



De Faoite Archaeology

Unit 10
Riverside Business Centre
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Co. Wicklow

Wicklow County Council

Barndarrig Housing Development

Co. Wicklow

Archaeological Assessment Report

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1 Introduction

This Archaeological Assessment Report has been prepared by Yvonne Whitty on behalf of Wicklow County Council in advance of a proposed residential development in the townland of Ballinacor East in Barndarrig, County Wicklow (Figure 1; ITM 727063/686185).

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 sources consulted are discussed in the following sections. This report also contains an appropriate archaeological mitigation based on the results of the desktop assessment and field inspection should the development proceed.

2 The Development and Site Location

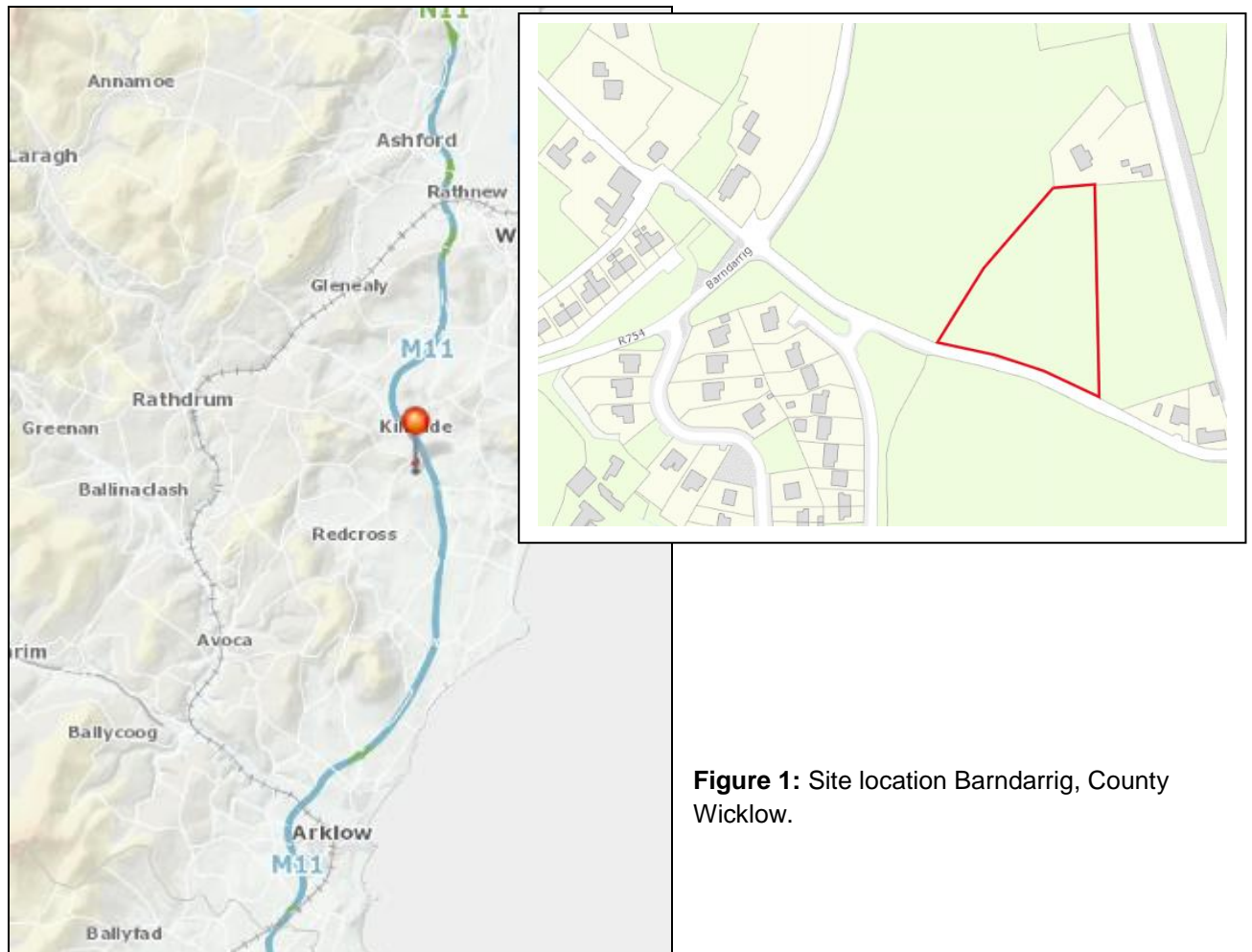


Figure 1: Site location Barndarrig, County Wicklow.

The proposed development site in the townland of Ballinacor East just west of the village of Barndarrig may be subject to a residential development by Wicklow County Council in the near future. Barndarrig is a small village 8.8km southwest of Wicklow Town (Figure 1, Plates 1-3). The field is bound to the south a dense hedging and a tertiary road which leads into the village

of Barndarrig. To the west by dense hedging and mature trees and to the east by a modern fence.

The site comprises a roughly triangular shaped field under pasture in a rural setting. The field is highest at the west and falls gently to the east. There are panoramic views of the countryside to the north towards a gentle hill at Ballinameesda and to the east towards Cullen Upper. Archaeological monuments are located along this ridge and would have been visible from the site in antiquity.



Plate 1: View north from southern boundary of development site towards Ballinameesda.



Plate 2: View east from development site with forested area at Cullen Upper in distance.



Plate 3: View east along southern boundary of proposed development site.

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 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.

This strategy in advance of the construction phase was to enable an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy to be adopted at an early stage in order to protect the archaeological heritage should the development proceed.

