

Social Housing PPP Programme Bundle 3
Burgage More, Blessington, Co. Wicklow
Archaeological Impact Assessment

Client: Coady Architects

Licence No: n/a

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Social Housing PPP Programme Bundle 3

Burgage More, Blessington, Co. Wicklow

SITE NAME	Burgage More, Blessington, Co. Wicklow
CLIENT	Coady Architects
INVESTIGATION TYPE	Archaeological Impact Assessment
LICENCE NO	N/A
PLANNING REF	N/A
TOWNLAND	Burgage More
IRISH TRANSVERSE MERCATOR	697666, 713184
RMP NO	N/A
RPS NO	N/A
ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANT	Archer Heritage Planning Ltd.
ARCHAEOLOGIST	Bart Korfanty
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CONTENTS

CONTENTS	1
SUMMARY	3
1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT.....	1
2. SITE DESCRIPTION	1
3. METHOD STATEMENT.....	1
4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	2
4.1 BRIEF ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	2
4.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL FILES.....	2
4.3 RECORD OF MONUMENTS & PLACES	3
4.4 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES	3
4.5 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY	3
4.6 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS.....	4
4.7 ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE	4
4.8 SITE VISIT	5
5. IMPACTS.....	5
6. RECOMMENDATIONS.....	6
7. REFERENCES.....	7
7.1 BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	7
7.2 WEB REFERENCES	7
APPENDICES.....	8
APPENDIX 1: TABLE OF ENTRIES IN TOPOGRAPHICAL FILES FOR TOWNSHIP AND SURROUNDING AREAS	8
APPENDIX 2: TABLE OF RMP/SMR SITES WITHIN 1 KM OF SITE.....	10
APPENDIX 3: TABLE OF PREVIOUS EXCAVATIONS IN VICINITY OF SITE.....	15
APPENDIX 4: TABLE OF ENTRIES OF PROTECTED STRUCTURES IN VICINITY OF SITE	17

List of Tables

- Table 1: Cartographic sources relating to the site
- Table 2: Aerial Photographs

List of Figures

- Figure 1: Site location
- Figure 2: Site location with surrounding RMPs
- Figure 3: Extracts from early historical maps
- Figure 4: Extracts from aerial photography

List of Plates

- Plate 1: Aerial view of the site, looking SE
- Plate 2: Aerial view of the site, looking SE
- Plate 3: Aerial view of the site, looking NW
- Plate 4: Ground level view of the site, looking SE

SUMMARY

A desk-based study and field survey was carried out on a green-field site at Burgage More, Blessington, Co. Wicklow. This Archaeological Impact Assessment report sought to identify and describe known and potential archaeological or cultural heritage constraints within and/or immediately adjacent to the site. The following factors were identified in the course of desktop study:

- The site is large in scale occupying an area of roughly 3.1 Ha. and overlooking the Poulaphuca Reservoir (and previously the valley of the River Liffey).
- There are 46 entries in the Topographical Files for the townland and surrounding area.
- There are no recorded monuments situated within the site boundaries though 35 monuments for the townland.
- Cartographic sources revealed no further archaeological potential for the subject site.
- No potential archaeological features were recorded in aerial photos of the subject site.
- No archaeological excavations have been undertaken previously within the subject site but two excavations in the townland have revealed prehistoric burial activity.
- There are no Protected Structures on the site or in the immediate environs.
- The site visit and aerial drone photography did not reveal any archaeological features visible on the surface.

These factors indicate that there is moderate to high potential for the survival of buried archaeological remains at this site.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the site be subject to further assessment prior to development. This should be in the form of geophysical survey followed by test excavations informed by the results of the survey. Geophysical survey and test excavations must be done under licence to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland (NMI).

NOTE: All conclusions and recommendations expressed in this report are subject to the approval of The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and the relevant local authorities. As the statutory body responsible for the protection of Ireland's archaeological and cultural heritage resource, the DHLGH may issue alternative or additional recommendations.

Revision	Status	Date	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Approved by
1	Final	15 th Jan 2021	BK (Archer)	AOC (Archer)	CMG

1. INTRODUCTION

This archaeological impact assessment undertaken on a Social Housing PPP Programme Bundle 3 Burgage More, Blessington, Co. Wicklow (ITM 697666, 713184, Figure 1) has been prepared by Archer Heritage Planning Ltd for Coady Architects. The desk-based study and field survey for this assessment was undertaken in January 2021 by Bart Korfanty of Archer Heritage Planning Ltd. It aims to identify and describe known and potential archaeological and cultural heritage constraints within the site and offer recommendations for the mitigation of such impacts.

1.1 Proposed Development

It is proposed to construct a residential development under Social Housing PPP Programme Bundle 3. There is no detailed layout available at this point in time. The assessment is being undertaken as part of a pre-planning application process.

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

The site location is council-owned land in Burgage More townland, Blessington in the Parish of Burgage and the Barony of Lower Talbotstown. The site area is c. 3.1 hectares and lies on the southern outskirts of the town with the closest point of the Poulaphuca Reservoir c. 250m to the east. The site is a rectangular pasture field surrounded on all sides by mature hedgerows. It would have overlooked the valley of the River Liffey prior to the development of the reservoir.

3. METHOD STATEMENT

The following sources were consulted in the preparation of this report:

- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)/ Sites and Monuments Record¹
- Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland
- Aerial photography
- Historical maps
- Documentary research
- Relevant on-line databases (e.g. Excavation Bulletin; NRA Archaeological Database).

¹ Archive Unit National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht ,

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Brief archaeological & historical background

Blessington Co. Wicklow, called Burgage until 1683, is a village on the Dublin-Baltinglass road. The manor of Blessington was created in 1669 by Charles II for Michael Boyle, Archbishop of Dublin, who laid out the one-street village and built the Protestant parish church (c. 1682; memorial to Boyle by William Kodwell, the Dublin statuary, who died in 1736). In 1778 the manor devolved to Lord Hillsborough, later 1st Marquess of Downshire. The Catholic Church in the village is by A. and D. Wejchert (1982). In the churchyard is St. Mark's Cross (formerly known as St. Baoithin's Cross), a 14ft granite cross, and another ring-headed cross from an early monastic site (which is now submerged) in Burgage More.

Adjoining the village on the east is the great lake of the Liffey hydro-electric works. It was formed by flooding the valleys of the King's River and the Liffey. Baltiboy was the birthplace of Dame Ninette de Valois (1898-1988).

On the summit of Seefin, c. 10 km to the ENE, is a round cairn covering a cruciform passage-tomb which has six sub-chambers or recesses; two of the passage uprights have lozenge patterns. A 14th Century keep lies c. 4km to the ENE in Threecastles.

Russborough House (Sir Alfred Beit) one of Ireland's notable Palladian country houses lies c.5km to the SSW. It was designed by Richard Cassels and Francis Bindon of Clooney, Co. Clare, for Joseph Leeson (1st Earl of Miltown), a wealthy Dublin brewer. The interior includes some splendid apartments which are open to the public. In 1988, Sir Alfred donated many of his superb paintings to the National Gallery of Ireland, but others are still displayed at Russborough.

The Hollywood road crosses the Liffey, c.8km south of the subject site at Poll an Phuca, where the river, having forced its way through a narrow gorge, plunges 150 ft in three stages. At the foot of the middle fall is the Pucas pool which has given its name to the area.

