

C O U R T N E Y • D E E R Y
ARCHAEOLOGY & CULTURAL HERITAGE

Archaeological Impact Assessment

**Warehousing / Logistics Office and Café /
Restaurant Development at Calmount Road**

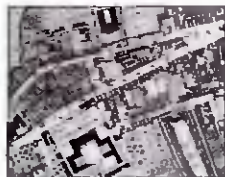
**(Ballymount Avenue and Calmount Road,
Ballymount Industrial Estate)**

Dublin 12

For Blackwin Limited

**Lisa Courtney BA, MSc, Dip Planning & Env. Law,
MIAI**

31st March 2022



CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	7
1.1.	General	7
2.	STUDY METHODOLOGY.....	8
2.1.	Desk Study	8
2.2.	Standards and Guidelines	9
2.3.	Site Inspection and Archaeological Monitoring.....	9
3.	RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT	10
3.1.	The Proposed Development.....	10
4.	Archaeological and Historical Background	13
4.2.	Early Medieval Period.....	14
4.3.	Historic period.....	15
4.4.	Previous archaeological investigations in the area.....	17
4.6.	Architectural Heritage and Cultural Heritage.....	18
4.7.	Historic Cartographic Mapping.....	18
4.7.1.	<i>Rocque's 'An Actual Survey of the County of Dublin (1760)</i>	18
4.7.2.	<i>Ordnance Survey Historical Mapping</i>	19
4.8.	Aerial Imagery	21
5.	SITE INSPECTION AND MONITORING OF GROUND INVESTIGATION TEST TRENCHES	22
6.	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	26
7.	REFERENCES	28

List of Figures

Figure 1 Site Location.....	7
Figure 2 Proposed development site layout	10
Figure 3 Map showing individual RMP and SMR sites and approximate site location (Online Historic Environment Viewer, www.archaeology.ie)	11
Figure 4 Location of Site Investigation Test Pits	11
Figure 5 Ballymount Castle in 1767 (Beranger)	16
Figure 6 Rocque's map of County Dublin (1760)	18
Figure 7 First Edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey Map (1843): approximate site location.....	19
Figure 8 Revised 25-inch Ordnance Survey Map (1863-7): approximate site location	20
Figure 9 Revised 6-inch Ordnance Survey Map (1911-12): approximate site location.....	20
Figure 10 Location of Trial Pits showing the depth to rock below existing ground level (Annotations of the trial pits are based on the previous site layout plan in circulation when undertaken in November 2021) ..	24

List of Plates

Plate 1 Archaeological excavation to the south of the gatehouse at Ballymount	17
Plate 2 Ordnance Survey Ireland Aerial Image 1995	21
Plate 3 Ordnance Survey Ireland Aerial Image 2005	22
Plate 4 View to the northwest, taken from the southeast corner of the site	23
Plate 5 View to the northeast.....	23
Plate 6 TP4 2.5m wide x 2.5m long, showing the topsoil, sandy silty layer, gravelly clay and weathered rock	25
Plate 7 TP9 2.5m wide x 2.5m long, showing the weathered rock and rock encountered at 1.2-1.6m bpgl	25
Plate 8 TP1 1.2m wide x 2.5m long, excavated to 0.9m, rock encountered at 0.6m bpgl	25
Plate 9 T3P 1.2m wide x 3m long, revealed fill material, excavated to 1.8m in depth	26

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report has been prepared by Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy Ltd for Blackwin Limited. The report assesses the archaeological potential and describes the receiving historic landscape of the lands at Calmount Road and Ballymount Avenue, Ballymount Industrial Estate which are proposed for a logistics centre.

The proposed development comprises the provision of 5 no. warehousing / logistics units including ancillary office floorspace, 3 no. own-door office buildings, 1 no. café / restaurant unit, associated access roads, car and cycle parking, service yards, landscaping, ESB substations and all associated development.

The objective of the report is to assess the impact of the proposed development on the receiving archaeological and cultural heritage environments and to propose ameliorative measures to safeguard any monuments, features, finds of antiquity or features of archaeological, architectural heritage or cultural heritage merit.

Research conducted for this site has shown that there are no recorded archaeological monuments, structures of an architectural heritage interest or features of a cultural heritage significance within or in proximity to the site that will require mitigation.

Archaeological monitoring of the ground investigation test pits took place throughout the site and no buried features of an archaeological potential were revealed.

Given the greenfield nature of the site, it is proposed that archaeological monitoring is to take place during the topsoil stripping, earthmoving and/or ground reduction stages of the proposed development in order to identify any small scale, discreet features (should they be there) and enable their full recording.

These recommendations are subject to the approval of South Dublin County Council and the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. General

This Archaeological Impact Assessment, at the site of a proposed warehousing, logistics, office and café / restaurant development at the Ballymount Industrial Estate, Dublin 12 (Figure 1) was carried out to inform the design and planning process and accompany a planning application in order to support and to provide greater certainty as to the below-ground potential within the lands proposed for development.

Archaeological monitoring of site investigation works took place in order to assess the below-ground potential. No archaeological finds, features, or deposits were observed and the results are presented in this report. The report was produced by Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy Ltd. for Blackwin Limited.



