

Appendix 11.3 - Excavation Database Entries.

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Site Name	Licence No. and Director	Database Entry
Ravenswell, Bray, Wicklow	16E0340 (Aidan O'Connell)	Monitoring of groundworks was carried out at the site of the proposed St Philomena's School and Coláiste Ráithín, on a green-field site in Bray, Co. Wicklow. No archaeological material was recorded in the course of monitoring.
Ravenswell, Bray, Wicklow	14E0225 (Aidan O'Connell)	Test trenching was carried out at the site of the proposed St Philomena's School and Coláiste Ráithín, on a 3.9 ha green-field site in Bray, Co. Wicklow. Five test trenches totalling 250m were excavated within the site following a geophysical survey. Trench locations were targeted on the supposed location of a Pale Boundary Ditch which was also located in the course of a geophysical survey. Testing revealed the ditch as a 19th-century feature. 19th-century glass and pottery finds were uncovered at the base of the trenches across the ditch. Subsoil varied between a compact orange brown stony clay and natural gravel. Topsoil was consistently deep across the majority of the site, ranging from 0.28-0.35m deep. There were no archaeological features recorded in the course of testing
Ravenswell/Cork Great/Cork Little/Shanganagh, Dublin	11E0304 (Faith Bailey)	Monitoring was carried out as part of the construction of a 6km pipeline and 5,000m ³ storm-water storage tank as part of the Shanganagh-Bray Main Drainage Scheme. The pipeline wayleave was 14m wide and ran through the townlands of Ravenswell, Cork Great, Cork Little and Shanganagh. The work was carried out for Roadbridge on behalf of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council. No features of archaeological potential were discovered during the course of the works.
Shanganagh/Cork Little/Cork Great/Little Bray/Bray Commons, Dublin	05E0392 (Richard Clutterbuck)	Monitoring of geotechnical investigations in advance of the Shanganagh Bray main drainage scheme was carried out in March and April 2005. A preliminary assessment found that the proposed scheme runs through an area of archaeological importance, with a number of monuments recorded in the vicinity. While only one known monument, a linear earthwork thought to be part of the Pale ditch, will be directly impacted on by the scheme, it will skirt the constraint ring of SMR 26:68, an abbey

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		<p>church and graveyard site, and traverse a number of areas of archaeological potential; no trial pits were excavated at the archaeological monuments.</p> <p>A total of 37 trial pits were monitored. They varied in size from 2–3m long and 1–1.2m wide. For the purpose of the geotechnical investigations, the trial pits were excavated to a depth of up to 4m into the natural subsoil. No features of archaeological significance were discovered. Monitoring of the pipe trench will be carried out in 2006.</p>
Bray, Wicklow	05E0392 EXT. (David J. O'Connor)	<p>Monitoring was undertaken as part of the Shanganagh-Bray main drainage scheme (Contract 1), which involves the expansion and replacement of the existing treatment plant in order to improve the seawater quality of the Shankill area. In addition, a network of pipes stretching from Bray to Shankill will be laid to feed the upgraded plant. A small area of the Old Bray Golf Course at Ravenswell Road, beside the rail line and the River Dargle, was stripped of topsoil to facilitate the erection of a works compound. The soil-strip was monitored, and no archaeology was observed.</p>
Corke Great, Dublin	04E0354 (Martin E Byrne)	<p>Testing was undertaken across the line of a possible linear earthwork which runs through the lands of the present Bray Golf Links. The feature consists of a low bank (max. dimensions c. 3.5m wide by c. 0.3m high), which is barely discernible in places and is more readily identified by a line of relatively mature trees which grow along its length. The OS 6-inch map of 1840 indicates that the feature was part of a network of footpaths leading west from the adjacent former Ravenswell House (now the Sisters of Charity Convent) to the sea and indicated as 'footpath on top of bank'. In addition, part of the feature marks the line of the present county boundary between Dublin and Wicklow, although this is of late 19th-century date, having previously been located along the River Dargle to the south of the site.</p> <p>Two trenches were excavated across the feature. No evidence for a fosse or construction material, other than topsoil, associated with the bank was revealed. Pottery sherds and a fragment of glass, of late 18th- or 19th-century date, were recovered from the interface between topsoil and</p>

