# Archaeological Impact Assessment Castle Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow

## Former Heiton Buckley Site

## Licence Number: 20E0618

Client: Silverbow Limited

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Licensee: Grace Fegan

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	Heritage Act 1995, Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic
	Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999, The Planning and
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## 1. Introduction

This archaeological impact assessment has been prepared by Shanarc Archaeology Ltd. for Silverbow Limited. The assessment relates to the proposed development of a 1.06 hectare site on Castle Street, Bray, known as the Heiton Buckley site and adjacent properties, and includes drainage works along Castle Street from the proposed development core to Bray Bridge crossing the Dargle/Bray River. The Heiton Buckley site is included in the Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022 and the Bray Municipal District Local Area Plan 2018-2024. In the Bray Municipal District Local Area Plan the majority of the subject site has been identified as an 'opportunity site' (OP2).

The purpose of the archaeological impact assessment is to:

- (i) evaluate the nature and extent of known archaeological, built heritage or other cultural heritage assets at the site;
- (ii) address potential impacts on archaeological, built heritage or other cultural heritage assets, including impacts on potential sub-surface archaeological remains; and
- (iii) provide mitigation recommendations to address potential impacts on archaeological, built heritage or other cultural heritage assets.

### **1.1 Site Location**

The proposed c. 0.9 hectare development site is located on the north-eastern side of Castle Street (R761) within the townlands of Little Bray and Ravenswell, in the Barony of Rathdown, Civil Parish of Old Connaught, and Rathmichael Electoral District, Co. Wicklow. The site is situated at the northern end of the core of Bray town, north of the Dargle/Bray River, and within the Zone of Notification for the Historic Town of Bray (WI004-001). The townland boundary between Ravenswell and Little Bray divides the core site, which partially borders Dwyer Park, off Castle Street, to the south-east corner and on the north-east boundary (Figure 1). The proposed drainage works will run along Castle Street, the main thoroughfare aligned on Bray Bridge linking north Bray with south Bray.

Former Heiton Buckley Site, Castle Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow 20E0618 - Archaeological Impact Assessment



Figure 1 Location of proposed development site *(red outline, core site hachured)* in local Castle Street, Bray context (Source: Henry J Lyons).

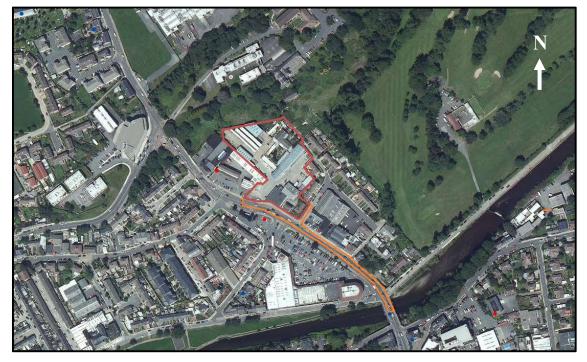


Figure 2 Location of proposed development site (*core site in red, drainage works in orange*) on Digital Globe imagery (OSi Licence No. EN0077922).

### **1.2** Site and Development Description

The proposed development will consist of 139 apartments, two retail units and 59 car parking places, in two main blocks of staggered heights. Drainage works will be carried out on a section of Dwyer Park and along Castle Street from the proposed development core street frontage to Bray Bridge; drainage works will be aligned along the northeastern side of Castle Street.

The majority of the core site is currently vacant and was formerly the site of Heiton Buckley Builder Providers. Two adjacent buildings, one fronting Castle Street and one on Dwyer Park are included in the proposed development site, as is a property in the northern section, which is currently occupied. The core site is irregular in shape and consists of large buildings and concrete yards. The buildings are predominantly made of corrugated iron with the exception of the former showroom/shop, which fronts Castle Street, in the south of the site. This building appears to be pebble-dashed and plastered block work. The ground surface of the yards is concrete. In the south-eastern corner of the site there is located a two storey building with a shop front at ground level and accommodation above, and separately an 'L' shaped bungalow and garden (No. 20 Dwyer Park). All buildings appear modern in date. The northern property consists of a modern, L-shaped bungalow surrounded by gardens and yards. Modern sheds have been built along the boundary walls.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

The development is at Stage 3 of the Strategic Housing Development (SHD) planning application, having received an Opinion from An Bord Pleanála that a reasonable basis for an SHD has been demonstrated.

Several previous planning permissions have been sought for the site: 01630142, permission to erect a fence above an existing fence; 06630256, to erect an additional course and supporting piers to the top of an already existing wall and fence; 142174, permission sought to demolish existing buildings and construct a discount food store. Permission for the latter was refused for two reasons, for public safety and that the development did not provide for mixed use.

#### **1.4 Previous Archaeological Recommendations**

In 2015, a recommendation was made on planning application 142174. The then Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht recommended that 'the applicant be required to employ a suitably qualified archaeologist to undertake An Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed development as FI in advance of the proposed development.' No prior Archaeological Impact Assessment of the site has as yet been identified.

In September 2021, a Desktop Assessment was compiled by Shanarc Archaeology Ltd. (Reilly 2021); this assessment made a number of recommendations that are addressed in this current report.

## 2. Assessment Methodology

This assessment report is based on a desk-top study of relevant archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage sources, supported by an on-site inspection of the proposed development land and targeted archaeological test-excavation. The assessment is guided by relevant legislation, standards and guidelines in respect of archaeology, architecture and cultural heritage, as follows.

## 2.1 Legislative Protection for Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage

Ireland has ratified several international and European conventions on the protection of cultural heritage, principally:

- UNESCO World Heritage Convention 1972;
- Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (Venice) 1964;
- European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valetta Convention) 1992;
- European Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage (Grenada Convention) 1985;

• European Council Directive on Environmental Impact Assessment (85/337/EEC) (as amended).

National legislation protecting cultural heritage sites comprises:

- National Monuments Acts 1930-2014;
- Heritage Act 1995;
- Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999; and
- Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

The following standards and guidelines were also consulted as part of this assessment:

- Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (1999), Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & the Islands;
- Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation (1999), Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & the Islands;
- The Heritage Council, 2000. Archaeology & Development: Guidelines for Good Practice for Developers (2000), The Heritage Council;
- Guidance on the preparation of the EIA Report, 2017, European Commission;
- European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018;
- Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (Draft) (August 2017), Environmental Protection Agency;
- Advice notes on current practice in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements (2003), Environmental Protection Agency;
- Guidelines for the Assessment of Archaeological Heritage Impacts of National Road Scheme (2005), National Roads Authority;
- Guidelines for the Assessment of Architectural Heritage Impacts of National Roads Schemes (2005), National Roads Authority; and
- Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011), Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & the Islands.

### 2.2 Assessment Criteria

The following assessment criteria have been adopted from the European Protection Agency terminology (EPA 2017) and the Transport for Ireland criteria (NRA 2005), adapted to an Irish archaeological context. Assessment criteria that have been formulated to be relevant to impacts on archaeological and cultural heritage sites are generally categorised as one of three types, as described in Table 1.

Type of Impact	Description				
Direct	Occurs where an archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage				
	feature, site or structure is physically located within the footprint of				
	development, resulting in the partial or total removal of the feature,				
	site or structure.				
Indirect	Occurs where an archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage				
	feature, site or structure, or its setting, is located in close proximity to				
	the footprint of development, which may be indirectly affected as a				
	result e.g. visual effects.				
None predicted	Occurs where an archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage				
	feature, site or structure is not adversely or positively affected by				
	development.				

#### Table 1 Type of Impact.

Impacts on archaeological and cultural heritage sites are assessed in terms of impact quality, as described in Table 2.

#### Table 2 Quality of Impact.

Quality of Impact	Description					
Negative	A change that will detract from or permanently remove an					
	archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage feature, site or					
	structure.					
Neutral	A change that will not affect an archaeological, architectural or					
	cultural heritage feature, site or structure.					
Positive	A change that will improve or enhance the setting of c					
	archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage feature, site or					
	structure.					

The level or significance of impact on archaeological and cultural heritage sites is assessed, as described in Table 3.

#### Table 3 Significance of Impact.

Significance	Description			
Imperceptible	An impact on an archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage			
	feature, site or structure, which can be measured, but without			
	noticeable consequences.			
Not significant	An impact on an archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage			
	feature, site or structure, which causes noticeable changes, but			
	without significant consequences.			
Slight	An impact that causes a minor change in the character of the			
	environment, which, although noticeable, does not directly impact			
	or affect the integrity of an archaeological, architectural or cultural			
	heritage feature, site or structure. Such impacts are generally			
	reversible and of relatively short duration.			
Moderate	An impact that results in a change to an archaeological,			
	architectural or cultural heritage feature, site or structure, which,			
	although noticeable, does not compromises the integrity of the			
	heritage. These effects arise where an archaeological, architectural			
	or cultural heritage feature, site or structure can be incorporat			
	into a modern-day development without damage and that			
	procedures used to facilitate this are reversible.			
Potentially	An impact to a potential feature/area of archaeological,			
significant	architectural or cultural heritage that could be significant without			
	mitigation measures being implemented, e.g. potential sub-surface			
archaeological remains.				
Significant	An impact that, by its magnitude, duration or intensity alters the			
	character and/or setting of an archaeological, architectural or			
cultural heritage feature, site or structure. These effects a				
	an aspect or aspects of the archaeological, architectural or cultural			
	heritage are permanently impacted on, leading to a loss of			
	character, integrity and data about the feature/site/structure.			
Very significant	An impact that, by its magnitude, duration or intensity significantly			
alters most of the character and/or setting of an archaeologi				

Significance	Description					
	architectural or cultural heritage feature, site or structure. These					
	effects arise where an aspect or aspects of the archaeological,					
	architectural or cultural heritage are permanently impacted on,					
	leading to a loss of character, integrity and data about the					
	feature/site/structure.					
Profound	An impact that completely and irreversibly destroys an					
	archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage feature, site					
	structure.					