Figure 1 Site Location

2. STUDY METHODOLOGY

2.1. Desk Study

The desk study availed of the following sources:

- Record of Monuments and Places and Sites and Monuments Record

The primary source of information for the desk study is the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH). The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), as revised in light of fieldwork, formed the basis for the establishment of the statutory RMP pursuant to Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994. The RMP records known upstanding archaeological monuments, their original location (in cases of destroyed monuments) and the position of possible sites identified as cropmarks on vertical aerial photographs. It is based on a comprehensive range of published and publicly available documentary and cartographic sources. The information held in the RMP files is read in conjunction with published constraint maps. Archaeological sites identified since 1994 have been added to the non-statutory SMR database of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (National Monuments Service, DDHLGH), which is available online at www.archaeology.ie and includes both RMP and SMR sites. Those sites designated as SMR sites have not yet been added to the statutory record, but are scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP.

- The topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland

The topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland (NMI) identify recorded stray finds held in the museum's archive. The files, which are donated to the state in accordance with national monuments legislation, are provenanced to townland and sometimes include reports on excavations undertaken by NMI archaeologists earlier in the 20th century.

- South Dublin Development Plan (2016-2022)

The current South Dublin Development Plan was consulted for a list of protected structures, the Record of Protected Structures (RPS sites), comprising schedules of buildings and items of architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest that are listed for protection in the study area.

- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) was established in 1990 in order to fulfil Ireland's obligations under the Granada Convention which states that 'for the purpose of precise identification of the monuments, groups of buildings and sites to be protected, each Party undertakes

to maintain inventories of that architectural heritage'. The survey of Fingal was carried out in 2002; this building survey highlights a representative sample, and raises awareness of the wealth of architectural heritage in the county. The NIAH surveys can be reviewed at www.buildingsofireland.ie.

- Documentary and cartographic sources

Documentary and literary sources used are detailed in the references at the end of the report. Historical maps were examined to determine the changing nature of the land chosen for the proposed development. Cartographic sources consulted for this report include Rocque's map of County Dublin, 1760; and the first and revised editions of 6 Inch and 25 Inch Ordnance Survey maps.

2.2. Standards and Guidelines

The following legislation, standards and guidelines were consulted to inform the assessment:

- National Monuments (Amendments) Acts, 1930-2014;
- The Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended;
- Heritage Act, 1995;
- Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada) 1985, ratified by Ireland in 1991;
- Council of Europe European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta) 1992, ratified by Ireland in 1997;
- Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, 1999, (formerly) Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and Islands;
- Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2000 and the Planning and Development Act 2000;

2.3. Site Inspection and Archaeological Monitoring

A site inspection took place on 11th November 2021. The purpose of the visit was to inspect the area for features and sites of an archaeological and cultural heritage potential. As part of the site work, monitoring of the opening of ground investigation test pits took place in order to assess the below ground potential. Eleven test pits were archaeologically examined. All test pits were found to be archaeologically sterile with no inclusions of an archaeological interest.

3. RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

3.1. The Proposed Development

The proposed development comprises the provision of 5 no. warehousing / logistics units including ancillary office floorspace, 3 no. own-door office buildings, 1 no. café / restaurant unit, associated access roads, car and cycle parking, service yards, landscaping, ESB substations, and all associated development as illustrated in Figure 2.



Figure 2 Proposed development site layout

The proposed development site is located to the north of Calmount Road and west of Ballymount Avenue within Ballymount industrial Estate, Dublin 12, it is located within Kilnamanagh townland. There are no recorded monuments within or in close proximity to the proposed development area (Figure 3).

The lands within the proposed development have been disturbed from adjacent development. Eleven test trenches were excavated across the footprint of the proposed units and the access roads (Figure 4). The trenches were opened for site investigation purposes and were examined by an archaeologist. No finds, deposits, material or features of an archaeological nature was revealed as a result of this exercise.

Site at Calmount Road and Ballymount Avenue



Figure 3 Map showing individual RMP and SMR sites and approximate site location (Online Historic Environment Viewer, www.archaeology.ie)