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 and these records are an invaluable source of information. Along with the Ordnance Survey Letters, several references were also used for the place name analysis including the website www.logainm.ie (Placenames Database of Ireland), Irish Local Names Explained by P.W Joyce (1870) and Price's 'The Place Names of County Wicklow, Irish form and meaning of parish townland and local names' (Price L., 1983).

The meaning of these townland names Ballinacor East, Ballyharra and Kilmurray will be discussed in the following paragraphs. This research will enable a more thorough understanding of the antiquity of the landscape in which the proposed development site is located. The proposed site is also in close proximity to the parish boundary between Dunganstown and Kilmurray North. These boundaries may date back to medieval times.

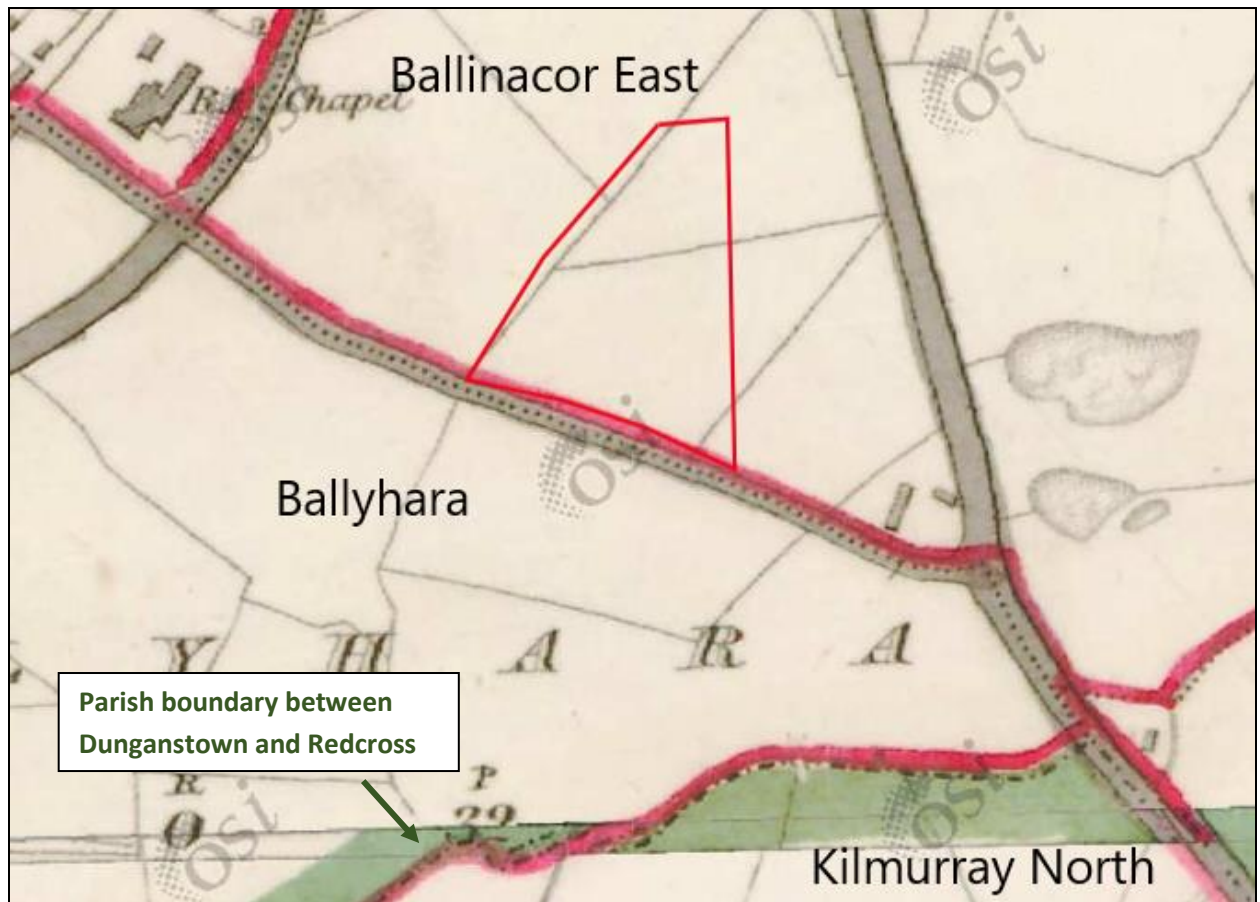


Figure 2: First Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1838.

Ballinacor East and West

Parish: Dunganstown

Barony: Arklow

Irish: *Baile na Corra Thoir* and *Baile na Corra Thiar* – the Town of the Weir (O'Donovan 1839 Ordnance Survey Parish Name books, Price, L. p.451). Owned by Brian McPhelim Byrne (Catholic) in 1641, and then by Captain Hugh MacGill (Protestant) in 1670.

Ballyhara

Parish: Dunganstown

Barony: Arklow

Irish: *Baile Uí Eághra* – O'Hara's town

Earliest written reference is from 1619 with the form Ballyharry from the Calendar of Patent Rolls of James I. By 1839, O'Donovan records the form Ballyhara in the Ordnance Survey Parish Name books.

Kilmurray NorthParish: RedcrossBarony: Arklow

Irish: Cill Mhuire – Mary's Church

Known as the Abbey Lands of Arklow on the Down Survey map, the lands were owned by Sir Lawrence Esmond in 1670.

3.2 National Museum of Ireland Topographical Files

The topographical files are held in the National Museum of Ireland in Kildare Street. These files identify all recorded finds which are held in archive and have been donated to the state in accordance with national monuments legislation. All files relating to the townland and surrounding townlands where the proposed development site is located were inspected to ascertain whether any artefacts had been thus far recorded in the vicinity of the site. No finds are recorded from Kilmurray North, Ballyharra or Ballinacor East and West.