4.2 Topographical Files

The National Museum of Ireland Topographical Files is the national archive of all known antiquities recorded by the National Museum listed by county and townland/street. These files relate primarily to artefacts but also include references to monuments and contain a unique archive of records of previous archaeological excavations. The Museum files present an accurate catalogue of objects reported to that institution from 1928².

² The NMI Topographical Files search was undertaken by the Irish Antiquities Division of the NMI on behalf of Archer Heritage and is gratefully acknowledged.

There are 46 stray finds recorded in the Topographical Files from Burgage More and the surrounding townlands. This indicates significant archaeological activity in the townland. Results of the search of the Topographical Files are presented in Appendix 1.

4.3 Record of Monuments & Places

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is a statutory inventory of archaeological sites protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004 (Section 12, 1994 Act), compiled and maintained by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI). The inventory concentrates on pre-1700 AD sites and is based on a previous inventory known as the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) which does not have legal protection or status (see www.archaeology.ie).

There are no recorded monuments located within the site. The closest RMP site is a high cross, WI005-047002, located c.200m to the NW. However, there are 35 entries for the townland in the RMP/SMR database and indicates extensive prehistoric and medieval activity in the townland.

For the full list of entries within 1km radius see Appendix 2

4.4 Cartographic Sources

Analysis of historic mapping can show human impact on landscape over a prolonged period. Large collections of historical maps (pre- and early Ordnance Survey maps as well as estate or private maps) are held at the Glucksman Map Library, Trinity College and other sources (UCD Library, Ordnance Survey Ireland, local libraries and published material). The development of the site and its vicinity recorded through the eighteenth to twentieth century cartography are described in Table 1 below (Figure 2 & 3). **No potential archaeological features were recorded within the subject site.**

Map	Date	Description
Historic 6inch	1838	The site occupies two fields. A field boundary runs diagonally through the middle of the site. There is one small rectangular building visible in the NW corner.
Historic 25inch	1885-87	The site is in its current shape and size.
Cassini	1908-09	No change to previous.

Table 1: Cartographic sources relating to the site

4.5 Aerial photography

Aerial photography (or other forms of remote sensing) may reveal certain archaeological features or sites (earthworks, crop marks, soil marks) that for many reasons may not be appreciated at ground level. Online orthostatic photographs of the site were examined (Ordnance Survey Ireland 1995, 2000 & 2005; Google/Bing Maps 2018).

Aerial Photograph	Date	Description
OSi (B&W)	1995	The site appears to be a green pasture in its current shape and size. No archaeological features noted.
OSi	2005	No change
OSi Digital Globe	2013	No change
Google Earth	2018	No change

Table 2: Aerial Photographs

4.6 Previous Archaeological Excavations

The Excavation Bulletin is a database of summary accounts of archaeological excavations in Ireland and Northern Ireland from 1970 onwards. Summaries relating to archaeological excavations undertaken by the National Roads Authority are also available on-line and were consulted for any adjacent sites. Reports on licensed archaeological works are also held by the Archive Unit of the National Monuments Section. **There were no previous archaeological excavations within the site boundaries but there have been several excavations in the townland. Two excavations from the 1930's revealed burial activity from the prehistoric period and this supplements the evidence from the topographical files and elsewhere for the inhabitation of the surrounding area over a long period.** Details are shown in Appendix 3.

4.7 Architectural Heritage

Local Authorities have a statutory responsibility to safeguard architectural heritage in accordance with Part IV of the Planning and Development Act 2000. Under S.51 (1), a County Council must compile a Record of Protected Structures (RPS), which lists all structures which are of special *architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical* interest. The protection, unless otherwise stated, includes the exterior and interior of the structure, lands lying within its curtilage (boundary), other structures and their interiors within the curtilage, plus all fixtures and fittings which form part of the interior or exterior of any of these structures. Buildings can be added to, or deleted from the RPS at any time, though generally this occurs when the county development plan is being reviewed. The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) was established on a statutory basis under the provisions of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999. Its purpose is to identify, record, and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, uniformly and consistently as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage. It is intended to provide a basis for recommendations of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to Local Authorities for the inclusion of particular structures in Records of Protected Structures (RPS).

There are no Protected Structures or entries on the NIAH within or in the immediate environs of the site. The closest RPS entry is Saint Josephs Hall (RPS no. 05-07) c. 800m to the north-east. See Appendix 4 for further details.

The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), provides that all development plans must now include objectives for preserving the character of Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). An ACA is a place, area, groups of structures or townscape of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest, or which contribute to the appreciation of protected structures, and whose character it is an objective of a development plan to preserve. In these areas, the protection of the architectural heritage is best achieved by controlling and guiding change on a wider scale than the individual structure, in order to retain the overall architectural or historic character of an area. The ACA for Blessington is centred on the Main Street of the town and lies c. 980m to the north of the site. **There will be no direct impact or indirect impact from development on the nearest ACA.**

4.8 Site Visit

The site was visited by Bart Korfanty of Archer Heritage Planning Ltd on 15th December 2020 in dry, overcast conditions (Plates 1–4). The site is comprised of a single flat field. The field appears to be a pasture surrounded on all sides by mature hedge rows. On the ground inspection and aerial photographs obtained with the drone did not reveal any archaeological features visible on the surface.

5. IMPACTS

A desk-based study and field survey was carried out on a green-field site on Burgage More, Blessington, Co. Wicklow (ITM 644476, 751538). The site covers an area of c. 3.1 hectare. This Archaeological Impact Assessment report sought to identify and describe known and potential archaeological or cultural heritage constraints within and/or immediately adjacent to the site. The following factors were identified in the course of desktop study:

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These factors indicate that there is moderate to high potential for the survival of buried archaeological remains at this site.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the site be subject to further assessment prior to development. This should be in the form of geophysical survey followed by test excavations informed by the results of the survey. Geophysical survey and test excavations must be done under licence to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland (NMI).

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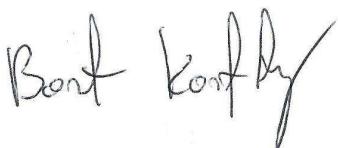
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- Lewis, S. 1837 *A topographical dictionary of Ireland*, London
Killanin, M. & Duignan, M. 1989 *The Shell Guide to Ireland*, London
Ó Riordáin, S. P. 1953, *Antiquities of the Irish Countryside*, London: Methuen.

