

Case reference is 324153.

I am writing to lend my voice to the opposition to the development of this land. The State appears to have washed its hands of Bessborough's 878 disappeared children and women. This approach by officialdom is reprehensible.

From 1922 to 1998, Bessborough was owned privately by the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. While the State funded Bessborough, health authorities took a laissez-faire approach to monitoring the sisters' operation. It is known that 878 women and children disappeared and have no burial records. It is likely that this land contains those bodies.

Having owned the land at Bessborough, the sisters were of course able to sell it. And the privatisation of state responsibility continues now. This should not be allowed. It is for an Coimisiun Pleanála to advise the Government that this land needs to be compulsorily purchased and forensically examined.

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