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# Wicklow County Council

## Development at Shillelagh, Co. Wicklow

Archaeological Assessment Report  
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*Original architects drawing of Shillelagh Union Workhouse by George Wilkinson 1840*

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# 1 Summary

This report contains the results of a pre-development archaeological assessment report at the site of a proposed housing development in Shillelagh, County Wicklow for Wicklow County Council.

The proposed development site is just southeast of the village of Shillelagh in a field within an elevated rural setting in the townland of Ballard which has commanding views of the surrounding countryside to the east. The townland name bears testament to its elevated position and translates as *Baile* -townland, town, homestead and *ard*- height or high. The townland is first mentioned in 1608 as *Ballyard* in the Calendar of Patent Rolls of James I.

Although the village of Shillelagh has featured prominently in historical records since the 1600's, there is a paucity of prehistoric monuments in the area with the closest archaeological monument, classified as a mound being 700m to the east of the development site. It is possible that finds and features of archaeological significance exist sub-surface and are yet to be discovered.

The field in which the proposed development will take place adjoins an area associated with the Great Famine (1845 to 1849). This was a period of mass starvation, disease, and emigration, with one million dying and one million people emigrating. The Shillelagh Union Workhouse was built in 1840-41 to accommodate 400 people. A total of 335 people died at the Workhouse and Fever Hospital. They were buried for the most part in an adjacent field known as the 'Paupers Plot' of 'Potters Field'. Bodies were carried in on carts and thrown into the mass graves before being covered over with lime. There is no evidence to suggest that this plot is located on an earlier burial site and it would seem likely that the burials are contained within the existing boundaries, however it is recommended to avoid any construction works adjacent the boundary with the burial plot. All that remains of the large imposing workhouse is the original serving room which is now in use as a Catholic Church. The rest of the buildings were demolished in the 1940's and the burial plot is a field under pasture marked by a grotto.

This report details the results of a desk based survey and field inspection which has enabled an appropriate archaeological mitigation to be recommended in advance of any further development. Test trenching of the footprint of the development site once finalised will need to be completed in advance of any construction works so that if archaeology is encountered an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy can be applied in advance in consultation with National Monuments Service and the National Museum of Ireland.

# 2 The Development

The proposed development is for the construction of Rapid Build Housing Units on a green field site southwest of the village of Shillelagh in the townland of Ballard by Wicklow County Council (Figure 1, Plate 1). The site is a field under pasture which slopes gently to the east with commanding views over the surrounding countryside. It is bound to the south by fields, to the west by a small road, to the north by houses and to the east by a housing estate and a burial ground.

# 3 Desktop Assessment

In order to assess the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological landscape a comprehensive desk top study of available sources and a field inspection were carried out.

The main research was carried out in the National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, the National Architectural Archives and also at Ballywaltrim Library in Bray where all the local history files were examined. This research is summarised in historical background. All other sources used in

the compilation of this assessment are discussed below.

### **3.1 Place names analysis**

Place names are a valuable source of information. A place name can indicate possible archaeological and historical monuments in the area, local folklore, land ownership and topography.

The Ordnance Survey surveyors recorded townland names in the 1830's and 1840's, when the country was mapped for the first time. Several references used for the place name analysis include Irish Local Names Explained by P.W Joyce (1884), the website [www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie) (Place name Database of Ireland) and 'The Place Names of County Wicklow, Irish form and meaning of parish townland and local names' by Liam Price (1935).

As previously discussed the works will take place in the townland of Ballard, which is in the parish of Mullinacuff and in the barony of Shillelagh. Ballard means Baile árd in Irish which translates as high homestead and is first mentioned on the Calender Patent Rolls of James I in 1608 ((logainm, 2018, Price 1945, 28).

### **3.2 National Museum of Ireland Topographical Files**

The topographical files are held in the National Museum of Ireland in Kildare Street. All files relating to the townlands and surrounding townlands where proposed development will take place were inspected to ascertain whether any artefacts had been thus far recorded in the vicinity of the proposed development area. These files identify all recorded finds which are held in archive and have been donated to the state in accordance with national monuments legislation.

Along with Ballard all adjacent townlands were also searched in the Topographical files. A total of two finds were identified including a stone lamp (NMI REF: 1931:109), which was found in a stone wall in Crone. In the townland of Ballisland and a holy water font (IA/44/1964) was recorded as being in private possession.

### **3.3 Record of Monuments and Places (RMP Files) (Figure 2, Appendix 1)**

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) Files and unpublished archaeological excavations are available at The National Monuments Service Archive in the Irish Life Centre, Dublin 1. All RMP sites within a 3km radius were checked on [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie). The site of the proposed development is discussed below in relation to these recorded monuments.

<b>Reference Number</b>	<b>Legal Status</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>Monument Type</b>	<b>Approx distance from development site</b>
WI042-033	Recorded Monument	Mungacullin	Enclosure	2.2km
WI042-040	Recorded Monument	Raheenakit	Ringfort - rath	2km
WI043-012	Recorded Monument	Ballynultagh (Shillelagh By.)	Ringfort - rath	2.8km
WI043-012001	Recorded Monument	Ballynultagh (Shillelagh By.)	Enclosure	2.8km
WI043-015	Recorded Monument	Cronelea	Ritual site - holy well	1.8km
WI043-021	Recorded Monument	Ballard (Shillelagh By.)	Mound	700m

WI043-022	Recorded Monument	Coolattin	Enclosure	2.9km
WI046-001	Recorded Monument	Raheenakit	Ringfort - rath	2km
WI047-002001	Recorded Monument	Balisland	Font	2.4km
WI047-002002	Recorded Monument	Balisland	Bullaun stone	2.4km
WI047-002----	Recorded Monument	Balisland	Graveyard	2.4km
WI047-003	Recorded Monument	Coolattin	Enclosure	1.2km

The following table illustrates the monument type and quantity of each one in the vicinity of the proposed development in order to gain an understanding of the archaeological context in which the development occurs.

**Table 1: Monument type and quantity, Shillelagh, Co. Wicklow**

Monument Type	Quantity
Mound	1
Enclosure	4
Ringfort - rath	3
Holy well	1
Bullaun Stone	1
Font	1
Graveyard	1

As previously discussed the proposed works will take place in a green field site southwest of Shillelagh in Ballard townland. The field is under pasture and slopes gently to the east with commanding views over the surrounding countryside.

There are no monuments in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development nor will any be directly impacted upon by the works. There are twelve RMP sites within a 3km radius of the site which date from the prehistoric to later medieval period. The closest monument is a mound which is 700m to the east of the site. This is visible as a pile of earth and or earth and stone and cannot be classified further without excavation.

Other monuments in the vicinity which do not contain enough features to be diagnostic include four enclosures. The remaining monuments date from the medieval period (5th-16th centuries). Three ringforts are other monuments within the vicinity of the works and are defined by a roughly circular or oval area surrounded by an earthen bank with an external fosse. They functioned as residences and/or farmsteads and broadly date from 500 to 1000 AD.

A holy well dedicated to St Martin of Tours is located 1.8km north of the site in Cronelea. Holy wells may have their origins in prehistory but are associated with devotions from the medieval period to the present day and are reputed to have healing properties. These monuments are often found in isolation however associated with ecclesiastical sites. Given that the townland boundary between Ballynultagh and Ballard is also a parish boundary this suggests possible ecclesiastical activity in the environs. There is no local tradition of a pattern, although Price (1958, 356-7) states that rags and medals were left here at one time.

Three monuments located 2.4km to the south of the site are further evidence for ecclesiastical activity and are located in what is known locally as the Yew Tree Graveyard. The graveyard dates from the medieval period (5th-16th centuries) onwards.

Other monuments at this site dating to the same era comprise a font of stone over which baptisms were held and a 'bullán', stone. These date from the medieval period (5th-16th centuries AD) onwards. These stones are boulders of stone with a carved round hollow which may have had religious purposes or may have been used as a mortar for grinding.

### **3.4 Excavations Bulletin ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie))**

The excavation bulletin website ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)) was consulted to identify previous excavations that may have been carried out within the study area. This database contains summary accounts of excavations carried out in Ireland from 1970 to 2007. No excavations have been carried out within the townland where the development will take place.

There is no record of any archaeological excavations on the townland of Ballard. However in 2013 monitoring took place between 18 and 24 June 2013 of Site Investigation works carried out for RPS Consulting Engineers on behalf of Wicklow County Council in advance of a series of watermain rehabilitation projects which were to be upgraded in the vicinity of Tinahely, at Shillelagh and Carnew. This work was carried out by the author under Licence 13E0096.

### **3.5 Cartographic Sources**

Analysis of historic mapping shows the human impact on the landscape and its evolving nature over clearly defined time intervals. The comparison of editions of historic maps can show how some landscape features have been created, altered or removed over a period of time.

Cartographic sources consulted include the relevant Ordnance Survey 6 inch map sheets 1st and 3rd edition relevant 25" maps.

At the time of the first edition Ordnance Survey map in 1838 the proposed development site straddles two fields (Figure 4). The site is located between the small tertiary road and a small access lane on the west. The field adjacent to the road is triangular in plan which is adjoined by a rectangular field, the proposed site encompasses both these fields. No other features are noted in the footprint of the development site.

By the time of the third edition Ordnance Survey map in 1908-1910 the Shillelagh Union Workhouse, Fever Hospital and graveyard are depicted (Figure 5). The field boundaries depicted on the first edition map have been removed and the proposed development site encompasses one large field. There is no physical trace of the Fever Hospital today however the entrance to the site is marked and a grotto is located in the graveyard field (Plate 4). All that remains of the Shillelagh Union Workhouse is the existing Church of the Immaculate Conception which was part of the original workhouse buildings and was the only part of the institution not demolished in the 1940's (Figure 6, Figure 7).

## **4 Site Specific Archaeological and Historical Background**

### **4.1 Prehistoric times to aftermath of 1798**

The proposed development site is just southeast of the village of Shillelagh in a field within a rural setting in the townland of Ballard. In order to understand the receiving environment of the development and the likelihood of archaeological features being impacted it is important to look

at the wider landscape in terms of archaeological monuments in the vicinity which date from the prehistoric to later medieval period. The village of Shillelagh has featured prominently in historical records since the 1600's however there is a paucity of prehistoric monuments in the area.

There are no monuments which can be classified as dating to the prehistoric period within 3km of the site under discussion (7,000BC to 400AD). It is possible that they exist sub-surface and are yet to be discovered. The earliest archaeological period which there is tangible evidence for is the early medieval period (500-1150 AD).

This era was a time of massive social changes with the arrival of Christianity the new and soon to be dominant religion and the development of new political dynasties. At the Iron Age/ early medieval transition Ireland was made up of up to 150 tuatha or tribal units ruled over by a chief or king. In turn these tribal units formed part of larger territorial units ruled over by over Kings. In the sixth/seventh century Wicklow was ruled by the Dál Messin Corb a leading Leinster dynasty of whom St Kevin of Glendalough was a member. This tribe was later taken over by the Uí Mail who rose to power as the Kings of Leinster having killed Maelodran, a legendary hero of the Dál Messin Corb tribe (Smyth 1994, 48, Corlett 1999, 35).

The Uí Dúnlainge tribe were Kings of North Leinster in the seventh century and became Kings of Leinster from the eight to the eleventh century until the Uí Cheinnselaigh who formerly controlled Southern Leinster became the dominant power (ibid. 41).

Little is known about the early history of the Irish church. By the first half of the fifth century there was a significant Christian community living in Ireland. In the year 431 the bishop Palladius was sent by Pope Celestine to the "Christians in Ireland" (Edwards 1990, 99, 4; Charles-Edwards 2000, 182). The late fifth century saw the beginnings of extensive missionary activity in Ireland. St Patrick, the national, is the best known of the early missionaries. Saint Patrick on his return to Ireland as a missionary is reputed to have landed at what is now Wicklow town and later establish a church in the area. Christianity quickly took hold and the process of full conversion was complete by the seventh century.