7.2 Web references

- Online Archaeological Survey of Ireland www.archaeology.ie [accessed January 2021]
Cartographic sources www.geohive.ie [accessed January 2021]
Aerial Photography <http://map.geohive.ie/mapviewer.html> [accessed January 2021]
Online Excavations bulletin www.excavations.ie [accessed January 2021]
Wicklow Record of Protected Structures [Microsoft Word - RPS with adopted amendments Nov16 \(wicklow.ie\)](http://www.wicklow.ie/protected_structures/Nov16) [accessed January 2021]
Blessington ACA [Layout:1 \(wicklow.ie\)](http://www.wicklow.ie/Layout:1) [accessed January 2021]



Bart Korfanty

15th January 2021

APPENDICES***Appendix 1: Table of entries in Topographical Files for townland and surrounding areas***

NMI Register No.	Simple Name	Component	Townland	Find Place	County
1942:1846	Crucifix	Silver	Blessington		Wicklow
1946:422	Macehead	Stone	Blessington		Wicklow
1946:423	Brick	Ceramic	Blessington		Wicklow
1959:521	Macehead	Stone	Blessington		Wicklow
1990:15	Quern	Stone	Blessington		Wicklow
1000:628	Pick	Iron	Burgage More		Wicklow
1000:629	Tool	Iron	Burgage More		Wicklow
1000:630	Tool	Iron	Burgage More		Wicklow
1000:631	Bracket	Iron	Burgage More		Wicklow
1000:632	Line sinker	Stone	Burgage More		Wicklow
1000:633	Stone	Iron	Burgage More		Wicklow
1934:5647.1	Urn	Ceramic	Burgage More		Wicklow
1934:5647.10	Cist	Stone	Burgage More		Wicklow
1934:5647.11	Cist	Stone	Burgage More		Wicklow
1934:5647.12	Cist	Stone	Burgage More		Wicklow
1943:5647.13	Cist	Stone	Burgage More		Wicklow
1943:5647.2	Vase	Ceramic	Burgage More		Wicklow
1943:5647.3	Scraper	Flint	Burgage More		Wicklow
1943:5647.4	Scraper	Flint	Burgage More		Wicklow
1943:5647.5	Flake	Flint	Burgage More		Wicklow
1943:5647.6	Human remains	Human remains	Burgage More		Wicklow
1943:5647.7	Cist	Stone	Burgage More		Wicklow
1943:5647.8	Cist	Stone	Burgage More		Wicklow
1943:5647.9	Cist	Stone	Burgage More		Wicklow
1945:165	Pottery	Ceramic	Burgage More		Wicklow
1945:166	Pottery	Ceramic	Burgage More		Wicklow
1945:167	Pottery	Ceramic	Burgage More		Wicklow

NMI Register No.	Simple Name	Component	Townland	Find Place	County
1945:168	Pottery	Ceramic	Burgage More		Wicklow
1945:169	Pottery	Ceramic	Burgage More		Wicklow
1945:170	Slag	Slag	Burgage More		Wicklow
1945:171	Flint	Flint	Burgage More		Wicklow
1945:172	Hook	Iron	Burgage More		Wicklow
1945:173	Rod	Iron	Burgage More		Wicklow
1988.9.1	Pottery	Ceramic	Burgage More	Burgage Castle	Wicklow
1988.9.2	Pottery	Ceramis	Burgage More	W. of Burgage Castle	Wicklow
2011:250	Stone	Stone	Burgage More	Burgage	Wicklow
2020:52	Spur	Iron	Burgage More	Shore of Blessington reservoir	Wicklow
X3745	Object	Iron	Burgage More		Wicklow
1996:53	Axehead	Stone	Burgage Moyle	Shore of Blessington reservoir	Wicklow
1953:49	Quem	Stone	Carrig		Wicklow
1984:224	Human remains	Bone	Carrig	Cist	Wicklow
2004:144	Jar	Ceramic	Carrig		Wicklow
2012:132	Bone	Bone	Carrig		Wicklow
2012:133	Sample	Charcoal	Carrig		Wicklow
2016:24	Quem	Stone	Carrig		Wicklow

Appendix 2: Table of RMP/SMR sites within 1 km of site

SMR No	Class	Townland	ITM	Distance to site
WI005-045----	Enclosure	Burgage More	696890, 713021	800m SW
Situated on a marked W-facing slope. Visible on aerial photograph (GSIAP, N 332-3) as an approximately circular enclosure, partly obscured by buildings (est. max. diam. c. 30m). Not visible at ground level.				
WI005-046----	Mound	Burgage More	697269, 713241	400m W
Situated on a gentle W-facing slope. Described in 1838 OS Field Name Books as a 'pile of earth', and indicated on the OS 6-inch map (surveyed 1838) as a small unnamed mound (diam. c. 20m) with the symbol for a trigonometrical station on the top (684 feet OD). This mound is not shown on the OS 25-inch plan (surveyed 1907) and was probably removed by this date. This may be the feature referred to in the Book of Burgage Parish (Vol. 1, 244) as 'Burgagomore Moat'. The site of this mound was tested in 1996 for archaeological remains and 'No evidence of a monument or of any archaeological feature was discovered.' (Duffy 1996). Although there is every reason to consider that this mound may have been artificially constructed the results of the investigations in 1996 indicate that all trace of it had been removed, both above and below ground surface. (Grogan and Kilfeather 1997, 105, no. 718; Duffy 1997)				
WI005-047001-	Cross-High cross (present location)	Burgage More	697539, 713328	200m NE
National Monument in state ownership No. 280. Situated at the SW end of a modern graveyard, formerly located at Burgage More church and graveyard (WI005-070001- & WI005-070005-). (1) An imperforate ringed granite cross (H c. 4.3m) with unusually long arms and a small boss in the centre of both faces. Said by O'Donovan (O'Flanagan 1928, 246-7) to be dedicated to either St Mark or St Baoithin. (2) To the E of 'St Mark's' cross is part of a granite cross (present H 1.35m; original Wth across arms 1.5m) with imperforate ringed head and one unusually long arm remaining. (Harbison 1992, 28)				
WI005-047002-	Cross-High cross (present location)	Burgage More	697559, 713321	200m NE
Situated at the SW end of a modern graveyard, formerly located at Burgage More church and graveyard (WI005-070001- and WI005-070005-). (1) An imperforate ringed granite cross (H c. 4.3m) with unusually long arms and a small boss in the centre of both faces. Said by O'Donovan (O'Flanagan 1928, 246-7) to be dedicated to either St Mark or St Baoithin. (2) To the E of 'St Mark's' cross is part of a granite cross (present H 1.35m; original Wth across arms 1.5m) with imperforate ringed head and one unusually long arm remaining. (Harbison 1992, 28)				
WI005-047003-	Graveslab (present location)	Burgage More	697633, 713475	300m N
Originally (WI005-070008-) from the old graveyard (WI005-070005-) at Burgage and moved to its present location in the new cemetery c. 1939, in preparation for the Liffey Reservoir Scheme. A recumbent granite slab (dims. L 1.68m; Wth 0.75m, tapering to a pointed end) carries an incised Maltese cross within a double-circle, and shaft terminating in a small cross. (Corlett 2003, 90-91, Slab 1)				
WI005-047004-	Graveslab-(present location)	Burgage More	697578, 713412	200m NW
Probably originally located (WI005-070009-) in the old graveyard (WI005-070005-) at Burgage and moved to its present location in the new cemetery c. 1939, in preparation for the Liffey Reservoir Scheme. An earthfast granite slab (dims. H 1.68m; Wth 0.55m; T 0.15m) carries a cross and shaft in low, weathered, relief. (Corlett 2003, 90-91, Slab 2)				
WI005-047005-	Graveslab (present location)	Burgage More	697584, 713398	200m NW
The present location of a slab, set in concrete at the head of a grave, recorded by Paddy Healy (2009, 77-8) which was moved from the old graveyard (WI005-070005-) at Burgage, where its original location has been designated WI005-070015-. A thin, erect slate slab (dims. H 1.11m; Wth 0.34m; T 0.09m) has two deep notches cut into its edge near the top.				
WI005-047006-	Font (present location)	Burgage More	697557, 713365	200m NW