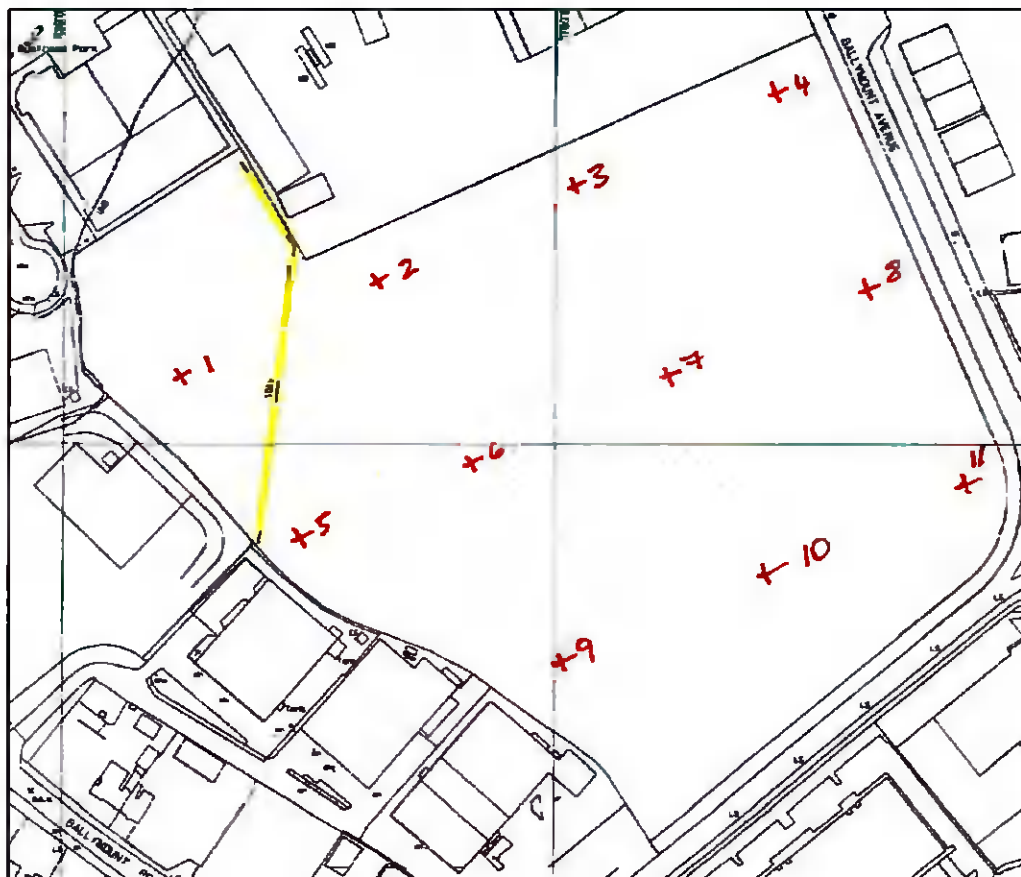


Figure 4 Location of Site Investigation Test Pits

The proposed development consists of the following:

- Construction of 5 no. warehouse / logistics units (Units 1, 2 3, 4 and 6), including ancillary office use and entrance / reception areas over two levels, with maximum heights of c. 17.09 metres and a combined total gross floor area (GFA) of 20,158 sq.m;
- Each warehouse / logistics unit includes car parking to the front, and service yards, including HGV loading bays, to the rear of each unit. Signage zones are proposed for each unit. A total of 200 no. car parking spaces and 110 no. cycle spaces are provided for the 5 no. warehouse / logistics units;
- Construction of 3 no. 3 storey own-door office buildings (Block 5A, 5B and 5C) with maximum heights of c. 13.45 metres and a combined GFA of 4,194 sq.m. Signage zones are proposed at the entrances to the buildings. A total of 77 no. car parking spaces and 50 no. cycle parking spaces are provided for the proposed office buildings;
- Construction of a café/restaurant unit with a maximum height of c. 6.09m and a GFA of 213 sq.m to be located in the south western section of the site. The proposal includes signage for the unit, associated outdoor seating and a bin store. 14 no. car parking spaces and 10 no. cycle spaces are provided for the café/restaurant unit;
- The proposal includes 5 no. ESB substation buildings;
- The development is to be accessed off Ballymount Avenue and Calmount Road and includes for alterations and upgrades to the public footpaths and road. The development provides for vehicular and service access points, associated internal access roads, circulation areas and footpaths; and
- The proposal includes landscaping and planting, entrance signage, boundary treatments, lighting, PV panels, green roofs, underground foul and storm water drainage network, including connections to the foul and surface water drainage network on the public roads, attenuation areas and all associated site works and development.

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

4.1. The prehistoric period

The earliest evidence for human activity in West Dublin was found at Newlands Cross, where a Mesolithic flint was retrieved from tufa (calcium carbonate) in which were deposited the remains of freshwater molluscs were deposited, dated to 7750 years before present (Mitchell and Ryan 1990).

No standing monuments of Neolithic date (c. 4000BC to –2500 BC) occur in the study area, however, a burial of Neolithic date is recorded in Walkinstown (RMP DU018-037). The site is recorded in Walkinstown Park, approximately 305m south of the Long Mile Road and approximately 645m north of Greenhills Road, and was excavated in the 1930s. It comprised a Linkardstown-type burial, with a cist containing a single inhumation covered by a cairn and a sod mound. Earlier Bronze Age cremation burials were subsequently placed in the top of the mound, which was enlarged and surrounded by a ditch, with more inhumations orientated east / west then inserted in the mound (Kilbride-Jones 1939).

The Neolithic period (approximately c.4000BC to 2500BC) saw the arrival of the first farmers to Ireland and the adoption of a farming economy. This period also saw new developments in ritual activity, and the first permanent monuments were built in the Irish landscape. The foothills of the Dublin Mountains, contain a wealth of prehistoric monuments, including Neolithic passage tombs on Montpelier Hill and Saggart Hill, and later monuments like the standing stones at Boherboy (near Saggart) and the tumuli and barrows at Crooksling, Mountseskin, Slievethoul and Verschoyle's Hill. These demonstrate prehistoric activity in the wider landscape. Stray finds recorded in the topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland (NMI) also attest to activity during this period. A hollow-based flint arrowhead (NMI 1976:24), dated to the Neolithic period, was discovered in the surface soil of garden 15 Monastery Drive, Clondalkin. No stray finds have been recorded within the proposed development area.

To the south of Greenhills Road, a flat cemetery (RMP DU022-002) was uncovered in 1892 during the quarrying of a sand and gravel ridge. There is no visible trace of the site which is located to the west of the Walkinstown Roundabout. There is extensive development on the site, which lies within the Greenhills Industrial Estate. The remains as recorded in the National Museum of Ireland (NMI 1892:48) comprised a burial with a bowl food vessel and an uncontexted vase food vessel. In 1898 there were further discoveries of two cists with two pit burial and two other possible pit burials (Plunkett 1898-190, 388) one contained an urn, the other a food vessel/ urn (Waddell 1970, 116; 1990, 83).