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		<p>subsoil. A section of the bank was previously investigated by Margaret Gowen (Excavations 2002, No. 1960, 02E1717).</p> <p>Given the cartographic evidence, coupled with the results of the testing, it is suggested that the feature is of late 18th- or early 19th-century date and is a landscape feature associated with the former Ravenswell House. Furthermore, it is also likely that the feature was much higher and narrower and may have originally served as a field boundary, which was subsequently almost fully levelled. This would explain why it is located along the line of a townland boundary, which was subsequently used as a county boundary.</p>
Corke Abbey, Bray	02E1717 (Margaret Gowen)	<p>One test-trench was opened in November 2002 on the grounds of Bray Golf Club, north of Bray town. The area under investigation is recorded in the SMR as part of the Pale boundary, SMR 26:124, although this identification is not supported by the historical evidence, which points to a possible association with Corke Abbey and to lands outside the Pale and held by the Crown that were leased in the 15th and 16th centuries to the Harrolde and Walshe families, the latter of which held extensive lands in south Dublin incorporating Carrickmines (L. Simpson, pers. comm.). The levelled boundary runs from the railway line north-eastward across part of the golf-course. The remains consist of a linear, flat-topped, tree-lined bank with shallow depressions on either side. The south-western end is the best-preserved section of this feature; the north-eastern end is barely detectable on the ground and is almost level.</p> <p>A section of the proposed Shanganagh and Bray Main Drainage Scheme wayleave passes through the eastern limit of the Pale boundary, at its most poorly preserved point. The excavation focused particularly on assessing the impact of the creation of haul roads during the laying of a new sewer.</p> <p>The test-trench was 14.2m long, 1m wide and 0.8–1m in maximum depth. The cross-sections exposed the levelled and reworked remains of the boundary bank but no evidence of well-defined ditch cuts on either side of the levelled bank. There is a possibility, therefore, that the remains of a ditch or ditches exist below the level excavated. All of the material exposed either was</p>

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		sterile or had modern inclusions as a consequence of golf-course development. A full topographical survey and terrain modelling of the levelled bank through the area of the proposed wayleave and for a distance of 20m beyond it were undertaken as mitigation. Trench excavation for pipe laying will be monitored during the construction phase, although it may not reach a level at which greater definition will be gained
Corke Great and Ravensdale	02E1717 Ext (Colm Moriarty)	Monitoring was carried out along a section of the Shanganagh and Bray main drainage scheme. The section monitored was located in the grounds of Bray Golf Club, to the north of Bray town, in the townlands of Corke Great and Ravenswell. The drainage scheme gravity pipe passed through the constraint area of the Pale ditch. A section of this monument, visible as a bank with a depression on either side, crosses the golf course in a roughly east–west direction. The gravity drain was designed to cross the monument at its least discernible point. A test excavation was carried out by Margaret Gowen in advance of these works (Excavations 2002, No. 1960, 02E1717). The results suggested that the Pale boundary had been levelled in this area during the construction of the golf course. During the course of monitoring, a low bank of redeposited natural was identified. This bank shared an alignment with the Pale ditch and appeared to be a continuation of this feature. The bank was in a much-degraded state and survived to c. 0.3m in height and 5.5m in width. The bank material consisted of redeposited natural containing occasional pieces of animal bone. Evidence for a ditch 2.5m in width and 0.6m in depth was found along the southern side of this bank. Although this cut was filled with a deposit containing modern material (red brick and golf tees), it might represent a medieval cut that was cleaned out and reused as a field drain at a much later date. With the exception of the levelled Pale bank, no other features of archaeological significance were identified during the course of this monitoring programme.
Corke Great, Bray, Wicklow	01E0220 (Catherine McLoughlin)	Testing took place in advance of construction in March 2001. Five test-trenches were excavated across the development area. One ditch was

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		noted in Trench 2. No artefacts were recovered from it to suggest a date.
Bray Little/Ravenswell/Bray Commons/Killarney/Bray, Wicklow	12R0053 (John Purcell)	A wade survey and a magnetometry survey by hand-held metal detection were carried out at the site out along a 4km stretch of the River Dargle at Bray, Co. Wicklow. The work was carried out in advance of a flood defence scheme that includes widening and deepening of the river channel. Where possible, metal detector hits were examined and logged. These were logged with a high frequency at over 1 per square metre. A large number of the hits were visible and consisted of modern dumped material. No archaeologically significant material was encountered.
Bray Little/Ravenswell/Bray Commons/Killarney/Bray, Wicklow	12E123 (John Purcell)	<p>Monitoring is being undertaken for a flood defence scheme on 4km of the Dargle River. This works include widening and deepening the river and including a new culvert at Bray Bridge. Works uncovered a number of features at Bray Bridge.</p> <p>The earliest bridge recorded in Bray in 1666 crossing the River Dargle was replaced by a four-arch bridge in 1736. This bridge collapsed in a storm and was replaced by another four-arch bridge in 1741. The current bridge was constructed in the middle of the 19th century. Two buttresses of the earlier bridge are visible at low tide under the southern arches of the existing bridges; these will be excavated in the summer of 2013.</p> <p>Underneath the existing bridge an earlier stone structure was uncovered; this was an amalgam of the 1736 and the 1741 bridges. The eastern section of the bridge consisted of two parallel walls in-filled with sand and gravel. This was part of the 1736 bridge. The second wall at the west was constructed in 1741; it was a large wall with a culvert. A cobblestone surface was also uncovered in places.</p> <p>To the west of the stone bridge on the Lower Dargle Road, a section of an earlier wooden bridge was uncovered. This was uncovered within what was the river bed. The bridge consisted of a large base plate (T101) with three upright timbers inserted into it (T102, T103 and T104). Two timbers were initially visible crossing horizontally but these collapsed upon exposure. The timbers appear to have been laid</p>