3.3 Record of Monuments and Places (RMP Files) and Sites and Monuments Record (SMR).

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

The SMR contains details of all monuments and places (sites) where it is believed there is a monument known to the ASI pre-dating AD 1700 and also includes a selection of monuments from the post-AD 1700 period. The SMR database can

The table below illustrates the distances of the proposed scheme from RMP and SMR sites which was viewed on-line through the Historic Environment Viewer (www.archaeology.ie).

Table 1: RMP and SMR sites within 900m of the proposed development site.

Sites	Class	SMR/RMP	Townland	Distance to site
WI031-022	Ringfort - rath	RMP	BALLINACOR WEST	240m
WI031-067	Font (present location)	SMR-scheduled for inclusion in next revision of RMP	BALLINACOR WEST	195m
WI031-097	Bronze Age pit and posthole	SMR	BALLINACOR EAST	570m
WI031-098	Burnt mound	SMR	BALLINACOR EAST	650m
WI031-099	Excavation	SMR	BALLINACOR EAST	715m
WI036-005-	Church	RMP	BALLYVALTRON	890m

WI036-035001-	Burnt mound	SMR	KILMURRY NORTH (Arklow By.)	860m
WI036-035002-	Kiln - corn-drying	SMR	KILMURRY NORTH (Arklow By.)	860m
WI036-036	Excavation – Iron Age Ditch	SMR- scheduled for inclusion in next revision of RMP	BALLYVALTRON	740m
WI036-038	Burnt mound	SMR- scheduled for inclusion in next revision of RMP	BALLYVALTRON	560m
WI036-040	Burnt mound	SMR	BALLYVALTRON	560m
WI036-039	Neolithic Hut site	SMR	BALLYVALTRON	560m

As previously discussed the proposed works will take place in a green field site in the townland of Ballinacor East just south of the village of Barndarrig. The road which forms the southern boundary of the development site is also the townland boundary between Ballyhara and Ballinacor East.

No SMR or RMP sites will be directly impacted upon by the works. There are twelve SMR and RMP sites within a 900m radius of the proposed development site. These sites date from the prehistoric to later medieval period. The closest monuments are in the village of Barndarrig and comprise a font (WI031-067) and a ringfort (WI031-022) which are 195m and 240m respectively in distance from the development site. The font which comprises a cylindrical block of coarse-grained granite is believed to have come from Castletimon Church (WI036-009001-). Also in Ballinacor West is a ringfort WI031-022 which is referred to in the OS Letters but is not visible at ground level (O'Flanagan 1928, 127).



Plate 4: Barndarrig Church and font which is on the grounds of the church (WI031-067).



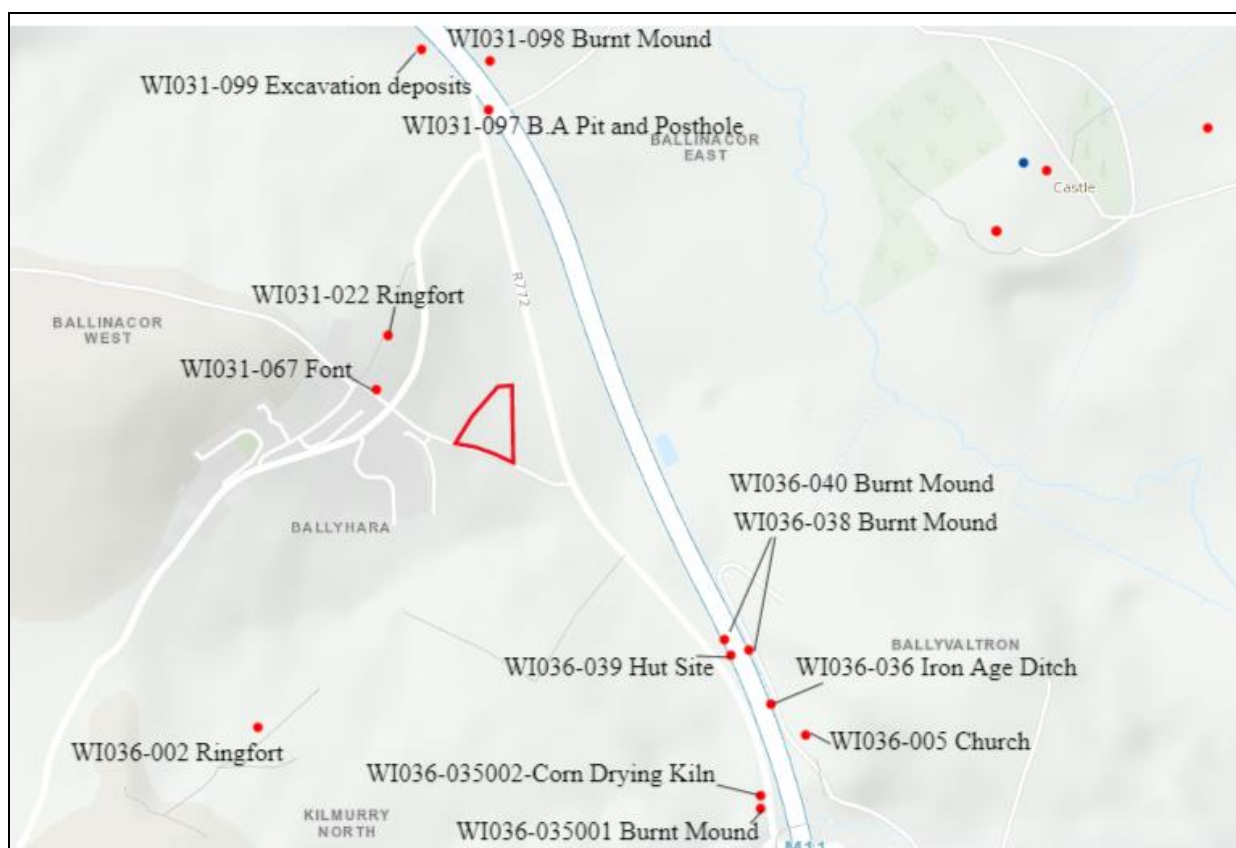


Figure 3: SMR and RMP sites within 900m of the proposed development site.