4.2. Early Medieval Period

Early medieval activity in the wider historic landscape, is largely focused around three former ecclesiastical sites: Clondalkin (RMP DU017-041), Tallaght (RMP DU021-037) and Kilnarnagh (RMP DU022-005).

Settlement in Clondalkin, originated during the 7th century AD when a monastery dedicated to St Mochua, also known as Cronan, was established (RMP DU017-04) (Gwynn and Hadcock 1988). The monastery, of which the round tower still stands, was sufficiently important to be plundered by the Vikings in AD 833 and shortly afterwards it became a base for Viking activities in the area. It is recorded only once in the annals, when it was attacked and captured in AD 867 by two Leinster chieftains:

'Amlaib's fort at Cluain Dolcáin was burned by Gaíthine's son [Cennetig] and Mael Ciaráin, son of Rónán, and the aforesaid commanders caused a slaughter of a hundred of the leaders [duces] of the foreigners in the vicinity of Cluain Dolcáin on the same day'. (Corpus of Electronic Texts (CELT) 2020).

The monastery was burned in 1071 and six years later a struggle between rival factions for control of the abbacy resulted in the granting of the church to the Céli Dé, a monastic order (Gwynn and Hadcock 1988). Like the other Céli Dé monasteries of Tallaght and Finglas, the lands eventually became part of the diocese of Dublin. The area that now forms County Dublin, south of the River Liffey, remained under the control of Leinster rulers until the arrival of the Anglo-Normans in the late 12th century. Early dynasties of the Laigin were well represented in the region

Under the Norman archbishops, Clondalkin became the centre of one of the largest manors belonging to the Dublin bishopric. After the foundation of St Patrick's Cathedral, it was attached by Archbishop Henry of London to the dean of the Cathedral (Mason 1820). Its existence is first indicated by a mention in an extent of the manor of Clondalkin in 1326, but it is likely that it was already established in the 13th century. It is noted that the burgesses of Clondalkin held 32 and two-third burgages (McNeill 1950). The borough was ruled by a corporation and bailiff, an office held in 1276 by Robert Beg (Ball 1906). By the close of the 14th century there were at least five streets in the borough, as indicated in an inquisition about property assigned in 1393 to the church of Clondalkin by John Shillingford (Ibid.). Taking the surviving fortified house at Clondalkin as an indicator, much of the medieval borough was probably situated along the axis of Monastery Road, to the east of the church site. Monastery Road once formed part of the old road from Dublin and the medieval market place was possibly located at the junction of Main Street and Monastery Road. The remains of Tully's Castle, a narrow 16th century crenelated tower, survive on the south side of Monastery Road (RMP DU017-041005; NMS 2020). This is first depicted by Taylor on his map of 1811, while the antiquarian Austin Cooper recorded another similar fortified house close to Tully's Castle, also at Monastery Road (Price 1942).

The early ecclesiastical site of Tallaght, which was founded in AD 769 AD by St Máel Ruain, was once considered one of the most prestigious centres of religion and learning in early medieval Ireland. It held considerable estates and it became a possession of the archdiocese. Following the Anglo-Norman invasion, the lands were confirmed by King John to the church and Tallaght became one of the least valuable of the Archbishop of Dublin's holdings (Ball 1905). The townland name, Tallaght, is derived from the Irish *támh leacht*, meaning a plague burial. This name may refer to a tradition of medieval burials or to the many prehistoric burials that have been found in the vicinity (Bradley 1998).

In contrast, little is known of the foundation at Kilnamanagh, which is thought to be the site of the early monastery of Cell Manach Eascrach (Ua Broin 1944 and Ball 1905). Gwynn and Hadcock (1988) name the foundation Cella Monachrom and ascribe it to Eogain of Ardstraw. They also note that St Kevin of Glendalough was trained here, which would make this a 6th century foundation and thus therefore earlier than the monasteries at Tallaght and Clondalkin. The OS Letters describe the remains of a church which was formerly accessible from Kilnamanagh Castle (DU022-050001) (Herity 2002). This church was associated with a disused graveyard (DU022-005003) which, according to the OS Letters, was enclosed by a wide and deep fosse which had a drawbridge.

The site of a holy well is recorded (DU022-001) in Walkinstown. It is known as 'Toberacreena' and was thought to cure eye troubles. There is no visible trace of this well above ground.

4.3. Historic period

There is other evidence for medieval settlement in the wider landscape, closer to the proposed development including a motte and an associated settlement at Ballymount (RMP DU021-015). Mottes and baileys and were among the first fortifications constructed by the Anglo-Normans after their arrival in Ireland. Later stone-built fortifications are evidenced by the castle sites recorded at Grange (RMP DU017-034), Nangor (RMP DU017-037), and within the settlement of Clondalkin itself, as previously mentioned (RMP DU017-041005).

At Ballymount, a gatehouse stands at the entrance to the 17th century manor built by Sir William Parsons, Surveyor General of Ireland in 1622. A boundary wall runs up to the southeast corner of the tower but is not bonded to it. It is a square tower which rises to two storeys with battlemented parapet. The structure is built of coursed limestone masonry with some dressed stone in the arches on the east and west sides. The elliptical arched entrance passage is off-centre and occupies most of the ground floor. There is a small chamber south of the entrance passage which is lit by two slit loops and is defended by a gun loop in the north wall. The upper levels were originally reached by a stair, the only indication of which is the absence of plaster in the south end of the upper chamber (Mc Dix 1898, No. 914, 9, 19). Beranger's drawing of 1767

shows the structure as a two-storied turret (Figure 5). In general, this building appears to have been an insubstantial fortification, relying on gun loops to provide security rather than wall thickness.