Archaeological evidence for early medieval Christianity includes cemeteries, hermitages, and pastoral church sites along with large and small monasteries. Additional monuments found in isolation and associated with ecclesiastical site are fonts, holy wells, souterrains, bullaun stones, ogham stones and crosses (Edwards 1990, 99-131).

The closest evidence for ecclesiastical activity comes from Cronelea where a holy well (WI043-015) dedicated to St Martin of Tours is located 1.8km north of the proposed development site. Holy wells may have their origins in prehistory but are associated with devotions from the medieval period to the present day and are reputed to have healing properties. These monuments are often found in isolation however associated with ecclesiastical sites. Given that the townland boundary between Ballynultagh and Ballard is also a parish boundary this suggests possible ecclesiastical activity in the environs. There is no local tradition of a pattern, although Price states that rags and medals were left here at one time (1958, 356-7).

Three monuments located 2.4km to the south of the site are further evidence for ecclesiastical activity and are located in what is known locally as the Yew Tree Graveyard (WI047-002). The graveyard comprises a rectangular enclosure measuring roughly 70m by 45m enclosed by an earth and stone bank. Within the graveyard a broken granite font (WI047-002001) and a 'bullán' stone (WI047-002002-) was discovered in 2012 by the Yewtree Graveyard Restoration Committee.

The 'bullán' stones are boulders of stone with a carved round hollow which may have had religious purposes or may have been used as a mortar for grinding and the font may have been used for baptismal ceremonies.



Other monuments dating to this period in the vicinity of the development site are ringforts (Grogan and Kilfeater, 1997, 45). There are two basic forms the rath and cashel. A rath is defined by one or more earthen banks with an external fosse or ditch. Entry to them is usually by a gap in the bank and the interior is accessed by a causeway over the surrounding fosse/ditch. Cashels are of similar form however are enclosed by stone walls and the ditch if present is dug through rock (ibid.).

They functioned as residences and/or farmsteads and excavated examples have produced metalworking evidence. Some examples have two (bivallate) or three (trivallate) banks and fosses and have been equated with higher status sites belonging to upper grades of society (ibid.). There are three ringforts within a 3km radius of the site at Ballard, which have been classified as raths.

There are four enclosures within a three kilometre radius of the proposed development site. These monuments did not have enough diagnostic features to allow for classification and may date from prehistory onwards.

From 795 AD the Norse raiders or Vikings began raiding the east coast and founded their first base at Dublin. From there they plundered the countryside especially targeting the monasteries which held great wealth. The invaders secured rivers by establishing bases at its mouths and from there they could penetrate inland (Flynn, 2003, 14). The Vikings retained their foothold in Wicklow and Arklow but they were often engaged in battle with other túatha of Leinster including the Uí Enechglaiss and the Uí Garrchon.

By the end of the twelfth century the Vikings were met with a new political and social force as the Anglo Normans invaded Ireland. It is in the later medieval period (1150-1700) that lands in Shillelagh are mentioned in connection with land transfers and its history overlaps with that of Carnew as shall be illustrated in the following paragraphs.

The Anglo Norman invasion was the result of a vendetta between Dermot and Tiarnán O'Ruairc of Bréifne. In 1152 Mac Murrough abducted O'Ruairc's wife and held her hostage for a year. O'Ruairc formed alliances with Mac Murrough's enemies and in 1166 banished him from Ferns. As a result of this Mac Murrough who realized his lands were in danger requested King Henry II's help in reclaiming his lands. Mac Murrough travelled through England and Wales gathering forces and Strongbow pledged his assistance on a number of conditions; that he would be King of Leinster when Mac Murrough died and that he could have Aoife, Mac Murrough's daughter.

The invasion began in 1167 when a small troop of Anglo Norman forces along with Mac Morough landed in Bannow Bay. In 1169 further troops arrived and they set out to take Dublin. The High King Ruairí O'Conchúir did not anticipate the route Mac Murrough would take through the mountains and they took Dublin within a few days. King Henry II granted most of the land in Leinster to Strongbow but retained a narrow strip of land between Dublin and Dundalk and inland as far as Kells, Trim and Naas which was known as the Pale (O'Connor, 1995, 22). However Ireland was just a fief of the English Crown in name only and the great Norman families and Irish clans ruled the rest of the country outside of the pale. The Normans became more Irish than the Irish themselves adopting the dress, clothes and even the language. The Irish clans of the O Reillys, the O Byrnes, the O Tooles and the MacMahons ruled areas outside the Pale.

The Anglo-Normans reorganised Irish society, established manors and boroughs, their own currency along with founding several new parish churches (Corlett 1999, 65). The earliest fortifications erected by the Anglo Normans, which was the key behind the strength of their conquest comprised mottes which were steep sided mounds with a timber tower on top and a stockade around the perimeter. They were built at strategic locations during their conquest to consolidate their territories (ibid., Grogan and Hillery 1993). A bailey was also associated with

these mottes which was separated from the motte by a bank and ditch which also surrounded the bailey. It is also possible that the castle in Carnew, 5km south of Shillelagh may stand on an earlier motte and bailey castle which was re built in the 16th century.

Moated sites are another archaeological monument from this era. They are visible in the landscape as a square, rectangular or occasionally circular in plan enclosure or platforms enclosed by a wide banks and a wide flat bottomed fosse which often was water filled (Grogan and Kilfeather 1997, 168). They date to the late 13th early 14th centuries and were primarily defended manor houses built in areas which had Anglo-Norman settlers though they were also built by Gaelic lords (ibid.). Lee, a local historian from Carnew mentions 'Fitzpatrick's, moat' on the road to Ferns just south of the castle at Carnew and also that in 1247 Carnew was a 'sizeable borough'.

By the 14th century however England was engaged in wars with France and Scotland and its resources were heavily stretched. As a result King Edward II withdrew most of his army from Wicklow. By the time Henry VIII came to the throne in 1509 English Law did still not extend beyond the Pale, so Henry's immediate objective was to subdue the whole of Ireland through a policy of 'surrender and regrant' - this was a strategy whereby Irish and Anglo-Normans alike would submit to the king's authority and in return their lands would be restored and held in future under English law.

The Dissolution of the Monasteries between 1536 and 1541 by Henry VIII ordered the closure of Catholic monasteries, priories, convents and friaries and transferred their lands to those loyal to the king. This policy of dissolution was envisaged to increase the crown's income and to fund military campaigns. The Irish still remained loyal to the Catholic faith however as did France and Spain. England feared Ireland would be used as a back door by these countries and so began the policy of bringing the Irish clans and Norman families under complete control. The Irish rebelled; in Munster the Geraldine Rebellion (1563-1583) was unsuccessful and a million acres of land was confiscated and settled with English planters from 1585 on. The O Neills and the O Donnells rose in the North with support from the Spaniards in what was known as the Nine Years War (1593-1603). They were finally defeated at the Battle of Kinsale in 1601 and resulted in the Flight of the Earls as O Neill and O Donnell went into exile leaving Ulster defenceless and ready for plantation by Lowland Scots (O'Connor, 1995, 24).

One such planter in the south was Sir Henry Harrington, an adventurer who was granted 'the country of Shillelaughe alias Shilealie in County Dublin' in 1578. Originally Harrington set about building a castle in Knockloe but this was razed to the ground by the O Byrnes who had originally controlled these lands and so built a castle at Carnew. The hostilities which the Irish held for these new planters was evident in the lease which Harrington signed for twenty one years, he wanted to maintain a corps of English horsemen for the duration of his lease.

After Harrington's death the Castle was leased to Calcott Chambre a Welsh man in 1619. He established an iron smelting industry outside the town and also developed a deer park which was at the time the largest in Ireland (Lee).

Since 1603 and the end of the Nine Years War, English and Protestant domination of Ireland had been solidified. The desire of Catholic landowners to recover lost estates therefore contributed heavily to the outbreak of war in 1641. During the 1641 Rebellion Chambre and one hundred and sixty settlers were held under siege for twenty-two weeks in Carnew castle by the Mastersons, the Byrnes and the Kavanaghs. During these weeks Chambre and the English settlers were forced to feed on carcasses of animals. The medieval church at Carnew was also destroyed 'the rebels. Chambre and his allies surrendered and the O Byrnes of Knockloe held the castle until 1649 when Sir Richard Talbot took the castle.

Calcott Chambre's who leased the castle at Carnew's main interest was in smelting ore. He

recognised the great potential which the woodlands surrounding Carnew and Shillelagh offered as a fuel resource given that in Britain the forests had been depleted. The iron was smelted in Carnew and then shipped to Bristol. Huge quantities of oak charcoal were used in the smelting process. The oak trees were exported and used in construction projects, the roof timbers of Westminster House and Trinity College come from the Shillelagh oak trees. In order to attract skilled craftsmen they were offered land grants as well as a wage.

Another person who was attracted to the area at the time was Thomas Wentworth the 1st Earl of Stratford. He was appointed Lord Deputy of Ireland in 1630's and has been described as clever scheming and manipulative to such an extent that he was known as Black Tom. He had property in England but wanted to establish himself in Ireland and acquired over sixty thousand acres in Wicklow. Seeing how well Calcott was doing Wentworth set about acquiring his lands at any cost. He did buy some land from Calcott in 1638, however he wanted more and when Calcott refused to sell, imposed trade restrictions which hampered Calcotts' business. Still refusing to sell, Wentworth used his power as Lord Deputy of Ireland and had Calcott imprisoned and bought the land around Shillelagh for thirteen thousand for twenty four thousand acres (Rees 2000, 3.).

Wentworth also acquired other manors in Wicklow, much to the disgust of his enemies who were out for his blood. Although Charles I initially supported Wentworth who was after all his Lord Deputy in Ireland, the anti-Wentworth lobby became so strong that Charles agreed to his execution at Tyburn in 1640 and branded him a traitor (ibid.). His lands were confiscated but were within the year restored to his son, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Strafford and the Shillelagh properties became known as Fairwood. This Earl showed no real interest in his Irish properties and was only interested in the revenue they produced. He died without an heir and the lands went to Thomas Watson, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron of Rockingham.

In 1649 Cromwell arrived in Ireland with an ultimatum; 'to hell or to Connaught' as Irish landlord's lands were transferred into protestant ownership. In 1653 an act was passed in the English parliament which confiscated all land in Ireland (Flynn 2003, 35). By the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century Cromwell had succeeded in dispossessing the Irish of two and a half million acres of land and pushing Irish landowners west (Howley 1993, 4). Cromwell effectively removed the hegemony of the old Anglo-Norman land owning families. The next eleven years (1649-60) saw the rule of the Commonwealth whose real power lay with Cromwell and the army. Upon the death of Cromwell in 1658 his son Richard was made Lord Protector, however he was unable to continue his father's rule with the main weakness being he did not have the confidence of the army with whom the real power lay.

In 1660 Parliament offered to restore the monarchy to the throne of Charles II who lived in exile during the Puritan Commonwealth. His brother James also returned as Duke of York. Charles' II reign saw many struggles between Anglicans, Catholics and dissenters. Although he was a protestant king he signed a secret treaty with the Louis XIV of France promising to convert to Catholicism and also support the French against the Dutch with whom they were at war in return for subsidies from France.

Charles had a number of illegitimate children but had none with his wife Catherine. James his Catholic brother was the only heir to the throne and the fact he converted to Catholicism made the parliament nervous. In an effort to re-affirm Charles own Protestant credentials he married his niece Mary to the Protestant William of Orange.

