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Archaeological Impact Assessment Report, Ballynerrin, Wicklow Town, County Wicklow.

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**Wicklow County Council
Part V Development for 10 Houses**

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W I C K L O W

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

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1 Summary:

The following report details the results of archaeological impact assessment undertaken in advance of a residential development at Ballynerrin Upper, Wicklow Town Co. Wicklow at ITM 730286 692333. This assessment has been carried out to ascertain the potential impact of the proposed development on the archaeological features that may be impacted upon by the proposed development. The assessment was undertaken by Yvonne Whitty on behalf of Wicklow County Council.

The archaeological assessment involved a detailed study of the archaeological and historical background of the proposed development site and the surrounding landscape within a 1.5km radius. The research involved an examination of the Record of Monuments and Places of Wicklow, the topographical files, historic cartographic and aerial photographic analysis. The development site was also field walked in order to identify any previously unrecorded features or finds of archaeological or historical interest and to determine the existing ground conditions and degree of disturbance associated with previous developments on the site.

No recorded monument sites will be directly impacted upon by the development nor was any previously unrecorded archaeology noted during fieldwalking. The closest RMP sites comprise two enclosures which are 800m east of the development site in the townland of Ballyguile Beg. Ground disturbances associated with previous developments may have adversely impacted archaeological remains had any existed. The topsoil and subsoil have been stripped from the site which measures approximately 66m x 40m and one third of the site has been reduced by on average 1m in order to facilitate the existing compound. Given the results of fieldwalking which confirmed the degree of disturbance and the paucity of known archaeological sites and stray finds in the immediate vicinity of the development site it is the author's opinion that no further archaeological mitigation is required in advance of the development proceeding.

2 Location description and results of fieldwalking:

The subject site is located within the townland of Ballynerrin Upper between the R751 and adjoining the Ballyguile Road 1.8km southwest of Wicklow Town in Co. Wicklow (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

The site is located within a rural landscape just west of the Ballyguile Road on a gentle west facing slope. The site itself is located at the southeast corner of a much larger development which has been cleared in recent years. The subject site is rectangular in plan measuring approximately 66m x 40m, it is bound to the south by a dwelling, to the east by the Avonvale Road and to the north and west by a tarred road which leads to a dwelling in the southwest corner of the development site (Figure 2, Plates 1-3).

The topsoil has been stripped from the entire site development site down to natural fragmented shale bedrock including the site to be developed by the council (Plates 1-3). Steel cabins occupy the southwest corner of the site which will be developed by Wicklow County Council. The ground in this area which is approximately one third of the site has been reduced by on average 1m in order to construct the site compound (Plate 4). The topsoil is shallow and is on average 0.15m in depth and overlays a mid-orange brown boulder clay 0.15m in average thickness which sealed the shale bedrock (Plate 3).

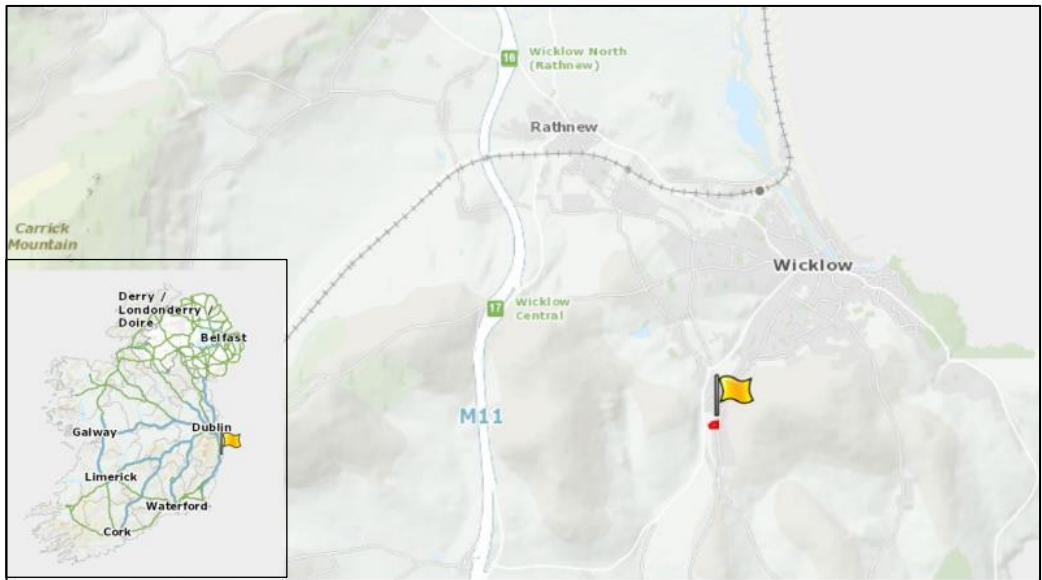


Figure 1: Site location Ballynerrin, Wicklow Town, County Wicklow.



Figure 2: Site location outlined in red (www.google earth).



Plate 1: Proposed development site at Ballynerrin Upper facing northwest.



Plate 2: Steel cabins at the southwest corner of the site, note the depth of ground reduction to accommodate the cabins.

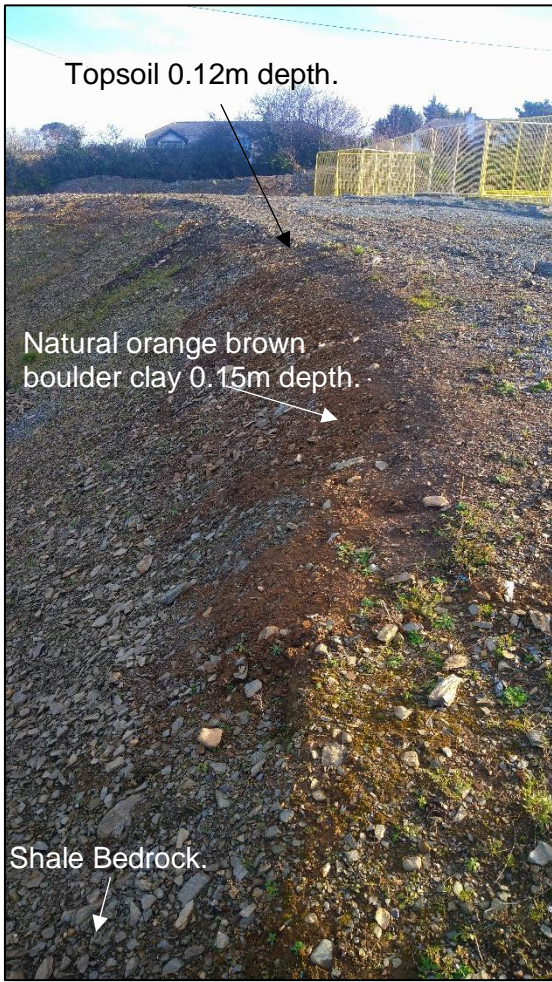


Plate 3: Stratigraphy visible in section associated with excavation of the tar road. The development site is to the right of cutting and is fenced off with yellow Harris fencing.



Plate 4: Note depth of ground reduction for compound.

3 Planning history and proposed development:



Figure 3: Map illustrating planning on adjoining sites (blue dots) site outlined in red (www.wicklow.ie).

There have been 15 planning applications on the adjoining site dating back to 2003 (Figure 3). A search through the planning files indicates that there has never been an archaeological condition attached to the grants of planning associated with any of these developments.

The site which will be developed by Wicklow County Council for 10 houses is at the southeast corner of the larger site (Figure 4). The southeast corner of land was given to the council as part of a Part-V agreement and the site is now council ownership (Folio: WW34553F).