3.4 Excavations Bulletin (www.excavations.ie)

The excavation bulletin website (www.excavations.ie) was consulted to identify previous excavations that may have been carried out in Ballinacor East, Ballyharra or Kilmurray North. This database contains summary accounts of excavations carried out in Ireland from 1970 to 2014. There were only three excavations recorded in Ballinacor West and none in the adjoining townlands of Ballyharra or Kilmurray North.

The three excavations by Red Tobin which date to the Bronze Age were carried out at Ballinacor East. These sites are now listed in the SMR files and were excavated in advance of the N11 Road Improvement Scheme (Table 1, Figure 3). The sites comprise a pit and posthole (WI031-097) and two burnt mound sites (WI031-098-99).

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 Petty's Down Survey Barony Maps 1654 and the relevant Ordnance Survey 6-inch map sheets 1st and 3rd edition were also examined.

3.5.1 William Petty's Down Survey Barony Map, circa 1656 for the county Wicklow

William Petty's Down Survey for the counties of Wicklow was examined. The survey sought to measure all the land to be forfeited by the Catholic Irish in order to facilitate its redistribution to English settlers. The maps are organised by barony and parish.

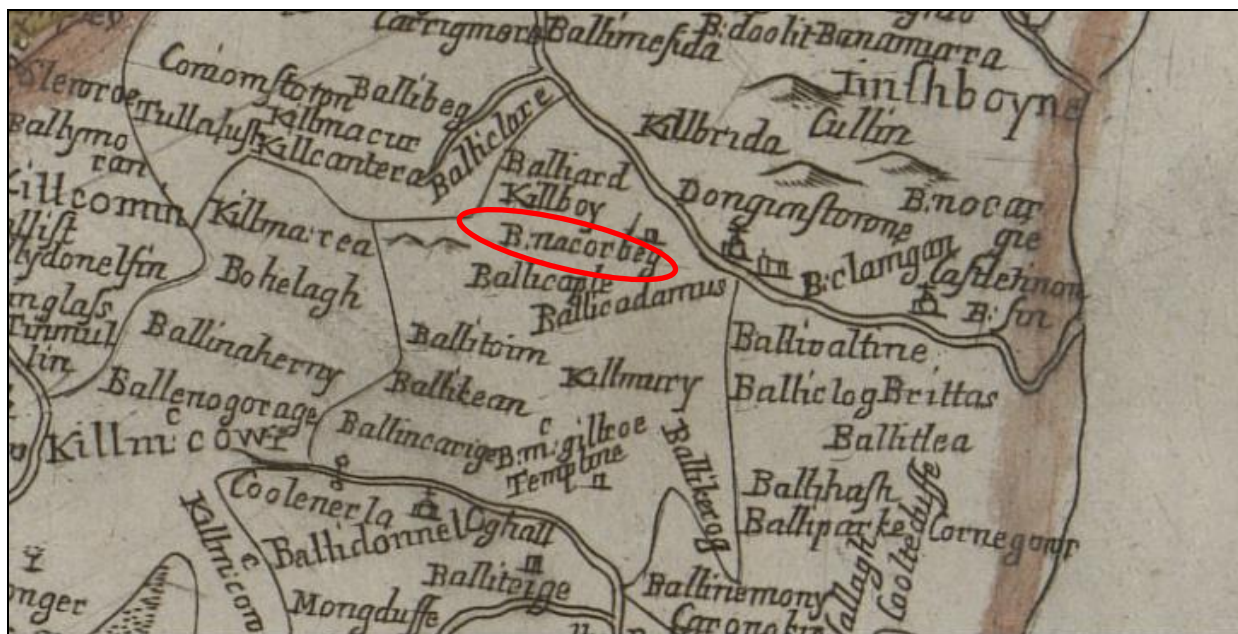


Figure 4: William Petty's Down Survey Barony Map, circa 1656 for the county Wicklow (TCD, n.d.).

In 1641 the townland of Ballinacor East and West was known as Ballinecorbeg and is labelled as B.nacor beg on the Down Survey Maps. Brian McPhelim (catholic) owned the lands Byrne in 1641, however by 1670 it was transferred to Captain Hugh MacGill (protestant).