Charles II died in 1685 and James was heir to the throne. The parliament was uneasy with the Catholic monarchy line as the next heir would also be brought up a Catholic. James II believed that it was his mission from God to convert Protestant England to Catholicism. This stance led to a revolution in 1688 by a union of English Parliamentarians and William of Orange. William invaded England and took the throne as William III in 1689. The Revolution permanently ended any chance of Catholicism becoming re-established in England.

This Dutch seizure of England was a great setback to the French, with whom Charles II had allied with. It was in the French interest to support the deposed King James II and Louis XIV hoped that by supporting James, the Dutch would be stretched and divert their resources from the Continent.

James II had widespread support in Catholic Ireland and with French allies hoped to use Ireland as a stepping stone to get his throne back from William of Orange. The ensuing Williamite – Jacobite wars lasted for three years between 1689 and 1691. French convoys carrying arms, ammunition and a force of 6,500 troops landed in Ireland to support the Jacobite cause. James in order to pay soldiers issued gun money which could be handed in following his expected victory. James II victory was never realized as King William of Orange landed in Ireland on 14 June 1690 with a large army of 36,000 men and superior fire power. The Jacobite armies of King James II were defeated at the famous Battle of the Boyne on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1690. King James II fled to France via Duncannon in Wexford on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July never to return and remained there until his death in 1701. The war against the Jacobites finally ended at the Battle of Aughrim in 1691 and The Treaty of Limerick was signed on 3 October that same year. Along with James II the Catholics were the real losers of the war with their landownership falling from 22 to 14 per cent. It was to fall further and by 1780 Catholics owned only about 5% of the land in Ireland (Roseveare, 2017).

By 1700 estate owners began to build in large houses in earnest to settle on their newly acquired lands. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron of Rockingham who owned lands at Shillelagh and Fairwood as it was then known changed the name Fairwood to Malton around 1728. This is depicted in the Taylor and Skinner Road Map 145 from 1777 ‘Road from Dublin to Clonegall and Carnew’, where Malton house which is the seat of the Marquis of Rockingham is depicted at Shillelagh.

Following the death of the Baron of Rockingham, Thomas Watson, Malton and the lands it encompassed at Shillelagh passed onto Charles his son- the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marquis of Rockingham. Charles was a man was ahead of his time and was a supporter of Catholic Emancipation. He also built in certain conditions into leases which meant that the tenants had to plant trees, produce linen and establish cottage industries. He died without an heir and it is then that the estate enters into the Fitzwilliam family in 1750. William was eight years old when he inherited the estate but was not to take an active interest in it until he was thirty-four and renamed Malton, Coolattin (Rees 2000, 9).

After years of disagreements, agrarian unrest and sporadic violence rebellion the scene was set for another rebellion in 1798. This was the most violent and tragic event in Irish history between the Jacobite wars and the Great Famine.

The rebellion in Wicklow never escalated to a similar level as did in Wexford. Explanations for this could perhaps be the massive arrests that took place before the rising and also that there was also a lack of important early day victories for the Wicklow rebels.

The Shillelagh Cavalry are mentioned in the aftermath of the battle as the rebels withdrew following their loss at Vinegar Hill. The rebels endeavoured to burn Hacketstown to the ground which was under garrison of the Antrim Militia and the Hacketstown infantry. The Shillelagh Cavalry were sent amongst others to strengthen the garrison at Hacketstown but were forced to withdraw to Clonegal when they were outflanked by the rebel army who were thirteen thousand strong.

The town of Carnew which is 5km to the south of Shillelagh features more prominently in the historical records as it was the scene of terrible violence in 1798. Lee gives a good summary of events in his article which he says was sparked in Carnew on March 12<sup>th</sup> 1798 when John Sherwood’s farm in Tomacork was burned. On May 26<sup>th</sup> Carnew’s garrison attacked a rebel camp on Kilmacthomas Hill and made several arrests. Over one hundred homes were burned

and fifty men were shot. Perhaps the most tragic was when forty one prisoners held in the dungeon at Carnew castle were taken out and shot on June 1<sup>st</sup>. On June 4<sup>th</sup> Government forces evacuated the town and the rebels burned the town almost to the ground.

Biddy Croppy Byrne is a famous Carnew woman as she was an informer during the 1798 rebellion and on her evidence many men were hung. Her reputation was tarnished and she was never treated with any respect depended on the poor box in order to make a living.

Earl Fitzwilliam who acquired the Coolattin Estate in Shillelagh in 1750 was a man ahead of his time, very unlike his counterparts, 'a man of courageous sympathies and honest enthusiasm, but not less wrongheaded as strong headed, absolutely devoid of judgement, reticence and tact' (Rees 2000, 8). He strongly sympathised with the Catholics and believed their treatment to be morally wrong and even donated money so that catholic churches could be built on his estate.

After the destruction of 1798, the early 1800's saw the rebuilding of Carnew and Tinahely at the expense of developing an estate town in Coolattin. Carnew Castle was rebuilt in 1813 for the Rev Ponsonby. Earl Fitzwilliam in an effort to heal the wounds from 1798 built a multi denominational school in Carnew wanting Catholics and Protestants to be educated together. It is during this era that that the Shillelagh Workhouse and Fever Hospital were built.

## ***4.2 The Shillelagh Union Workhouse***

In the early 1800s Ireland was that 'cloud in the west' as Gladstone put it with one third of the country near starvation as there was no legal provision for the poor or the sick. Prior to the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII in the 16<sup>th</sup> century the elderly and sick were cared for by the religious houses, however begging and charity were the only options in 1800's Ireland (O'Connor, 1995, 26).

Between 1720 and 1820 the Irish population more than doubled to six and a half million. There was little employment in urban centres and as the land was rented from landlords who charged dearly, the Irish depended on growing potatoes to feed their families and sold on what ever surplus they had (ibid, 47).

The lack of any kind of social service for the poor, sick and elderly was something the British Government could no longer ignore and so an enquiry into the state of the poor in Ireland was established. Protestant Archbishop of Dublin Richard Whatley chaired and concluded that 30% of the population needed assistance for over six months a year. Whatley's solution was government assisted emigration to the British colonies, which was supported by economists of the day (ibid, 77). This report however was refuted by the government who set up a new enquiry chaired by George Nicholls. Nicholls found that the figures needing assistance was not 30% but 1% and introduced the poor law system based on the English model and so workhouses were built across the country funded by the Irish through an extra levy on Irish landowners (Rees, 2000, 27). This was designed to stem the flow of Irish to Britain, whilst ignoring the real problem that the Irish could not afford to live on their own lands let alone fund such a venture (ibid, 29). Lord Fitzwilliam amongst others strongly opposed such a system knowing the bleak economies of his tenant farmers.

In 1838 the London Parliament passed the Poor Law (Ireland) Act which was modelled on the British system. The country was divided up into one hundred and thirty Poor Law Administrative Unions. A workhouse was then built in each union which was financed by a local rate on landowners. The Poor Law Union of Shillelagh was officially formed on 12 July 1839 and had a population of 31,596 (Donnelly, 1999).

George Wilkinson, who drew up the plans for the British workhouses, was assigned to the Irish project. The workhouses were planned in a standard style which drew inspiration from Tudor and

Jacobean styles, with gables, towers and mullioned windows amongst other features (Figure 8, *ibid*, 79). Original drawings by George Wilkinson for the Shillelagh Workhouse were found in recent years in a flooded basement in a house in Shillelagh and were handed into the Irish Architectural Archive (Figure 10 and Figure 11).

In total 163 workhouses were built to three standard plans, small for between 200-300 inmates, medium 400-600 and very large which could accommodate 1000 people or more. They were constructed in two blocks joined by a central nave and comprised of an admissions ward, male and female wards, school or children's wards, infirmary and idiots ward. They were bleak, cold harsh places on the one hand designed to keep the Irish from emigrating to Britain but so awful that one would only enter them only as a last resort (Rees, 2000, 29). The Shillelagh Union Workhouse was built in 1840-41 for a cost of £7,394 and accommodation for 400 people (Plate 5, Kinsella). It was run by a Board of Guardians, Lord Fitzwilliam was on the board of the Shillelagh workhouse.

A register was kept of all the inmates including their occupation and condition upon arrival (Figure 12 and Figure 13). When families were admitted they were split up, married couples separated with no contact permitted. Children were put in a nursery and the mother was only allowed minimal contact with her child. The diet consisted of two meals a day of 'stirabout' and potatoes and milk for dinner. The forced labour comprised breaking stones, grinding corn, attending the sick, mending washing and even the children were put to work. In Shillelagh boys learned tailoring, shoemaking, weaving and baking whilst girls were taught needlework spinning and knitting. The mentally handicapped and epileptics really suffered in the workhouse and they were sent to wards for idiots' (Hannigan & Nolan, 1994, 553).

Under these conditions the Irish were slow to enter the workhouse and only did so in dire circumstances. The Great Famine of 1846 was the catalyst that forced thousands of Irish into these grim establishments and by the 12<sup>th</sup> December 1846 the Shillelagh workhouse was declared full. The famine continued for five years with a blight returning in 1848 and 1849 on top of fever and disease. The measures adopted to deal with the tragic situation were inadequate at best and the Government thinking that the worst of the famine was over in 1847 wound up soup kitchens, food depots and work schemes whilst the country embraced itself for fever in 1847 followed by potato blight.

In 1847 fever reached epidemic proportions. There were only twenty-eight fever hospitals in the whole country in 1846 and as conditions worsened the Government passed an act requiring the Board of Guardians to set up Fever Hospitals on the grounds of the workhouse. Less than one third of the workhouses set up Fever Hospitals as they didn't have the funds (O'Connor, 1995, 144). At Shillelagh a Fever Hospital was built adjacent the workhouse, it was built on a much smaller scale to the workhouse but comprised a similar plan with two long rectangular buildings connected by an annex (Figure 5). A report on the Fever Hospitals in Ireland records that on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1847 the tender for the erection of the Fever Hospital at Shillelagh had been accepted and those patients were moved to Carnew until such time as it was built.

In order to deal with high mortality rates the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act in 1847 was passed and this enabled Guardians of the workhouse acquire adjacent land to bury the dead as the graveyards were full. These fields became known as the 'Paupers Plot' or 'Potters Field' (*ibid*, 149). Bodies were carried in on carts and thrown into the mass graves before being covered over with lime. The paupers graves at Shillelagh is located in a small square flat field behind a low stone wall with a grotto at its centre commemorating the hundreds that are buried there in mass graves with no headstones to mark their resting place (Plate 3).

*'Rattle my bones over the stones, I'm a poor pauper that nobody owns'*  
-An old saying from the workhouse days (O'Connor, 1995).

From June 1841 to March 1851 a total of 335 people died at the Shillelagh Workhouse. The registers record death by famine fever, small pox, influenza, dysentery, diarrhoea, scarlet fever and whooping cough (Kinsella, 2017).

The Poor Law Amendment Act of 1847 marked a major shift in British government policy with respect to famine distress in Ireland the British government was able to have an easier way of moving the famine relief over to the control of the Poor Law which was funded by Irish property rates.

The work schemes, soup kitchens which was part of a temporary relief act were wound up whilst the country was still in dire straits. The 'Gregory Clause', part of this 1847 Poor Law Amendment Act stated that anyone who owned more than a quarter acre holding was not eligible for relief unless they surrendered their land to their English landlords. Landlords were already funding the poor law, as rates were applied to every rented holding the landlord had, however the tenants could not afford to pay rent. This started the estate clearances as many landlords chose to eliminate the rate-bearing holdings worth less than four pounds through eviction.

Emigration became a permanent feature of Irish life during the Famine and between 1845 and 1854, with thousands emigrating to the US, Canada, Australia and Britain. In Shillelagh rather than evicting tenants who would end up in the workhouse which was already at double its capacity, Fitzwilliam offered tenants in arrears the chance of assisted passage to Canada. The first ship to take the tenants to Canada was the Dunbrody Ship which left from New Ross. Father Hoare of Killavaney set sail in 1850 to New Orleans on board the Ticonderoga with a ship full of people from Killavaney and surrounding parishes. The clearances continued until 1856 and Fitzwilliam assisted in the emigration of about 850 families to Canadian ports (Rees 2000, 127, Hannigan & Nolan 1999, 545).