## 2.3 Desktop Study

The following were the principal desk-based sources consulted:

#### **National Monuments**

Under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2014, archaeological sites in the ownership or guardianship of the State or a Local Authority and sites under Preservation Orders are designated as National Monuments. Such sites are offered the highest level of protection under Irish legislation.

#### **Record of Monuments & Places and Sites and Monuments Record**

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) was established under Section 12 of the 1994 National Monuments (Amendment) Act. The statutory RMP is a list of archaeological monuments known to the National Monuments Service (NMS), and is based on the earlier Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) files housed at the NMS. The record is updated on a constant basis.

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

The topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland (NMI) are the national archive of all known antiquities recorded by the NMI. These files relate primarily to artefacts but also include references to monuments and contain a unique archive of records of previous excavations. The find-spots of artefacts can be an important indication of the archaeological potential of an area.

#### **Excavations Bulletin and Excavations Database**

The Excavations Bulletin is both a published annual directory and an on-line database that provides summary accounts of all the excavations carried out in Ireland – north and south – from 1969 to the present. The on-line database has been compiled from the published Excavations Bulletins from the years 1970-2010, with additional online-only material from 2011 onwards. The database gives access to summary descriptions of archaeological investigations and is updated on a constant basis.

#### **Archaeological Inventory of County Wicklow**

The Archaeological Survey of Ireland was initiated after the National Monuments Act 1930, and remains ongoing. The inventory for County Wicklow was written by Annaba Kilfeather and Eoin Grogan, and published in 1997.

#### Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022

Each City and County Development Plan is compiled in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and contains lists of national monuments, recorded monuments, a Record of Protected Structures (a list of buildings which cannot be materially altered or demolished without grant of permission under the Act) and Architectural Conservation Areas (to protect and enhance the special character of an area).

The Wicklow County Development Plan addresses Heritage in Chapter 10 of Volume 1, specifically addressing Archaeology in Section 10.2.2, Architectural heritage in Section 10.2.3, within which it presents its objectives for protected structures, vernacular heritage and architectural conservation areas (ACAs), and Historical and Cultural Heritage in Section 10.2.4. Appendix 4 of Volume 3 contains the Record of Protected Structures.

#### **Bray Municipal District Local Area Plan 2018-2024**

The Bray Municipal District Local Area Plan is defined as the statutory development plan for Bray Municipal District and its environs and includes the settlements of Bray, Enniskerry and Kilmacanogue. It sets out Wicklow County Council's strategies and objectives for the area and should be read in conjunction with the Wicklow County Development Plan. The Plan addresses Built and Natural Heritage in Chapter 9, specifically addressing Architectural Heritage in Section 9.1. Maps relevant to heritage include Heritage

Objectives maps H1 and H3, which reference Bray built heritage. The Heritage Schedules are also included (10.01).

#### **National Inventory of Architectural Heritage**

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) is an ongoing survey within the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The work of the NIAH involves identifying and recording the architectural heritage of Ireland, from AD1700 to the present day and includes country houses, churches, mills, bridges and other structures of note. The NIAH survey of County Wicklow was carried out in 2003 and published in 2004, and is the largest survey of the post-1700 built heritage of County Wicklow. Structures rated as being of regional or above importance are included in the Minister's recommendations to the planning authorities for inclusion on the list of Record of Protected Structures.

#### **Cartographic Sources**

Information gathered from cartographic sources is fundamental to the identification of archaeological and architectural heritage sites, including cultural landscapes e.g. demesne landscapes, which, based on the level of landscape change, are now often identified from cartographic records alone. The earliest Ordnance Survey maps date to the late 1830s and early 1840s, but much change has occurred in the use and treatment of the landscape in the intervening years, particularly during the second half of the 20th century, making these a valuable resource in tracing the development of a study area.

#### **Toponomy Sources**

A townland name may preserve information relating to its archaeology, history, folklore, ownership, topography or land use. Most placenames were anglicised by the Ordnance Survey, which began in the 1830's. Despite some inaccuracies in translation, the Gaelic, Viking, Anglo-Norman and English origins of placenames are generally recognisable. The Placenames Database of Ireland website (www.logainm.ie) hosts online bi-lingual placename research and archival records for townlands. Joyce's *The Origin and History of Irish Names of Places*, is also an invaluable source for townland name meanings.

#### **Documentary Sources**

Documentary sources are a valuable means of completing the written archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage record of an area, and of gaining insight into the history of the receiving environment. A list of all consulted documentary sources is provided in bibliographic form.

### 2.4 **On-Site Inspection**

On-site inspection offers the opportunity to examine a study area in light of desk-based research and evidence. Inspection is essential in determining the nature and extent of any surviving above-ground evidence, and in predicting the potential effects of a proposal on potential below-ground remains. A site inspection was carried out by Thaddeus Breen of Shanarc Archaeology on two occasions, on 5th October 2020, and again on 20th April 2021 following a boundary change.

### 2.5 Archaeological Test Excavations

Targeted archaeological test excavations, undertaken under licence to the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, involve excavating a specific array of test trenches under constant archaeological supervision. This offers the opportunity to assess the potential impacts of the proposed development on sub-surface archaeological remains. Where potential archaeological deposits are encountered, they are investigated to establish their nature and extent in so far as is practicable.

## **3. Receiving Environment**

### 3.1 Archaeological and Historical Background

#### 3.1.1 Prehistory

The earliest evidence of human activity in County Wicklow dates to the Mesolithic (c. 7000-4000 BC); an era where settlement was principally confined to the coast, rivers or lakes, in an otherwise heavily wooded landscape. There are currently no recorded monuments of Mesolithic date within 5km of the proposed development site. In 1932, a late Mesolithic (5500-4000 BC) flint scatter was found in a cave at Corporation Lands, to the south of Wicklow Town (WI025-039). A large quantity of broken flint is also recorded from a cave or rock shelter (WI025-037) in Dunbar Head townland, at Bride's Head and an inland lithic scatter (WI031-045) is recorded in Coolbeg, south-west of Wicklow town. Further possible Later Mesolithic lithics were found in moraine, which had been truncated by the sea, north of Wicklow town at Clonmannan (WI019-038).

The transition from the Mesolithic to the Neolithic period (4000-2400 BC) is marked by the shift from a hunter-gatherer lifestyle to the introduction of an agricultural economy, which began a process of landscape change and land clearance. The most obvious indication of Neolithic activity in the landscape is the presence of megalithic tombs. Three of the four types, portal, passage and wedge megalithic tombs can be found in County Wicklow. The burial rite in these tombs was cremation. There is a concentration of megalithic tomb type sites in the hills of south Dublin and north Wicklow. Examples of passage tombs in closest proximity of the proposed development site can be found at Mountpelier (DU025-001001, DU025-001002) and Ballybrack (DU025-025), situated 15km and 10km to the north-west. A portal tomb (WI007-033) is located 8km to the south-west, on the boundary between Glaskenny and Onagh townlands. The nearest wedge tomb is located at Shankill (DU026-059) 3km to the north-west.

Metal working, firstly in copper and then in bronze, was first developed during the Bronze Age (c. 2400-500 BC). Highly skilled gold smiths also produced an array of objects such as lunulae and later gorgets. Burial practices changed from communal burial in large megalithic structures to individual burials in isolated graves or cemeteries or at Neolithic tombs. Individuals could be inhumed in a variety of grave types such as pits or stone

lined cists and with or without accompanying pottery vessels. Later in the period, pottery vessels were not used and eventually only symbolic amounts of bone were buried as tokens. Activity from this period includes a polygonal cist that contained the cremated remains of a probable male at Fassaroe (WI003-035) just north of the Cookstown River, which flows through Enniskerry. Another site from this period is a burnt stone mound site or *fulacht fiadh* at Ballyman (DU028-002008), situated approximately 2.6km to the west-south-west. *Fulacht fia* are described as horseshoe or oval-shaped mounds, formed from discarded burnt stone and charcoal used to heat water in troughs and pits. Though originally thought to be solely used for cooking, modern excavation and research has shown that the steam and hot water produced in *fulacht fia* could have had many uses from textile production to brewing and boat building.

The advent of the Iron Age (c. 500 BC-AD 400) saw the introduction of new technologies and burial practices; however, evidence for the Iron Age in the Irish landscape is rare. Excavated hillforts such as Rathgall in Co. Wicklow show a Late Bronze Age construction with continued use into the Iron Age. There is a hillfort at Rathmichael (DU026-048001) 3.6km to the north-west. There is also evidence for burial in the area; in 1835 burials in the Roman style (WI004-004) were found in Bray, 1.3km to the south-east of the proposed development site. Coins dating to the time of emperors Trajan and Hadrian (AD 97-138) were found placed on or beside the chest showing influence of Roman traditions. Though Roman artifacts and sites are very rare in Ireland, the influence of the Roman world would be immense and completely transform society in the coming centuries.

