Protected Structure. Possibly established by the La Touche family of Marley Park, however, none of the graves bear the La Touche name. It may be a familial graveyard associated with the Harty, Porter, Davis and Johns families established after a fever outbreak in 1808. The Davis family were significant landowners in Whitechurch, and Griffith's Valuation records that John Davis owned Palmyra House in the mid-19th century. There is also a possibility of a medical connection between the original interments.
- Mid-19th century Palmyra House and grounds. Not a Protected Structure.
- Mills and millraces in the east of the Study Area, including medieval and 19th century mills.

### Impact assessment

The proposed development involves the construction of eight houses fronting onto Grangebrook Avenue. The plans include rear gardens to the east of each house, and a new footpath along Grangebrook Avenue to the west. The development site is situated over 0.22ha of garden in the western portion of the

Palmyra House Study Area.

### *Impact on Whitechurch church & graveyard*

The proposed development will have no direct physical impact on the upstanding remains of the graveyard and church (Recorded Monument DU022-030-- & Protected Structure 334), as the graveyard is situated outside the site.

The northeast end of the proposed development does lie within c. 5m of the curving graveyard wall defining the upstanding extent of the church and graveyard. As a result, it is possible that subsurface archaeological remains associated with the ecclesiastical site that extended beyond the graveyard wall would be impacted upon by the proposed development.

The development proposals in the northern tip, closest to the church and graveyard, are for a bin store and a parking place. Depending on the level of ground reduction necessary for these, which should not be much, these could have a low impact on any surviving archaeology. These need also not cause any visual impact on the graveyard depending on sensitive treatment of planting and boundary walling.

The proposed closest building to the graveyard is a two storey house c. 10m to the south-south-west. The house will require foundations, which would impact on any sub-surface archaeology associated with the graveyard and extending into the development site. In terms of visual impact, the house is situated along the same line as a later rectangular burial ground built on the south side of the church and graveyard, reducing the visual impact of the proposed new house.

Any construction traffic using the small lane which gives access to Palmyra may impact on the historic curving graveyard wall. This is because the lane is very narrow, and if





construction traffic were using the lane it is possible that the graveyard wall would get accidentally damaged by a construction vehicle. Since the developer intends to access the development site only through the main road to the west (Grangebrook Avenue), this should not be an issue.

### Impact on La Touche's Burial Ground

The proposed development is located immediately southwest of 'La Touche's' burial ground, which is not a Recorded Monument. Cartographic sources show that the family burial ground never extended into the development site since in founding in the early 19th century. The family burial ground will not be physically impacted by the development and the high wall surrounding it screens it from any visual impact. Care should be taken to preserve the southwest boundary wall of the graveyard as this also forms the northeastern boundary wall of the proposed development

### Impact on Palmyra House and setting

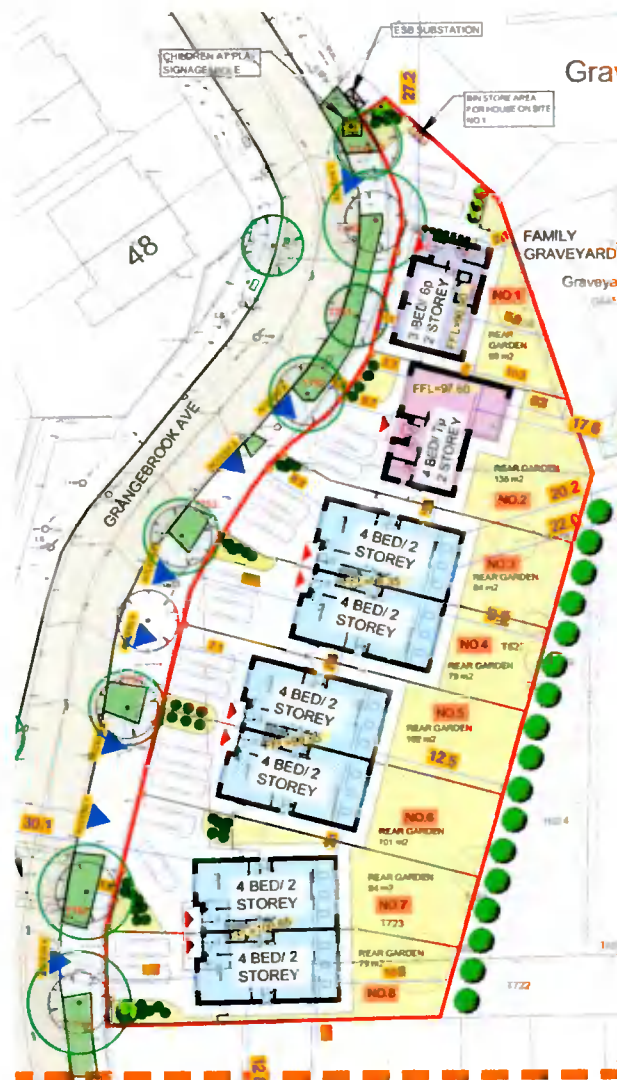
The impact on the architectural aspects of Palmyra House and grounds are being addressed separately by the conservation architect. There are no existing buildings on the site due to be demolished for the scheme other than a small glasshouse, which is not of archaeological or industrial heritage interest. The garden itself, which will be built on in the new scheme, is of 19th century and not of archaeological interest.

### Impact on mills

The proposed development will have no impact on the medieval and 19th century industrial milling heritage. This is because the proposed development as it is restricted to the western portion of the Study Area, away from the remains of former mills, millraces and weirs which are all situated in the lower-lying eastern end of the Study Area.