A total of 82 people under the Poor Law Commissioners were sent from the Shillelagh Workhouse to Quebec (60 people) and Australia where 22 girls were sent between 1850 and 1851 (Kinsella).

By 1861 conditions improved in the country and the Sisters of Mercy were appointed to manage the workhouses which were previously managed by untrained lay people. Pauper burial grounds fell out of use as families could afford to bury their loved ones in graveyards. The 1851 Medical Charities Act established a network of local dispensaries funded by the poor rate which was a great advance in terms of medical services. Free medical treatment was offered by a medical officer in every district and people could attend dispensaries rather than go into the workhouse.

The workhouse population decreased and they became a home for the elderly and sick. A reform commission established that they should be abolished in 1906 and that they were not an effective vehicle for alleviating poverty which could be better achieved by developing the country's resources. It also recommended that the inmates in the workhouses would be better cared for in county homes (Rees 2000, 196).

However, the findings and the acts which were introduced in 1906 to alleviate suffering were not implemented and by 1914 only five workhouses had been shut down with 25,000 people getting relief in them.

During the war of Independence, British military commanded the Shillelagh Union Fever Hospital. It was not until the signing of the Anglo Irish Treaty in 1921 that Poor Law System was abolished and county schemes introduced (Hannigan & Nolan 1999, 552). However the Treaty which ended the War of Independence started the Irish Civil War with those for and against the signing of the treaty. The workhouses were once again occupied by British forces in the early part of the Civil War and by the pro and anti-treaty sides later on in the war resulting in the deterioration and burning of many.

The remaining workhouses became County Homes, District or Fever Hospitals or were closed as they were unfit for purpose. The Shillelagh Union Fever Hospital became the County Fever Hospital and Cllr JJ Mc Crea was the last master of the Shillelagh Workhouse before it closed in 1921 (Donnelly, 1999, 50). The hospital's Development Programme which begun in 1933 and saw the demolition of many workhouses. The workhouse was associated with poverty, sickness, death and an almost palpable sadness in rooms and courtyards.

In June 1946 Bishop James Staunton having learned that the buildings of the old workhouse at Shillelagh were being sold for demolition bought the serving room of the original workhouse and converted for parochial purposes. This building is all that remains of the workhouse which was demolished in 1947 (Figure 6, Plate 7 and Plate 8). Presumably the fever hospital was also demolished at the same time. The workhouse serving room was consecrated in 1948 and dedicated to the Immaculate Conception

There have been many memorial stones erected at the site of the pauper's grave over the years; in 1954 the grotto was built in The Marian Year of 1954, in 1998 to commemorate the Golden Jubilee a memorial stone was erected remembering those who died in the workhouse and finally in 2013 to coincide with the Year of The Gathering local resident, Annette Nolan of Chapel Lane organized a clean-up of the area where the Fever Hospital and paupers graveyard is in order to develop it as a heritage site.

## **5 Impact Assessment and Archaeological Mitigation**

The impact of the proposed housing development on the archaeology and cultural heritage within a 3km radius of the site at Shillelagh was assessed for this report. Desk based survey coupled with a field inspection enabled a clear understanding of the receiving environment from prehistoric to post medieval times.

There is a paucity of evidence for prehistoric activity in Shillelagh, however this does not mean that sub surface remains survive and are as yet un-documented. The site of the proposed development is in an elevated position with commanding views of the surrounding countryside to the east in particular.

The closest RMP site to the development 700m to the east is a classified as a mound WI043-021 and is visible as a pile of earth and stone. In the wider landscape there is evidence for early medieval activity associated with ecclesiastical sites and ringforts which are evidence of settlement.

It is in the later medieval period that Shillelagh enters the historical records, firstly in 1578 when the area was granted to Sir Henry Harrington. The area which was famous for its oak trees changed hands several times in the following centuries; Calcott Chambre in 1619 who developed a smelting industry and exported timber to Britain who had depleted its forests by this stage. Lord Strafford used his power as Lord Deputy of Ireland to imprison Chambre and 'acquire' the lands around Shillelagh in 1638. Following his execution it passed to his son, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Strafford and the Shillelagh properties became known as Fairwood. This Earl showed no real interest in his Irish properties and was only interested in the revenue they produced. He died without an heir and the lands went to Thomas Watson, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron of Rockingham. The estate then known as Malton stayed in Watson's hands until 1750 when Charles Watson died without an heir and the estate passed onto the Fitzwilliam family where it became known as Coolattin.

The closest sites which are adjacent to the development site however date from the 1840's, the Fitzwilliam era and bear testament to the Great Famine of 1846 which was the catalyst that forced thousands of Irish into the grim establishments which was the workhouse. Adjacent and to



the east of the proposed development site are the remains of the workhouse serving room which is now in use as the Church of the Immaculate Conception, the site of the Fever Hospital and the Paupers Graveyard.

The Shillelagh Union Workhouse was built in 1840-41 with accommodation for 400 people. The workhouse records from Shillelagh record the death of 335 people during the famine era. Fever Hospitals were built adjacent the workhouses to cater for the spread of famine fever, as was the case at Shillelagh. However burial of the dead was a problem as the graveyards were full and in order to deal with the high mortality rates pauper's plots were established in lands adjacent the workhouse where people were thrown into mass graves before being covered with lime. The pauper's grave at Shillelagh is located in a small square flat field behind a low stone wall with a grotto at its centre commemorating the hundreds that are buried there in mass graves.

There is no trace of the fever hospital as it was demolished in the 1947; a small plaque marks the location of the site which is under pasture.

The workhouse buildings were all demolished in 1947 and the serving room was kept and is now in use as a Catholic Church. No trace of the large workhouse which once housed 400 people remains and modern houses are located upon the footprint of the grounds of the workhouse (Figure 6 and Figure 7).

The large field in which the proposed residential development will be located is adjacent to the paupers burial ground. Analysis of the first edition ordnance survey mapping indicates that the site straddled two fields, the boundary of which was removed by the time of the third edition map in 1908. The exact site location of the development has yet to be finalised however it is possible that this boundary ditch may be exposed. Based on the results of the desk based assessment the paupers plot does not appear to be located on an earlier burial ground and so appears to be confined within the existing boundaries.

However, further archaeological assessment will be necessary to establish if archaeological features or human remains are/ are not present once the exact location for the housing development has been finalized. It is advisable to avoid any development in the immediate vicinity of the boundary adjacent to the paupers burial ground.

Ground works associated with this housing development has potential to yield previously unknown archaeology given the scale of the development. Previously unrecorded archaeological features and finds may be uncovered during construction works associated with the project and in order to establish the nature, presence or absence of archaeological finds or features a programme of archaeological test trenching under licence of the development area should be completed in advance of any construction works. This will enable an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy to be applied in consultation with National Monuments should archaeological features be identified.

These recommendations are the professional opinion of the writer and based upon the findings of the desktop assessment and historical research. All archaeological recommendations are subject to further consultation and agreement The National Monuments Section of the Department of the Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The following guides and legislation were considered when compiling this report;

- Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Properties (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1999
- Convention for the Protection of World Cultural and National Heritage, 1972

- Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe, (the 'Granada Convention') ratified by Ireland in 1997
- European Convention Concerning the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (the 'Valetta Convention') ratified by the Republic of Ireland in 1997
- Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, 1999, Department of the Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands
- Heritage Act, 1995
- National Monuments Act, 1930, as amended 1954, 1987 and 2004

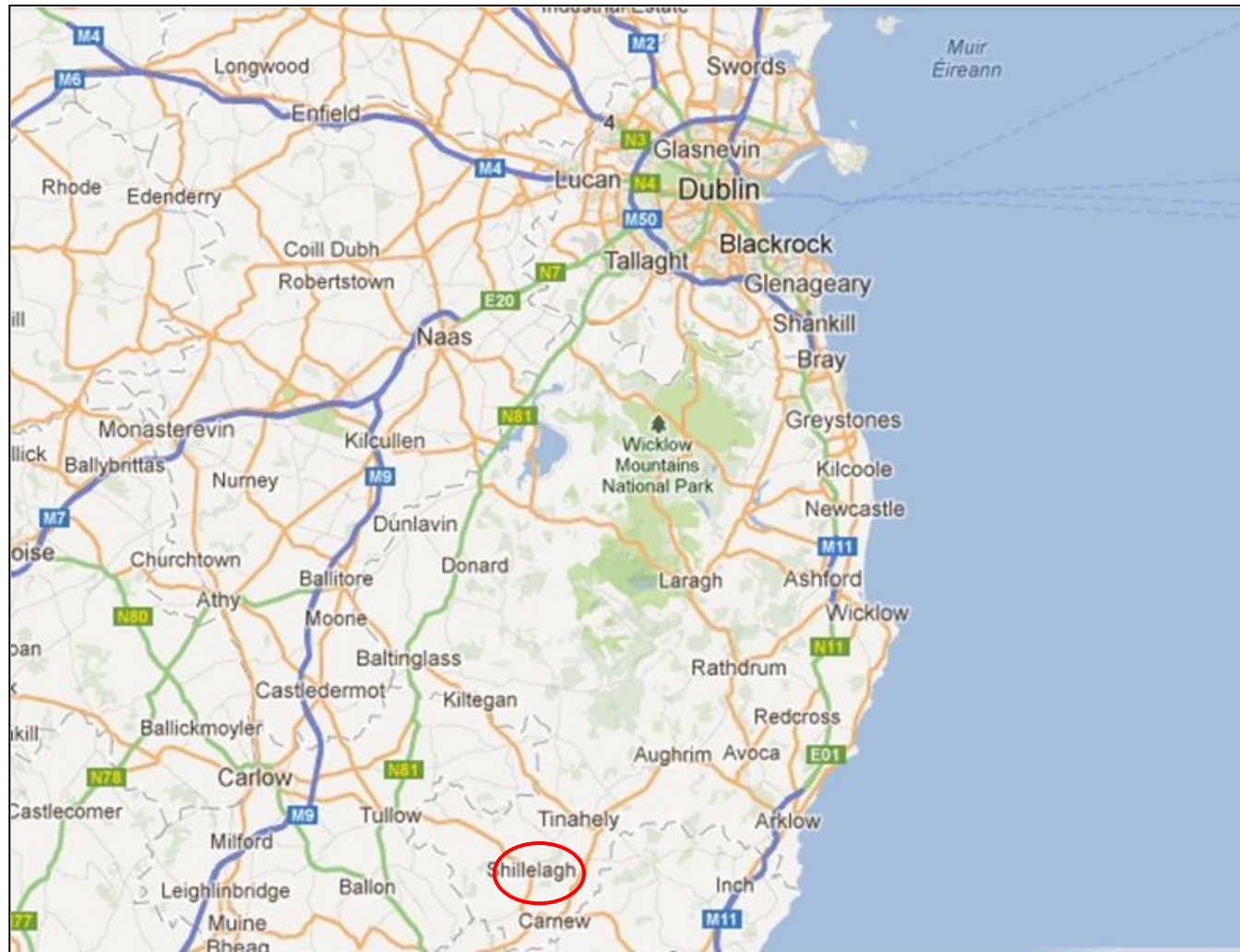
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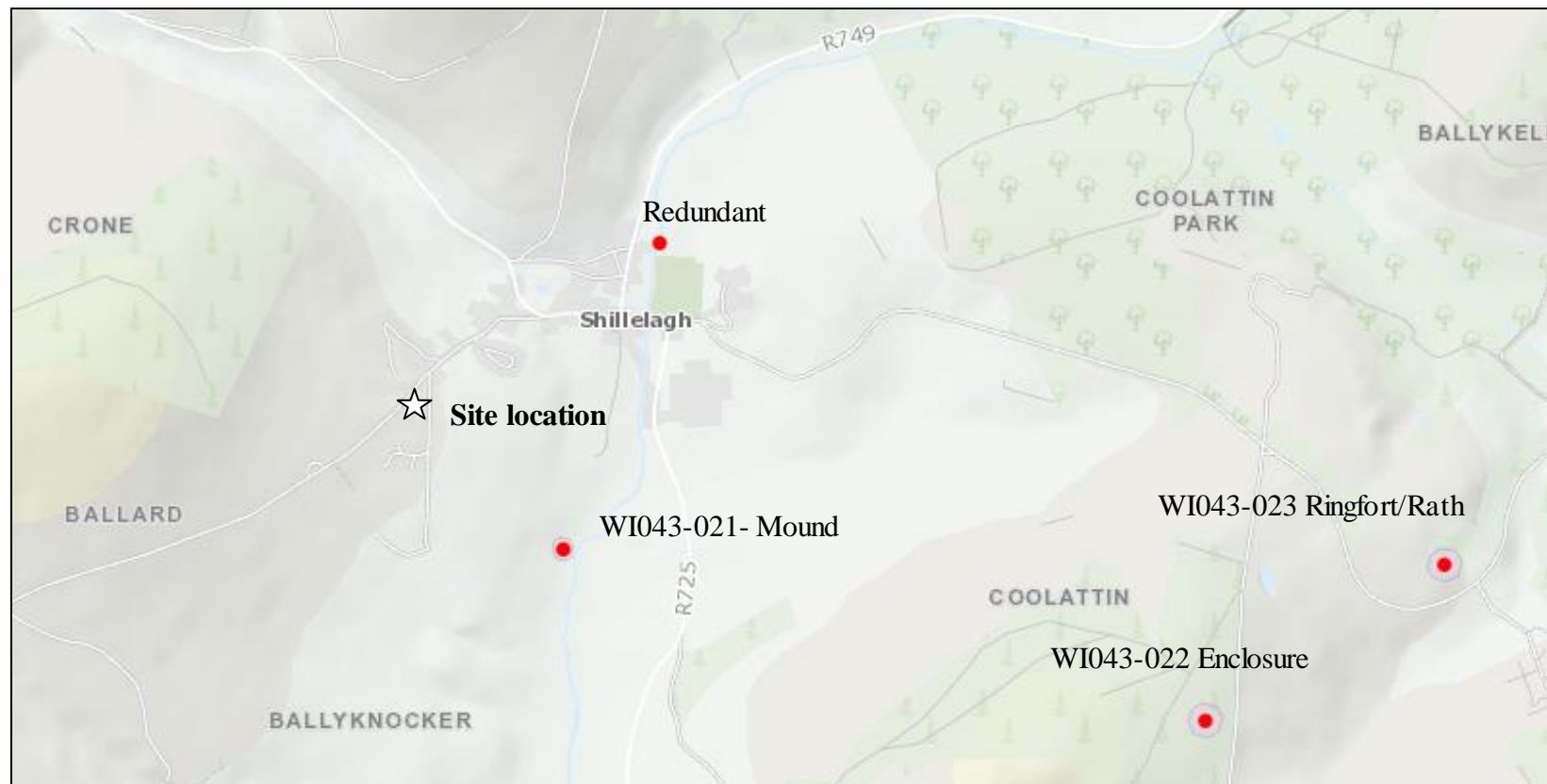
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Stout, G., 1994. Wicklow's Prehistoric Landscape. In: K. Hannigan and W. Nolan, eds. *Wickow History and Society. Interdisciplinary Essays on the History of an Irish County.* Dublin: Geography Publications, pp.1-40.