SMR No	Class	Townland	ITM	Distance to site
Originally from the ancient church site at Burgage (see WI005-070016- for original location record). A sub-rectangular granite block (L 57cm; Wth 50cm; H 30cm) with a sub-rectangular basin (L at top 39.5cm; Wth at top 32cm; L at base 35cm; Wth at base 24cm; D 18cm). Towards one end of the flat base is a vertical drain hole (diam. at top 7.5cm; min. diam. 3cm; diam. at base 6cm). The rim around the basin is flat on three sides. On the fourth side the rim is lower and cruder, and a piece has broken away at one end. There is a hole (L 3cm; Wth 1.5cm; D 1.5cm) at the broken end which originally was most likely deeper. At the opposite end is another small hole (diam. 1.5cm; D 1cm). The holes may have been used to secure a lid.				
WI005-048----	Castle-ringwork	Burgage More	697310, 712652	600m SE
Situated on a gentle S/SW-facing slope, on the edge of the Blessington Reservoir which has encroached on the site from S-SE. Circular area (diam. 52m; max. ext. diam. 85m) defined by a bank (Wth 6m; int. H 1-1.5m), an external fosse (everywhere except at the S where it has been washed away) (Wth 9m; D 0.5-1.6m) and an outer counterscarp bank (Wth 9m; H 1-1.8m) from W-NNE. No indication of an entrance or internal features. Limited excavation revealed two hearths and a simple stone lined drainage gully (Macalister 1943, 147-9).				
WI005-049----	Redundant record	Burgage More	697730, 712589	600m S
Listed as an 'enclosure' in the SMR (1986) based on aerial photographic evidence (GSI O 73/N 332/333 (1973)). On marshy ground on a gentle S-facing slope to the N of the Blessington Reservoir. A field visit in 1989 determined that it was not of archaeological significance.				
WI005-050----	Redundant Record	Burgage More	697805, 712629	600m SE
Listed as an 'enclosure' in the SMR (1986) based on aerial photographic evidence (GSI O 73/N 332/333 (1973)). On a level to gently S-facing slope overlooking the Liffey Valley to the S. Now in marshy wooded terrain on the edge of the Blessington Reservoir NE of a forestry plantation. There is an irregular quadrangular pool (c. 20m x 20m) at this location but it is not of archaeological significance.				
WI005-069----	Redundant Record	Burgage More	697489, 712491	700m SW
This record was formerly classed as a ringfort and included in the Archaeological Inventory of County Wicklow (Grogan and Kilfeather 1997, 52) based on the coordinates supplied by Macalister in his excavation report (Macalister 1943, 145). However this appears to be an error and the monument excavated by Macalister was infact WI005-048---- which is c. 200m to the NW (pers. comm. Chris Corlett).				
WI005-070001-	Church	Burgage More	697600, 712465	700m S
Situated on a small spit of land now extending into the Blessington Reservoir originally overlooking the confluence of the Liffey and King's River. The church and graveyard represent part of the deserted medieval borough of Burgage More and formed part of the lands of the bishops of Glendalough in the twelfth century (MacNeill 1950, 5-6). The remains consist of the foundations of a rectangular walled structure (dims. c. 11m E-W; c. 9m N-S; T 0.8m; H 0.28m)) within a graveyard (dims. c. 55m E-W x c. 70m N-S) defined by a modern wall and by two old roads to the E and W of the site. The graveyard has been damaged by the waters of the reservoir and there are no visible grave-markers. One high cross and portion of another were originally located here but have been removed to the modern, graveyard c. 800m to the N (WI005-04700--). Reynolds (1973, 67) mentions a font at this site but it is now missing and a holy well (WI005-070003-) was also situated here. Burgage More tower house (WI005-070004-) lies close by to the S.				
WI005-070002-	Cross-High cross	Burgage More	697557, 712432	700m SW
The original location of 'St Mark's Cross' - see WI005-047001- for its present location.				
WI005-070003-	Ritual site-holly well	Burgage More	697559, 712428	700m SW
Situated to the W of Burgage More castle (WI005-070004-). Described in the OS Letters (O'Flanagan 1928, 105) as a spring well at the foot of St Mark's Cross (WI005-047001-) dedicated to St Mark or St Baoithin. It could not be located and is probably near the edge of, or covered by, Blessington Reservoir.				
WI005-070004-	Castle-tower house	Burgage More	697604, 712431	700m SE
Situated within the graveyard (WI005-070005-), on the edge of Blessington Reservoir and being undermined by periodic rises in the water level. A four-storey tower house of uncoursed rubble with dressed granite quoins (int. dims. 4.65m E-W x 5.05m N-S; max. H 8m), of which only the N and W walls survive. Wooden floors were supported on granite corbels. There is a two-centred arch over the doorway in the W wall, lintelled windows at first- and third-floor level, and a round-arched window at second-floor level. Described in the OS Letters				

SMR No	Class	Townland	ITM	Distance to site
(O'Flanagan 1928, 105) as being in ruins. Fitzgerald (1913-16, 395-6) noted a stairs in the SE corner. Part of the medieval borough of Burgage More (WI005-070---).				
WI005-070005-	Graveyard	Burgage More	697589, 712443	700m SW
Situated on a small spit of land now extending into the Blessington Reservoir originally overlooking the confluence of the Liffey and King's River. The church and graveyard represent part of the deserted medieval borough of Burgage More and formed part of the lands of the bishops of Glendalough in the twelfth century (MacNeill 1950, 5-6). The remains consist of the foundations of a rectangular walled structure (dims. c. 11m E-W; c. 9m N-S; T 0.8m; H 0.28m) within a graveyard (dims. c. 55m E-W x c. 70m N-S) defined by a modern wall and by two old roads to the E and W of the site. The graveyard has been damaged by the waters of the reservoir and there are no visible grave-markers. One high cross and portion of another (WI005-047001 and WI005-047002-) were originally located here but have been removed to the modern, graveyard c. 800m to the N. In 1939 a quantity of animal bone and artefacts were brought to the NMI, and human bone was reburied in the cemetery at Blessington (Cahill and Sikora 2011, Vol. 2, 526). Reynolds (1973, 67) mentions a font at this site but it is now missing and a holy well (WI005-070003-) was also situated here. Burgage More tower house (WI005-070004-) lies close by to the S.				
WI005-070006-	Architectural fragment	Burgage More	697589, 712443	700m SW
Listed as a 'font' in the (1986). It is not listed in the RMP (1995). The SMR file contains a reference sheet to the 'Preliminary Report on the Monuments of Archaeological Interest in Co. Wicklow' compiled by M. Reynolds for An Foras Forbartha Teoranta (1973, 67). It describes this as a 'Holy water font'. It is evident that this is a stoup and not a font as scoped by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland.				
WI005-070007-	Cross-High cross	Burgage More	697589, 712443	700m SW
The original location of this high cross - see WI005-047002- for its present location.				
WI005-070008-	Graveslab	Burgage More	697589, 712443	700m SW
The original location, in the old graveyard (WI005-070005-) at Burgage, of a recumbant granite slab (dims. L 1.68m; Wth 0.75m, tapering to a pointed end) carrying an incised Maltese cross within a double-circle, and shaft terminating in a small cross, which was moved to its present location (WI005-047003-) in the new cemetery c. 1939, in preparation for the Liffey Reservoir Scheme.				
WI005-070009-	Graveslab	Burgage More	697589, 712443	700m SW
The probable original location, in the old graveyard (WI005-070005-) at Burgage, of a granite slab (dims. H 1.68m; Wth 0.55m; T 0.15m) carrying a cross and shaft in low, weathered, relief, which was moved to its present location (WI005-047004-) in the new cemetery c. 1939, in preparation for the Liffey Reservoir Scheme.				
WI005-070010-	Graveslab	Burgage More	697600, 712465	700m SW
In the rubble of the church tower ruins (WI005-070001-) in the old graveyard (WI005-070005-) at Burgage. A granite fragment (dims. L 0.43m; Wth 0.35m; T 0.25m) bears portion of an incised cross. (Corlett 2003, 90-91 Slab 3)				
WI005-070011-	Graveslab	Burgage More	697600, 712465	700m SE
In 1993, Paddy Healy provided descriptions of three graveslabs (subsequently designated WI005-070011-, WI005-070012- and WI005-070013-) that were found following the collapse of the church tower (WI005-070001-) at Burgage in 1987. WI005-070011-: two fragments of a complete, tapering granite slab (dims. L 1.35m; Wth 0.59-0.70m; T 0.11m) bearing a Latin cross in low relief with a double outline. It had been reused as a doorway lintel in the church tower. Its present location is unknown. (Corlett 2003, 92, 108 Slab 4)				
WI005-070012-	Graveslab	Burgage More	697600, 712465	700m SW
In 1993, the late Paddy Healy provided descriptions of three graveslabs (subsequently designated WI005-070011-, WI005-070012- and WI005-070013-) that were found following the collapse of the church tower (WI005-070001-) at Burgage in 1987. WI005-070012-: a very slightly tapering granite slab (dims. L 1m; Wth 0.41-0.43m; T 0.16m) bearing a ringed cross carved in relief. It had been reused as a window lintel in the church. Its present location is unknown. (Corlett 2003, 92, 107 Slab 5)				
WI005-070013-	Graveslab	Burgage More	697600, 712465	700m SW