#### **3.1.2 Historic Period**

The early medieval period, AD 400 to the mid-12th century, sees the introduction of Christianity. With it we see a change in burial practices and monument types and the introduction of writing and record making. The landscape of north Wicklow and south Dublin is rich in sites dating to this period. Settlement was mostly rural, with the exception of Viking trading centres such as Wicklow and Dublin. The most common settlement type was farmsteads called ringforts. Many enclosures are probably much-degraded ringforts, which were principally built between AD 550 and AD 850 (although they may also be the remains of other site types such as ring-barrows, henge-type monuments, or landscape features, and may therefore date to any period from prehistory onward). Ringforts and enclosures are among the most numerous domestic archaeological monuments in Ireland, with over 47,000 ringforts found throughout the island (Stout 2017). There are

several examples in each of the townlands of Rathmichael (3.6km to the north-west), Phrompstown (3.4km to the west) and Ballyman (2.3km to the west).

There are several ecclesiastical enclosures and sites in the vicinity: Ballyman (DU028-002001) lies just 2.6km to the west-south-west and includes a holy well dedicated to St Kevin; a cross known as St Vallery's Cross can be found in Fassaroe (WI007-026002), which may indicate the remains of a monastic site; a holy well (DU026-069) and the site of a church known as Cork Abbey (DU026-068001), said to have been built on the site of an earlier abbey is located 0.5km north of the subject site. The discovery of a cross slab immediately adjacent to the proposed development site (WI004-001001) also suggests an ecclesiastical presence.

The late medieval period dates from the mid-12th century to the mid-16th century. This is a time of much change in Ireland, with the invasion of Anglo-Normans at Wexford in 1169, the introduction of the first parliament and coinage and the 12th century reform of the church. It is also the period of castle building, from early motte-and-bailey castles of timber construction, to great Anglo-Norman stone castles and later tower houses, such as Little Bray Castle (WI004-001006) that stood opposite the proposed development site on Castle Street.

#### **3.1.3 The Development of Bray Town**

Bray developed on either side of the Dargle/Bray River, with the main part of the town south of the river known as Great Bray, and with the Commons and Little Bray to the north. Bray town did not thrive during the unsettled medieval period, and it was not until the end of the 18th and beginning of the 19th centuries that stability and its position close to the sea and the mountains changed its fortune.

The manor of Bray and territories of the O'Tooles was granted to Walter de Ridelesford about 1176. In an extant recorded for the Crown from 1284 there was a stone house (castle), a church and a mill, tenements and cottages and some thirty burgesses. A market was granted in 1213. The site of de Ridelesford's castle (WI004-001003), built before 1225, is thought to be located in Great Bray, south-west of Bray Bridge. This castle is possibly that marked as 'old Bray' in the Down Survey (Figure 7). Locating his castle south of the Dargle/Bray River was questionable as the area was often raided from the south-west, where the O'Tooles and the O'Byrnes had strongholds and waged attacks on the Crown lands in the Pale. One such attack in 1314 saw the town burned. In 1402, a

battle occurred between the mayor of Dublin and the O'Byrnes at 'Bloody Bank' (Davies 1998, 1). 'Bloody Bank' is marked on the 2nd edition 25" map and the 1940 6" map in Bray Commons, 400m to the west of the proposed development site. This battle has not been identified as an RMP site, and battlefield sites can be difficult to pinpoint with accuracy. It is worth noting, however, that there are records a battle occurred in the area, which could indicate undiscovered burials in the vicinity.

The site of the medieval church (WI004-001-004) is thought to have been located close to the castle of de Ridelesford. The present structure of St Paul's dates from the 17th to the 19th centuries, but may stand on the site of the early wooden church called the 'Dearteach' or 'oak house' in several Anglo-Norman documents (Brooks 1951-2, 122 in archaeology.ie).

The tower house (WI004-001006) that stood opposite the proposed development site, known as Little Bray Castle, was built in c. 1459 for defence of the route to Dublin. It is marked on the 17th century Down Survey maps (Figures 5-7) and was demolished in the 20th century for the purpose of road widening on Castle Street.

Davies (1998) suggests that a bridge was not built at the location of Bray Bridge until about 1660. During excavation works in 2012 (excavation licence no. 12E123) not only were the remains of two 18th century bridges found beneath the current bridge, but to the west of the stone bridge the remains of an oak bridge dating to the 12th or 13th century were also uncovered. It is possible that the wooden bridge was associated with the early manor of Bray but was left unrepaired after one of the many raids leaving only a fording point until the 17th century. Davies (1998) also comments that Castle Street was not built until 1808 and the bridge before that directed traffic up a steep incline onto what became Back Street. Other development in this century included the building of a barracks next to the castle at Great Bray. A description of Little Bray in 1636 records a castle, six houses and gardens, orchards, the commons and fishing in the Dargle/Bray River.

Estate maps from the 18th century show that settlement in Great Bray was clustered around the area near the river. The mill, St Paul's church, the castle and barracks all feature on the maps. In 1787, a new navigable passage was cut through a large sandbank at the mouth of the Dargle/Bray River providing a small harbour for fishermen. Though the sea was only 0.6km to the east of the main street, at this time Bray was not a

seaside town but centred around the castle and river crossing. This orientation and outlook was to change dramatically in the following century.

The combination of Bray's proximity to the mountains to the south and the coast made it an attractive destination for visitors for sightseeing trips and bathing. During the 19th century development orientated along the coastal stripe south of the Dargle/Bray River. This was aided by the coming of the railway in 1854. The new town of Bray was planned along the lines of an English seaside resort and in time became known as 'the Brighton of Ireland'. Two entrepreneurs, William Dargan and John Quin, among others, made lasting contributions to the fabric of the town with the construction of Turkish baths, the esplanade, grand house terraces, several hotels and the Carlisle Grounds. Little Bray which, at this time, was the preserve of the tradesmen and labourers, too underwent development. About 1860 part of Bray Commons was enclosed and laid out in with streets; also the fair green and the People's Park were created.

The second half of the 20th century saw a change in the holidaying habits of the nation and resulted in a decline in the seaside resort town of Bray. Owing to its rail connection with Dublin, it became a commuter town in the latter part of the 20th century. The town, however, still attracts rail day trippers, who come to enjoy a stroll on the esplanade, icecream and the Victorian architecture.

## **3.2 Cartographic Analysis**

Relevant extracts are presented from the following consulted historic maps:

- A Modern Depiction of Ireland, Abraham Ortelius, 1598 (Figure 3);
- John Speed's Map of Leinster, 1610 (Figure 4);
- Down Survey map of County Wicklow, 1656-58 (Figure 5);
- Down Survey map of the Barony of Rathdown, 1656-58 (Figure 6);
- Down Survey map of the Parish of Old Connaught, 1656-58 (Figure 7);
- John Rocque's ;An Actual Survey of the County of Dublin, 1760 (Figure 8);
- John Taylor's Map of Dublin, 1816 (Figure 9);
- First edition Ordnance Survey 6" map, 1840 (Figure 10);
- Ordnance Survey 25" map, 1910 (Figure 11);
- Cassini's Ordnance Survey map, 1940 (Figure 12).

#### A Modern Depiction of Ireland by Abraham Ortelius 1598

The earliest cartographic reference to Wicklow is on a map dating to the end of the 16th century, 'A Modern Depiction of Ireland' by cartographer, geographer and cosmographer Abraham Ortelius (Figure 3). The town of 'Brey' has been marked. The names of the Gaelic Irish families that held control of the area are inscribed; 'O Bryne and 'O:Tolo.'



Figure 3 Extract from 'A Modern Depiction of Ireland, one of the British Isles' by Abraham Ortelius, 1598, showing the general location of Bray (*red outline*) (Source: www.wdl.org/en/item/104/).

#### Speed's Map of Leinster 1610

John Speed, an English cartographer, published maps of the four provinces of Ireland in 1610, as well as a detailed map of Dublin City. His maps depict topographical features including rivers and mountains, as well as place names. Speed's map of Leinster (Figure 4) records the nearby castles of Oldcourt and Fassaroe.

Former Heiton Buckley Site, Castle Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow 20E0618 - Archaeological Impact Assessment



Figure 4 Extract from Speed's Map of Leinster, 1610, showing the general location of Bray (*red outline*) (Source: www.swilson.info).

#### Down Survey maps 1656-58

The Down Survey is a mapped survey carried out between 1656 - 1658 under the direction of Sir William Petty that recorded land forfeited by Irish Catholics following the Cromwellian war in Ireland (1649-1653). The Survey recorded townland boundaries and their areas with precision throughout Ireland. The resultant maps contain other detail, such as on roads, rivers, towns, churches, castles, houses and fortifications, as well as topographic and land use detail. The county of Dublin (Figure 5) and Barony of Rathdown (Figure 6) maps record the placename and tower house (WI004-001006) at Little Bray, and the adjacent townland of Old Connaught to the west and the townland of Cork to the north. On the more detailed Parish of Old Connaught map (Figure 7), Little Bray, Old Bray and the Common of Bray are marked; the tower house (WI004-001006) at Little Bray is also annotated to the east side of the Wicklow to Dublin Road. Commons at Bray are mentioned in 1311 (Davies 1998), and on the Down Survey are recorded as comprising 42 plantation acres to the north side of the Dargle/Bray River (annotated as Bray Water).