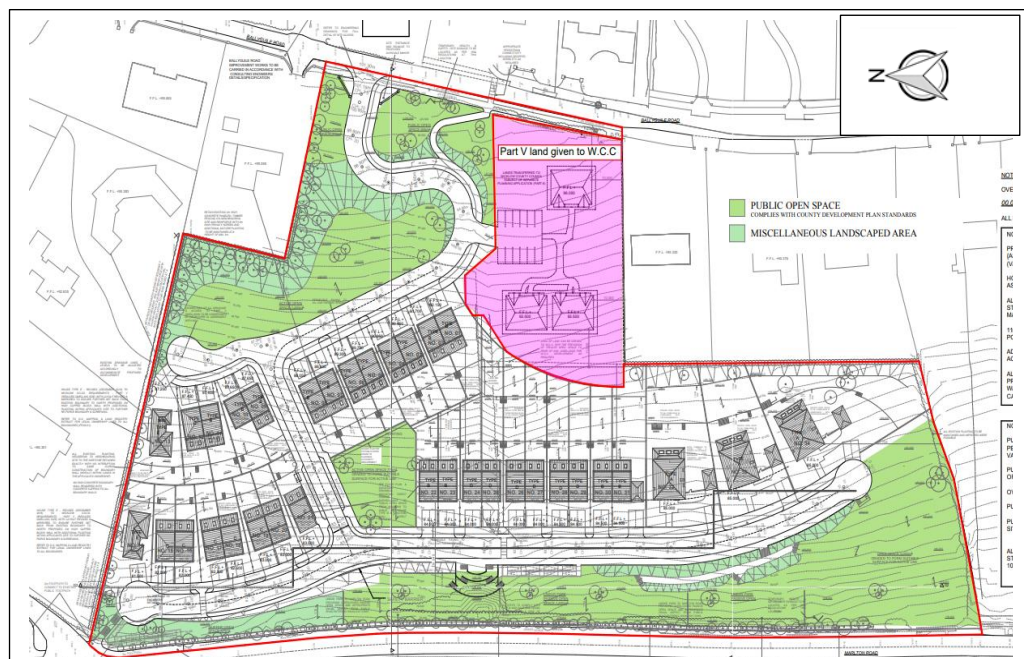


Figure 4: Development plans for entire site, note the area in pink is the site to be developed by Wicklow County Council.

4 Description of local archaeological context – previous excavations/previous surveys:

4.1 Place name analysis

The proposed development site is located in the townland of Ballynerrin Upper is in the Electoral Division of Wicklow Rural, in Civil Parish of Drumkay, in the Barony of Arklow, in the County of Wicklow. Place names are an invaluable source of information as they may record a forgotten history or a long-forgotten site which may still survive below the surface of the ground. Although most placenames were anglicised by the Ordnance Survey in the 1830s it is still possible to determine Anglo-Norman or Viking influence such as is the case at Wicklow town which is 2.1km northeast of the site at Ballynerrin. Wicklow known in Irish today as Cill Mantáin may have been a cell built by a hermit before ever the Norse came to Wicklow.

There are a number of sources available for place name analysis, O' Donovan, Curry and O' Conor were the Ordnance Surveyors who recorded the townland names of Wicklow between 1838-1849 A.D. Liam Price however provides the main source of information and *The Place-Names of County Wicklow Part VII The Baronies of Newcastle and Arklow* and also his notebooks which records antiquities, folklore and placenames are an invaluable source of information (Corlett & Weaver, 2002).

Ballynerrin

The website Logainm translates Ballynerrin as '*Baile an Oiriún*' or '*Bhaile an Oiriún*'. 'Price notes that it is known as '*Baile an Fhearhainn*' town of the farm (Corlett & Weaver, 2002, p. 173).

Ballynerrin according to Price translates as '*baile an fhearainn*', meaning homestead of the land, perhaps mensal land (Price, 1967, p. 8). Mensal land is a portion of land held by the chief, of a tribe or sept which was used for his support for life or for as long as he remained chief. These mensal lands were associated with medieval Gaelic territories.

The placename has been recorded numerous times throughout the centuries with the earliest reference in 1641 as '*Balinheran*'. It is mentioned on numerous occasions as outlined in the table below extracted from www.logainm.ie which is the Placenames Database of Ireland.

1641	Balinheran
1655-7	Balleneron
1668	Ballynerin
1712	Ballynerin
1760	B: nerron
1839	Ballynerron
1839	Ballymergin
1839	Ballynerrin etc.
1839	Baile an fherin
1839	Baile an iarainn, 'town of the iron'
1839	Ballynerron
1839	Ballynerrin

Table 1: Archival references to Ballynerrin (www.logainm.ie).

4.2 Record of Monuments and Places (RMP Files) (Appendix 1)

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) was established under section 12 (1) of the 1994 National Monuments (Amendment) Act and provides that the Commissioners (now the Minister) shall establish and maintain a record of monuments and places where the Minister believes there are monuments, such record to be comprised of a list of monuments and relevant places and a map

or maps showing each monument and relevant place in respect of each county in the state. It is based on the older non-statutory Sites and Monuments Record and information from county archaeological inventories. It records known upstanding archaeological monuments, the original location of destroyed monuments and the location of possible sites identified through documentary, cartographic, photographic research and field inspections.

RMP No.	Class	Townland	Distance from site
WI025-014----	Cist	BALLYNERRIN (Newcastle By., Wickow Rural ED)	1.2km
WI025-071----	Enclosure	BALLYNERRIN (Newcastle By., Wickow Rural ED)	1.9km
WI031-060----	Enclosure	BALLINTESKIN (Arklow By.)	1.6km
WI031-061----	Enclosure	BALLINTESKIN (Arklow By.)	1.3km
WI031-063----	Enclosure	BALLINTESKIN (Arklow By.)	1.4km
WI031-057----	Enclosure	BALLYGUILE MORE	0.8km
WI031-058----	Enclosure	BALLYGUILE BEG	0.8km

Table 2: Details of RMP sites (www.archaeology.ie, 2021).

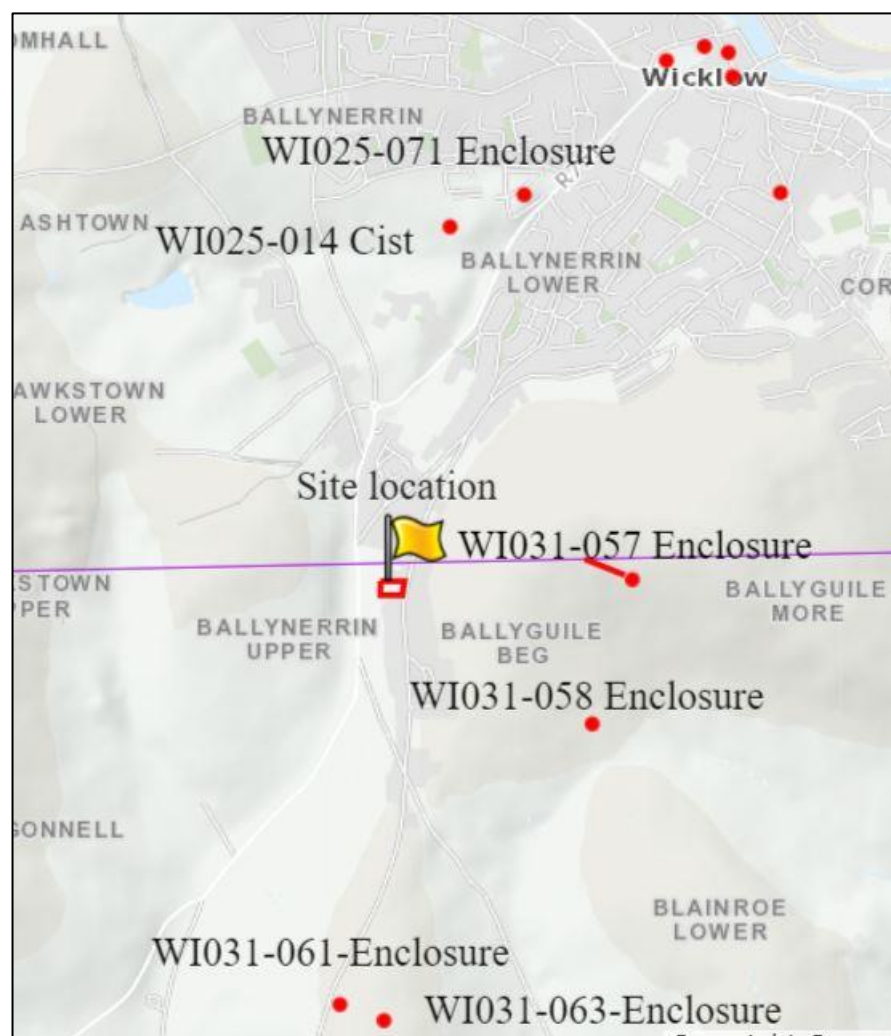


Figure 5: RMP sites within 1.5km of proposed development site (only labelled RMPs are within this constraint area).