SMR No	Class	Townland	ITM	Distance to site
In 1993, Paddy Healy provided descriptions of three graveslabs (subsequently designated WI005-070011-, WI005-070012- and WI005-070013-) that were found following the collapse of the church tower (WI005-070001-) at Burgage in 1987. WI005-070013-: fragment of a gently tapering granite slab (dims. L 1.25m; Wth 0.40-0.60m; T 0.15m) bearing traces of a cross-shaft and arms carved in relief. It had been reused in the construction of the church. Its present location is unknown. (Corlett 2003, 92-93, 108 Slab 6)				
WI005-070014-	Architectural fragment	Burgage More	697600, 712465	700m SW
A piece of Romanesque moulding recorded by Paddy Healy in the old graveyard (WI005-070005-) at Burgage, and presumably associated with the ruined church there (WI005-070001-) (SMR file). Its present location is not known.				
WI005-070015-	Graveslab	Burgage More	697589, 712443	700m SE
The original location of a slab, recorded by Paddy Healy (2009, 77-8) which was moved from the old graveyard (WI005-070005-) at Burgage, to the new graveyard and set in concrete at the head of a grave, where its present location has been designated WI005-047005-. A thin, erect slate slab (dims. H 1.11m; Wth 0.34m; T 0.09m) has two deep notches cut into its edge near the top.				
WI005-070016-	Font	Burgage More	697552, 712440	700m SW
Now in the new graveyard at Burgage (see WI005-047006- for present location record). A sub-rectangular granite block (L 57cm; Wth 50cm; H 30cm) with a sub-rectangular basin (L at top 39.5cm; Wth at top 32cm; L at base 35cm; Wth at base 24cm; D 18cm). Towards one end of the flat base is a vertical drain hole (diam. at top 7.5cm; min. diam. 3cm; diam. at base 6cm). The rim around the basin is flat on three sides. On the fourth side the rim is lower and cruder, and a piece has broken away at one end. There is a hole (L 3cm; Wth 1.5cm; D 1.5cm) at the broken end which originally was most likely deeper. At the opposite end is another small hole (diam. 1.5cm; D 1cm). The holes may have been used to secure a lid.				
WI005-127----	Flat cemetery	Burgage More	698200, 712537	800m SE
Located at what was probably the crest of an E-facing slope overlooking the valley of the River Liffey before it was flooded and turned into the Pollaphuca reservoir. From the Cassini edition of the OS map the location is close to a steep cliff down to the Liffey. The water of the reservoir has eroded away the topsoil and a lot of the subsoil on a fairly level plateau. Judging by the little cliff around the normal edge of the full reservoir about 30-40cm of subsoil has been removed at the edge of the shore where wave action would perhaps erode more of the soil, but the topsoil and some amount of subsoil has been removed from the extensive ground exposed now at the SE edge of Burgage More townland. The cursus (WI005-124----) is in full view at the top of a hill to the E. After consultation with Pauline Gleeson and Sean Kirwan of the NMS it was decided to excavate the two pits. The subsoil is hard yellow clay and when it is cleaned back the pits are visible as softer brown soil with plentiful amounts of charcoal and burnt bone visible as white flecks. The white fecks are not to be confused with the white flecks of bird droppings which are also present. The first pit identified and excavated was oval (dims 23cm x 18cm; D 10cm) and its entire contents were removed for sieving. No pottery was present that we could see but it contained a soft brown soil and charcoal. The second, western, pit was smaller (dims 20cm x 18cm; D 5cm) and much less soil was recovered from it, but bone and charcoal was present.				
WI005-128----	Ring ditch	Burgage More	698234, 712744	700m SE
Located at what was probably the crest of an E-facing slope overlooking the valley of the River Liffey before it was flooded and turned into the Pollaphuca reservoir. The water of the reservoir has eroded away the topsoil and a lot of the subsoil on a fairly level plateau. Judging by the little cliff around the normal edge of the full reservoir about 30-40cm of subsoil has been removed at the edge of the shore where wave action would perhaps erode more of the soil, but the topsoil and some amount of subsoil has been removed from the extensive ground exposed now at the SE edge of Burgage More townland. Some NE-SW furrows are visible c. 2.5m apart, probably from Lazy bed cultivation. The cursus (WI005-124----) is in full view at the top of a hill to the E. A second ring-ditch (WI005-129---) is 25m to the S (160 degrees magnetic) of this monument. It is about two weeks since first reported and they have dried out to such an extent that they were difficult to identify. We used trowels to scrape over them. The subsoil is hard yellow clay but the fill of the ditch is a softer grey/brown colour with flecks of charcoal and can be identified by feel as much as by sight. This is a circular area (int. diam. 4.15m E-W; 4.14m N-S; ext. diam. 4.53m				