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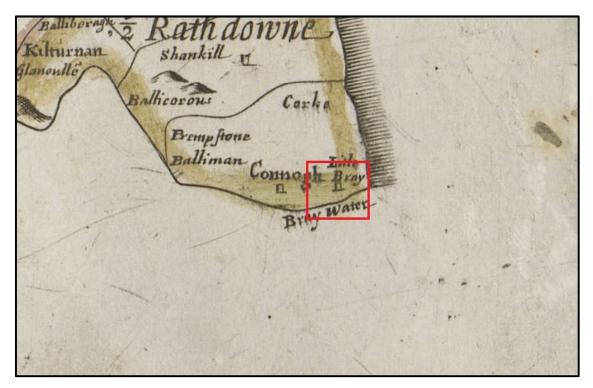


Figure 5 Extract from the Down Survey map of County Dublin, 1656-58, showing the location of Little Bray townland and castle (*red outline*) (Source: downsurvey.tcd.ie).

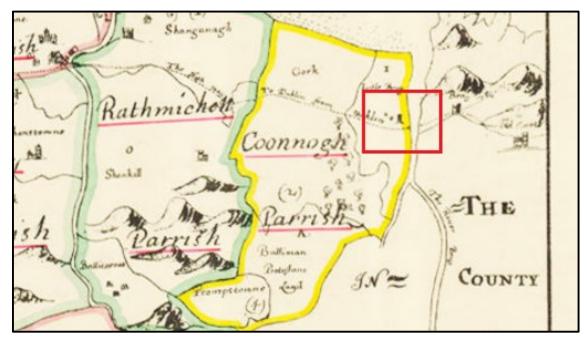


Figure 6 Extract from the Down Survey map of the Barony of Rathdown, 1656-58, showing the location of Little Bray (*red outline*) (Source: downsurvey.tcd.ie).

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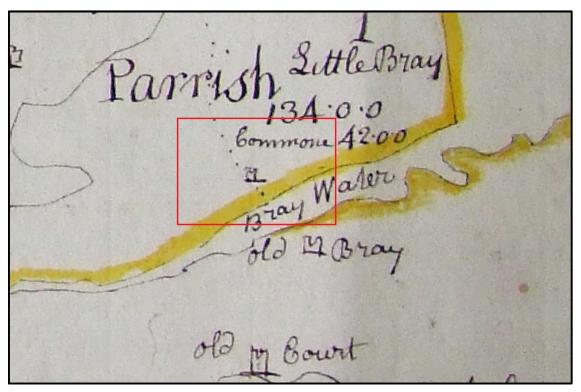


Figure 7 Extract from the Down Survey map of the Parish of Old Connaught, 1656-58, showing location of Little Bray and tower house (WI004-001006) to the east of the Wicklow to Dublin road (Source: downsurvey.tcd.ie).

#### **Rocque's An Actual Survey of the County of Dublin 1760**

Following his arrival in Dublin in 1754, surveyor and cartographer John Rocque set about producing a series of maps of Dublin City, six in all. The actual survey of the county of Dublin in 1760 was the last of these, and reached south to include Lord Powerscourt's estate at Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow, and included Bray (Figure 8). Rocque records 'The Castle,' to the east side of the Dublin Road, prior to its realignment to form the present Castle Street. The castle is enclosed in a square field that is clearly cultivated. It is possible that the position of this field and its boundary walls indicate the location of a former bawn. Undeveloped land lies outside this boundary, to the east and to the north. A bridge over the Dargle/Bray River is also shown.

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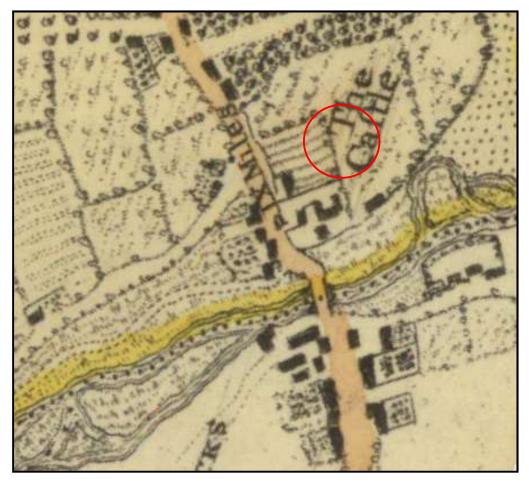


Figure 8 Extract from Rocque's An Actual Survey of the County of Dublin, 1760, showing the approximate location of the proposed development site (*circled in red*) (Source: sdublincoco.maps.arcgis.com).

#### **Taylor's Map of Ireland 1816**

John Taylor's 1816 map of the environs of Dublin (Figure 9) extends 10 to 14 miles outwards from Dublin Castle. The map depicts the Castle to the east side of the Dublin Road in Bray, but notably with the outline of a new road or track in an arch to the east side of the Castle, the forerunner of present Castle Street. A second notable development is the annotation of Ravens Well, or Ravenswell House; a series of buildings are shown between a house marked at the end of an avenue off the Dublin Road and the Castle, although the proposed development site is likely to have been largely undeveloped at this time.

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Figure 9 Extract from Taylor's map of the Environs of Dublin, 1816, showing the approximate location of the proposed development site (*circled in red*) (Source: sdublincoco.maps.arcgis.com).

#### **Ordnance Survey Maps**

The first ever large-scale survey of Ireland was undertaken by the Ordnance Survey between 1829 and 1842, producing highly accurate maps at different scales. The first edition Ordnance Survey 6-inch map, sheet WW004, surveyed in 1837, and published in 1840, depicts the proposed development site as being located to the north-east side of Castle Street in the small settlement of Little Bray (Figure 10). The settlement has grown up along two roads which pass either side of the Castle in Little Bray (tower house WI004-001006). There are some buildings on the southern part of the proposed development site, accessed off Castle Street, including a residential building in the south-east corner, but the majority of the site appears to be gardens, including landscaped grounds associated with Ravenswell House. Ravenswell House developed in Bolton's Park, where a dwelling house is recorded in 1770 (Davies 1998); referred to as Boultonhill or Bolten Hill in the 18th century, it is mentioned as Ravenswell by 1801, and on the first edition OS map as Ravenswell House. Some of the lower commons at Bray were sold and incorporated into the lands of Ravenswell House in 1860 (Davies 1998), and later into Bray Golf Links.

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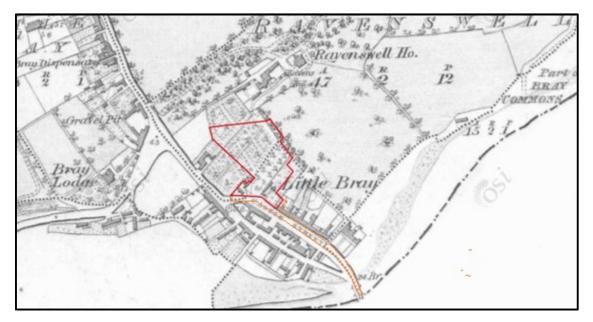


Figure 10 Extract from first edition 6-inch OS map, published 1840, sheet 004, showing the approximate location of the proposed development site (*core site in red, drainage works in orange*) (OSi Licence No. EN0077922).

The 25-inch Ordnance Survey map, surveyed in 1909, records notable development in Little Bray, and the construction of numerous buildings to the eastern half of the proposed development site (Figure 11). These buildings appear primarily industrial/commercial, but also residential to the south-east corner, including at the corner of Castle Street with Dwyer Park. A *smithy* is indicated in the adjacent plot to the south-west. None of these buildings appear to correspond with the current buildings on the site. The western and northern parts of the site are still depicted as gardens or undeveloped ground, all or partially associated with Ravenswell House, now annotated as Ravenswell Convent. The house was sold to the Sisters of Charity in 1901 (Davies 1998) and converted for use as a convent and Ravenswell Convent National School. The School utilised the converted stables of the former Ravenswell House (Davies 1998). The tower house (WI004-001006) is depicted and annotated on Castle Street, adjacent to the south side of the proposed drainage works. A second building used as a *Smithy* is located at the junction of Castle Street and the southern end of Dwyer Park, also located adjacent to the north side of the proposed drainage works.

On the last historic six-inch edition Ordnance Survey map, published in 1940 (Figure 12), it is evident that the building layout on the eastern part of the proposed development site has been altered, notably by the removal of structures, including the buildings and cottages at the corner of Castle Street with Dwyer Park, and along Dwyer Park. The

western and northern parts of the site remain as gardens; from the alignment of trees depicted it can be suggested that it was in use as an orchard. Neither the two smithies, marked in the previous map, nor the castle site are annotated.