There are seven recorded monument sites within 1.5km of the proposed development site (Figure 5, Table 2 and Appendix 1) which date from the Early Bronze Age to the medieval period. The earliest archaeological site comprises a cist which was located on a no longer extant hillock WI025-

014. The cist was sealed with a capstone and contained the cremated remains of an adult mixed through the sandy fill of the cist. (Harnett, 1952, p. 161). It was found by the landowner Mr Bernard Connell whilst out ploughing and some of the remains appeared to have been scattered at the time of the visit by Harnett.

There was no evidence of a food vessel, urn or even charcoal as noted by the excavators. The archaeological features identified at Ballynerrin represent the Bronze Age burial tradition which encompassed a variety of burial practices. In the early Bronze Age human remains were placed either un-burnt and in a crouched position or cremated and placed in a small cist (2500-1500 BC). In the latter part of the Early Bronze Age by 1800 BC the dominant rite was cremation in cists which were placed with Food Vessels. Cists may be built on the surface or sunk into the ground or set within a cemetery cairn or cemetery mound. In the Later Bronze Age/Iron Age (c. 2400 BC - AD 400), the cremated remains were deposited in shallow pits without a pottery vessel, although they may have been wrapped in perishable materials. These burials were generally covered by an artificial mound of earth or earth and stone, normally constructed to contain or conceal the burials. It would appear that the cist burial at Ballynerrin dates to the Early Bronze Age.

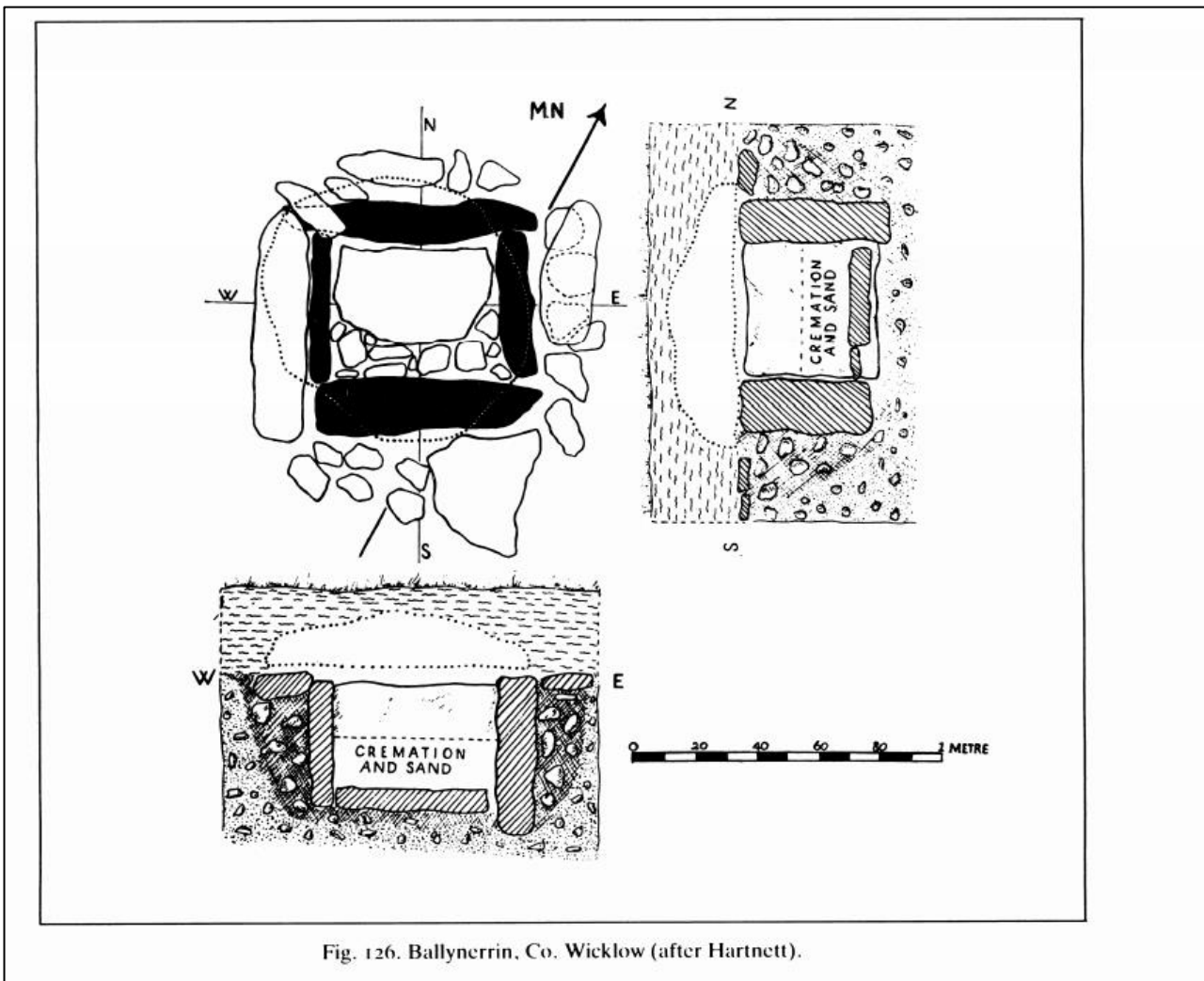


Fig. 126. Ballynerrin, Co. Wicklow (after Hartnett).

Plate 5: Ballynerrin cist burial illustrations (Wadell, 2021, p. 161).

This cist appeared to be part of an archaeological landscape which stretched immediately east of the burial site as evidenced by the results of a geophysical survey carried out in 2008 which revealed significant archaeology in the form of curvilinear ditches and responses indicating burning/firing (Nicholls, 2008). The main concentration of archaeology was located to the east of and adjacent to the cist burial in Area 2. This site is currently under construction and was granted planning by Wicklow County Council without any archaeological conditions attached to the grant of planning (171/454).

The remaining archaeological monuments of which there are six within 1.5km of the development site are classified as enclosure sites. An enclosure site is an area defined by an enclosing element for example a bank, wall, fosse, scarp which possess no diagnostic features which would allow classification within another monument category and they date from any period from prehistory onwards (www.archaeology.ie). An enclosure WI025-071 is located 300m northeast of the cist burial site discussed above and was visible as the crop mark of a circular enclosure in tillage. This enclosure is 1.9km north of the development site. Planning was granted by Wicklow County Council for a residential development at the location of the RMP site with no archaeological conditions attached to the grant of planning (Planning Ref 15/1103). Two enclosures are noted in the townland of Ballintekin within 1.6km to the south of the development site (WI031-060, WI031-061 and WI031-063). A further two enclosures are noted 0.8km east of the development site in the townland of Ballyguile More (WI031-057) and Ballyguile Beg (WI031-058).

4.3 Previous Archaeological Excavations and Surveys (Appendix 2)

4.3.1 Townland of Ballynerrin Lower

Licence Number	Bulletin No	Townland	Site Type	Licencee
N/A	1990:122	Ballynerrin Lower	Burial site	Georgina Scally
06E0091	2006:2194	Ballynerrin Lower	Fulacht fiadh and hut site	Edmond O Donovan
13E0303 EXT	2015:305	Ballynerrin Lower	Burial site	Yvonne Whitty
19E0081	2019:089	Ballynerrin Lower	Non-archaeological	Kate Taylor
13E0303 EXT	2019:159	Ballynerrin Lower	Non-archaeological	Yvonne Whitty
21E0118	2021:010	Ballynerrin Lower	Non-archaeological	Yvonne Whitty

Table 3: Excavations within the townland of Ballynerrin Lower (www.excavations.ie).

There have been six excavations in the townland of Ballynerrin Lower (www.excavations.ie) which adjoins Ballynerrin to the south. Three of these excavations are associated with RMP site WI025-065, a burial site which is 2km northeast of the site under discussion (Appendix 2).