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		<p>directly onto the river bed. There was no evidence of an excavated trench. The base plate was orientated south-west to north-east. The base plate was 6.9m in length, 0.42m in width and was 0.25m thick. At the south-west it was partially damaged by the insertion of metal piles. Three sub-rectangular mortice joints and a cross-shaped double mortice were recorded in the timber. The rectangular mortises were cut through the timber to support the upright timbers. These measured 0.3m x 0.2m on average. The upright timbers or "tenons" were cut for insertion into the timber. This method of using mortise and tenon joints creates a very strong joint.</p> <p>An interesting double cross-shaped mortise joint contained two through mortises, at the north. This would have held an upright timber and contained the remains of a wooden wedge. The second mortise may have been a splayed joint. These can often be held in place with a brace but this was not visible. A timber was recovered (not in context) which would have been placed in this joint and splayed towards the south. This would have given extra support to the upper level of the bridge. The tenon was held in place using a wooden wedge, the remains of which were removed.</p> <p>Analysis of the timbers by Ellen O'Carroll has show that the larger timbers are oak and the timber wedges are alder and holly.</p> <p>Dendrochronology dates for T101 indicate a felling date range of AD1116 ± 9 years or later. The date for T102 is AD1100 ± 9 years or later, or after AD1100. This would indicate a late 12th century or early 13th-century date for the bridge.</p> <p>Further works will be undertaken during 2013 within the river bed and further remains of this bridge may be uncovered.</p>
Bray Little, Bray, Wicklow	13E0121 (John Purcell)	<p>A flood defence scheme is being undertaken along 4km of the River Dargle. This work includes widening and deepening the river and including a new culvert at Bray Bridge. As part of the E.I.S. for the works two arches of an earlier bridge were recorded within the arches of the existing bridge over the Dargle in the centre of the town. It was recommended that these be excavated.</p> <p>The earliest bridge recorded in Bray in 1666 crossing the River Dargle was replaced by a four-</p>

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		<p>arch bridge in 1736. This bridge collapsed in a storm and was replaced by another four-arch bridge in 1741. The current bridge was constructed in the middle of the 19th century. Two buttresses of the earlier bridge are visible at low tide under the southern arches of the existing bridge a third arch was uncovered as a result of excavation under the northern arch. All these features and associated works were fully excavated.</p> <p>Under the arch of the bridge at the northern bank of the river a buttress of a bridge was uncovered (Area A). This was surrounded by a thick layer of concrete up to 1.2m in depth which had been poured into the area after Hurricane Charlie (1986), to secure the existing bridge. This layer was removed by a rock breaker. The main section of the feature was random rubble walling with a lime mortar. Ashlar walling was visible at the south and east. This consisted of large limestone blocks held together with a lime mortar. At the north this had been removed during the construction of the existing bridge. When the stone was removed a wooden raft, foundation was uncovered. This consisted of seven interlocking timbers. Only two wooden dowels were recorded, the timbers were laid into notches in the base timbers. This would have formed a stable layer in clay base of the bridge and avoided subsidence.</p> <p>The buttress under the central northern arch of the bridge was also surrounded by a thick layer of concrete (Area B). This buttress was visible at low tide. The main section of the feature was random rubble walling with a lime mortar. Ashlar walling surrounded the feature on all sides. This consisted of limestone blocks held together with a lime mortar; the blocks were narrow and may have been added to finish the bridge as a cladding rather than for strength as in the previous buttress. When the stone was removed a wooden raft, foundation was uncovered. This consisted of one timber at the centre and a large number of wooden stakes. These were concentrated at the west and north with some also visible at the east. The highest concentration of the stakes was at the apex of the buttress, this is the area with the fastest flow of water and the greatest possibility of erosion of</p>

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		<p>the bridge. This timber frame is quite different from the foundation layer in Area A.</p> <p>The southern arch of the bridge contained a buttress also visible at low tide. This was surrounded by sand and silt from the river. The main section of the feature was random rubble walling with a lime mortar. Ashlar walling was visible at the south, east and north. This consisted of large limestone blocks held together with a lime mortar. The buttress was on a foundation layer of stone. This feature was truncated at the west by earlier works in the river. Unlike the other two buttresses there was no timber foundation in this area. This arch is out of the main flow of the river and is only used during high tides or periods of flooding.</p> <p>The stone bridge exposed as part of the works appears to be an amalgam of two earlier bridges on the site, the 1736 bridge and the 1741 bridge. The buttress in the northern arch (Area A) is of a different construction than the two others that were recorded. It has larger dimensions; the limestone blocks are larger and the foundation layer is of a different construction. This feature was reused as part of the 1741 bridge. The buttresses in the remaining areas are of a similar size and the materials used are of similar dimensions. The buttress in Area B was laid on a foundation of wooden piles. This was concentrated at the west of the pier. There was no wooden foundation of the buttress in Area C, at the southern extent of the bridge, and this arch is drier.</p>