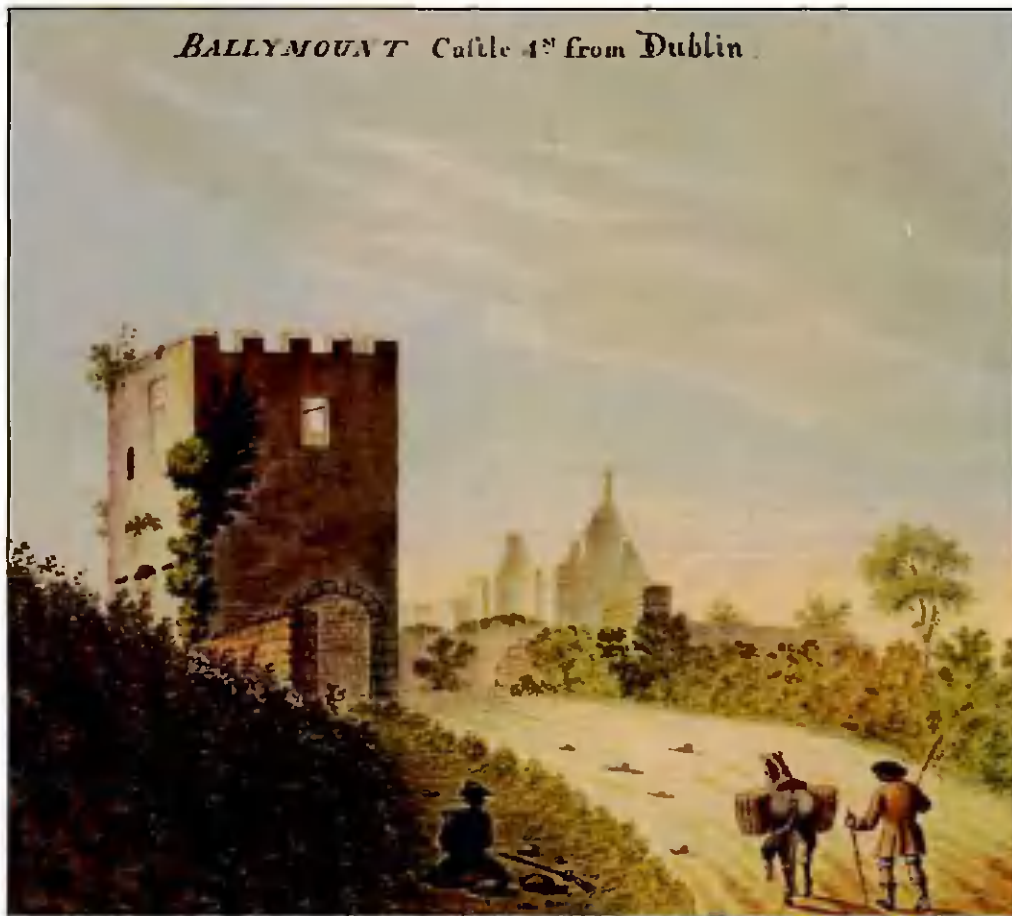


Figure 5 Ballymount Castle in 1767 (Beranger)

At Ballymount, archaeological investigations have revealed evidence for a lime kiln (DU021-015007) and sherds of Dublin-type ware and Leinster cooking ware were uncovered within the fills indicating medieval context for the structure (Conway 1998). Excavations also revealed the substantial remains of a stone building with cobbled floors. A mixture of medieval and post medieval finds were recorded from the floors and associated wall foundations. Later outhouse structures and the foundations of surrounding stone walls were also revealed. Several walls of 17th century date were uncovered within the excavated area. These included the south-west portion of the manor house, and the north wall of the manor house which forms the south wall of the barrel-vaulted building.



Plate 1 Archaeological excavation to the south of the gatehouse at Ballymount

An enclosure identified by aerial photography in 1971 was initially investigated in 1982 which revealed an inner ditch and a denuded earthen bank. Finds included animal bones and iron objects namely a socketed tool, a tanged knife and iron slag. A horse-skull lay in a primary position in the fosse indicating a possible ritual deposit. Further investigations were undertaken in 1997 to examine the eastern part of the enclosure threatened by the proposed Luas Line. The only finds recovered were animal bones and two sherds of Medieval pottery. Excavation of the main enclosure ditch in 2002 demonstrated the existence of a medieval re-cutting of this feature and possible evidence for an entrance (O Néill 2001).

The archaeological remains in the townland of Ballymount Great, are extensive. They include the levelled remains of an earthwork, enclosing a two-tiered mound, making it closer to the barrow tradition than that associated with medieval mottes (perhaps constructed to serve a funerary or ritualistic purpose. Medieval remains, still visible or uncovered during excavation, include: a paved floor, possibly of early medieval in date; a ninth-century bronze stick pin; a medieval, possibly 13th century, cooking area; and a section of medieval limestone masonry wall, re-used in the seventeenth century, possibly as part of the bawn wall surrounding the manor house constructed at that point. The mound is surmounted by a square turret with a plain doorway and window, and chamfered brick corners which may be a folly-type landscape feature, though possibly 17th century in date (Stout 1998).

4.4. Previous archaeological investigations in the area

There are no archaeological investigations that have taken place within or in close proximity to the proposed development area.