In 1990, following the exposure of a burial, Georgina Scally excavated a total of sixteen trenches on the site of the proposed development. A total of seven burials and fragments of bones were exposed along with sherds of leinster cooking ware and fragments of a decorated medieval tile. The tile although partially damaged (once glazed) contained a design – two birds, a horse with rider and bridle piece, and possibly a dragon or deer with antlers. She notes that this tradition of relief tiles in Ireland is regarded as dating to 16th century. The archaeological features were not tested and the burials were just excavated enough to determine that they were human remains. The site was not developed following the archaeological discovery and has remained derelict since 1990.

In 2013 the author completed further test trenching at the site to establish the exact location of the burials as a residential development was proposed (Licence 13E0303). The burial ground was located and a permanent concrete wall was erected to ensure that the archaeological remains are preserved in situ and to ensure that there was no danger of machinery impacting the site during construction works.

In 2019 the site was revisited under the same licence 13E0303 and test trenching was carried out to the rear of No. 10 Weston Close which was adjacent the burial site. Testing was carried out on a pre-planning basis as the client proposed to add an extension to the existing house to the rear. The two test trenches were excavated by hand on 12 March 2019 and it would appear that the original ground level was dug out during construction works associated with the original housing development. The burial area which was covered in rubbish and brambles was cleared up and the ground reseeded and made into a grass area thus preserving the burial ground in situ.

In 2019 the excavation of a watermain on Kilmantin Road which is adjacent the burial ground for TVAS archaeology under licence 19E0081 was monitored. Despite the location adjacent the burial ground monitoring confirmed that the burials did not extend underneath the adjoining road.

The final excavation located in Ballynerrin Lower was carried out by Edmond O Donovan which comprised a fulacht fiadh and hut site (O Donovan, 2006). The fulacht was 9m in diameter and the U-shaped hut which measured 1.4m by 2m was south of the fulacht. Stake holes around the perimeter indicated that the wall of the hut was perhaps a woven structure (Licence 06E0091).

The most recent excavations in Ballynerrin Lower were carried out in 2021 by the author (Licence 21E0118). Archaeological test trenching was carried out on a residential development site in Ballynerrin, County Wicklow just east of the Marlton Link Road. The trenches excavated were based on the results of a geophysical survey Licence 20R0268. A total of 124m of test trenching was undertaken at the site under discussion. The geophysical survey identified anomalies which may have represented the remains of plough-damaged archaeology, however testing confirmed that the trends were either geological or agricultural in origin.

4.4 General archaeological and historical background

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).

4.4.1 Prehistoric Period (7,000BC to 400AD)

Mesolithic activity in Wicklow is rare and primarily confined to a 4km coastal strip which extend east from Seabank near Arklow to Clommannon 5km north of Wicklow town, an explanation for this could be that the majority of this activity would have taken place in the coastal areas which are now submersed by and washed away by the sea through erosion (Stout, 1994, pp. 1-40, Corlett C. , 1999, p. 11). Prehistoric scrapers were found in ditches and amongst medieval archaeology during an assessment at Wentworth Place 97E0118 (www.excavations.ie).

One mile east of Wicklow town there is however evidence of later Mesolithic activity from a cave at St Bride's Head which was discovered by Charles Martin in 1932. The cave floor contained broken flints and flint pebbles (Stout 1994). Mitchell spurred on by the findings in 1932 revisited the coast around Wicklow and found Mesolithic tools on the coast just south of Wicklow town and also at Brittas Bay just north of Arklow. At the latter location he found a large scatter of flint debris near a stream which included scrapers, blades and rough outs (ibid 5).

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. Today passage tombs are visible as distinctive cairns (Kilfeather & Grogan, 1997, p. 13). A stone axe head which would date to this era was found in Wicklow Town (NMI Ref: P 1950:26).

It is in the Bronze Age (2500 – 600 BC) that more substantial settlement patterns emerged. Newly discovered archaeological sites, uncovered as a result of the construction of the N11 Rathnew to Arklow road scheme uncovered sixty-six sites, the majority of which were burnt mound sites. They are typically located near a stream or in marshy ground and comprise a crescent-shaped mound made up of small pieces of shattered stone (Stout 1994). The excavations of the church and burial site at Drumkay northwest of the town uncovered evidence for earlier occupation which centred on a circular hut site at the southeast corner of the burial site and enclosing ditches. Flint artefacts dated this site to the Bronze Age (O'Donovan 2006).

In the Early Bronze Age, the dead were placed in cist burials comprised of a usually rectangular structure either constructed either below surface in a pit form or above the surface. The edges were lined with stone slabs covered by one or more capstones, often the dead were accompanied by grave goods such as pottery vessels.

An example of a cist burial of an Early Bronze Age date can be seen in Ballynerrin, WI025-014, located approximately 1.2km north of the proposed development site.

Cremation pits another burial style from this era generally date from c. 2400-500 B.C. and comprise of a pit containing the cremated remains of an individual occasionally accompanied by grave goods. A single cremation pit was excavated by the author in 2013 in the townland of Knockrobin approximately 2.8km north of the site at Ballynerrin Upper.

4.4.2 Early Medieval Period (500- 1150 A.D.)

The medieval period in Ireland began around 500 A.D. 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 tuatha 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. 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, p. 48) who rose to power as the Kings of Leinster having killed Maelodran, a legendary hero of the Dál Messin Corb tribe (Corlett 1999, p.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, p. 41).

Little is known about the early history of the Irish church. By the first half of the 5th century A.D. there was a significant Christian community living in Ireland. In the year 431 A.D the bishop Palladius was sent by Pope Celestine to the "Christians in Ireland" (Edwards, 2000, p. 182, Edwards N. , 1990, p. 99). The late fifth century saw the beginnings of extensive missionary activity in Ireland. St Patrick is the best known of the early missionaries.

Archaeological evidence for early medieval Christianity includes cemeteries, hermitages, pastoral church sites along with large and small monasteries. Burial in Irish monastic cemeteries was reserved for higher ranking members in society up until the 8th century. Prior to this the general population were buried in what has been termed familial burial grounds which would have contained both pagan and Christian burials (Breathnach & O'Brien, 2011, p. 58). By the early 8th century AD, the church began to legislate with regard to acceptable burial practices for Christians. As monastic centres became more predominant the use of familial cemeteries discontinued as the Church encouraged communities to bury their dead in consecrated ground.

The site at Weston Close in Ballynerrin Lower WI025-065 fits into the early medieval timeframe and may be the location of an early medieval ecclesiastical site possibly Cellmantan which is first noted in 1179 A.D. A total of ten burials were identified in the southeast corner of a roughly 'D' shaped enclosure on the ridge of a natural hill.

A previous assessment in 1990 by Scally on this site uncovered Leinster Cooking ware, a domestic pottery vessel which broadly dates from the mid-12th to the 14th centuries. A decorated medieval tile of 16th century date was also uncovered. This indicates that the site may have been in use over a period of time.

Other evidence for early medieval activity in the environs is at the Church site of Drumkay in Glebe townland, WI025-011001 which is approximately 2.8km north of the proposed development site at Ballynerrin. The excavations in advance of the Wicklow Post Access Road uncovered a church and cemetery site which contained 191 burials all enclosed within a series of ditches. The burials which

dated to three phases date from 600-1100 A.D up until 1600 A.D. The earliest burial pre dated the church, the foundations of which were also exposed during the excavations. This ecclesiastical site is thought be associated with a St Bercham (O Donovan, 2006, p. 9).

The townland boundary between Glebe and Knockrobin adjacent to the Church site at Drumkay was excavated by the author in 2013 under licence 12E015. The bulk of the features exposed during the excavation in 2013 were related to medieval industrious activity, for example four kilns and associated features were excavated and recorded. It is not uncommon for this type of activity to be located at the periphery of medieval graveyards and ecclesiastical sites.

From 795 A.D. the Norse raiders or Vikings began raiding the east coast and founded their first base at Dublin. From there they plundered the countryside especially targeting the monasteries which held great wealth. The invaders secured rivers by establishing bases at its mouths and from there they could penetrate inland (Flynn, 2003, p. 14).