## 6 Figures



**Figure 1:** Site location Shillelagh, Co. Wicklow.

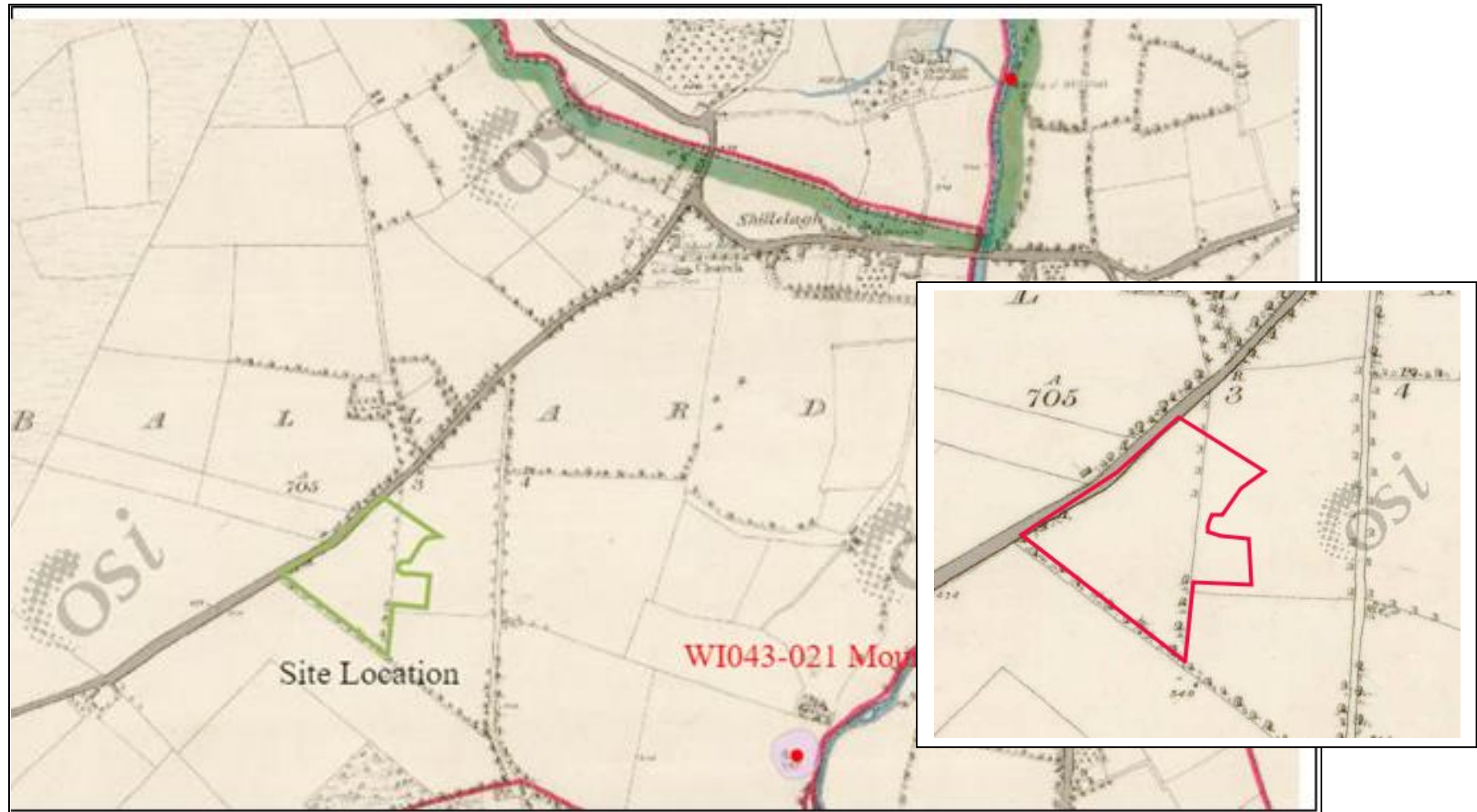


**Figure 2:** Extract from National Monuments Website showing archaeological features in proximity to proposed development at Shillelagh, County Wicklow.



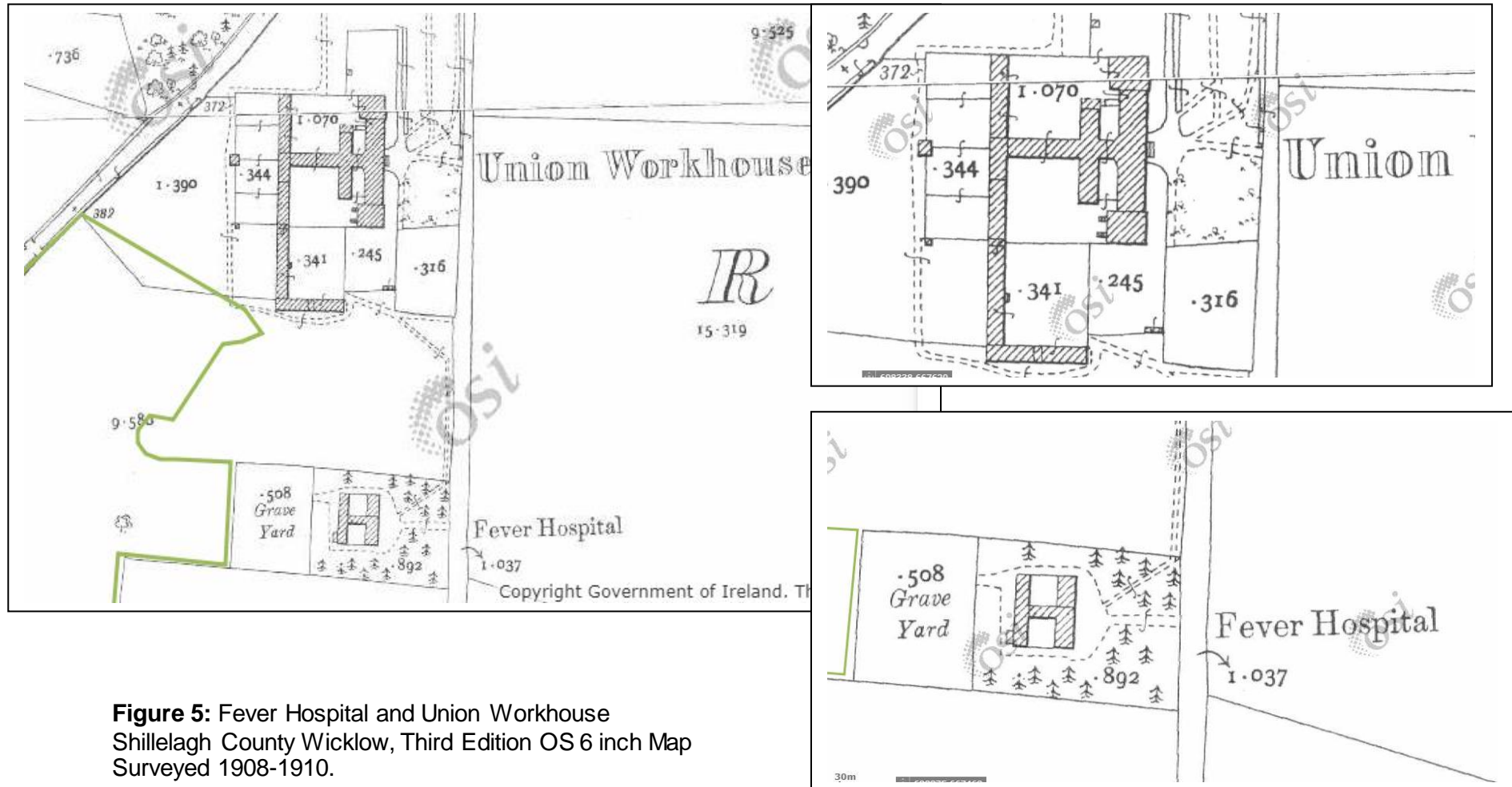
**Figure 3:** Site location Shillelagh, County Wicklow.