3.5.2 First Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1838

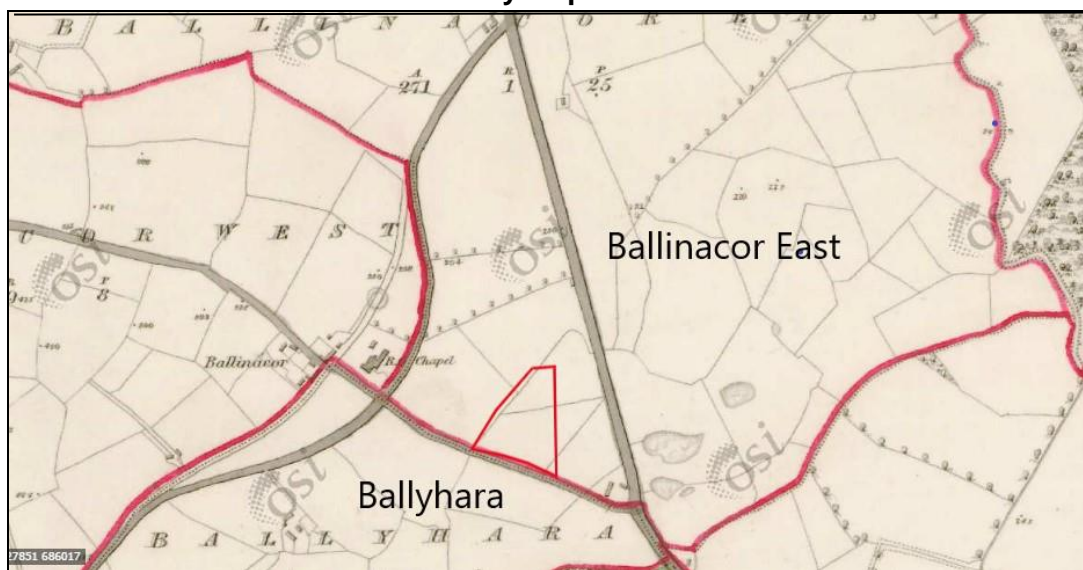


Figure 5: First Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1838.

The proposed development site is in the townland of Ballinacor East (Figure 5). At the time of the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1838 the site boundaries on the north and east are different than today. The road and southern boundary of the field is also a townland boundary between Ballyhara and Ballinacor East. The proposed site encompasses two fields at the time of the first edition map and this northeast to southwest boundary may be uncovered during the course of groundworks associated with the proposed development should it proceed.

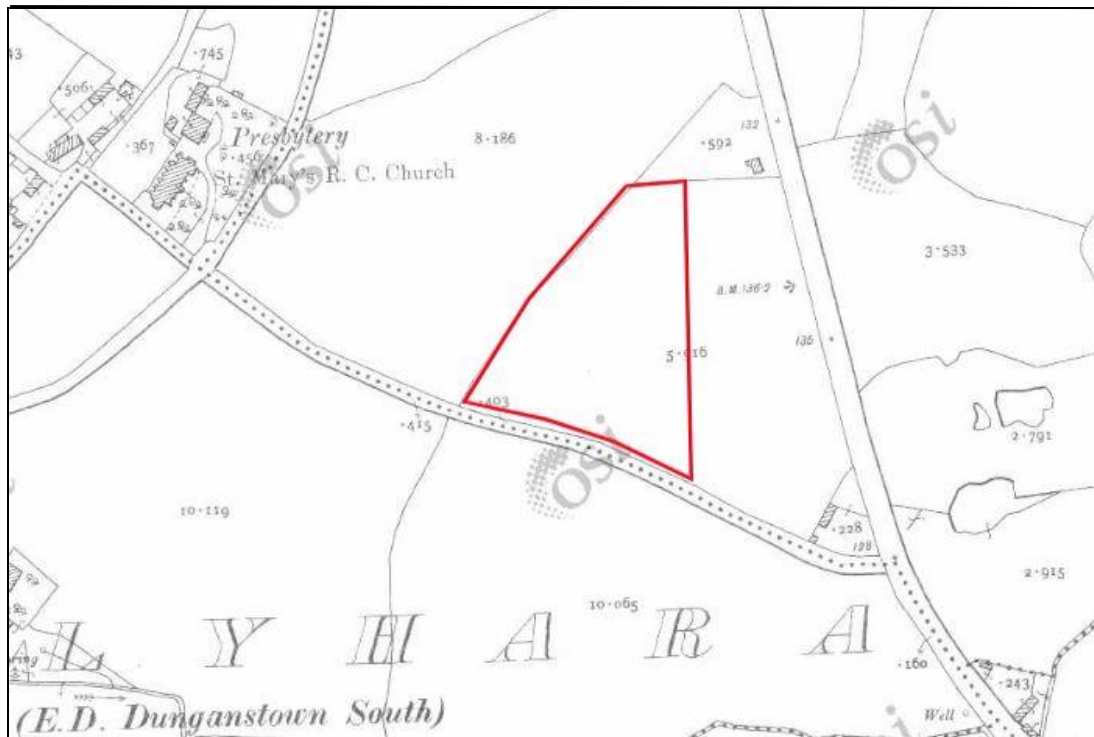


Figure 6: Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1908-1910.

At the time of the Third Edition Map 1908-1910 all of the field boundaries have been removed and the site is now an open field.

4 Historical Background

This section will look at a general history of the site and its environs from prehistoric to post medieval times. It will incorporate recorded monuments, finds and the results of map analysis where possible.

4.1 Prehistoric Period

Evidence of early prehistoric activity in Wicklow is scarce, and there are several explanations for this. In *Kings, Saints and Saga*, Smyth argues that the Wicklow Mountains, especially the coastal strip stretching from Bray down to Arklow and further south was a political backwater in early Ireland.

This could be explained by the poor accessibility of the area as it was cut off from the richer Irish interior by the surrounding mountain chains, it was poorly drained and very heavily forested, and its rivers ran west to east from the mountains to the sea, obstructing the path of travellers striving to move up or down the coastal hinterland (Smyth 1994).

The earliest evidence for settlement and movement through the west Wicklow mountains dates to the Neolithic (c.4000-2500 BC), the period of the first farming communities in Ireland. Neolithic passage tombs, burial places of the ancestors and ritual markers of prehistoric territories are found along the western edges of the Wicklow Mountains and on particular summits and hills.

An excavation in advance of the N11 Road Improvement Scheme uncovered evidence of Neolithic settlement 560m southeast of the proposed development site in Ballyvaltron. The site was interpreted as a Neolithic hut site or shelter (Table 1, Figure 3).

It is in the Bronze Age that more substantial evidence for settlement emerges (2500 – 600 BC). In lowland areas, Bronze Age settlement is indicated by the occurrence of burnt mound or fulacht fiadh sites. These sites are visible in the landscape as crescent-shaped mounds made up of small pieces of shattered stone which are usually located near a stream or in marshy ground. There are often other archaeological features associated with these sites including troughs pits and postholes.