4.5. Topographical Files, National Museum of Ireland

Post-medieval pottery sherds, glass fragments and a copper alloy ring are known to have been found around Kilnarnagh and Greenhills area, though specific find locations are not recorded (NMI 2013:490 to 2013:500, 2013:456 and, 2013:458 to 2013:463). A number of other finds, all located in Greenhills, relate to the flat cemetery recorded (RMP DU022-002). At Ballymount, excavations have revealed archaeological finds associate with the historic manor and earlier phases of activity (section 3.3).

4.6. Architectural Heritage and Cultural Heritage

No sites of an architectural heritage significance or of a cultural heritage interest were identified within or in close proximity to the proposed development.

4.7. Historic Cartographic Mapping

4.7.1. Rocque's 'An Actual Survey of the County of Dublin (1760)



Figure 6 Rocque's map of County Dublin (1760)

The proposed development site location has been highlighted in yellow on the map above (Figure 6). The site is shown as large green fields and as agricultural lands. It is located in between settlements at Greenhills to the northeast and Little Ballymount to the west. There are no features of an archaeological interest shown on the map within the proposed development area.

4.7.2. Ordnance Survey Historical Mapping

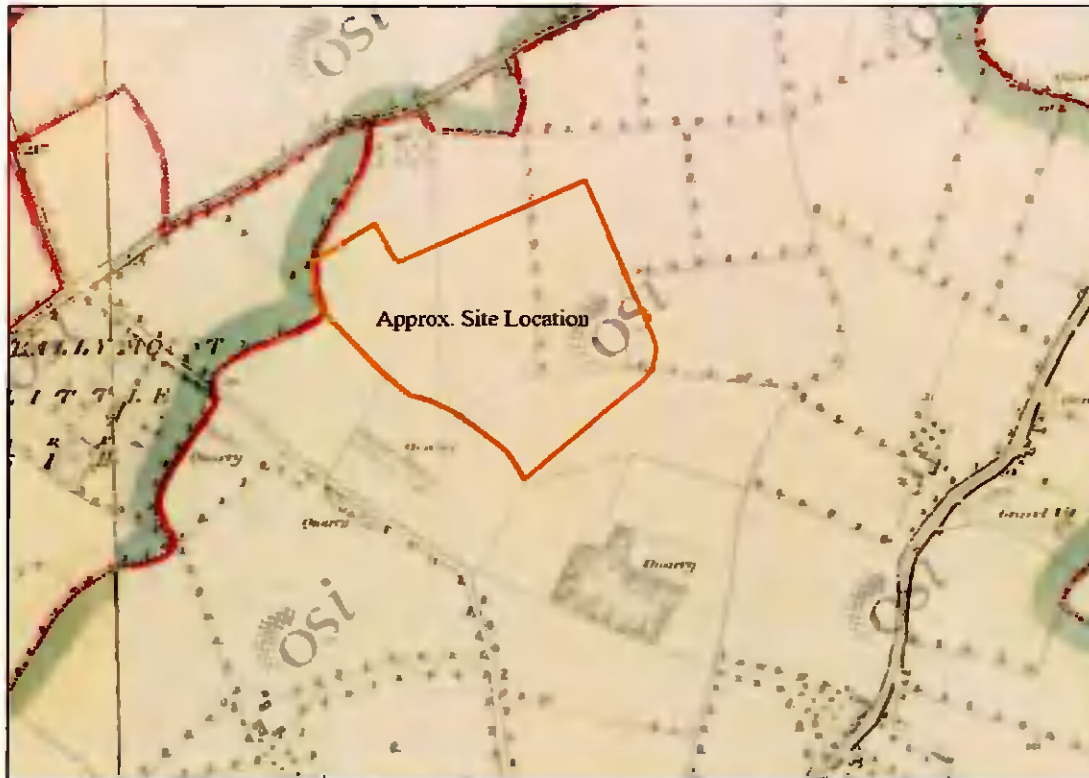


Figure 7 First Edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey Map (1843): approximate site location

Ordnance Survey Ireland completed their first map survey of Ireland between 1829 and 1842, producing the First Edition 6-Inch-to-the-Mile maps which are renowned for their accuracy and level of detail. The Dublin sheets were produced in 1843 and the lands of the proposed development are shown as open agricultural fields at that time. Quarrying is taking place around the site with a number of quarry pits shown to the south of the proposed development and along the road now known as the Greenhills Road to the east of the proposed development. The top northwest corner of the site formerly incorporated a small section of the tree lined townland boundary between Ballymount Little and Kilnamanagh townlands (Figure 7).

The 25-inch edition of 1863-7 shows disturbed lands to the south of the proposed development area but these are not named as quarries as previously annotated. To the east of the Greenhills Road a large gravel pit is shown with some small-scale extraction taking place to the west of the road. There is little change within the proposed development area, one field boundary has been removed (Figure 8).