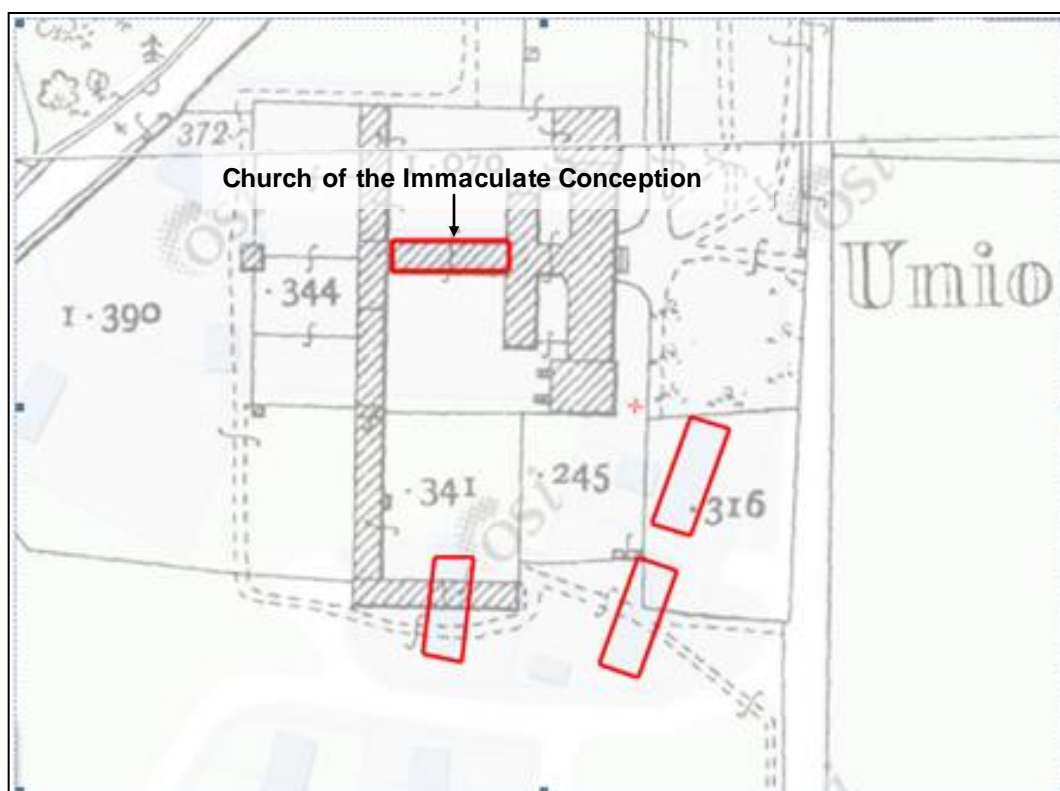


**Figure 4:** Site location Shillelagh County Wicklow, First Edition OS 6 inch Map Surveyed 1838-1839.





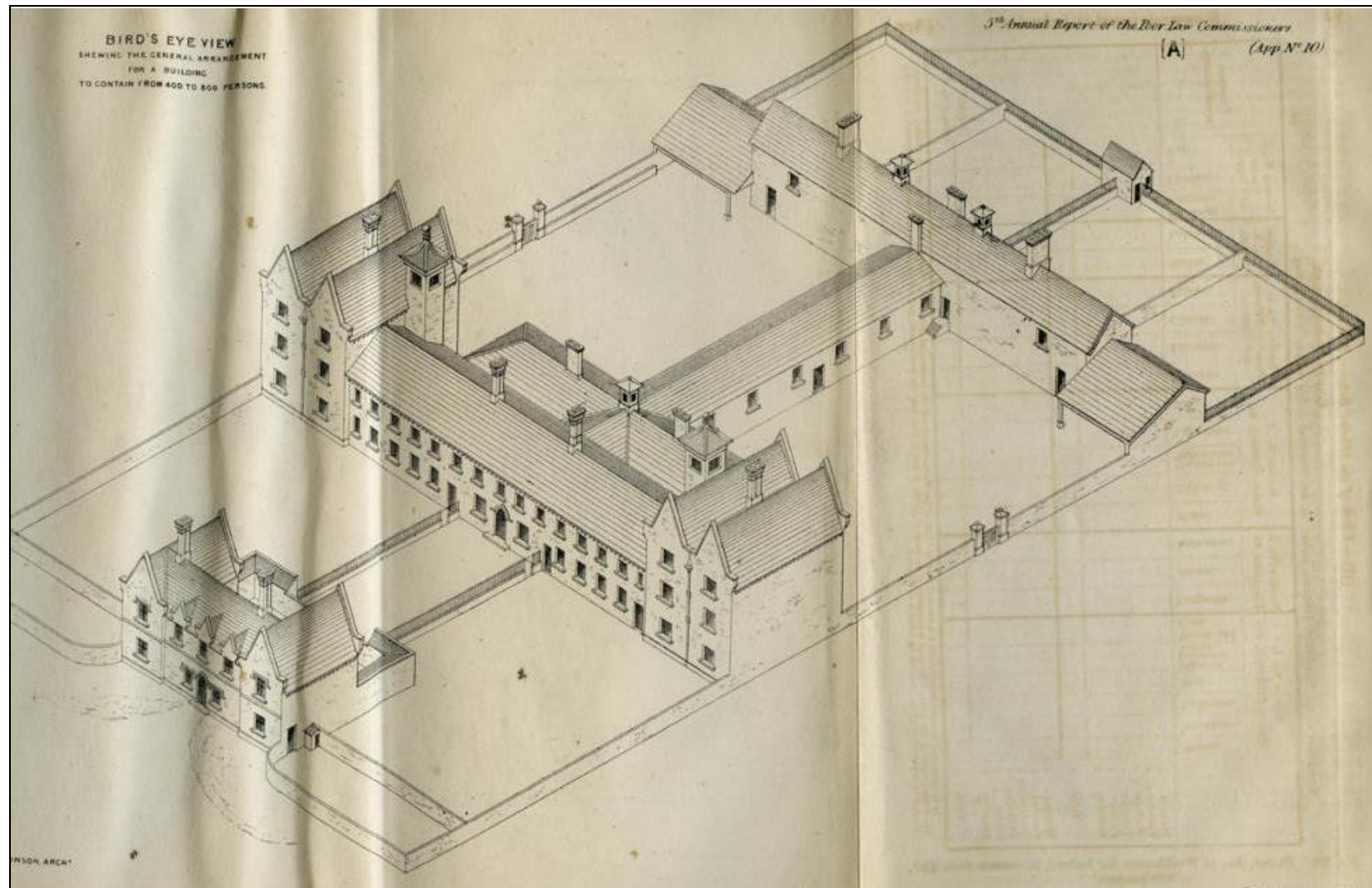
**Figure 5:** Fever Hospital and Union Workhouse  
Shillelagh County Wicklow, Third Edition OS 6 inch Map  
Surveyed 1908-1910.



**Figure 6:** Location of Chapel and modern houses superimposed over Shillelagh Workhouse.

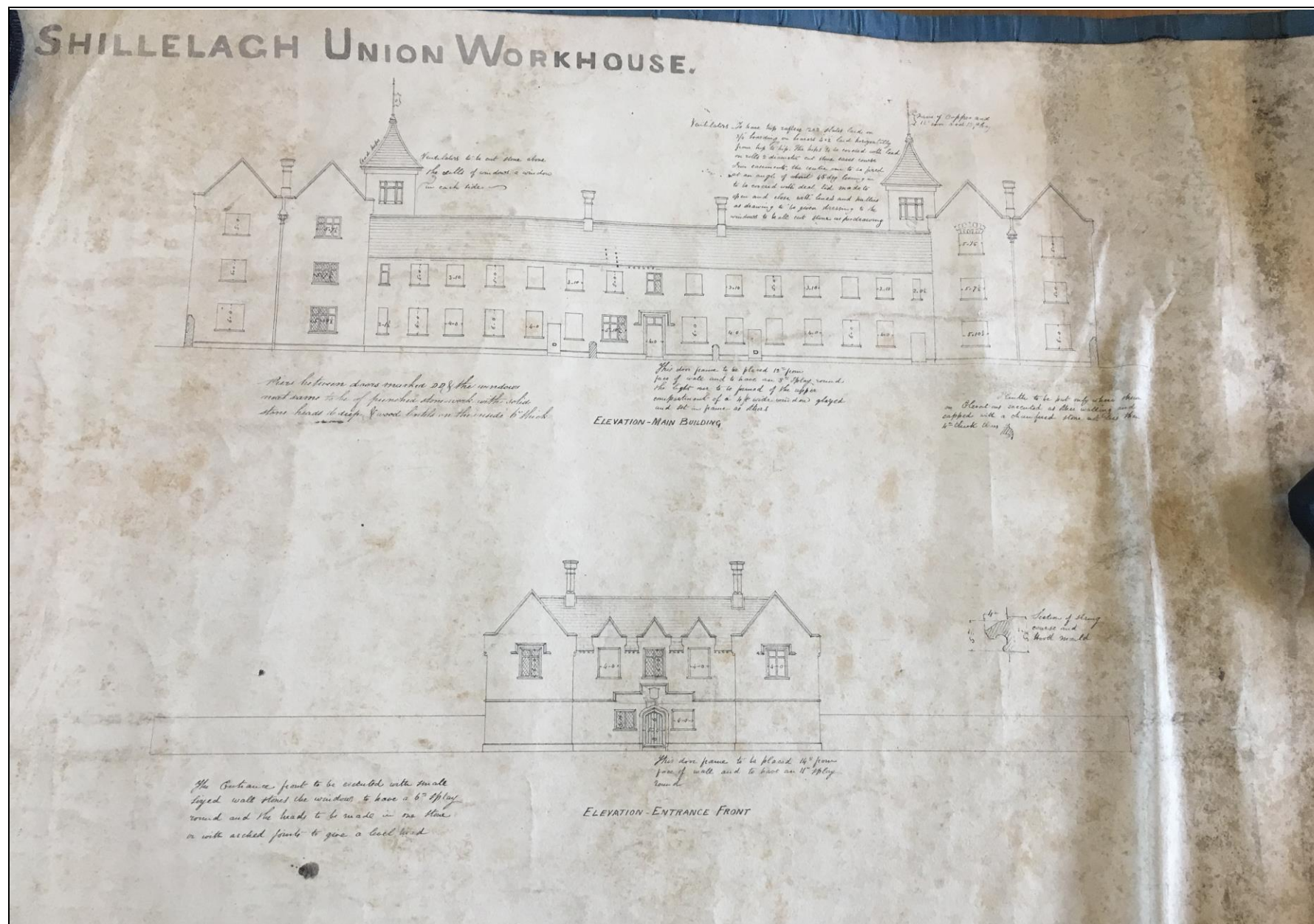


**Figure 7:** Modern housing estate in red superimposed over the Third Edition 1908 -1910 Map in relation to the Shillelagh Fever Hospital.