### Impact on other unknown archaeology

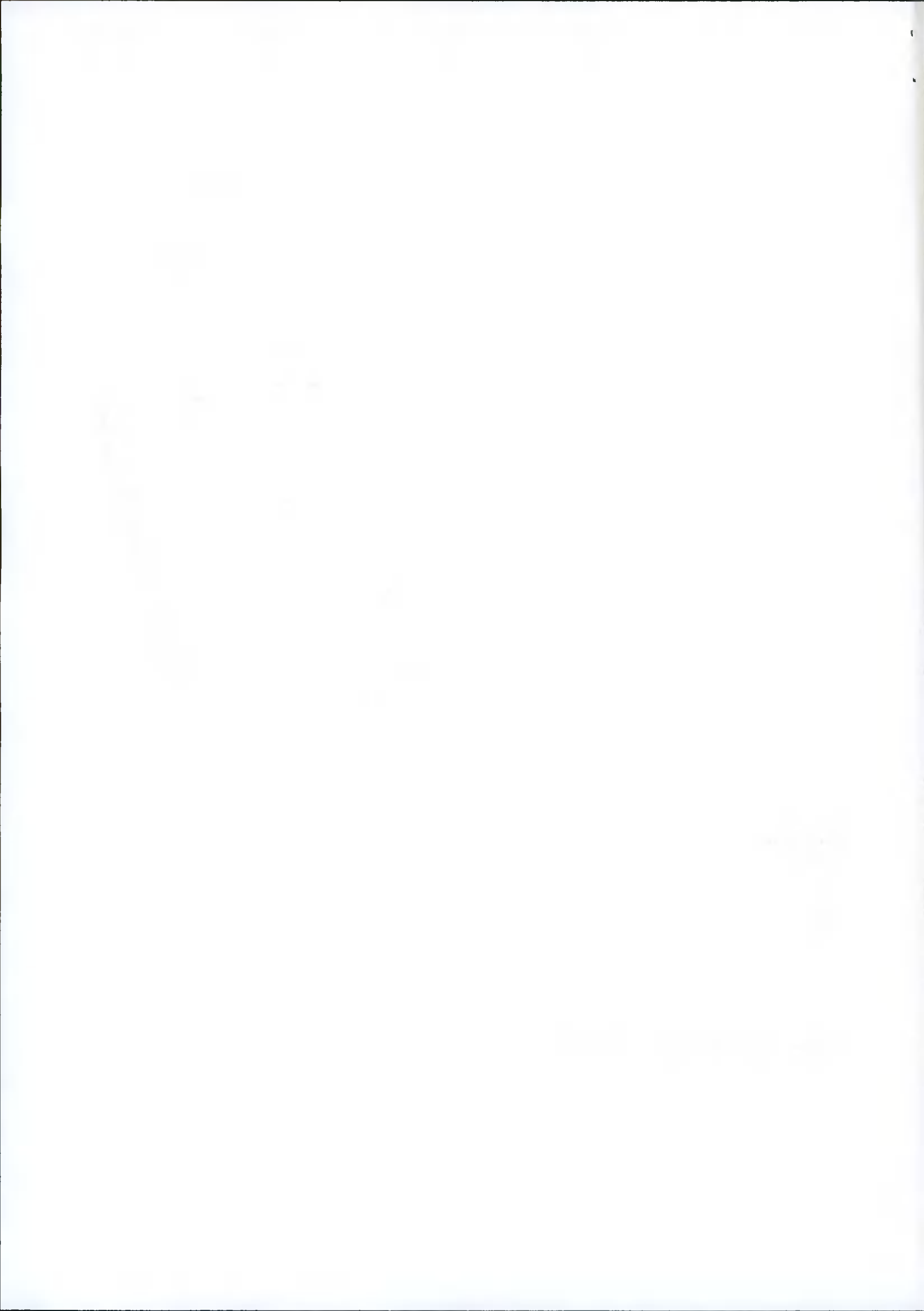
There is always a possibility that any new development will impact on unknown archaeological material below the ground. In this case the possibility is higher than usual due to the presence of a significant and early ecclesiastical site to the north of the development.



Development proposals (File D1194\_1-04\_8 HOUSES\_SITE LAYOUT 250\_29.07.2020)

## Recommendations

1. The small lane providing the current access to Palmyra House should not be used for construction access if possible. If it has to be used for short-term construction traffic at any stage, a strategy for ensuring that the curving graveyard wall is not accidentally damaged by construction vehicles should be drawn up and put in place.
2. the northern garden area (which contains proposed houses 1 and 2) should be mechanically reduced to natural subsoil under archaeological supervision in advance of groundworks. This should take place after any trees due for removal are removed. Where ar-







archaeological material is found to be present under the proposed houses 1 and 2, the archaeology should be assessed, and then excavated unless very significant, in which case other options should be considered. Where archaeological material is found to be present closest to the church and graveyard, in the area of the proposed bins and parking, the archaeological features should be tested, recorded and then preserved in situ. If necessary, the finished ground level of the bin and parking could be raised a small amount in order to preserve any archaeology here.

3. Based on the results of the small archaeolo-

gical programme above (2), the remainder of the proposed development should have archaeological monitoring of excavation groundworks.

4. Consideration should be given to the planting and boundary treatments in the northern portion of the proposed development in order to minimise visual and physical impact to the church and graveyard site, and the rectangular 19th century burial ground.



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