SMR No	Class	Townland	ITM	Distance to site
E-W; 4.58m N-s). The ditch is remarkably regular (Wth 16cm to 26cm). There is a break in the ditch (Wth 1.85m) at SE (145 degrees magnetic), which is too wide to be an entrance to a hut-site and it did not have post-holes, so this is likely to be a barrow. There were no features in the interior except a large blob of clay (diam. 35cm) NE of the centre that has a red/brown hard surface, which is natural and probably some form of iron-pan.				
WI005-129----	Ring ditch	Burgage more	698245, 712725	700m SE
<p>Located at what was probably the crest of an E-facing slope overlooking the valley of the River Liffey before it was flooded and turned into the Pollaphuca reservoir. The water of the reservoir has eroded away the topsoil and a lot of the subsoil on a fairly level plateau. Judging by the little cliff around the normal edge of the full reservoir about 30-40cm of subsoil has been removed at the edge of the shore where wave action would perhaps erode more of the soil, but the topsoil and some amount of subsoil has been removed from the extensive ground exposed now at the SE edge of Burgage More townland. Some furrows running NE-SW and placed c. 2.5m apart are also visible. The cursus (WI005-124----) is in full view at the top of a hill to the E. A second ring-ditch (WI005-128----) is c. 25m to the N (340 degrees magnetic). This ring-ditch is slightly larger than the northern one and a bit more complex. Three internal pits were identified as well as the bottom of a furrow that runs 20-200 degrees (magnetic) through the monument near its E edge and another one on the same alignment is just NW of the site. This must mean that not much of the subsoil has been removed. The ring-ditch has internal dims of 5m WNW-ESE; 4.95m NNE-SSW; ext. dims 5.35m WNW-ESE; 5.57m NNE-SSW. The ditch is between 26cm and 35cm wide. There is a break in the ditch (Wth 0.5m) at NW, and where the furrow runs over the monument and crosses the ditch at SW and NE the ditch could not be made out, particularly at NE where there is a gap of 1.75m. The gap at NW is too small to be an official opening, and is probably where the ditch is so shallow that it has eroded away. The gap at NE is too wide to be that of a hut-site so the feature is probably a barrow. Three small pits were identified in the interior, although none was at the centre. The pits have diameters of 20-25cm and are widely spaced in relation to each other but within 1m of the ditch. They contain charcoal and are probably the bases of cremation burials rather than post-holes.</p>				

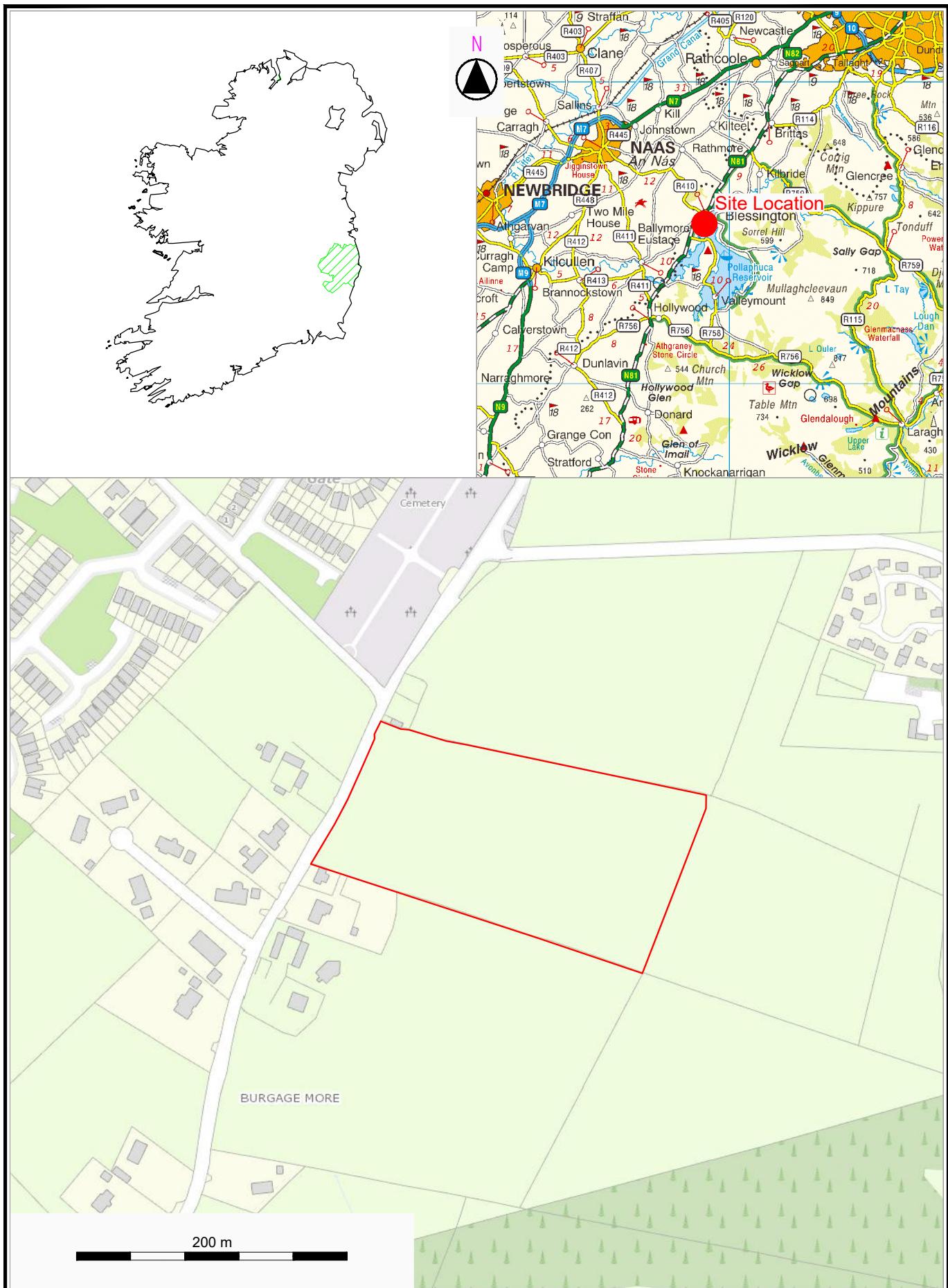
Appendix 3: Table of previous excavations in vicinity of site