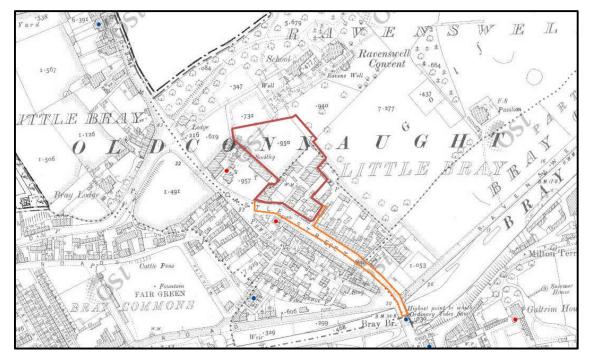


Figure 11 Extract from 25-inch edition OS map, published 1910, showing the approximate location of the proposed development site *(core site in red, drainage works in orange)* (OSi Licence No. EN0077922).

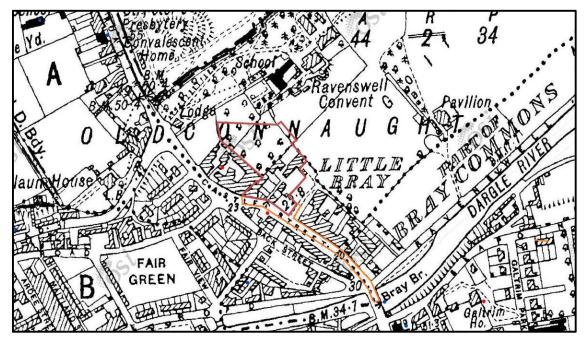


Figure 12 Extract from 6-inch edition OS map, published 1940, showing the approximate location of the proposed development site (*core site in red, drainage works in orange*) (OSi Licence No. EN0077922).

### **3.3 Toponomy**

Irish townland names derive from many sources. Just some of the sources for inspiration can be landscape features, family names, religious sites and names for types of habitation. The proposed development site partially lies within Little Bray and Ravenswell. It is unclear where the town of Bray derives its name. It appears that Brea and Bré are early forms of the name. It was commonly thought that it is derived from the Irish word *brí*, which means 'a hill' but this has been disputed. It has been suggested that it was the original name for the Bray River (Price in Loganim.ie). Little Bray lies to the north of the river, which divides it from the larger townland of Bray, known as Great Bray.

Ravenswell townland does not appear to have an Irish language origin and is not indicated on any of the early maps of the area. It is likely that it was carved from Bray Commons when Ravenswell House (or earlier Boultonhill) was built.

# 3.4 Sites and Monuments Record and Record of Monuments and Places

The proposed development site is for the most part located within the Zone of Notification or Zone of Potential of the historic town of Bray (WI004-001). There are eight recorded sites within 500m of the core site, including sub-elements of the historic town; these are shown on Figure 13 and listed in Table 4. Two of the sites are situated in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development site - tower house WI004-001006, of which no above ground, visible trace remains, and the former location of a cross slab (WI004-001001). The site of the tower house is located approximately 20m across Castle Street from the core site entrance and its bawn possibly extends across Castle Street into the core development site. It was marked as 'Castle' on the first edition 6-inch and 25-inch Ordnance Survey maps (Figures 10 and 11), when it was still extant. Lewis mentions a castle at Little Bray in 1837, a time when it was in use as a police barracks (Davies 1998). The tower house was demolished in 1937 for road widening (Davies 1998); it can be seen in an undated image prior to its demolition (Plate 1) (www.patrickcomerford.com accessed 06/04/2021<sup>1</sup>). Its former presence is preserved in the street name, Castle Street.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> There is no source recorded for this image on the website.

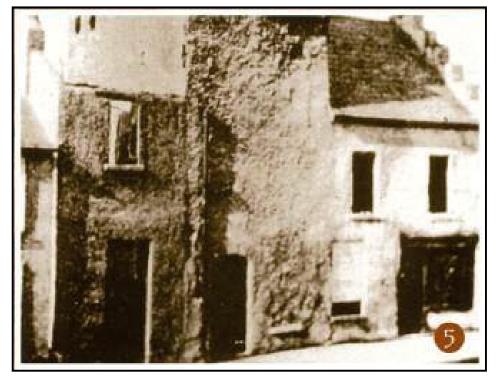


Plate 1 Reported image of tower house W1004-001-006 before it was demolished in 1937 (www.patrickcomerford.com; accessed 06/04/2021).

The cross slab (WI004-001001) that was originally located just 30m south of the boundary of the proposed development site is now located in the National Museum of Ireland (NMI reg. no. 1965:50). Cross slabs are usually early medieval in date and associated with ecclesiastical sites; without current access to the files at the NMI it is not possible to comment further on this record. There are several ecclesiastical sites in the vicinity; the site of an abbey (DU026-068001) and a holy well (DU026-069) 500m and 400m to the north. The medieval parish church of Old Connaught (DU026-066001) lies 1.3km to the west-north-west.

A linear earthwork (DU026-124 / WI004-005) on the townland boundary between Ravenswell and Cork Great, forming the modern municipal boundary and situated within 400m of the proposed development site, has been postulated as forming part of the medieval Pale defences. The earthwork is described as a continuous curving section of flat-topped bank, 150m long, 1.6m wide at the top and 10m wide at the base, which survives to a height of 0.80m, although much denuded in places. Testing of this earthwork in 2020 (excavation licence no. 20E0482) has concluded that the earthwork is not a section of the Pale ditch, but rather a late 19th/early 20th century landscape feature.

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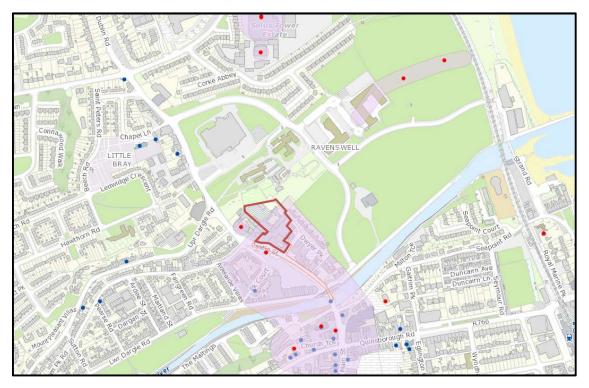


Figure 13 Distribution map of sites listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (*red dots*) with associated Zones of Notification (*shaded pink*) and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage sites (*blue dots*) relative to the proposed development site (*core site in red, drainage works in orange*) (OSi Licence No. EN0077922).

			Distance from centre	Direction
RMP No.	Class	Townland	of site	
DU026-066001	Church	Oldconnaught	1.3km	WNW
DU026-066002	Graveyard	Oldconnaught	1.3km	WNW
DU026-067	Burial	Oldconnaught	1.3km	NNW
DU026-068001	Church	Cork Great	0.5km	N
DU026-068002	Graveyard	Cork Great	0.5km	N
DU026-069	Ritual site - holy well	Cork Great	0.4km	N
DU026-070	Martello tower (removed)	Cork Great	1.0km	NNE
DU026-124	Linear earthwork	Cork Great	0.4km	NE
WI004-001	Historic town	Bray, Ravenswell, Little Bray	0m	N/A
WI004-001001	Cross-slab (find spot)	Ravenswell	30m	SW
WI004-001002	Redundant record	Bray	N/A	N/A

#### Table 4 RMP sites within 1.3km of the proposed development site.

Former Heiton Buckley Site, Castle Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow 20E0618 - Archaeological Impact Assessment

RMP No.	Class	Townland	Distance from centre of site	Direction
WI004-001003	Castle - unclassified	Bray	150m	SW
WI004-001004	Church	Bray	60m	S
WI004-001006	Castle - tower house	Little Bray	0m	SW
WI004-001008	Font	Bray	1.1km	S
WI004-002	Martello tower	Bray	0.7km	E
WI004-003	Martello tower	Bray	1.3km	SE
WI004-004	Burial- Associated roman coins	Bray	1.3km	SE
WI004-005	Linear earthwork	Ravenswell	0.4km	NE

## **3.5 Previous Archaeological Investigations**

No previous archaeological work has been carried out on the core proposed development site. Fourteen archaeological licences to excavate or to use a detection device have been held for works previously carried out in the townlands of Little Bray, Bray Commons, Ravenswell and the adjacent townlands of Old Connaught and Cork Great, listed in Table 5.

The most relevant to the proposed development site were the works carried out for a flood defence scheme along the Dargle/Bray River at Bray Bridge (NIAH reg. no. 16301267), at the south end of Castle Street. Beneath the present bridge the remains of two 18th century bridges were found, and to the west of the stone bridge the remains of a 12th or 13th century oak bridge were uncovered (excavation licence no. 12E123).

Licence No.	Excavation Bulletin No.	Location	Site Type	Author
N/A	1989:027	Old Connaught	Burial site	Valerie Keeley
01E0220	2001:1342	Cork Great	Vicinity of medieval abbey, the Pale bank	Catherine McLoughlin
02E1717 ext	2005:1703	Cork Great, Ravenswell	Medieval, part of the Pale ditch and	Colm Moriarty

Table 5 Previous archaeological investigations in Little Bray, Ravenswell, Cork Great, Old Connaught and Bray Commons townland, Cos. Wicklow/Dublin.