Etchingham notes that the beginnings of Viking activity in Wicklow by 827 A.D. are quiet well documented (Etchingham, 1994, p. 113). The name, Wicklow as has been discussed above derives from the Scandinavian either Vikingalo, 'meadow of the Vikings' or Vik-lo 'meadow of the bay, (Grogan and Kilfeather, p.177, 1994). Price defines Wicklow as meaning 'the water meadow of the Vikings' and between 835 A.D. and 1185 A.D. it became known as Wykinglo by the Danes and Wyklo by the English according to Cambrensis (ibid).

The first Viking base mentioned in the Annals is Inber Dee. Its exact location is uncertain whether at Arklow or Wicklow. It was from this location that the pagans attacked Kildare. Raids undertaken by the Inber Dee Norsemen referenced in the annals include a raid on Glendalough in 834 A.D., Ferns in 835 A.D., Glendalough again in 836 A.D. and Ferns again in 839 A.D. There was also an attack on Clonmore in 835 A.D. and in 836 A.D. on Christmas Eve, which indicates that the Norsemen must have overwintered in Wicklow. By 836 A.D. the Norsemen had established themselves on the Wicklow coast line.

The Vikings retained their foothold in Wicklow but they were often engaged in battle with other túatha of Leinster including the Uí Enechglais and the Uí Garrchon. Two finds from the vicinity of Wicklow Town are indicators of settlement, iron sword fragments from the low-lying coastal area, The Murrough in the north of Wicklow Town (Reg S.A 1909:31) and a pair of brooches and silver chain (NMI Ref: 1901:50-52). Both finds were made in the late 19th century so the find spots are not exact. The sword belongs to a group of highly decorated swords probably manufactured in southern Scandinavia in 9th century (NMI Topographical Files). Whist only fragments of the sword have survived it is possible that this sword may have been deliberately bent or broken as part of the burial practice as was the case at Kilmainham and Islandbridge (Etchingham, 1994).

The pair of brooches and silver chain was handed into the museum after passing through two or three hands and was supposedly found between Three Mile Water and Arklow. The brooches are a well-known Scandinavian tortoise brooch, Norwegian type 51 as classified by Jan Petersen and date to late 9th or early 10th century (O Floinn, Topographical Files NMI). They are believed to constitute part of the grave goods of a female of Scandinavian birth and is indicative of settlement.

A further indication of settlement in Wicklow Town is the Round Mount (WI025-012001). This steep sided mound is situated on high overlooking the Leitrim River at the north end of Wicklow town. This mound is 6-7m in height has been dug into at its southeast side and is very overgrown with trees and briars (Grogan and Kilfeather, p.177). This site appears to be the site of the 'castellum' which was granted to Strongbow by Henry II in 1173 (Grogan and Kilfeather 177, Etchingham p.118). This may indicate that there was a pre-Norman settlement at the site. Price believes that this mound represents a Scandinavian assembly mound (Etchingham, p.118).

By the end of the twelfth century the Vikings were met with a new political and social force as the Anglo Normans invaded Ireland.

4.4.3 Later Medieval Period (1150-1700 A.D.)

The Anglo-Norman invasion was the result of a vendetta between Dermot and Tiarnán O'Ruairc of Bréifne. In 1152 A.D. 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 A.D. 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 including Strongbow who 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 A.D. when a small troop of Anglo-Norman forces along with Mac Morough landed in Bannow Bay. In 1169 A.D. further troops arrived and they set out to take Dublin. The High King Ruairí O'Conchúir did not anticipate the route Mac Murrough would take through the mountains and the Anglo Normans 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 himself.

In the initial decades after the Norman invasion in 1169 A.D., a distinctive type of earth and timber fortification - the motte and bailey - was built. The more substantial stone castles followed in the 13th and 14th centuries. Less elaborate tower houses, the fortified residence of the aristocracy (both old Norman and Gaelic), were erected in the 15th to early 17th centuries A.D. The Anglo-Normans were an important influence in the creation of an urban network in medieval Ireland.

Anglo-Norman activity in the environs of Wicklow town is represented by The Black Castle. The Black Castle was probably built in the 13th century as part of a coastal defence which stretched from Bray to Arklow (Simpson, 2010, p. 213). In 1229 A.D. the castle was in Geraldine hands but by 1339 A.D. it was held by a royal constable with a garrison of soldiers. The O'Byrne's seized the castle in 1370 A.D. and it was rebuilt by a William Fitzwilliam with the addition of three towers, two of which were over 30ft high. By the end of the 15th century the castle is recorded as being in disrepair (ibid, p. 214). A bronze harness mount from the Black Castle is recorded in the National Museums Topographical Files (Reg M1951:14).

In County Wicklow the Normans expanded and developed the settlements of Arklow and Wicklow and were responsible for the foundation of nine new urban centres and boroughs (settlements which had the legal privileges of towns but seem to have functioned as large villages). These were located at Bray, Killycabawn, Mulsoes Court (Powerscourt) and Newcastle. With the possible exception of Bray, all of these settlements were to be abandoned or at least partly deserted in the 14th and 15th century A.D.

The twelfth century also saw the introduction of continental monastic orders with the Anglo-Norman lords setting up religious centres in their new lands (Grogan and Kilfeather 1994, 147). Wicklow had become a place of importance during this era as evidenced by the building of a new church and Franciscan Friary. The new church was built under the patronage of the Fitzgerald's, presumably the present-day Church of Ireland Church on Church Hill (Ronan, 1928, p. 143). The elaborately carved door arch which is compared to a similar one at St Saviour's Church in Glendalough (Leask, p., 160-161, 1955-1960). This arch which dates to the 12th century coupled with the limestone font further indicates that the present church stands on the site of an earlier church of which these were features. The Franciscan Friary was also built in Wicklow during this era by the O'Toole's and the O'Byrne's in 1279 A. D, in gratitude for a victory gained over the Fitzgerald's (ibid., p.134). The north wall of the nave (h c.6m) and parts of the southern transept of is all that survives today.

There is a reference to a Benedictine Convent (RMP WI025-012013) having existed in Wicklow Town from 1448 to 1470 A.D. and also the existence of a leper hospital 1578 A.D. (RMP WI025-012014) (Emerald, 1999, p. 10). There is a reference to this hospital being granted to a Sir Thady Newman and it is referred to as a spytle house or Maudleins of Wicklow. Newman stated that the house had been built and maintained by his father and that he intended to rebuild the chapel, which had recently been burned at his own expense. Another church is mentioned by Ronan, the Church of St. Thomas's which he illustrates on his map of the Churches in the Deanery of Wicklow (Ronan, 1928). He notes that there is no exact location for the site of the church and no information about it,

apart from the fact that it was recorded in 1275 A.D and 1531 A.D (ibid.). He suggests that as the Templars, and afterwards the Hospitallers of Kilmainham, had a hostel in Wicklow town that St. Thomas's may have been the chapel attached to it.

Wicklow town is mentioned in the annals in the 14th and 15th centuries A.D. on account of its harbour where considerable trade was carried out transporting "Wyklow boards" of oak for building.

By the 14th century A.D. 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. The Norman settlers were attacked frequently and withdrew into the Pale for protection (Stout, 1998).

In 1534 the suppression of the monasteries had begun by Henry VIII and the allegiance of the Irish clans was sought through Henry's 'surrender and regrant' policy (Emerald, 1999, p. 7). In 1541 Henry was declared King of Ireland and various clans including the O' Byrne Clan submitted to his rule. The plan was that Wicklow would be shired, however this did not materialise for many years.

Wicklow Town was believed to have come to prominence again in the late 16th and early 17th centuries A.D. (Bradley & King, 1989, p. 68). Earthwork ramparts are recorded as being constructed around Wicklow in 1576 (ibid p.94).

In 1606 A.D. 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 and a general visitation of Ireland was commissioned to report on the state of the Protestant Established churches. Richard Bermingham was the vicar of Wicklow and the church was noted as in good or 'bene' condition (Emerald, 1999, p. 18).