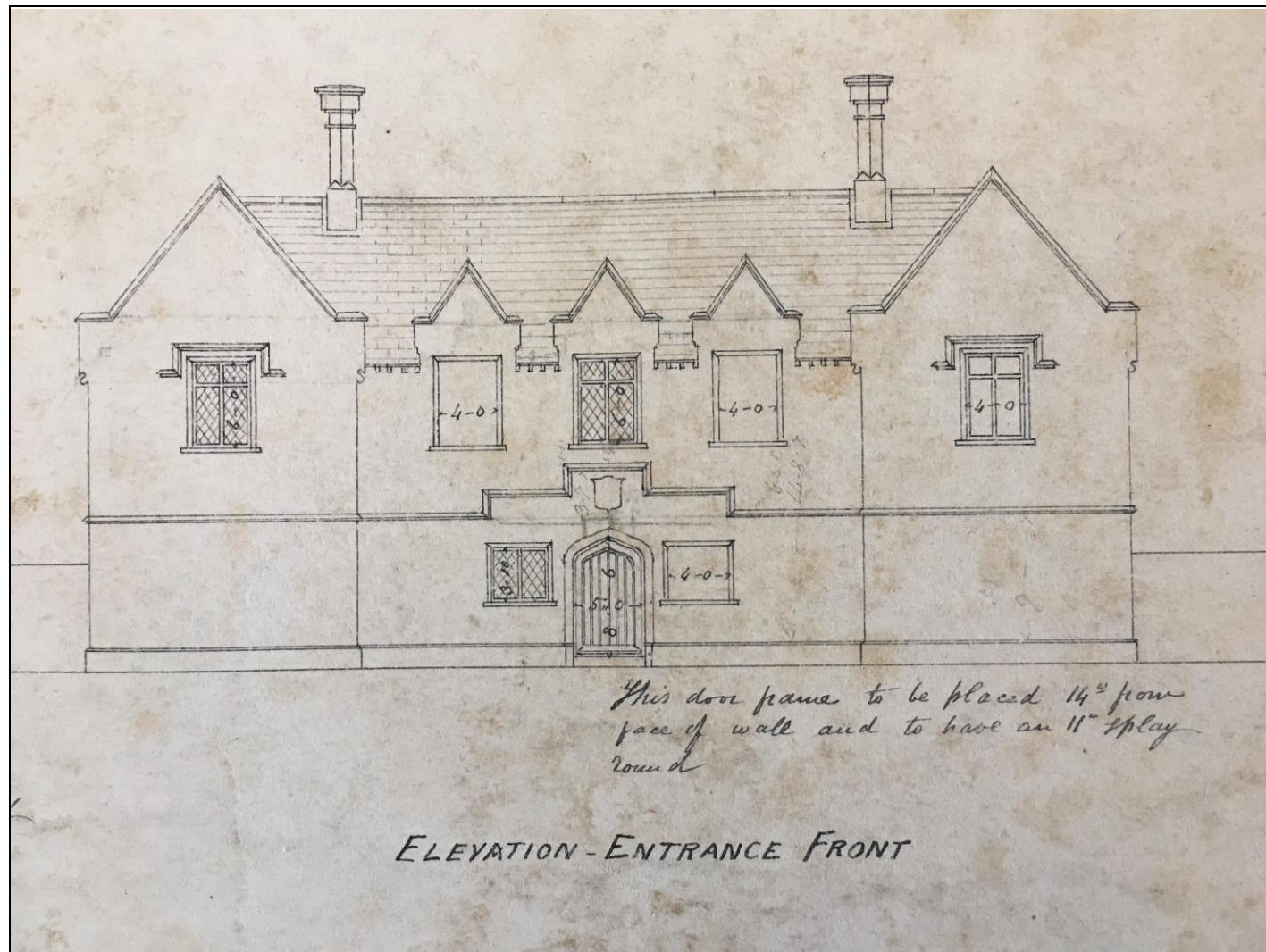


**Figure 8:** Birds eye view of George Wilkinson's workhouse design (Irish Architectural Archive).



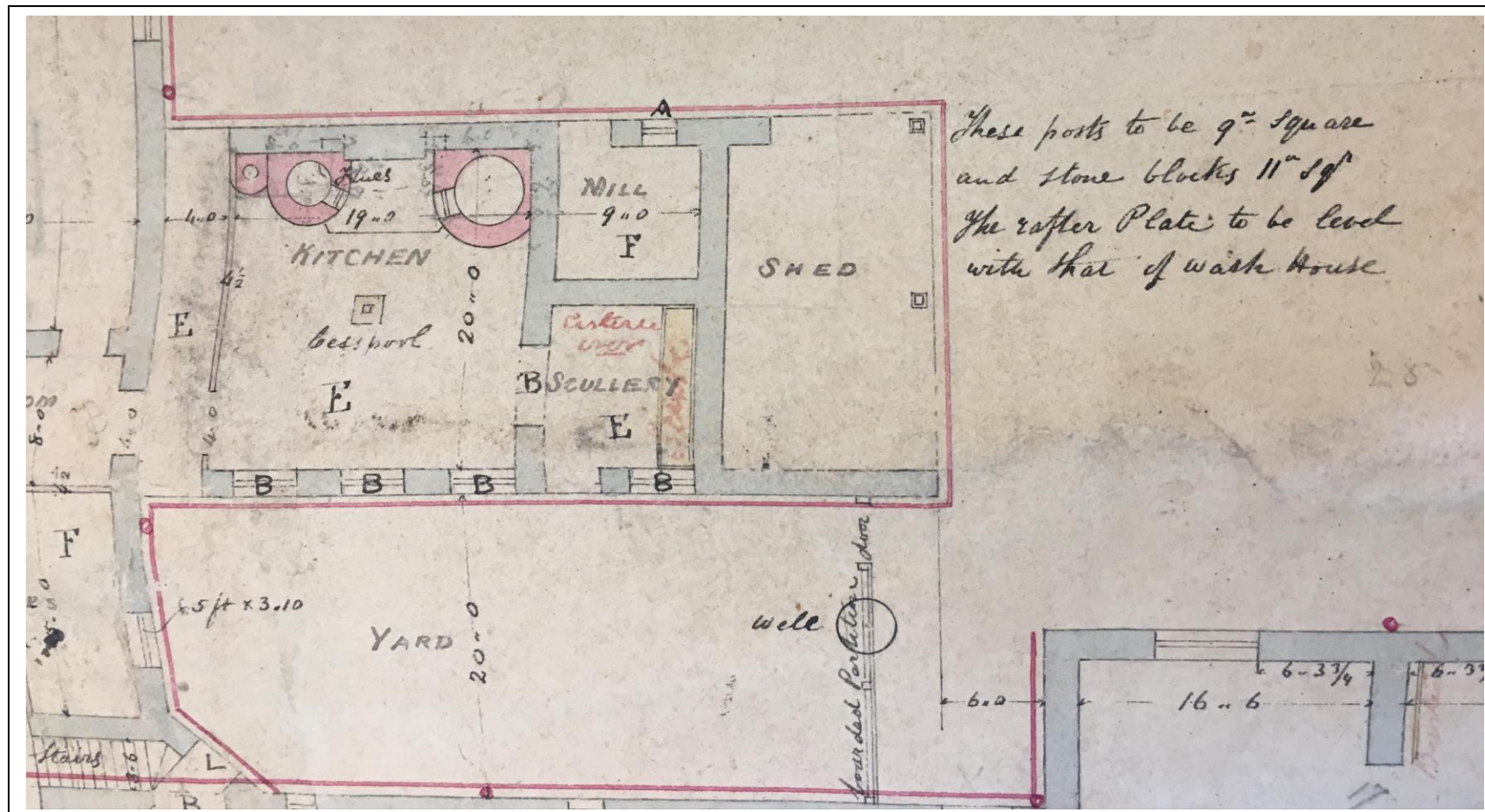


**Figure 9:** Front elevation of Shillelagh Courthouse drawn by George Wilkinson 1840 (Irish Architectural Archive).



**Figure 10:** Front elevation of entrance to Shillelagh Workhouse by George Wilkinson 1840 (Irish Architectural Archive).





**Figure 11:** Detail of George Wilkinson's architectural drawings from Shillelagh Workhouse 1840 (Irish Architectural Archive).

INDEX.						
Number in Register	PAUPERS' NAMES	Number in Register	PAUPERS' NAMES	Number in Register	PAUPERS' NAMES	Number in Register
829	Keating Mary	3397	Kenealy Michl.	3838	Kehoe Anne	4247
	Keating Catherine	3398	Kehoe Anne	3845	Kinsella John	4258
	Kavanagh Eliza	3426	Kennedy Mary	3849	Kennedy Michael	4261
	Kavanagh Eliza	3427	Kennedy Anne	3850	King James	4265
	Kelly Martin	3466	Kennedy Michael	3856	Kenny Maryanne	4267
	Kelly John	3468	Kearney Jane	3857	Kavanagh Jane	4278
	Kelpe Denis	3486	Kenedy Mary	3886	Kinsella Charles	4294
	Keravan Sarah	3509	" Anne	3887	" Catherine	4308
	Keefe Bryson	3513	Kelly Eliza	3903	Kenny Mary	4318
	Keely Cecilia	3520	Kinsella Johannes	3908	Kelly Martin	4350
	Kenny Middy	3534	Keravan Sarah	3909	" Hanah	4351
	Kelly Patrick	3536	" Sarah	3910	" Patrick	4352
	Kinsella Patrick	3558	Kinsella Dorah	3916	" Michl.	4363
	Kinsella Dorah	3561	" Mary	3915	" Martin	4354
	" Mary	3563	" Edward	3916	" James	4355
	" Edward	3563	Kehoe Anne	3924	Kinsella Mary	4356
	" Johannes	3564	Kehoe Michael	3940	" Mary	4357
	Kelly Mary	3578	Kinsella Jane	3965	" Patrick	4358
	Kinsella Thomas	3583	Kelly James	3971	Keefe James	4392
	Kelly Eliza	3596	Kennedy Mary	3982	Kehoe John	4403
	Kavanagh Jane	3603	" Anne	3983	Kinsella John	4406
	" Michl.	3625	Kennedy Patrick	3998	Keravan James	4468
	Kinsella Thomas	3643	Knox John	3999		
	" Percy	3644	Keravan John	4001		
	" Thomas	3645	Kavanagh Robert	4026		
	" Sarah	3646	Kelly John	4029		
	Kelly Jane	3652	" Edward	4067		
	Kelly	3653	Keravan Sally	4072		
	Kelly Eliza	3665	" Sally	4073		
	Keravan Sarah	3667	Keravan	4114		
	Kelly William	3701	Kennedy Mary	4126		
	Kelly John	3714	" Anne	4125		
	Keravan Thomas	3715	Kenny Bridget	4156		
	Kenny Anne	3735	" Maryanne	4157		
	Kinsella James	3739	" William	4157		
	Kehoe Anne	3758	Keravan Richard	4174		
	Kinsella Patrick	3795	Kinsella John	4186		
	Kenny Ellen	3806	Keefe William	4202		

**Figure 12:** Registry of persons admitted into and discharged from the Workhouse of the Shillelagh Union. (Wicklow Local Authority Archive, Poor Law Union Shillelagh Workhouse Registers).