## Former Heiton Buckley Site, Castle Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow 20E0618 - Archaeological Impact Assessment

			bank	
04E0354	2004:0491	Cork Great	Possible linear earthwork	Martin E. Byrne
05E0392	2005:530	Shanganagh, Cork Little, Aske, Cork Great, Little Bray, Bray Commons	No archaeological significance	Richard Clutterbuck
10E0345	2010:286	Old Connaught	Burnt Mound	Dave Bayley
11E0304	2011:228	Ravenswell, Cork Great, Cork Little, Shanganagh	No archaeological significance	Faith Bailey
12R0053	2012:640	Metal detecting: Little Bray, Ravenswell, Bray Commons, Killarney, Bray	No archaeological significance	John Purcell
12E123	2012:641	Little Bray, Ravenswell, Bray Commons, Killarney, Bray	19 <sup>th</sup> century stone bridge and 12 <sup>th</sup> century wooden bridge	John Purcell
13E0121	2013:509	Little Bray, Bray	19 <sup>th</sup> century bridge	John Purcell
14E0225	2014:203	Ravenswell	No archaeological significance	Aidan O'Connell
16E0340	2016:366	Ravenswell	No archaeological significance	Aidan O'Connell
17E0027	2018:178	Balluman, Old Connaught	No archaeological significance	Faith Bailey
20E0482	2020:193	Ravenswell, Bray Commons, Cork Great	Post-medieval linear earth work	Padraig Dunne

## 3.6 Previous Archaeological Finds recorded in NMI Topographical Files

The topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland were searched by museum staff on the 9th April 2021. The townlands searched were Bray, Little Bray, Ravenswell, Bray Commons and Bray town. Specific streets searched were Castle Street, Dwyer Park and Back Street/Columcille's Terrace. It should be noted that this is not a detailed search and without full access to the museum files details such as description of finds are not available. The search results are listed in Table 6.

The most relevant archaeological finds are a stone mortar (NMI reg. no. 1932:6580) found in Little Bray, and stone cross slab WI004-001001 (NMI reg. no. 1965:50) found to the rear of 24-25 Castle Street. Recent monitoring by Shanarc Archaeology Ltd. of geotechnical investigations near the entrance to the former Ravenswell House also recovered a copper Irish halfpenny coin depicted with the head of George II and dated 1742.

NMI Register No.	Simple Name	Component	Townland	Find Place
1877:107	Coins	Copper	N/A	Bog Hall, near Bray
1877:108	Button	Metal	N/A	Bog Hall, near Bray
1932:6580	Mortar	Stone	Little Bray	N/A
1935:795	Vessel	Stone	Near Bray	Garden
1965:50	Slab	Stone	Bray	Rear of 24-25 Castle St
1995:689	Arrowhead	Flint	Rathdown Upper	North of Greystones/Bray railway tunnel
1995:690-2	Flake x 3	Flint	Rathdown Upper	North of Greystones/Bray railway tunnel
1995:693-5	Blade x 3	Flint	Rathdown Upper	North of Greystones/Bray railway tunnel
1995:696	Coin	Silver	Rathdown Upper	North of Greystones/Bray railway tunnel
1995:697-8	Coin x 2	Silver	Ballynamuddagh	Bray Head
1995:705	Brooch	Copper alloy	Bray	Bray beach

Table 6 Stray finds recorded in the National Museum of Ireland Topographical Files.

NMI Register No.	Simple Name	Component	Townland	Find Place
2001:85	Projectile head	Flint	N/A	Near Bray
2005:5	Pottery	Ceramic	Cork Great	No. 73 Corke Abbey, Bray
2005:6	Clay pipe	Ceramic	Cork Great	No. 73 Corke Abbey, Bray
2011:240	Figure	Copper alloy	N/A	Bray
2012:271	Pebble	Flint	Bray	Bray Beach
2013:452	Axehead	Bronze	N/A	Near Bray
2015:54	Blade	Chert	Newcourt	Beach below Bray Head
2015:55	Flake	Chert	Newcourt	Beach below Bray Head
2018:192	Scraper	Flint	Newcourt	Bray Head
2018:2	Flake	Flint	N/A	Bray Beach
4930:W18	Basin	Copper alloy	N/A	Dargle River, between Bray and Enniskerry
RIA1899:7	Arrowhead	Flint	Bray	Unknown
RIA1902:23	Mould	Ceramic	Bray	Old Connaught
RIA1920:68	Axehead	Bronze	Bray	Milltown Terrace close to Bray Bridge

# 3.7 Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022 and Bray Municipal District Local Area Plan 2018-2024

The proposed development site has been identified in the Bray Municipal District Local Area Plan as an Opportunity Site (OP 2) and zoned Town Centre (TC).

#### **3.7.1 Record of Protected Structures**

The Record of Protected Structures (RPS) is contained within Volume 3, Appendix 4 of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022. Protected structures of relevance to Bray Town are further listed in the Heritage Schedule and shown in the Heritage Maps section of the Bray Municipal District Local Area Plan 2018-2024. There are no protected structures listed in the RPS within the footprint of the proposed development site, or adjacent to the site.

### 3.7.2 Architectural Conservation Areas

An Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) is a place, area, group of structures or townscapes that is of special interest and that has been afforded statutory protection by the planning authority in accordance with Section 81 of the Planning & Development Act. The proposed development site is not located in an ACA.

### 3.8 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

No structures within the core proposed development site are included in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH); the stone bridge that carries Castle Street across the Dargle/Bray River, known as Bray Bridge, is included in the NIAH records (NIAH reg. no. 16301267) (Figure 13). Though many buildings are included in the NIAH in Bray south of the Dargle/Bray River, there is just one record within approximately 100m of the core proposed development site, that is a terrace of five Brabazon cottages to the south-west of Castle Street in Little Bray (NIAH reg. no. 16301293).

### **3.9 Site Inspection**

A site inspection, undertaken by Thaddeus Breen of Shanarc Archaeology, was initially carried out on 5th October 2020, followed by a second site visit on 20th April 2021 following a boundary change. The site is entered from the south, from Castle Street. The area consists of the former Heiton Buckley site (I), two buildings to the south-east (II + III) and a house, sheds and gardens to the north (IV) (Figure 14). The former Heiton Buckley site consists of large, concrete paved yards with several buildings mostly constructed of corrugated iron. No access was available to the buildings at the time of the inspection. A single storey plastered and pebble-dashed former showroom/shop building fronts Castle Street (Plate 2). The yards can be divided into four discrete areas: the area from the entrance to the centre of the site (Plate 3); the north-eastern yard (Plates 4 and 5); the middle yard (Plate 6) and the north-western yard (Plate 7).

In the south-eastern corner of the site there is a two-storey building with a shop front at ground level and accommodation above (II). The roof has fallen in. It is accessed separately from Castle Street (Plate 8). To the south-east of the previous building is an 'L' shaped bungalow and garden (III), No. 20 Dwyer Park (Plate 9). Both these structures post-date the 1940 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 12). The northern property (IV) consists of a modern bungalow, L-shaped in plan that is surrounded by yards and gardens. Modern sheds (Plate 10) have been built along the boundary walls obscuring any perimeter walls. The current area of the property extends beyond the red line boundary of the proposed development. The existing north-western property boundary, just outside the proposed development, is made of red brick (marked D on Figure 14). It enclosed one of the Ravenswell walled gardens (Plate 14).

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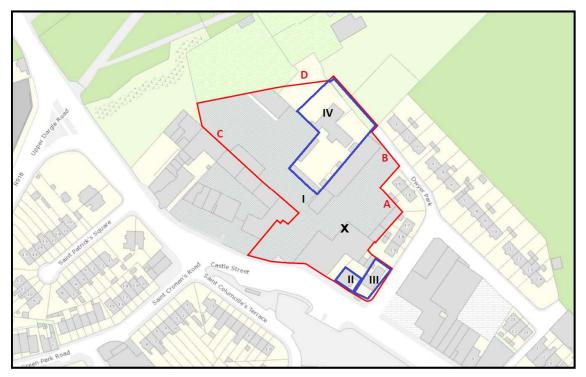


Figure 14 Proposed development site (excluding drainage works) showing the locations of the individual property sections (I-IV), the boundary walls (A-D) and the weighing scale (X) (OSi Licence No. EN0077922).

Four stretches of boundary wall that predate the current buildings were recorded during the site inspection, labeled A, B, C and D; their locations are shown on Figure 14, and the walls are described as follows.

A. This forms the back wall of the houses on the south side of Dwyer Park. It consists of a stone wall, of which the upper part has been repaired in places with concrete and bricks (Plate 11). The latter appears to be a bricked-up opening, such as a window or upstairs door. This wall could be associated with buildings located here on the 25-inch Ordnance Survey map (Figure 11).

B. This wall was inaccessible during the site visit, but what could be seen of it from within the site was stone; outside the site, along Dwyer Park, it has been pebble dashed (Plate 12). The wall, on the townland boundary, would have formed the boundary between the properties fronting Castle Street and the landscaped or ornamental grounds of Ravenswell House.

C. This is a tall brick wall resting on a low stone wall (Plate 13). It is typical of the sort of wall used to enclose an orchard or walled garden. It can be seen on the 25-inch Ordnance Survey map that this part of the site was a garden, and alignments of trees

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shown on the later 6-inch map suggests it was indeed an orchard. The bonding of the brickwork was rather random, but with a preference for alternating stretchers and headers.