A further visitation by Archbishop Bulkeley in 1630 A.D. showed that there was still strife in Wicklow and that the Protestant Established churches were failing to get a firm foothold in the county. The Protestant church in Wicklow which was previously in good condition was now covered but, not decent, within. There was also the record that Balthazar Fox, the vicar there had been robbed of parcels of land, called by the name of Maudleins which were seized by a James Byrne of Ballynerrin. Drumkay was down and only the family of the rector Thomas Redmond attended services there.

By AD 1640 A.D. Catholics owned less than half the land in the county through a policy of plantation. The 1641 A.D. rebellion broke out in Ulster and in Wicklow the O Byrnes and 'the whole Roman Catholic population rise up in multitudes and rob and spoil the Protestants (Emerald, 1999, p. 21). Luke O'Toole placed Wicklow Castle under siege. It is held in local folklore that on November 29th 1641 A.D. while assembled in a church near the fair green of Wicklow the parish priest, Fr Byrne and his congregation of 300 were massacred by Sir Charles Coote in retaliation for Luke O' Tooles attack (ibid.). This author did not find a specific reference to this massacre at the time of writing this report.

In 1649 A.D. Cromwell arrived in Ireland with an ultimatum; 'to hell or to Connaught' as Irish landlord's lands were transferred into Protestant ownership. In 1653 A.D. an act was passed in the English parliament which confiscated all land in Ireland (Flynn, p.35, 2003).

4.4.4 Post Medieval Period

The Elizabethan era brought with it intensified land acquisition with the "Surrender and Regrant" strategy constructed to induce Irish leaders to put their land under the protection of the crown. The Irish leaders in turn would personally own their land and be able to will to whom they liked. This was a contrast to the traditional Irish clan system in which the clan and not an individual owned the land and the chief was a mere administrator of the land during his lifetime. The "Surrender and Regrant" system however, also allowed the crown to recall land ownership and grant the land to "undertakers" who were suitable English people of the new faith.

The build-up of increasing occupation, discrimination and political instability eventually led to the Irish rebellion of 1798 A.D. which was one of the most tragic and violent events in the history of

Ireland. After years of disagreements and sporadic violence the rebellion broke out. In neighbouring Wexford, the rebels mustered larger forces and won several important victories including at the Hill of Oulart, Ferns and Enniscorthy.

The rebellion in Wicklow never escalated to a similar level as what happened in Wexford. Explanations to this could be the occurrence of massive arrests that took place before the rising and there was also a lack of important early day victories for the Wicklow rebels. Wicklow men however did gather in large numbers at Blackmore Hill and around Newtownmountkennedy but it could be argued that the failure of the United Irishmen was not to gather in force in the south of the county, across the border from the insurgent Wexford.

Vinegar Hill was the location of the climax battle that meant the beginning of the end of the 1798 rebellion on the 21st of June. Loyalist forces had marched into the County in force and the battle of Vinegar Hill can be seen as a last stand of the rebel forces. The Crowns forces at Enniscorthy and Vinegar Hill were commanded by General Lake with Generals Dundas, Needham, Johnson, Asgill and Duff. The English forces were better equipped than the rebels and the bombardment of the loyalists wreaked havoc amongst the United Irish defenders. The rebels took heavy losses and the town of Enniscorthy and Vinegar Hill were abandoned (Furlong, 2003).

The rebellion did however not end with the defeat at Vinegar Hill on the 21st of June. Many of the beaten rebels left county Wexford and went either west into Kilkenny or north into Wicklow.

Billy Byrne of Ballymanus a prominent leader in the rebellion was hung in 1799 A.D. at Gallows Lane in Wicklow town. In 1889 A.D. the foundations for a statue in his memory was erected in the Market Square and it was built over several years.

A contemporary description of the town is given by Lewis in 1837 A.D. He describes Wicklow town as a resort for sea bathing during the summer. He is not altogether impressed with the town as he describes irregularly built houses of very inferior appearance and notes that the streets are very narrow, unlit and not paved. The Murrough is described more favourably, where races are held and there are 'neat' houses built there. The pebbles that are to be found on the strand there were of such beauty that they are made into jewellery. The market day was Saturdays and the main trade was the exportation of grain, copper and lead ore.

4.5 National Museum of Ireland Topographical Files.

NMI No	Simple Name	Component	Townland
2014:240	Knife	Iron	Ballynerrin Lower
1995:1997	Buckle	Copper alloy	Ballynerrin
P1952:3.1	Core	Flint	Ballynerrin Lower
P1952:3	Human remains	Human remains	Ballynerrin
P1952:3.2	Chunk	Flint	Ballynerrin Lower
P1952:3.3	Chunk	Flint	Ballynerrin Lower
P1952:3.4	Flake	Quartz	Ballynerrin Lower
P1952:3.5	Chunk	Quartz	Ballynerrin Lower
P1952:3.6	Tool	Flint	Ballynerrin Lower
P1952:3.7	Sample	Charcoal	Ballynerrin Lower

Table 4: Topographical Files NMI Ballynerrin and Ballynerrin Lower.

A total of ten stray finds are recorded in the townlands of Ballynerrin and Ballynerrin Lower. In Ballynerrin where the proposed development site is located there is a record of human remains relating to the cist burial RMP WI 025-014 which was excavated by Harnett in 1952. A copper alloy buckle is also noted at Ballynerrin. The remaining finds in Ballynerrin lower are prehistoric comprising flint and quartz tools/flakes with the exception of an iron knife and charcoal sample.

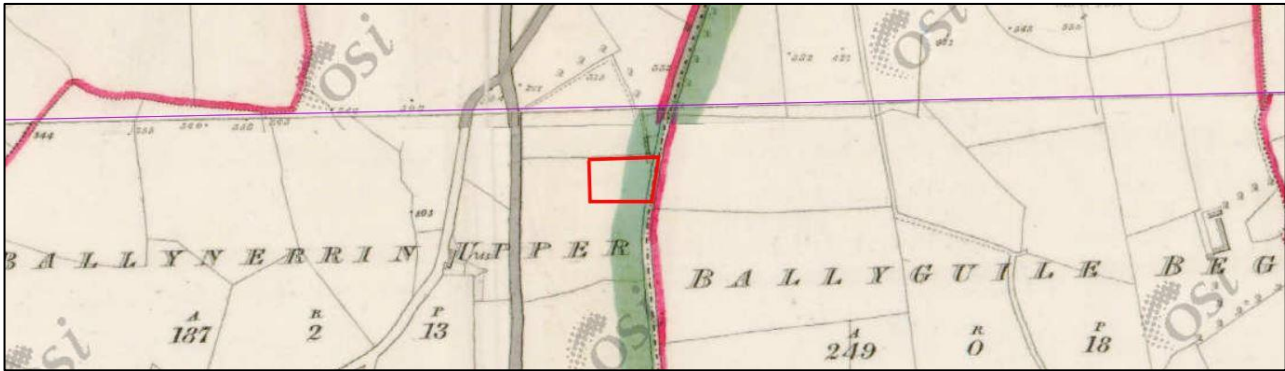


Figure 8: First Edition Ordnance 1838 and site outline of site marked in red.

At the time of the first edition map in 1838 the site is located in agricultural land and the Ballyguile Road which bounds the site to the east is also the townland boundary between Ballyguile Beg and Ballynerrin Upper. This is also the parish boundary between Kilpoole and Drumkay. Townland boundaries which are also parish or barony boundaries may preserve much earlier land divisions and may even date back to medieval times incorporating territorial divisions. Ballynerrin Upper is in the Civil Parish of Drumkay and Ballyguile Beg is in the Civil Parish of Kilpoole. Both of these townlands are in the Barony of Arklow.



Figure 9: Third Edition Map 1908.

By the time of the third edition map the field boundaries have changed slightly and the field is now divided into three (Figure 9). No further changes are noted.

4.7 Aerial Photographic Analysis

Inspection of the aerial photographic coverage of the proposed development area held by the Ordnance Survey (1995, 2000, 2005), Google Earth (2008-18) and Bing Maps, failed to identify any previously unrecorded sites or areas of archaeological potential, however they clearly illustrate the degree of disturbance which the site has been subject to and which is discussed below in the following paragraphs.