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Form C.—REGISTRY of Persons Admitted into, and Discharged from the Workhouse

1. Number.	2. Names and Surnames of Paupers.	3. Sex.	4. Age.	5. If Adult, whether Single, Married, Widower, or Widow; if Child, whether Orphan, Deserted, or Bastard.	6. Employment or Calling.	7. Religious denomination.	8. If disabled, the description of disability.
4641	Full Eliza	female	30	Married	Labourer	Roman Catholic	Healthy
2	Full Mary	female	3	her Child	None	Roman Catholic	" "
3	Full Ellen	female	3	ditto	None	Roman Catholic	" "
4	Full Patrick	Male	1/4	ditto	None	Roman Catholic	" "
5	Parkinson John	Male	40	Single	Labourer	Protestant	Slightly lame
6	Hickley Anne	female	31	Married	Labourer	Roman Catholic	Sickly
7	Butterfosses	Male	24	Single	"	Roman Catholic	Healthy
8	Haydon Eliza	female	35	Married	Labourer	Roman Catholic	Lame on one foot
9	Haydon Eliza	female	3 1/4	Parturient	None	Roman Catholic	Healthy
4650	Newton Eliza	female	34	Married	Labourer	Roman Catholic	Healthy
1	Newton Mary	female	1 1/2	Parturient	None	Roman Catholic	Healthy
2	Summers Simon	Male	60	Single	Labourer	Roman Catholic	Sickly
3	Boyd John	Male	64	"	Labourer	Roman Catholic	Sickly
4	Boyd Mary	female	57	"	Labourer	Roman Catholic	Infirm
5	Smith John	Male	32	Single	"	Roman Catholic	Healthy
6	Smith James	Male	16	"	None	Roman Catholic	Healthy
7	Milton John	Male	50	Married	Labourer	Protestant	Sickly
8	Boyd John	Male	24	Single	Travelling	Roman Catholic	Healthy
9	Deane Patrick	Male	66	Married	Labourer	Roman Catholic	Healthy
4660	Deane Ellen	female	54	Married	"	Roman Catholic	Healthy
1	Long Anne	female	32	Single	Travelling	Roman Catholic	Healthy
2	Neil Margaret	female	39	Single	Labourer	Roman Catholic	Infirm
3	Connel Morgan	Male	32	Married	Labourer	Roman Catholic	Infirm
4	Clark James	Male	15	Single	Labourer	Protestant	Healthy
5	Elliott Margaret	female	35	Married	Labourer	Roman Catholic	Travelling
6	Elliott Ellen	female	3	her Child	None	Roman Catholic	Healthy
7	Elliott Mary	female	1 1/2	ditto	None	Roman Catholic	Healthy
8	Hyde Thomas	Male	60	Married	Labourer	Protestant	Lame
9	O'Connell Bridget	female	58	Widowed	Labourer	Roman Catholic	Infirm
4670	McNeill Thomas	Male	59	Widowed	Dealer	Roman Catholic	by ill
1	McNeill Thomas	Male	47	"	Travelling	Roman Catholic	Widow
2	McNeill Patrick	Male	9	his Child	"	Roman Catholic	Healthy
3	Shaw Mary	female	42	Single	Labourer		Broken Leg
4	Labawen John	Male	34	Single	Labourer	Protestant	Small Pock
5	McLish Denis	Male	23	Single	Sailor	Roman Catholic	S. B.

**Figure 13:** Registry of persons admitted into and discharged from the Workhouse of the Shillelagh Union (Wicklow Local Authority Archive, Poor Law Union Shillelagh Workhouse Registers).



## 7 Plates



**Plate 1:** View of proposed development site facing northeast Shillelagh, County Wicklow.



**Plate 2:** Entrance to site where Fever Hospital was located at Shillelagh, County Wicklow.





**Plate 3:** View from location of Fever Hospital west towards burial ground at Shillelagh, County Wicklow.



**Plate 4:** View west towards Grotto and burial site associated with the Shillelagh Union Workhouse and Fever Hospital.



**Plate 5:** Rare Old photograph of Shillelagh Union Workhouse  
([http://www.countywicklowheritage.org/page/shillelagh\\_union\\_road\\_pure\\_mile](http://www.countywicklowheritage.org/page/shillelagh_union_road_pure_mile)).



**Plate 6:** Enniskillen Workhouse built in 1842 by Wilkinson which was the same as the entrance building to the Shillelagh Workhouse, Figure 8 ([www.workhouses.org.uk](http://www.workhouses.org.uk), Photo copyright Peter Higginbotham)





**Plate 7:** Church of the Immaculate Conception formerly the serving room of the Shillelagh Workhouse.



**Plate 8:** Church of the Immaculate Conception exterior and interior. This was formerly the serving room which was part of the original workhouse at Shillelagh.

## 8 Appendix RMP Sites

<b>Reference Number</b>	WI042-033
<b>Monument Type</b>	Enclosure
<b>Legal Status</b>	Recorded Monument
<b>Townland</b>	MUNGACULLIN
<b>NGR</b>	296217, 168716
<b>Description</b>	<p>Description: On gentle N facing slope in pasture. Indicated on the 1st ed. 6-inch OS map as a triangular enclosure (dims. c. 64m NE-SW; c. 52m NW-SE). Not visible at ground level.</p> <p>Compiled by: Jean Farrelly</p>
<b>Distance from site approx</b>	1.8km

<b>Reference Number</b>	WI043-012
<b>Monument Type</b>	Ringfort - rath
<b>Legal Status</b>	Recorded Monument
<b>Townland</b>	BALLYNULTAGH (Shillelagh By.)
<b>NGR</b>	299449, 170319
<b>Description</b>	<p>Description: Situated on a gentle E-facing slope at the E edge of a ridge, with steep downhill slopes immediately N of the site. Oval area (dims. 47m NE-SW; 41m NW-SE) defined by an earth and gravel bank (Wth 3-4m; H 0.25-0.8m) with an external fosse (Wth 3m; D 0.8m). There is a slight external bank (Wth 2m; H 0.3m) at the N. A modern field boundary crosses the centre of the site (N-S) and another skirts the fosse along the S perimeter. There is no indication of an entrance. A D-shaped annexe (WI043-012001-) is attached to the W edge of the ringfort.</p> <p>The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Wicklow' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1997). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research.</p>
<b>Distance from route</b>	2km

<b>Reference Number</b>	WI043-012001
<b>Monument Type</b>	Enclosure
<b>Legal Status</b>	Recorded Monument
<b>Townland</b>	BALLYNULTAGH (Shillelagh By.)
<b>NGR</b>	299414, 170307
<b>Description</b>	<p>Description: Situated on a gentle E-facing slope at the E edge of a ridge, with steep downhill slopes immediately N of the site. A D-shaped annexe (dims. 35m N-S; 25m E-W; max. ext. dims. 84m E-W; 56m N-S) is attached to the W edge of a ringfort (WI043-012----), also defined by an earth and gravel bank (Wth 3m; H 0.9m) and an external fosse which is a continuation of that around the main enclosure. The outer bank of the ringfort at N also continues along the N side of the annexe. There is a modern gap (Wth</p>

	3.8m) in the bank of the annexe at the W.  The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Wicklow' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1997). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research.
Distance from route	2km

<b>Reference Number</b>	WI043-015
Monument Type	Ritual site - holy well
Legal Status	Recorded Monument
Townland	CRONELEA
NGR	297363, 169246
Description	Description: Situated on a S-facing slope overlooking a stream. Natural spring apparently named after St Martin of Tours. There is no local tradition of a pattern, although Price (1958, 356-7) states that rags and medals were left here at one time.  The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Wicklow' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1997). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research.
Distance from route	750m

<b>Reference Number</b>	WI043-021
Monument Type	Mound
Legal Status	Recorded Monument
Townland	BALLARD (Shillelagh By.)
NGR	298821, 167225
Description	Description: Situated on a gentle E-facing slope immediately above the floodplain of the Derry River. Circular raised area (diam. 40m; H 3.5m), possibly a natural feature, or a modified sand bank.  The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Wicklow' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1997). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research.
Distance from route	850m

<b>Reference Number</b>	WI043-022
Monument Type	Enclosure
Legal Status	Recorded Monument
Townland	COOLATTIN
NGR	301026, 166637

Description	<p>Description: Situated on a steep E-facing slope in forestry. Circular enclosure (diam. c. 35m) hachured on the 1838 OS 6-inch map. Not located on the ground.</p> <p>The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Wicklow' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1997). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research.</p>
Distance from route	2km

<b>Reference Number</b>	WI047-003
Monument Type	Enclosure
Legal Status	Recorded Monument
Townland	COOLATTIN
NGR	300881, 165681
Description	<p>Description: A circular enclosure which is depicted on the 1st ed. 6-inch OS map (1838) in the style of a rath and OS Name Books (1838/40) refer to '3 small Forts or Raths in the Tld.'. On the 2nd (1907) ed. 6-inch and 25-inch OS map it is depicted as a circular area (diam. c. 31m) outlined by a solid line.</p> <p>Compiled by: Jean Farrelly</p>
Distance from route	1.2km

<b>Reference Number</b>	WI042-040
Monument Type	Ringfort - rath
Legal Status	Recorded Monument
Townland	RAHEENAKIT
Description	<p>Situated on a gentle to marked SE-facing slope in rough upland grazing, now under forestry. D-shaped area (dims. 31m NE-SW; 28.5m NW-SE) defined by an earth and stone bank (Wth 2.5m; H 0.5-1.3m) with straight sides at SW and NW where the bank is incorporated into the adjacent field boundaries. Slight evidence for a fosse (Wth 1.8m) at the W and E. This may be masked by a sunken trackway at the SW. There are three gaps, at the N, NNW and SE; the SE gap (Wth 3m) opens out onto a narrow berm with the fosse beyond. There is no indication as to which is the original entrance.</p> <p>The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Wicklow' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1997). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research.</p> <p>Date of upload/revision: 17 December 2008</p>
Distance from route	2km

<b>Reference Number</b>	WI046-001
<b>Monument Type</b>	Font
<b>Legal Status</b>	Recorded Monument
<b>Townland</b>	BALISLAND
<b>Description</b>	<p>This font came to the attention of the National Museum of Ireland in 1964. It was described as 'an old stone font which was found near an old religeen in the townland of Balisland, near Shillelagh, Co. Wicklow' which is '14 ins. in width, 20 ins. in length and 7½ ins. in height, externally, and 11 ins. in width, 16 ins. in length and 5 ins. in depth, internally ... rather round-shaped in the front on the outside and straight on each side, and the back seems to have been pulled away from a wall, ...wide at top and rather round in bottom, with a hole at one side of bottom. It has no inscription or decoration on it, just plain stone' (OPW file 1964). This record records the original location of the font at a burial ground (WI046-003----). The font has since been moved and its present location is unknown.</p> <p>Compiled by: Jean Farrelly</p> <p>Date of upload: 17 October 2012</p>
<b>Distance from route</b>	2.4km

<b>Reference Number</b>	WI047-002002
<b>Monument Type</b>	Bullaun stone
<b>Legal Status</b>	Recorded Monument
<b>Townland</b>	BALISLAND
<b>Description</b>	<p>A bullaun with a single hollow discovered in 2009 by the Yewtree Restoration Committee amongst a group of stones from the boundary wall of the graveyard (WI047-002----). Now positioned on top of the boundary wall beside the stile leading into the graveyard.</p> <p>Compiled by: Claire Breen</p> <p>Date of upload: 22 August 2013</p>
<b>Distance from route</b>	2.4km

<b>Reference Number</b>	WI047-002----
<b>Monument Type</b>	Graveyard
<b>Legal Status</b>	Recorded Monument
<b>Townland</b>	BALISLAND
<b>Description</b>	<p>Situated on a gentle S-facing slope. Rectangular enclosure (dims. 70m NW-SE; 45m NE-SW) defined by an earth and stone bank (Wth 3m; int. H 1m; ext. H 1.3m) with external drystone facing. The entrance (Wth 2.4m) is towards the NE corner, between dressed granite pillars. The S end of the site is</p>



	<p>marked as a graveyard (dims. c. 35m NW-SE) on the 1838 OS 6-inch map, and contains small number of headstones dating from the mid-18th century onwards. Known locally as the 'Yew Tree Graveyard'. A broken granite font with a subrectangular basin, V-shaped in section and a drain-hole, lies within the graveyard. A bullaun stone (WI047-002002-) was discovered in 2012 by the Yewtree graveyard Restoration Committee.</p> <p>The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Wicklow' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1997). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research.</p> <p>Date of upload/revision: 22 August 2013</p>
Distance from route	2.4km

<b>Reference Number</b>	WI047-003
<b>Monument Type</b>	Enclosure
<b>Legal Status</b>	Recorded Monument
<b>Townland</b>	COOLATTIN
<b>Description</b>	<p>A circular enclosure which is depicted on the 1st ed. 6-inch OS map (1838) in the style of a rath and OS Name Books (1838/40) refer to '3 small Forts or Rathes in the Tld.'. On the 2nd (1907) ed. 6-inch and 25-inch OS map it is depicted as a circular area (diam. c. 31m) outlined by a solid line.</p> <p>Compiled by: Jean Farrelly</p> <p>Date of upload: 13 November 2012</p>
Distance from route	3.2km