Excavation No.	RMP/SMR	OS Ref	Location	Ex. Bulletin Ref.	Author
E1191	WI005-076	698519, 712091	Burgage More, Co. Wicklow	N/A	L. Gogan
Introduction					
In May 1934 a short cist containing a cremation and two vessels was discovered during surveying work by the Electricity Supply Board for the Liffey electricity scheme. The site was reported to the NMI and was excavated by Liam Gógan. There is no report on file. The human remains were examined by Laureen Buckley, however, and the report is therefore included in this volume.					
Location					
The site was in the townland of Burgage More, near Blessington, north-west Co. Wicklow. It was located on an eminence in a large field close to the River Liffey. This area is now beneath the Pollaphuca reservoir					
Summary and conclusions					
This represents the cremation of one female adolescent, aged 13–15 years at the time of death. The careful treatment of this girl's remains is remarkable. All the bone must have been collected from the funeral pyre, as the weight of the remains, 1,256g, is very close to the 1,600g which is the lower limit expected from a full adult cremation. Since this is an adolescent, the full skeletal remains of this individual are probably represented here. The remains were handled very carefully and were not deliberately crushed, with the result that the majority of the remains were large or very large fragments. This meant that a significant proportion of the remains were identified. Virtually all the skull was present, including most of the mandible and maxilla, and all the vertebral column was represented, with seven cervical, twelve thoracic, five lumbar and two sacral vertebrae present. There were numerous fragments of ribs and some of the sternum was also present. The pelvis was so complete that it was possible to identify the sex of the individual. The long bones of the arms and legs could be reconstructed almost completely, and a large proportion of the hand and feet bones were collected. Even very small distal hand phalanges and the epiphyses of the metacarpals were present. It seems that great care was taken with the cremation and deposition of this individual, and it is highly likely that she was a person of great status and well loved by the community who buried her. (see https://excavations.ie/report/1934/Wicklow/0028501/)					
N/A	WI005-070	697935, 713361	Burgage More, Co. Wicklow	N/A	N/A
In 1939 human remains were uncovered at the old burial ground at Burgage, Co. Wicklow, (Parish of Burgage, barony of Talbotstown Lower. OS 6in. sheet 5; exact location not marked, but presumably part of WI005-070—) in advance of its flooding as part of the Liffey Hydro-Electrical Scheme. A quantity of human and animal bone (1939:1170), potsherds (1939:1154–61), iron slag (1939:1162) and bone objects (1939:1163–1169) were removed from the burial ground. The human remains were reburied at Blessington cemetery. The artefacts found during the excavation were deposited in the NMI.					
96E0122	5:46	697230, 713231	Burgage more, Blessington, Wicklow	1996:408	C. Duffy
This site is marked on the first edition of the OS 6" sheet of 1838 as a moat. There is a reference in the Book of Burgage Parish, Vol. 1, p. 244, to a Burgagemoore Moat. There were no visible surface indications of a monument. A private developer requested archaeological assessment, and archaeological investigations were carried out following recommendations submitted in the assessment. Seven trenches were opened at the site and excavated to depths of 0.44–1.1m. Nothing of archaeological interest was discovered.					
99E0301	5:46	697463, 712991	Burgage More, Wicklow	1999:894	M. E. Byrne
Monitoring of ground reductions associated with a link road between two phases of a housing development and related partial field boundary clearance was undertaken on 26 June 1999. The monitoring was carried out in the environs of a possible archaeological site described as an 'earthwork (site)' in the Register of Recorded Monuments and Places for County Wicklow. The site had originally been the subject of an assessment by Valerie Keeley Ltd and was subsequently evaluated by Carmel Duffy (Excavations 1996, 115, 96E0122). The results of the monitoring were similar to those of the evaluation in that no features, deposits or finds of archaeological interest were uncovered during the work.					
02E1748	N/A	697206, 714934	Blessington Demesne, Wicklow	2003:2069	S. Phelan
Monitoring of a housing development, which also includes retail educational and leisure facilities, took place within the confines of Blessington Demesne. The development also includes the construction of a portion of the Blessington Inner Relief Road through the townlands of Newpaddocks, Holyvalley, Haylands and Santryhill. Blessington Demesne is located west of Blessington village. The main avenue runs from Blessington Church to the remains of Downshire					

Excavation No.	RMP/SMR	OS Ref	Location	Ex. Bulletin Ref.	Author
<p>House. Michael Doyle, Archbishop of Dublin, constructed Downshire House in the late 17th century. A solitary stairwell with an underground cellar is the only visible remains of the house. Monitoring began on 24 January 2003 in advance of the inner relief road as part of a town development plan. This was the first phase of topsoil-stripping, which took place over a four-week period in January–February 2003. One path feature was identified (13.8m by 7.5m by 0.12m, orientated south-west/north-east), possibly a dump of stone in a wetter area to ensure access for horses and carts. A series of post-medieval agricultural furrows orientated north-east/south-west, 1.3m by 20m with a depth of 0.12m, were found. There is a later series of similar agricultural furrows cutting the earlier furrows in a north-south direction. The fill was a light-brown sod with red brick, slate and gravel. One sherd of black/brown post-medieval pottery was recovered from within a furrow. A subrectangular feature, 15m by 20m (north-south), was exposed beneath 0.6m of topsoil in the south-westerly area of the road. This was the remains of an old garden path made up of red brick, pebbles, limestone and mortar. The 'missing' demesne wall foundations were exposed. The wall ran for 20m north-south, had a width of 1m and was 1.2m deep. It runs parallel to the surviving demesne wall. The wall will not be directly impacted upon; it will remain in situ beneath the new road. Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered during the course of the topsoil-stripping for the inner relief road at Blessington Demesne; all the features exposed related to the garden of the demesne.</p>					
03E0453	N/A	697206, 714934	Blessington Demesne, Wicklow	2003:2070	S. Phelan
<p>A second phase of assessment at Blessington Demesne, at the location of Downshire House, took place on 31 March 2003. The housing development, which also includes retail educational and leisure facilities, is within the confines of Blessington Demesne. The development also includes the construction of a portion of the Blessington inner relief road through the townlands of Newpaddocks, Holyvalley, Haylands and Santryhill. Blessington Demesne is located west of Blessington village. The main avenue runs from Blessington Church to the remains of Downshire House. Michael Doyle, Archbishop of Dublin, constructed Downshire House in the late 17th century. A solitary stairwell with an underground cellar is the only visible remains of the house. Seven test-trenches were mechanically excavated to a depth of 0.5m across the location of the house. The original layout of Downshire House, and all the features identified, were surveyed and recorded.</p>					
04E0360	N/A	697463, 712991	Burgage More, Wicklow	2004:1855	T. Bolger
<p>An assessment was carried out at Blessington GAA grounds, Burgage More, Co. Wicklow. A geophysical survey of the site was carried out in October 2003 by John Nicholls. This identified a possible circular enclosure in the northern corner of the site. Anomalies of potential archaeological significance were also identified across the remainder of the site. Six test-trenches were excavated at the site, positioned so as to assess the nature of the anomalies identified by the geophysical survey and also so as to generally assess the potential for the survival of archaeological deposits or features at the site. The results of this investigation indicated that the anomalies were the result of underlying geological formations and were not anthropogenic in origin. No archaeological features or deposits were identified at the site. There were indications that the northern corner of the site, at least, was scarped in order to create a level playing surface. It appeared to be unlikely that any archaeological material survived at the site.</p>					
13E0025	WI005-048	697310, 712652	Burgage More, Wicklow	2013:510	B. Quinn
<p>The proposed project involved the construction of pedestrian looped walk from Blessington to Russborough utilising existing trails and developing new access ways. The trail passes through a mix of mature woodland, forestry plantation and scrub land and provides access to lakeside views with a number of points of interest including the deserted medieval settlement at Burgage More, a ringwork and sections of an old demesne road leading to the former site of Russellstown house. Two areas of archaeological potential were identified along the route both situated in Burgage More – these include the deserted settlement (WI05-070) and the ringwork (WI005-048). The deserted settlement was situated along an existing trail with an established gravel path and required only minimal upgrading work. The area to the north of the ringwork however required the installation of a boardwalk. Monitoring took place on 12 February 2013 and involved the manual removal of topsoil to the north of WI05-048 to accommodate a number of wooden posts. This work was limited to a discreet area measuring approximately 18m by 2m. To the east of the ringwork an area of ground had also been in-filled on a geo textile base to build up levels to receive the path. Furthermore a number of driven piles were inserted to the north-east of the ringwork to bridge the fosse. Throughout the watching brief no unrecorded finds or features of archaeological significance were noted.</p>					