Plate 6: Ortho 1995 (<https://heritagemaps.ie>).

In 1995 the subject site located to the south of a south of a farmyard in agricultural lands. A triangular strip of ground may indicate strip grazing around the farmyard (Plate 6).



Plate 7: Ortho 2005 (<https://heritagemaps.ie>).

Between 200-2005 there has been no change to the development site which is still in agricultural use (Plate 7).

However, between 2005 and 2020 the farmyard which bound the site to the north has expanded and the proposed development site is located within the grounds of the farmyard (Plate 8). A hardcore surface is visible at the northeast corner of the site along with what appears to be steel sheds.



Plate 8: Digital globe image between 2005- 2021 (<https://heritagemaps.ie>).



Plate 9: Bing image (<https://www.bing.com/maps>).

Between 2005 and 2021 the landscape at the proposed development site has been altered significantly (Plate 9). The site is no longer in agricultural use and the farm buildings have been demolished. The topsoil has been stripped entirely from the site and an access road to a dwelling cut through the field. The mound of topsoil to the west of the cabins comprises of natural ground which has been excavated in order to obtain a level ground for the compound. The ground to the east of the cabins is also disturbed and photos from Wicklow County Councils planning website

indicate the cabins were originally sited at this location and which was also part of the farmyard (Figure 3).

5 Impact Assessment

The site of the proposed development is located within the townland of Ballynerrin Upper. The closest RMP sites comprise two enclosure which are within 800m of the development site. No recorded monument sites will be directly impacted upon by the development nor was any previously unrecorded archaeology noted during fieldwalking. The road which bounds the site to the east, the Ballyguile Road is also a townland and parish boundary, however this will not be impacted upon by the development.

Ground disturbances associated with previous developments have may have adversely impacted archaeological remains had any existed. Inspection of the aerial photographic coverage of the proposed development area held by the Ordnance Survey (1995, 2000, 2005), Google Earth (2008-21) and Bing Maps, failed to identify any previously unrecorded sites or areas of archaeological potential.

The development site measures approximately 66m east-west by 40m north-south and almost one third of this area has been cut away in order to build the compound for the cabins. The ground elsewhere has been stripped to bedrock with patches of orange boulder clay visible in small patches. The site was field walked by the author and the section face along the length of the cutting for the existing tar road was inspected for stray finds and to determine if any features of archaeological significance were visible in the section face of the cutting. No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified and the ground was not considered to be of high archaeological potential for settlement given its thin spread of subsoil 0.15m in depth which overlay bedrock. There is no predicted impact on the archaeological resource at this site.

6 Recommendations

Having taken into account the results of the desk-based impact assessment and site inspection it is the author's opinion that no further archaeological mitigation is required in order for the development to proceed. The proposed development will not impact upon any previously unrecorded finds or features of archaeological significance.

These recommendations are the professional opinion of the writer and based upon the findings of the desktop assessment and site visit. All archaeological recommendations are subject to further consultation and agreement with The National Monuments Service in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

The following guides and legislation were considered when compiling this report;

- 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
- Wicklow County Development Plan 2016–2022

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Online mapping

<https://www.bing.com/maps>

<https://heritagemaps.ie>

<https://www.google.com/earth/>

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Planning-Applications/Online-Planning>

8 Appendix 1 RMP sites within 1.5km of development site

RMP No.	Class	Townland	Distance from site
WI025-014----	Cist	BALLYNERRIN (Newcastle By., Wickow Rural ED)	1.2km

Description:

Situated on a gentle S-facing slope on low flat-topped hillock. Rectangular cist (dims. 0.55m x 0.4m; D 0.4m) aligned E-W with a single capstone, containing the cremation of an adult. Not visible at ground level. (Hartnett 1952, 161-2; Waddell 1990, 159) In 2008, a geophysical survey (08R127) of part of the site revealed a 'concentration of curvilinear ditch type responses' and 'responses indicative of intensive burning / firing activity'.

The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Wicklow' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1997). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research.

Compiled by: Gearóid Conroy

Date of upload/revision: 27 August 2010

References:

- Hartnett, P.J. 1952 Bronze Age burials in Co. Wicklow. Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland 82, 153-62.
- Waddell, J. 1990 The Bronze Age burials of Ireland. Galway University Press.

RMP No.	Class	Townland	Distance from site
WI025-071----	Enclosure	BALLYNERRIN (Newcastle By., Wickow Rural ED)	1.9km

Description:

Visible on aerial photographs taken by M. Moore (16-07-06) as the cropmark of a circular enclosure, in tillage. Lies c.300m to the NE of WI025-014----

RMP No.	Class	Townland	Distance from site
WI031-060----	Enclosure	BALLINTESKIN (Arklow By.)	1.6km

Description:

Cropmark of a circular bivallate enclosure in tillage, visible on aerial photographs (taken by Michael Moore on 16 July 2006).

RMP No.	Class	Townland	Distance from site
WI031-061----	Enclosure	BALLINTESKIN (Arklow By.)	1.3km

Description:

Cropmark of a sub-rectangular enclosure in tillage, visible on aerial photographs (taken by Michael Moore on 16 July 2006).

RMP No.	Class	Townland	Distance from site
WI031-063----	Enclosure	BALLINTESKIN (Arklow By.)	1.4km

Description:

Cropmark of a circular enclosure in tillage, visible on aerial photographs (taken by Michael

Moore on the 16 July 2006).

RMP No.	Class	Townland	Distance from site
WI031-057----	Enclosure	BALLYGUILE MORE	0.8km

Description:

Cropmark of a bivallate, circular enclosure in level tillage visible on aerial photographs (taken by Michael Moore on 16 July 2006).

RMP No.	Class	Townland	Distance from site
WI031-058----	Enclosure	BALLYGUILE BEG	0.8km

Description:

Cropmark of a possible multivallate, circular enclosure in tillage visible on aerial photographs (taken by Michael Moore on 16 July 2006).

9 Appendix 2 Previous Archaeological Excavations in the townland of Ballynerrin, Ballynerrin Lower and Upper

1990:122 - Ballynerrin Lower, Wicklow

County: Wicklow Site name: Ballynerrin Lower

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A Licence number: —

Author: Georgina Scally, c/o 81 Upper Leeson Street, Dublin 4.

Site type: Burial site

ITM: E 731223m, N 894192m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 54.778518, -5.960152

In late October 1990, the remains of two skeletons were discovered during site clearance for a development of 16 new houses on high ground to the west of, and overlooking, Wicklow town. As a result, a number of test trenches were opened in order to delimit the extent of the burials, together with any other archaeological features occurring on the site. Each of the test trenches was 0.7m wide and varied in length from c. 3m-34m.

A further five skeletons were uncovered, each one orientated east-west, fully extended with their heads lying to the west. In four of the five cases, the skeletons were dug into a sterile yellow clay and were consequently in a poor state of preservation, with only traces of their lower body bones being visible. No finds were recovered within these deposits. Overlying this yellow clay, a stony gravel deposit was laid, into which a single extended skeleton, in an excellent state of preservation, was uncovered. A number of sherds of Leinster cooking ware were retrieved from this deposit.

In one of the trenches, a mortar-bonded stone feature was exposed, set into the clay deposit to the east, and the gravel deposit to the west. About 0.7m wide, it extended north-south for a distance of c. 0.8m, turned to the east, where a clean face could be identified, and extended for a further length of c. 0.5m. It did not extend into any of the adjacent test trenches. A number of sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the gravel deposit abutting this feature to the west.

Further to the north a number of shallow stone features were identified, set into the dense yellow clay, with no evidence for mortar bonding. They consisted of one course of stones and were 0.4m-0.45m wide with a maximum identified length of c. 3.5m.

Further to the north and east of the burial area, a number of test trenches, orientated east-west, were dug down to bedrock, which occurred 0.3m-0.7m below present ground surface. A number of north-south cuts were noted in the bedrock. About 0.8m-1.1m in width 0.08m-0.3m in depth and continuing downslope in a northerly direction, their full extent remains undetermined due to the trial trenching being terminated before they were fully exposed. They were filled with dry loam and charcoal, within which a number of sherds of Leinster cooking ware were recovered. In one of these features a partially damaged medieval relief tile was embedded into the loam fill. The design on the tile is quite distinct, albeit incomplete; a horse with rider, bridle piece and reins, two birds, and possibly a deer with antlers can be identified. Traces of a green glaze can also be seen.