D. The perimeter walls in this area, which are just outside the proposed red line boundary, are made of red brick. They were part of the Ravenswell walled gardens and no longer stand at their full height. An access door survives in one of the walls (Plate 14). The walls and the path that led through the door can be seen on the first edition Ordnance Survey map, dating this section of the walls to the early nineteenth century at the latest (Figure 10).

#### **Industrial Heritage Object**

Outside one the buildings in the north-eastern yard of the former Heiton Buckley site is a large platform weighing scale type 3205 ABA made by W. & T. Avery Ltd, Birmingham, England between 1950 and 1970 (Plate 15) (Science Museum Group, at https://collection.sciencemuseumgroup.org.uk/; accessed 05/04/2021).

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# **3.9.1 Site Inspection Plates**



Plate 2 View of former showroom/shop building fronting Castle Street, looking E.



Plate 3 View from the site entrance looking NE.



Plate 4 View from the centre into the north-eastern yard, looking ENE.



Plate 5 View of north-eastern yard, looking NE.



Plate 6 View from the centre into the middle yard, looking NW.



Plate 7 View across the western yard, looking SW.



Plate 8 View of former shop and dwelling building (II) fronting Castle Street, looking E.



Plate 9 No. 20 Dwyer Park (III), looking NNW.



Plate 10 Buildings at south-western end of property IV, looking SW.



Plate 11 View of the boundary wall A, looking NE.



Plate 12 View of the boundary wall B, from the exterior, looking NW.



Plate 13 View of the boundary wall C, looking SW.



Plate 14 View of former walled garden perimeter to the north of the proposed red line boundary, looking NW.



Plate 15 Avery platform weighing scales, type 3205 ABA, manufactured Birmingham, England (1950-1970).

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# 4. Archaeological Test-excavation

In accordance with excavation licence no. 20E0618, issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, 7 test trenches were machine-excavated within the core of the proposed development site, across the former Heiton Buckley site; the test excavations were directed and overseen by licensee Grace Fegan on 15th and 16th of February 2022.

The excavated trench array is depicted on Figure 15. Test-excavation results are detailed in Table 7.

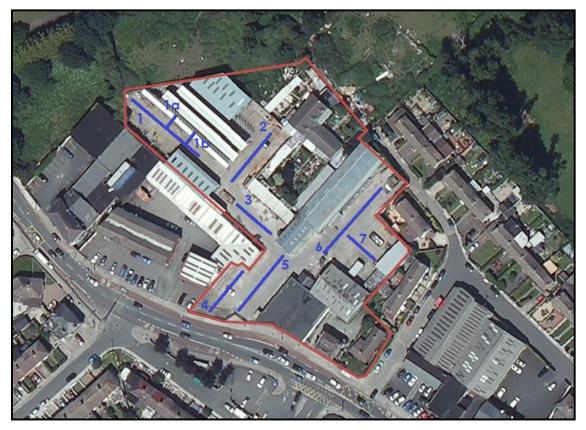


Figure 15 Test trench array as excavated on 15th and 16th February 2022 (OSi Licence No. EN0077922).

## 4.1 **Results of Test-excavation**

Seven test trenches were excavated, with two extensions to Trench 1 also excavated (1a and 1b). Trench 5 was extended by 3m to the south-west from what was originally

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planned. All 7 trenches were initially opened by breaking through 0.12m of steelreinforced concrete slab which covered the entire tested area.

#### Table 7 Results of test excavation.

Trench No.	Alignment	Dimensions L x W (m)	Depth (m)
1	NW-SE	37m x 1-2m	0.97m (max)

**Description:** Trench 1 was situated in the north-western part of the proposed development site. Below the concrete slab were layers of hard core gravels up to 0.50m in depth – deepest towards the south-eastern extent of the trench. In the majority of the trench, this material directly overlay a yellow-grey sandy clay with no inclusions. In the northern-most extent of the trench, an E-W running stone drain was found. A fragment of green bottle glass was noted among the stones. Further south-east, a deposit of mid brown sandy clay, measuring 4.2m in length within the trench was uncovered. This deposit contained moderate to frequent inclusions of animal bone, coal fragments, red clay and sea shell. It had a maximum depth of 0.14m.

Trenches 1a and 1b were excavated perpendicular to Trench 1, for a distance of 8m, to further examine this deposit. Nothing of archaeological interest was noted.

Plates 16-19

**Result:** Post-medieval activity was noted within Trench 1, confirmed by the extensions of Trenches 1a and 1b. Nothing of archaeological interest was noted.

Trench No.	Alignment	Dimensions L x W (m)	Depth (m)
2	NE-SW	25m x 1m	0.96m (max)

**Description:** Trench 2 was situated in the northern part of the proposed development site. Below the concrete slab were layers of hard core gravels up to 0.35m in depth. This material directly overlay a yellow-grey sandy clay with no inclusions. A modern pipe trench containing plastic pipes was found running N-S. Nothing of archaeological interest was noted.

Plate 20

**Result:** Nothing of archaeological interest was noted.

Trench No.	Alignment	Dimensions L x W (m)	Depth (m)
3	NW-SE	18m x 1m	1.01m (max)

**Description:** Trench 3 was situated in the centre of the proposed development site. Below the concrete slab were layers of hard core gravels up to 0.25m in depth. This material directly overlay a yellow-grey sandy clay with no inclusions. Nothing of archaeological interest was noted.

Plate 21

Result: Nothing of archaeological interest was noted.

Trench No.	Alignment	Dimensions L x W (m)	Depth (m)
4	NE-SW	20m x 2m	1.42m (max)
Description: Trench	4 was situated in t	he south-western part	of the proposed
development site. Belo	ow the concrete slab	was a layer of hard core	gravel up to 0.22m
in depth. Below this m	aterial was a 0.11m de	eep layer of very compo	act mid brown stony
clay with inclusions of	brick, tile and coal.	Below this was a 0.45m	deep layer of dark
brown stony clay with	inclusions of large w	rater-rolled stone rubble	, lime mortar, glass,
brick and tile; some	plastics were also n	oted. This material part	tially overlay a cut
feature (Plate 22) filled	d with very similar ma	terial, but containing les	s stone. This feature
measured 4m in widt	h and 0.70m in maxi	mum depth. A piece o	f corroded, twisted
sheet metal was reco	vered from the base	of the feature. The feat	ture did not extend
across the trench and	was not visible in the	southwest-facing section	n. Below this feature
was what appeared t	o be the base course	of a structure (Plate 23)	measuring 6.20m in
length, running NE-SW	and extending from t	the northeast-facing sec	tion by 0.48m in the
northern end of the tre	ench to 0.62m in the s	southern end. The structu	ure comprised large
water-rolled and roug	ghly hewn stones wit	h attachments of lime-	-based mortar and
fragments of red brick	k. The stones were set	t directly into a micace	ous yellow grey silty
sand with no inclusions	5.		

In the southwest-facing terminal of the trench, a feature comprising roughly-hewn stone and red and yellow brick bound with cement mortar was exposed (Plate 24). The brick directly overlay a very compact mid brown stony clay. Plates 22-25

**Result:** What appear to be post-medieval features were exposed within this trench. However, the stones utilised in the *in situ* base course of the structure may be of greater antiquity.

Trench No.	Alignment	Dimensions L x W (m)	Depth (m)
5	NE-SW	27m x 1-2m	1.65m (max)

**Description:** Trench 5 was situated in the southern part of the proposed development site. Below the concrete slab was a layer of hard core gravel up to 0.30m in depth. Below this was a layer of dark brown stony clay to a depth of 0.32m with inclusions of brick and coal. Below this was a 0.05m – 0.35m deep layer of dark brown stony clay with inclusions of medium rounded stone, lime mortar, glass, brick and tile. This material overlay a yellow grey sandy clay, 0.41m in maximum depth with occasional inclusions of coal and animal bone. This material overlay a micaceous yellow grey silty sand with no inclusions.

Trench 5 was extended by 4m to the SW in order to examine if the features identified in Trench 4 extended to the south and east. While there was evidence for similar stone and brick rubble deposits in the south-western portion of the trench and a possible continuation of the cut feature (Plate 27), there was no evidence for any *in situ* structural elements.

Trench 5 was excavated to a greater depth for investigative purposes – a light grey sandy gravel was present below the silty sand.

Plates 26, 27

**Result:** Nothing of archaeological interest was noted.

Trench No.	Alignment	Dimensions L x W (m)	Depth (m)
6	NE-SW	35m x 1m	1.57m (max)

**Description:** Trench 6 was situated in the eastern part of the proposed development site. Below the concrete slab was a layer of hard core gravel up to 0.20m in depth. Below this, in the northern portion of the trench was a layer of dark brown stony clay with lenses of compact coal dust and inclusions of stone and timber. This layer was up to 0.40m in depth. This material overlay a mid orange-brown sandy clay with occasional inclusions of animal bone and coal. Below this was a micaceous yellow grey silty sand with no inclusions.

Plate 28

**Result:** Nothing of archaeological interest was noted.

Trench No.	Alignment	Dimensions L x W (m)	Depth (m)
7	NW-SE	35m x 1-2m	1.57m (max)

**Description:** Trench 7 was situated in the eastern part of the proposed development site. Below the concrete slab was a layer of hard core gravel up to 0.15m in depth. Below this, in the south-eastern portion of the trench was a layer of dark brown stony clay with lenses of compact coal dust and inclusions of stone, timber and tile. In the south-eastern terminal of the trench, this material overlay a cut feature filled with mid grey/brown silty clay with occasional animal bone. This feature traversed the trench, was 0.50m in depth and at least 1.30m in width. It was cut into the micaceous yellow grey silty sand with no inclusions.