A fire was set near to the trough upon which stone was heated and the heated stones were subsequently dropped into the water. The resultant boiling water was then used for a variety of purposes. Once the water heating process was complete the trough was cleaned out and the stones were cast aside giving rise to the characteristic shaped mounds. Various interpretations have been put forward for the use of these burnt mound sites. This type of site could have been used for cooking, bathing, dyeing or industrial activity as the primary purpose of these sites was to boil water.

Five burnt mound sites were excavated in advance of the N11 Road Improvement Scheme (Table 1, Figure 3). These sites were over 500m from the proposed development site (WI031-098-99, WI036035001,038,040). Other sites which were excavated as part of this scheme and which date to the Bronze Age comprised a pit and post hole (WI031-097).

The Iron Age (500 BC-400 AD) is characterised by the widespread use of iron, in preference to bronze and also by the use of La Tene style ornament. This distinctive art style was developed in central Europe by Celtic peoples. An Iron Age ditch was excavated in advance of the N11 Road Improvement Scheme 740m southeast of the proposed development site (Table 1, Figure 3).

4.2 Early Medieval Period (500- 1150 AD)

The medieval period in Ireland began around 500 AD. This was a time of massive social change 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 túatha or tribal units/ petty ruled over by a chief or king. In turn these tribal units formed part of larger territorial units ruled over by over Kings (Kelly 2001, 3-4, 6-38). 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 (Smyth 1994, 48) who rose to power as the Kings of Leinster having killed Maelodran, a legendary hero of the Dál Messin Corb tribe (Corlett 1999, 35). The Uí Dúnlainge tribe Kings of North Leinster in the seventh century became King of Leinster from the eight to the eleventh century until the Uí Cheinnselaigh who formerly controlled southern Leinster became the dominant power (Smyth 1994, 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 1999, 99, Charles-Edwards 2000, 182). The late fifth century saw the beginnings of extensive missionary activity in Ireland. St Patrick is the best known of the early missionaries.

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 holy wells, souterrains, bullaun stones, fonts, ogham stones and crosses (Edwards 1990, 99-131).

There are two RMP sites related to ecclesiastical activity; a font WI031-067 in Ballinacor West, and a church site in Ballyvaltron WI036-005.

Other monuments dating to this period in the vicinity of these works are ringforts which broadly date from 500 to 1000 AD. 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.).

A rath is located 240m northwest of the proposed development site at Ballinacor West WI031-022. Ringforts 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.).

From 795 the Norse raiders or Vikings began raiding the east coast and founded their first base at Dublin. The location for this initial settlement is thought to be on the south sloping bank of the Liffey at Kilmainham and Islandbridge where a 9th century Viking burial ground was exposed in the last century. This Longport settlement was in use until 902 AD when the Annals of Ulster record that the 'heathens were driven from Ireland' (Bradley, 1992, p. 44).

By 917 AD however the Vikings returned and established themselves on a spit of land between the Rivers Liffey and Poddle. Today this is between Christchurch Cathedral and Dublin Castle. This developed into a thriving organised settlement which was divided into a network of streets, houses and plots all surrounded by large walls. During this period, the expanding Viking trade opportunities resulted in the establishment of towns in Ireland such as Wicklow, Arklow, Wexford, Waterford, Limerick, and Cork.

The name, Wicklow derives from the Scandinavian either Vikingalo, 'meadow of the Vikings' or Vik-lo 'meadow of the bay. 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 Avoca River which enters the sea at Arklow or Inber Dee could have been used by the Vikings as a means of accessing Glendalough.

References to raids undertaken by the Inber Dee Vikings in the annals include a raid on Glendalough in 834, Ferns in 835, Glendalough again in 836 and Ferns again in 839.

The closest evidence for Viking activity in relation to the proposed development site is 1.8km west of the site in the townland of Ballycapple. Price notes that this was once a Norse settlement and that the word for a horse – hestr may have become attached as a personal name. The descendants may have then become known as the Mac Capaill or the sons of the horse (1967, p. 501).

4.3 Later Medieval Period (1150-1700)

By the end of the twelfth century the Vikings were met with a new political and social force as the Anglo Normans invaded Ireland. 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 Murroughs enemies and in 1166 banished him from Ferns. As a result of this Mac Murrough who realized his lands were in danger requested 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 Murroughs 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 Ruaurí O'Conchúir did not anticipate the route Mac Murrough would take through the mountains and they took Dublin within a few days. Henry II granted most of the land in Leinster to Strongbow but retained a narrow strip from Wicklow to Arklow.

There are no archaeological monuments built by the Anglo Norman's in the study area.

The political landscape of the county changed dramatically following the Anglo-Norman conquest of the Liffey and Barrow valleys. The Gaelic tribes of the O'Tooles and O'Byrne's were pushed in to the Wicklow Mountains (Smyth 1994, 41). 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. As English power contracted in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries the O Byrnes and the O Tooles, continued their attacks on these settlers. The Wicklow Mountains were known as a 'Land of War' and remained so for the next three hundred years (Corlett 1999, 67).

The event was part of a series of conflicts involving the O'Byrne's family and the crown forces and took place in 1599 at the ford of Deputy's Pass. The crown forces were led by Sir Henry Harrington and had been patrolling the surrounding area of their garrison in Wicklow Town.

Sir Harrington's soldiers made contact with the O'Byrne forces on the 28th of May as they advanced on the O'Byrne camp at Danelagh near Rathdrum. Sir Harrington decided to withdraw the day after on the 29th of May. The O'Byrne's carried out their attack as the crowns forces approached the ford at Deputy's Pass, attacking the rear- and vanguard as they withdrew. The attack continued after the crown forces had crossed the ford and it was at this point that the crown forces were routed.