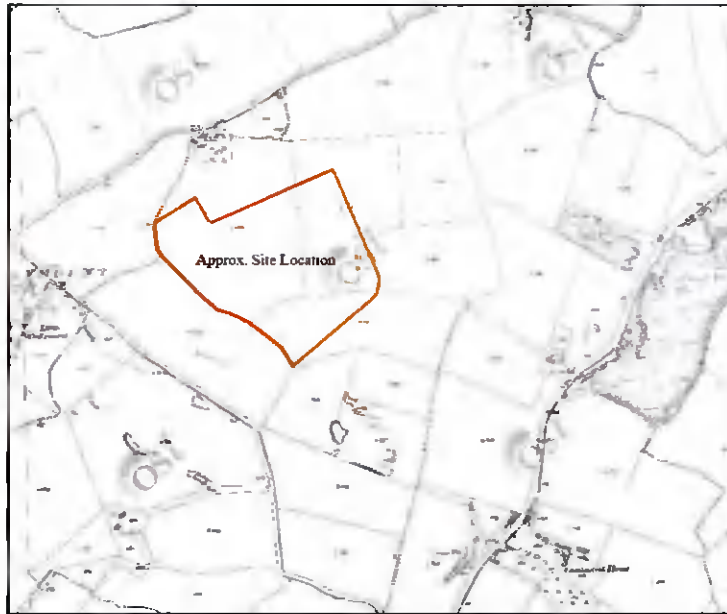


Figure 8 Revised 25-inch Ordnance Survey Map (1863-7): approximate site location

On the revised 6-inch Ordnance Survey map (1911-12) there are no changes shown within the proposed development area. There is further development in the form of housing and sounding gardens shown to the south of the proposed development. The gravel pits to the east of Greenhills Road are now annotated as disused. An electricity 110kv line is shown to the east of the proposed development area. No features of an archaeological interest or cultural heritage nature are shown within the proposed development site on this edition of the OS map (Figure 9).

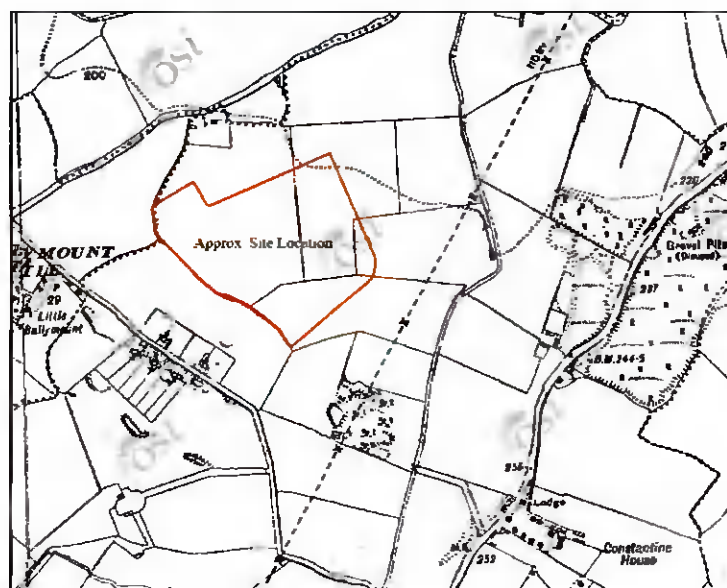


Figure 9 Revised 6-inch Ordnance Survey Map (1911-12): approximate site location

4.8. Aerial Imagery



Plate 2 Ordnance Survey Ireland Aerial Image 1995

Aerial imagery charts the development of the area in recent times and shows that the former field boundaries shown on the historic Ordnance Survey maps are still detectable from the air. Aerial images from 1995 and 2005 show disturbance within the proposed development area at the north of the site. This disturbance was confirmed through site investigations where an introduced fill was revealed in TP 3 (Section 5).



Plate 3 Ordnance Survey Ireland Aerial Image 2005

5. SITE INSPECTION AND MONITORING OF GROUND INVESTIGATION TEST TRENCHES

A site inspection and monitoring of ground investigation site works took place on the 12th of November 2021 in clear, bright weather conditions. The site presents as a large greenfield and is currently grazed sheep. It is located in the middle of Ballymount Industrial Estate with Ballymount Avenue to the east and Calmount Road to the south, industrial buildings are located to the north and west of the site. A 110kv line traverses the site in the northwest corner.

No features or structures of an archaeological or historic interest were recorded on the historic mapping and no features were identified on aerial imagery. No distinguishable above ground features were noted during the site inspection. It was observed that the ground rises to the southwest, affording good views to the northeast. The ground was uneven under foot with a slightly undulating field surface, some dumping of stone, concrete blocks is apparent to the north and at the southeast corner.

Site at Calmount Road and Ballymount Avenue



Plate 4 View to the northwest, taken from the southeast corner of the site



Plate 5 View to the northeast

Eleven ground investigation test trenches were opened across the site (Figure 4) under archaeological supervision (TP1-TP12). On average the test pits were 2.5m x 2.5m and ranged in depth from 1m-2m below present ground level (bpgl). The test pits were archaeologically sterile with no inclusions of interest. Modern pottery, red brick and oyster shells were revealed in the topsoil and the brown, sandy-silty subsoil. Beneath this, gravelly weathered rock was exposed making excavation difficult and resulting in the rock breaking into thin strips. On a number of occasions, the excavation was halted due to the presence of rock at the base of the trench. In test pit 3, centrally placed at the northern end of the site, fill material in the form of plastics and introduced modern material etc was revealed, this coincides with an area of disturbance noted from aerial imagery (Plates 6-9).

A further eight test pits were excavated (TP12-TP19) by the engineering team. The profile was very similar to the stratigraphy revealed in the above-mentioned test pits. In general, rock was revealed from 0.6m (TP17) to 1.2m (TP13) below existing ground level (Figure 10).