Appendix 4: Table of entries of Protected Structures in vicinity of site

RPS Ref. No.	Structure.	Full Address	Description
05-02	House	Blessington The Rectory	A circa 1870, L-plan house of three bays and two storeys. Facing the garden is a gabled breakfront. The house has cement-rendered walls, string-course and moulded architrave to windows, timber porch and round-headed doorcase
05-03	Bank, formerly house-	Blessington Main Street, Ulster Bank	Large, early-19th Century, five-bay, two-storey house over a basement with a round-headed doorcase and radial fanlight, ground-floor windows in blank arches linked by a granite string-course and with a hipped roof.
05-04	Hotel	Blessington main Street Downshire Hotel	Early-19th Century, seven-bay, twostorey building over a basement, with granite porch, painted, rough- cast walls, Georgian panes in sash windows and a low-pitched roof.
05-05	Former Market House	Blessington Main Street Credit Union House	A handsome market house, dating from circa 1830, of granite ashlar with a three-bay, two-storey facade with a pedimented breakfront, arched ground floor (two arches open on the ground floor) heavy cornice, coat of arms and hipped roof.
05-06	Church	Blessington Main Street Church of Ireland	Mid-19th Century, gothic-revival church of opus incertum with pointed windows and a steep- pitched roof. The tall, three-stage tower, probably late 17th Century, has a distinct batter, rendered walls and simple pinnacles.
05-07	Hall	Blessington Main Street Former Catholic Church	An early-19th Century, five-bay, single-cell of coursed-rubble stone with a gabled porch and a bellcote. The windows are square-headed and the roof slated.
05-08	House and Shop	Blessington Main Street "Dempsey"	A tall, three-bay, three-storey, gable-ended house with a distinct batter to the rendered walls, natural slates and end stacks. The windows have Georgian glazing bars and the round-headed doorcase is architraved. (The ground-floor fenestration has been altered).
05-09	Tower House	Burgage Blessington	Ruined tower house now overlooking the lake.
09-01	Road bridge	Poulaphouca Bridge Blessington	Tall arch (approx 100 feet) over the Liffey designed by Alexander Nimmo, circa 1830 with refuges and high walls.
09-02	Road Bridge	Poulaphouca Bridge Blessington	A second bridge over a small, dry valley, immediately to the south of the bridge over the Liffey. This bridge has a pointed arch and refuges also dating from circa 1830.



Archer
Heritage Planning

Unit 8 Beat Centre
Stephenstown,
Balbriggan,
Co. Dublin

Burgage More, Blessington,
Co. Wicklow

Impact Assessment

Scale: 1:4000 A4

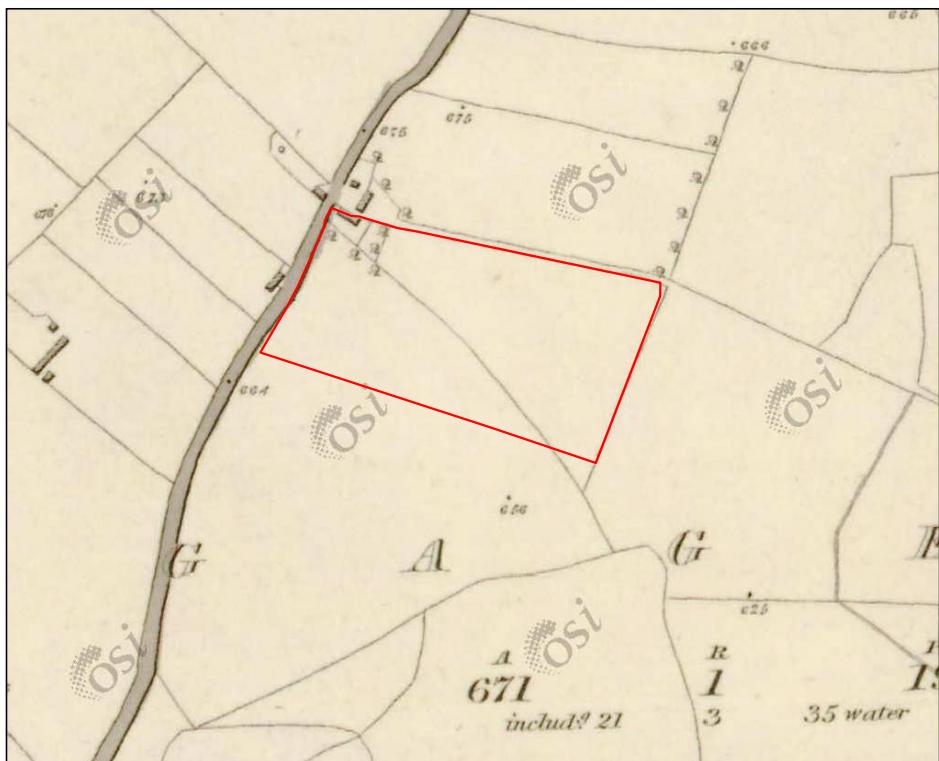
Date: January 2021

Origin: archaeology.ie

Ref: 2021_03_AIA_01

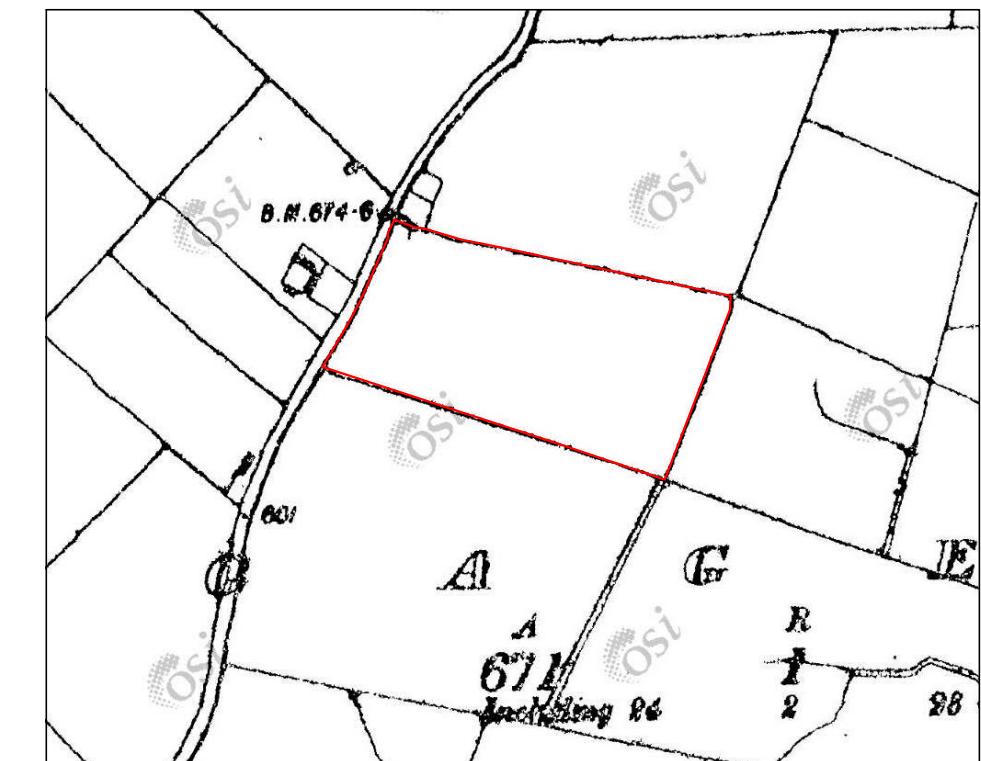
Figure 1: Site location





(l) 1st edition OD - 1838

(r) Cassini - 1908-9





(l) 1995
(r) Premium





Plate 1: Aerial view of the site, looking SE



Plate 2: Aerial view of the site, looking SE



Plate 3: Aerial view of the site, looking NW



Plate 4: Ground level view of the site, looking SE