In 1606 Wicklow was eventually created a county. Coinciding with the shiring of the county the Church of Ireland sought to extend its control over the county through a policy of plantation. By AD 1640 Catholics owned less than half the land in the county through a policy of plantation. 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). In 1641 the townland of Ballinacor East and West was known as Ballinecorbeg and was in the ownership of a catholic landowner Brian McPhelim. This was transferred to Captain Hugh MacGill (protestant) by 1670.

5 Impact Assessment and Archaeological Mitigation

A desk based survey and field inspection have been carried out in advance of the proposed development by Wicklow County Council. Ground works associated with the development has the potential to yield archaeological material.

No RMP sites will be directly impacted upon by the works and the closest RMP sites are 240m northwest of the site under discussion. The field inspection did not identify any previously unrecorded archaeology although its location on slightly elevated, dry ground with panoramic view of the countryside indicate it may have been a favourable location for settlement.

Desk based research indicates that the townland of Ballinacor East is of some antiquity and the first written references date to the 17th century. It was known in Irish as *Baile na Corra Thoir* the 'Town of the Weir'. The southern boundary of the site is also the townland boundary between Ballyhara and Ballinacor East. Ballyharra is O Hara's town, presumably the landowner and again the earliest written reference to this townland is also in the 17th century.

In Ireland townland boundaries are likely to represent much earlier land divisions. Although the term townland was not used to denote a unit of land until the Civil Survey of 1654, Gaelic land ownership required a clear definition of territories for each sept and a need for strong permanent fences around their territories (Culleton 1999, 174). Townland boundaries along ridge-tops, streams, or bogs are more likely to be older in date than those composed of straight lines (ibid.). Cartographic analysis indicates that the proposed development may uncover a northeast to southwest field boundary which was visible on the 1886 first edition map (Figure 5).

This impact assessment has taken into account all these factors in conjunction with historical and cartographic analysis. Excavations associated with the proposed development may cover additional unrecorded finds or monuments of archaeological or historical interest.

In order to protect the archaeological heritage licenced geophysical survey of the proposed development site is recommended given the ground conditions are suitable.

This phase of works will enable an assessment to be made of the likelihood of any archaeological features surviving in the area. Targeted test trenching may also be recommended based on the results of the geophysical survey. This will enable an assessment to be made on the impact of the development on potential sub surface archaeological remains should they exist. An appropriate archaeological mitigation can then be applied in consultation with the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

These recommendations are the professional opinion of the writer and based upon the findings of the desktop assessment and field inspection. All archaeological recommendations are subject to further consultation and agreement with The National Monuments Section of the Department of Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

The following guides and legislation were considered:

- Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Properties (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1999
- Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022

- 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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Online sources

Trinity Down Survey Map Project <http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps.php>

National Monuments Service <http://www.archaeology.i>

7 Appendix 1: RMP and SMR Records

RMP	Class	Townland
WI031-097	Excavation - miscellaneous	BALLINACOR EAST

Description:

This is the record for the pit and associated posthole excavated by Red Tobin (E3240) on the N11 route improvement scheme. A radiocarbon date places these features in the early/middle Bronze Age. (Tobin 2009c)

RMP	Class	Townland
WI031-098	Burnt mound	BALLINACOR EAST

Description:

This is the record for the burnt mound excavated by Red Tobin (E3241) on the N11 road improvement scheme. (Tobin 2009d)

RMP	Class	Townland
WI031-099	Excavation - miscellaneous	BALLINACOR EAST

Description

This is the record for the deposits excavated by Red Tobin (E3242) on the N11 route improvement scheme. The excavation uncovered a number of deposits associated with a natural spring and may be the result of ritual activity associated with the spring. (Tobin 2009e)

RMP	Class	Townland
WI031-022	Ringfort - rath	BALLINACOR WEST

Description:

Situated on a gentle SE-facing slope. Circular enclosure (diam. c. 25m) cut by a laneway shown on the 1838 OS 6-inch map and referred to in the OS Letters (O'Flanagan 1928, 127). Not visible at ground level.

RMP	Class	Townland
WI031-067	Font (present location)	BALLINACOR WEST

Description:

A cylindrical block of coarse-grained granite (Wth 80cm across) with a sub-rectangular, steep-sided basin (48cm x 45cm across the top; 42cm x 36cm across the base; D 18cm). The rim around the basin is roughly flat and damaged along one edge. The base is quite rough, and falls slightly to one side where there is a drain hole at the edge of the basin, set at a roughly 45° angle. The hole is 4cm across within the basin, narrows to 1cm, and expands again to 5cm across where it exits the stone. Believed to have come from Castletimon Church (WI036-009001-) (See WI036-009004- for original location record).

RMP	Class	Townland
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WI036-002	Ringfort - rath	KILMURRY NORTH (Arklow By.)
Description:		
Situating on a gentle N/NE-facing slope. Circular area (diam. 38m) defined by an earthen bank (Wth 6m; H 0.3-0.8m) and an external fosse (Wth 3m). A NW-SE field boundary cuts across the SW sector of the site. The entrance is a simple gap at the NE (Wth 5m). Attached to the site at SW there is a level sub circular area (diam. 30m) defined by a possible fosse which may be an annexe or related enclosure. No indication of internal features. There is a spring immediately to the N of the site.		
RMP	Class	Townland
WI036-038	Fulacht fia	BALLYVALTRON
Description:		
This is the record for the fulacht fia partially excavated by Goorik Dehaene (E3238) on the N11 route. The features excavated were a possible trough cut into the clay subsoil, and a burnt spread. Two radiocarbon dates from the trough fill place this feature in the mid/late Bronze Age. (Dehaene 2009l)		

RMP	Class	Townland
WI036-039	Hut site	BALLYVALTRON
Description:		
This is the record for the excavation by Goorik Dehaene (E3239) which uncovered various features, including 'a stake hole and postholes and a pit ... associated with early Neolithic pottery and late Neolithic flint and quartz ... it is thought that they form the remnants of hut or shelter' (Dehaene 2009m).		