Plates 29, 30

**Result:** A cut feature containing animal bone was noted in the south-eastern terminal of the trench.

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## 4.2 Test Excavation Plates



Plate 16 Trench 1, looking NE.



Plate 17 Trench 1, looking NW.



Plate 18 Trench 1, looking NW.



Plate 19 Trench 1a, north-facing section, looking S.



Plate 20 Trench 2, looking NE.



Plate 21 Trench 3, looking NW.



Plate 22 Trench 4, cut feature in north-facing section, looking SE.



Plate 23 Trench 4, looking S.



Plate 24 Trench 4, looking NE.



Plate 25 Trench 4, looking NE.



Plate 26 Trench 5, looking N.



Plate 27 Trench 5 extension, looking S.



Plate 28 Trench 6, looking NE.



Plate 29 Trench 7, looking NW.

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Plate 30 Trench 7, looking NE.

## 5. Impact Statement

From desk based research, known archaeological records and archaeological test excavations it has been identified that the proposed development site, at the former Heiton Buckley site, and including Castle Street, is of archaeological potential; the core proposed development site also contains remnant built heritage dating from the 19th century.

The proposed development site is for the most part located within the Zone of Notification or Area of Archaeological Potential for the historic town of Bray (WI004-001), which incorporates part of Little Bray townland and straddles the townland boundary into Ravenswell. The proposed drainage works, which extend into Bray Commons townland from the southern end of Dwyer Park, are located in their entirety within the Zone of Notification or Area of Archaeological Potential. Archaeological potential derives from the sites location off the principal routeway from Dublin to Bray, leading to a medieval crossing on the Dargle/Bray River. Given the location of the proposed

development in relation to the recorded Zone of Notification for the town, the proposed development will have a direct, negative, potentially significant impact on the historic town of Bray.

Two recorded archaeological monuments - a tower house (WI004-001-006), of which no above ground, visible trace remains, and the former location of a cross slab (WI004-001001; NMI reg. no. 1965:50) - are located within 30m of the site. The tower house, originally situated to the east side of the original medieval routeway, the then Dublin Road, may have been associated with a bawn, extending north-eastward of the castle, across the alignment of Castle Street and into the core of the proposed development site. The proposed development as a result will have a direct, neutral and potentially significant impact on the Zone of Notification associated with the tower house. The presence of the cross slab site could indicate ecclesiastical activity in the very near vicinity. The proposed development will have an indirect, neutral, not significant impact on the cross slab.

Archaeological test excavations did not uncover any *in situ* remains associated with either the tower house or the cross slab. The structure identified in Trench 4 comprises notably large stones, which may have originally been used within the tower house or its surrounding bawn wall. While the presence of red brick mortared to these stones does not rule out the possibility that the structure itself is of a date that may correspond with the building of the castle, as brick was not commonly used in Ireland until the 1700s (O'Brien 2009, 35), a pre-1700 date for this structure is unlikely.

The stone bridge that carries Castle Street across the Dargle/Bray River, known as Bray Bridge, is included in the NIAH records (NIAH reg. no. 16301267). Archaeological investigation in 2012 found the remains of two 18th century bridges beneath the present bridge, and to the west thereof, the remains of a 12th or 13th century oak bridge. Proposed drainage works have been designed to feed into an existing culvert and outflow pipe east of the 19th century Bray Bridge, requiring no ground disturbance in the vicinity of the Dargle/Bray River. The proposed development will have no predicted impact on the 19th, 18th or 12th/13th century bridges.

As is suggested by the place name 'Bloody Bank,' a possible unrecorded 15th century battle field site also lies in the site's vicinity. This battle has not been identified as an RMP site. Battlefield sites can be difficult to pinpoint with accuracy but it is worth noting that there are records a battle occurred in the area, which could indicate undiscovered

burials in the vicinity. No finds or features uncovered during archaeological test excavations provided evidence of conflict. The proposed development will have no predicted impact on the potential battle site.

Modern structures and concrete yards have been built across the core proposed development site, replacing earlier structures of 19th century date, upstanding remains of which partially survive in boundary walls at the site. Archaeological test excavations identified sub surface remains of these buildings: structures that are indicated on 19th and 20th century ordnance survey mapping. The proposed development will have a direct, negative and significant impact on boundary walls A and B (See Section 3.9, Figure 14) and subsurface structures identified in archaeological test excavations. While these structures are not of significant architectural merit, they represent local cultural heritage.

Cut features identified in Trenches 4, 5 and 7 produced no objects to suggest that they were of pre-1700 date. These features, along with the rubble deposits containing stone, mortar, brick and tile most likely represent the demolition of structures depicted on 19th and 20th century ordnance survey mapping and the levelling of the site, including previous property boundaries, prior to the construction of the yard in the second half of the 20th century.

The Avery platform weighing scale, identified during the field inspection, appears to be the only surviving industrial heritage object on site. Following a brief, internal assessment of the standing buildings undertaken in conjunction with archaeological test excavations, no additional features were noted. The proposed development will have a direct, negative, moderate impact on this object. However, as with the 19th century standing structures, its retention is worth considering.

#### Table 8 Summary of Impacts and Recommended Mitigation.

Feature	Type of Impact	Quality of Impact	Significance of Impact	Mitigation
Historic town of Bray (W1004-001)	Direct	Negative	Potentially significant	Construction phase monitoring
Tower House (W1004-001-006)	Direct	Neutral	Potentially significant	Construction phase monitoring
Cross slab (W1004-001-001)	Indirect	Neutral	Not significant	Construction phase monitoring
19th century, 18th century, 12th/13th century bridges	None predicted	Neutral	Imperceptible	No mitigation measures required
Battle Site	None predicted	Neutral	Imperceptible	Construction phase monitoring
19th century structures	Direct	Negative	Significant	Pre construction measured survey and photographic record
Industrial heritage object	Direct	Negative	Moderate	Retention

## 6. **Recommendations**

## 6.1 Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measures are necessary in order to comply with national policy guidelines and statutory provisions for the protection of archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage, including the National Monuments Acts 1930-2014, the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999 and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

### 6.1.1 Pre-Construction Mitigation

Targeted archaeological test excavations have been undertaken within the core of the proposed development site, across the former Heiton Buckley site. No features of archaeological significance were noted during the excavations.

A brief internal assessment of the upstanding buildings has also been undertaken and no further industrial heritage objects were noted.

It is recommended that boundary walls A and B (See section 3.9, Figure 14) be preserved by record by means of a measured survey and photographic record.

It is recommended that the industrial heritage object be retained within the proposed development through design. If this is not possible, it is recommended that a preconstruction measured survey and photographic record be produced in order to preserve the feature by record.

### 6.1.2 Construction Phase Mitigation

Construction phase archaeological mitigation at the core proposed development site, in the form of monitoring, will be required, particularly in the north-eastern and southeastern portions of the site which were not accessible at the time of the archaeological test excavations.

As pre-construction archaeological test excavations within the public roadway are not practicable, construction phase archaeological monitoring during proposed drainage

works on Castle Street is recommended, to address the archaeological potential of the historic town of Bray (WI004-001), the vicinity of the recorded tower house (WI004-001-006), the find spot of the cross slab (WI004-001-001) and the historic reference to a battle in the area.

It is envisaged that the following will apply regarding monitoring:

- i. Should monitoring yield evidence of archaeologically significant material or structures, preservation *in situ* may be recommended. Strategies for the *in situ* preservation of archaeological remains are conducted in consultation with the statutory authorities, and may include avoidance, if possible, of the remains during construction, or preservation through redesign.
- ii. Should monitoring yield evidence of archaeologically significant material or structures that cannot be preserved *in situ*, archaeological excavation and recording, to full resolution, is recommended.
- iii. In the event of archaeological features or material being uncovered during the construction phase, it is crucial that works cease in the immediate area to allow the archaeologist to assess, excavate and record any such material.
- iv. Should archaeological features or material be uncovered, adequate funds to cover excavation, fencing (if required), post-excavation analysis and reporting, and conservation work should be made available.

PLEASE NOTE: Recommendations are subject to review and approval by the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and by the National Museum of Ireland.

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#### **Electronic Sources**

www.excavations.ie	Summary of archaeological excavations
www.archaeology.ie	Department website listing RMP sites and NIAH sites
www.heritagemaps.ie	Cultural heritage datasets
www.logainm.ie	Placenames database
www.downsurvey.tcd.ie	Down Survey maps
www.jstor.org	Journal articles, books and primary sources
www.libraryireland.com/topog	A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland
www.digital.ucd.ie	Ordnance Survey town plan series map viewer

www.wicklow.ie	County Development and Local Area plans
www.wdl.org	Ortellius' 'Modern Depiction of Ireland' map
www.swilson.info	Historic maps
www.countywicklowheritage.org	Community archive
www.askaboutireland.ie	Joyce, P.W. The Origin and History of Irish Names of
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www.eplanning.ie	Online planning file search
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