Figure 10 Location of Trial Pits showing the depth to rock below existing ground level (Annotations of the trail pits are based on the previous site layout plan in circulation when undertaken in November 2021)



Plate 6 TP4 2.5m wide x 2.5m long, showing the topsoil, sandy silty layer, gravelly clay and weathered rock



Plate 7 TP9 2.5m wide x 2.5m long, showing the weathered rock and rock encountered at 1.2-1.6m bpgl



Plate 8 TP1 1.2m wide x 2.5m long, excavated to 0.9m, rock encountered at 0.6m bpgl



Plate 9 T3P 1.2m wide x 3m long, revealed fill material, excavated to 1.8m in depth

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no recorded monuments within the proposed development area. The closest complex of monuments is located to the west of the M50 within Ballymount Great townland. These monuments represent a multi-phased settlement incorporating the remains of a gatehouse, fortified house, ceremonial enclosure, a barrow and the remains of a former designed landscape (DU021-015001-007), these features are located over 550m to the west of the proposed development area.

To the east, the site of a flat cemetery (DU022-002) is located to the south of Greenhills Road at a distance of over a 1km from the proposed development area. The site of a holy well (DU022-001) is located over 1km to the northeast of the proposed development at Walkinstown Crescent.

No features, deposits, finds or material of an archaeological nature was revealed during the observation of trial pits that were excavated for ground investigation purposes. Eleven test pits were monitored by an archaeologist across the site and a further eight test trenches were opened and the results and photographs provided to the archaeologist for review.

It is anticipated that no further invasive works are required in order to establish the below ground archaeological potential of the proposed development lands. It is considered that this potential is low given that there are no recorded monuments within the immediate area and that site investigations revealed no buried archaeological finds, features or deposits.

No features of an architectural heritage significance or of a cultural heritage interest were identified within or in proximity of the proposed development. There are no further mitigations or recommendations required.

Given the green field nature of the site it is proposed that archaeological monitoring will take place during the topsoil stripping, earthmoving and ground reduction works as a result of the proposed development. This is to ensure the identification of any small scale and discreet feature should they be present and their full recording.

In the event that archaeological remains are discovered, the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) will advise on the most appropriate remedial action.

These recommendations are subject to the approval of South Dublin County Council and the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

7. REFERENCES

- Ball, F. E. 1906. *A History of the County Dublin: The people, parishes and antiquities from the earliest times to the close of the eighteenth century*, Vol. IV. A. Thom and Co. Ltd.
- Bradley, J. 1998. 'The medieval boroughs of County Dublin' In Manning, C. (Ed) *Dublin and Beyond the Pale*. Wordwell Ltd.
- Conway, M. 1998 Ballymount Great excavation report (license 97E316). Unpublished report, Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd.
- Dix, E.R. 1898a The lesser castles in the Co. Dublin. 47th article: The late Ballyfermot Castle. *Irish Builder* 40, 168.
- Dix, E.R. 1898 Kil-Ma-Huddrick, near Clondalkin, Co. Dublin. *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* 28, 165-6.
- Dix, E.R. 1898b The lesser castles in the Co. Dublin. 35th article. *Irish Builder*, 40, No. 35, 57.
- Dix, E.R. 1898c The lesser castles in the Co. Dublin. 38th article: Newcastle. *Irish Builder*, 40, No. 85.
- Gwynn, A. and Hadcock, R. N. (1988). *Medieval Religious Houses, Ireland*. Irish Academic Press.
- Herity, M. 2002. *Ordnance Survey Letters, Dublin*. Four Masters Press.
- Kilbride-Jones, H.E. 1939. 'The Excavation of a composite tumulus at Drimnagh, Co. Dublin'. *Journal of Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*. Vol. 69, pp. 192-220. Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland.
- Mason, W. M. 1820. *The History and Antiquities of the Collegiate and Cathedral church of St Patrick Near Dublin, from its Foundation in 1190 to the Year 1819*.
- McNeill, C. (Ed.) 1950. *Calendar of Archbishop Alen's Register c.1172-1532*. Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland.
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) (2020). Built Heritage Survey, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht [Online] Available from <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/>

National Monuments Service (NMS) (2020). Archaeological Survey of Ireland Sites and Monuments Record Database [Online]. Available from <https://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/>

National Museum of Ireland (NMI) (2020). Topographical Files. NMI Kildare Street.

Ó Néill, J. 2001 Preliminary excavation report: Ballymount Great (license 00E0538). Unpublished report, Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd.

Plunkett, Col. LT.G.T. 1898-1900 On a cist and urns found at Greenhills Tallaght, Co. Dublin. Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy 21, 338-47.

Price, L. 1942. 'The Antiquities and Place Names of South County Dublin', in Dublin Historical Record, Vol. II, No. 4. Old Dublin Society.

Stout, G. 1998 The archaeology of Ballymount Great, County Dublin. In C. Manning (ed.), Dublin and beyond the Pale, 145-54. Bray. Wordwell.

Ua Broin, L. 1942 Traditions of Drimnagh, Co. Dublin and its neighbourhood. Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland 74, 191-218.

Waddell, J. 1970 Irish Bronze Age cists, a survey. Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland 100, 91-139.

Online Resources:

www.archaeology.ie

www.downsurvey.tcd.ie

www.excavations.ie

www.libguides.ucd.ie

www.logainm.ie

www.osi.ie

www.heritagemaps.ie

Site at Calmount Road and Ballymount Avenue

COURTNEY · DEERY
ARCHAEOLOGY & CULTURAL HERITAGE



**Courtney Deery Heritage
Consultancy**

Lynwood House

Ballinteer Road

Dublin 16

D16 H9V6

Telephone: 01 5475795

Email: info@courtneydeery.ie

Website: www.courtneydeery.ie

Registered Company No. 519676

VAT No. IE1111365WH