RMP	Class	Townland
WI036-040	Burnt mound	BALLYVALTRON
Description:		
This is the record for the excavation by Goorik Dehaene (E3239) which uncovered 'burnt mound activity comprising a trough and possible trough, 11 pits, a posthole, stake holes, a pit/possible kiln and a burnt spread' (Dehaene 2009m).		
RMP	Class	Townland
WI036-036	Excavation - miscellaneous	BALLYVALTRON
Description:		
This is the record for the ditch excavated by Goorik Dehaene (E3237) on the route of the N11 road improvement scheme. The ditch was a shallow rounded cut filled with silts and clays, and extended beyond the excavated area. A radiocarbon date from the upper fill of the ditch was from the Iron Age. (Dehaene 2009k)		

RMP	Class	Townland
WI036-005-	Church	BALLYVALTRON

Description:		
Situating on low-lying level ground at the foot of a SW-facing slope in a narrow triangular area between two roads. The site is occupied by a farmhouse, now a workshop, and outbuildings, and there is no trace of any earlier structure. Marked as '(Site of) R.C. Chapel' on the 1838 OS 6-inch map.		
RMP	Class	Townland
WI036-035002-	Kiln - corn-drying	KILMURRY NORTH (Arklow By.)
Description:		
This is the record for a corn-drying kiln excavated by Red Tobin (E3236) on the N11 road improvement scheme. (Tobin 2009a)		
RMP	Class	Townland
WI036-035001-	Burnt mound	KILMURRY NORTH (Arklow By.)
Description:		
This is the record for the burnt mound excavated by Red Tobin (E3236) on the N11 road improvement scheme. Associated with the burnt material was a large water-collection pit, and a series of stake holes denoting the presence a small temporary shelter. Also associated with the feature was a scatter of 212 flint artefacts indicating a knapping floor. The site was dated by a series of radiocarbon dates to the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age. (Tobin 2009a)		

8 Appendix 2 www.excavations.ie

County: Wicklow **Site name:** Ballinacor East

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A **Licence number:** A022/054; E3240

Author: Red Tobin, 35 Brook Meadow, Avoca, Co. Wicklow for Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd.

Site type: Burnt mound

ITM: E 726870m, N 686869m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 52.917658, -6.113450

This excavation was carried out on behalf of Wicklow County Council and the National Roads Authority in advance of the construction of the N11 Rathnew to Arklow road improvement motorway scheme.

Testing at site A022/054 revealed a possible burnt mound or fulacht fiadh. This consisted of a spread of black silty clay with frequent charcoal and heat-shattered stone, measuring 2.15m by 2m by 0.27m deep. It was disturbed by a north-east/south-west-running cultivation furrow. Subsequent excavation has revealed a pit, which has been interpreted as a possible pot-boiler, and a post-hole, both dating to the early Bronze Age.

County: Wicklow **Site name:** Ballinacor East

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A **Licence number:** A022/055; E3241

Author: Red Tobin, 35 Brook Meadow, Avoca, Co. Wicklow for Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd.

Site type: Prehistoric

ITM: E 726870m, N 686869m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 52.917658, -6.113450

This excavation was carried out on behalf of Wicklow County Council and the National Roads Authority in advance of the construction of the N11 Rathnew to Arklow road improvement motorway scheme.

Testing of A022/055 revealed a burnt mound or fulacht fiadh at the site, which consisted of a spread of black silty clay with frequent charcoal and heat-fractured stone, measuring 3.5m by 3.5m by 0.15m deep. To the north of the burnt material was a layer of non-heat-affected stones. The stones were generally sub-round or sub-angular, with frequent inclusions of cremated bone fragments recovered from

between them. It was not possible to determine whether the bone was animal or human at the time of testing. Sherds of prehistoric pottery dating from the Neolithic were also recovered. Subsequent excavation has revealed a site characterised by a number of features, including possible mortuary practices, as well as the remains of a fulacht fiadh or burnt mound.

County: Wicklow **Site name:** Ballinacor East

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A **Licence number:** A022/056; E3242

Author: Red Tobin, 35 Brook Meadow, Avoca, Co. Wicklow for Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd.

Site type: Prehistoric

ITM: E 726870m, N 686869m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 52.917658, -6.113450

This archaeological excavation was carried out on behalf of Wicklow County Council and the National Roads Authority in advance of the construction of the N11 Rathnew to Arklow road improvement scheme.

Testing initially revealed that the site was a burnt spread consisting of black silty clay with frequent charcoal and heat-fractured stone. It had an extent of 2.5m by 1.2m with a depth of 0.1m and was thought to represent the remains of a burnt mound or fulacht fiadh.

Subsequent excavation revealed that the burnt-mound material was laid down in a circular band over a stone-lined drain. The drain diverted water from upslope around the location of a rising freshwater spring. The spring had been deliberately blocked in recent times and the whole area utilised as a temporary landfill for domestic and agricultural waste. Upon clearance of the site it became apparent that there had been several unsuccessful attempts to drain the area, demonstrated by the insertion of linear stone-filled drains. 14C dating for this site is not available due to the extent of contamination. The combination of the spring, the circular drain and its 'seal' of burnt-mound material suggests that this site may have been a ritual site of some antiquity.