The site has not yet been fully archaeologically resolved. A full excavation of the burial area may take place sometime in the future, or alternatively, an area of open space may be located over the burials, thus leaving them undisturbed. Trial trenching was funded by the developer.

2006:2194 - Wicklow Port Access Town Relief Road, Wicklow, Wicklow

County: Wicklow Site name: Wicklow Port Access Town Relief Road, Wicklow

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A Licence number: 06E0091

Author: Edmond O'Donovan, Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd, 27 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

Site type: Various

ITM: E 729499m, N 712802m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.149967, -6.063969

Ballynerrin Lower, filch faith and hut site

The fulacht fiadh consisted of a spread of burnt stone and charcoal measuring 9m in diameter. The fulacht fiadh mound was composed of a mixture of sandstone and a local shale. A rectangular trough was identified under the northern side of the burnt mound and was partially covered by the burnt-stone deposits. The trough measured 1.95m by 1.5m and was 0.32m deep. There was some evidence for a wooden plank lining at the base and sides, which survived as charcoal staining in the soil. Four large stake-holes were cut into the base of the trough, one in each corner. These appeared to have functioned as posts retaining a plank lining of the feature. The average dimension of the stake-holes was 0.2m in diameter and 0.2m in depth. A large pit was located 0.1m to the west of the trough. It measured 3.25m by 2m, with a depth of 1.2m. It quickly filled up with water during excavation and was interpreted as a water source for the trough.

A layer of grey ashy silt (F10) was identified beneath the mound. This was interpreted as a sod layer altered by the heat of the fulacht fiadh. The ash deposits measured 11m east–west by 9m, with a depth of 0.15m. A group of stake-holes were cut into F10, but no discernible pattern was identified. The stake-holes varied in dimensions from 50mm by 50mm by 50mm to 120mm by 80mm by 150mm and contained a charcoal-rich fill. The stake-holes were not visible on the surface of the mound, due to the similarity of the soil types, but were clearly cut through the fulacht fiadh in section.

A U-shaped hut structure was identified to the south of the fulacht fiadh. It survived as a foundation trench, with a double-row of stake-holes cut into the base of the trench. A number of finds came from this feature, including a flint scraper and a quartz hammerstone. The internal dimensions of the hut were 1.4m by 2m. The foundation trench consisted of four separate interlocking features/depressions (F37, F35, F4 and F46). The northernmost feature (F37) measured 1.6m east–west by 0.8m and was 0.23m deep. F35, to the west, measured 1.1m by 0.73m with a depth of 0.15m. The pit to the east (F4) measured 1.88m by 0.76m with a depth of 0.25m. There were a series of stake-holes cut into the base of the foundation trenches, suggesting that there may have been a wattle woven wall surrounding the hut.

2015:305 - Ballynerrin Lower, Wicklow

County: Wicklow Site name: Ballynerrin Lower

Sites and Monuments Record No.: WI025-065 Licence number: 13E0303 EXT

Author: Yvonne Whitty

Site type: Burial

ITM: E 731319m, N 693474m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 52.975915, -6.044653

Testing was carried out on the site of a proposed development at Weston Close, Co. Wicklow on behalf of the developer, Cumclone Construction. The site WI025-065 is located within the development area and testing was carried out in 2015.

Seven burials and other archaeological features were identified in 1990 on the site of this proposed development after burials were exposed during the construction works at Weston Close housing development which adjoins the RMP site. As a result, further building works ceased. In 2008 a fresh application was made for the construction of three houses on this site and it was refused after an appeal to An Bord Pleánala. One of the reasons for this refusal was that adequate archaeological assessment had not been carried out.

In 2013 an assessment of the site, which included test trenching, was carried out by the author under licence 13E0303. The entirety of the site was tested intensively under the supervision of an osteologist. The test trenches revealed the burials identified in the 1990 assessment along with several other features which may be of archaeological significance. The archaeology was exposed on the top of a small hill which sloped down the east.

Following the assessment in 2013 the developer applied for planning in 2014 but was refused on archaeological grounds. Following a revision to the development plans, planning permission was granted in September 2015 subject to archaeological conditions.

Monitoring was carried out in September 2015. No finds or features of archaeological significance were exposed during the ground works and a boundary wall has been built separating the archaeological site and the construction/development site so as to protect and preserve the archaeological remains in situ.

2019:089 - Ballynerrin Lower, Wicklow, Wicklow

County: Wicklow Site name: Ballynerrin Lower, Wicklow

Sites and Monuments Record No.: WI025-034 Licence number: 19E0081

Author: Kate Taylor, TVAS (Ireland) Ltd

Site type: Non-archaeological

ITM: E 731410m, N 694020m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 52.980797, -6.043077

Monitoring was carried out on part of the Wicklow Watermains Rehabilitation Scheme close to WI025-034 (burial ground) in Ballynerrin Lower townland in Wicklow town. Monitoring took place on Kilmantin Road and Convent Road, with sporadic monitoring also carried out on Glenview Road, St Laurence's Road and St Laurence's Park. Nothing of archaeological significance was revealed and there was no evidence of the burial ground extending southwards from its previously identified location.

Ahish, Ballinruan, Crusheen, Co. Clare

2019:159 - Weston Close, Ballynerrin Lower and Corporation Lands, Wicklow

County: Wicklow Site name: Weston Close, Ballynerrin Lower and Corporation Lands

Sites and Monuments Record No.: WI025-065 Licence number: 13E0303

Author: Yvonne Whitty

Site type: Burial

ITM: E 731524m, N 693639m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 52.977347, -6.041535

Testing was carried out on a pre-planning basis as the client proposes to add an extension to the existing house to the rear. The two test trenches were excavated by hand on 12 March 2019.

The test trenches were 2m x 1m each at the location of the extension in the garden and were excavated to natural ground. This testing strategy was adopted to confirm the absence/presence of archaeological features prior to the location of the extension being finalized and designed.

The site adjoins the burial ground WI025-065. The archaeological site was identified when seven burials and other archaeological features were exposed in 1990 during construction works for the housing estate at Weston Close. The burial site is separated from the client's house by a concrete wall.

Although the present ground level is significantly lower than the burial site, the depth of burials was never established in any previous assessments. Upon excavation of the test trenches it was clear that the ground level had been reduced at the location of Test trench 1. Natural ground was exposed at a depth of 0.32m and imported topsoil lay directly above the natural ground.

At Test trench 2 a topsoil layer 0.08m in depth contained 20th-century pottery. Above this was a redeposited natural mixed with topsoil which was probably deposited during construction works associated with the housing development. The uppermost layer in Trench 2 was a dark brown silty clay topsoil, as in Trench 1. This layer was as a result of landscaping works associated with the development.

The area of Test trench 2 was undisturbed given an earlier topsoil layer was visible in section dating to the 20th century. There was no earlier sod level visible in section and this layer directly sealed the natural ground.

It is the author's opinion that it is unlikely that archaeology will be impacted upon given the scale of the development should it proceed in the area which has been subject to test trenching.

Unit 10 Riverside Business Centre, Tinahely, Wicklow

2021:010 - Ballynerrin, Wicklow

County: Wicklow Site name: Ballynerrin

Sites and Monuments Record No.: W1025-014 Licence number: 21E0118

Author: Yvonne Whitty

Site type: No archaeology found

ITM: E 730315m, N 692901m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 52.971013, -6.059824

Archaeological test trenching was carried out on a residential development site in Ballynerrin, County Wicklow. The trenches excavated were based on the results of a geophysical survey

20R0268. A total of 124m of test trenching was undertaken at the site under discussion. The geophysical survey identified anomalies which may have represented the remains of plough-damaged archaeology, however testing confirmed that the trends were either geological or agricultural in origin.

No features of archaeological significance were exposed in any of the test trenches nor were any finds retrieved.

Unit 10 Riverside Business Centre, Tinahely, Co. Wicklow