

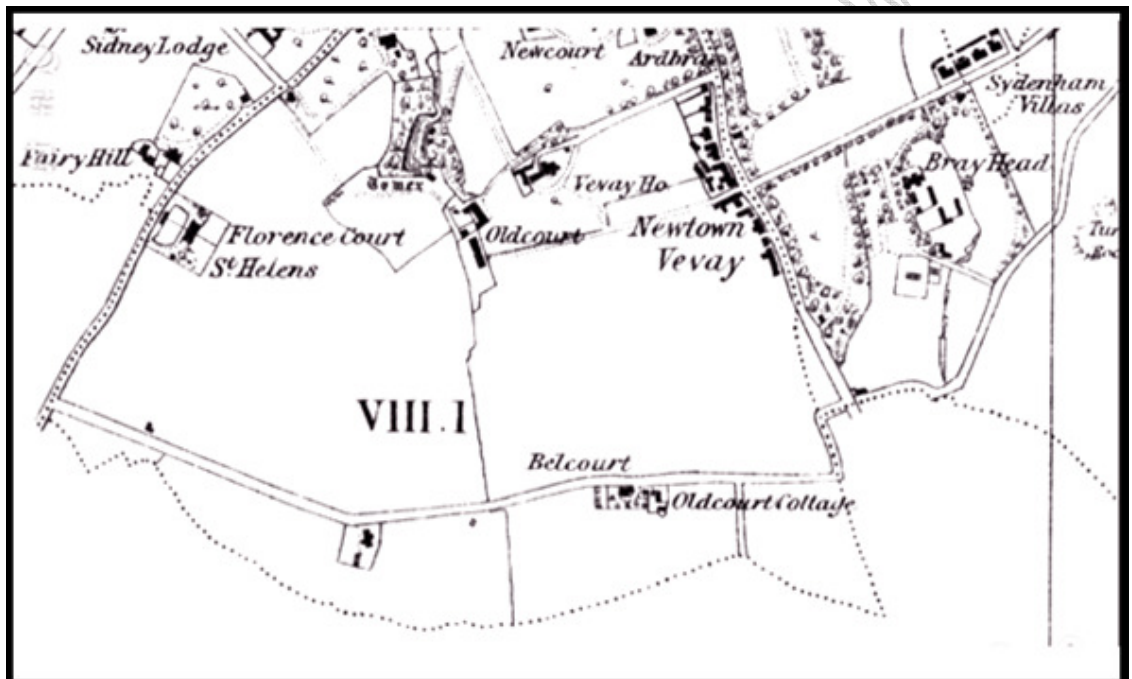
Compiled by Bray Cualann Historical Society for National Heritage Week 2021

Boghall Paper1 (Outline)

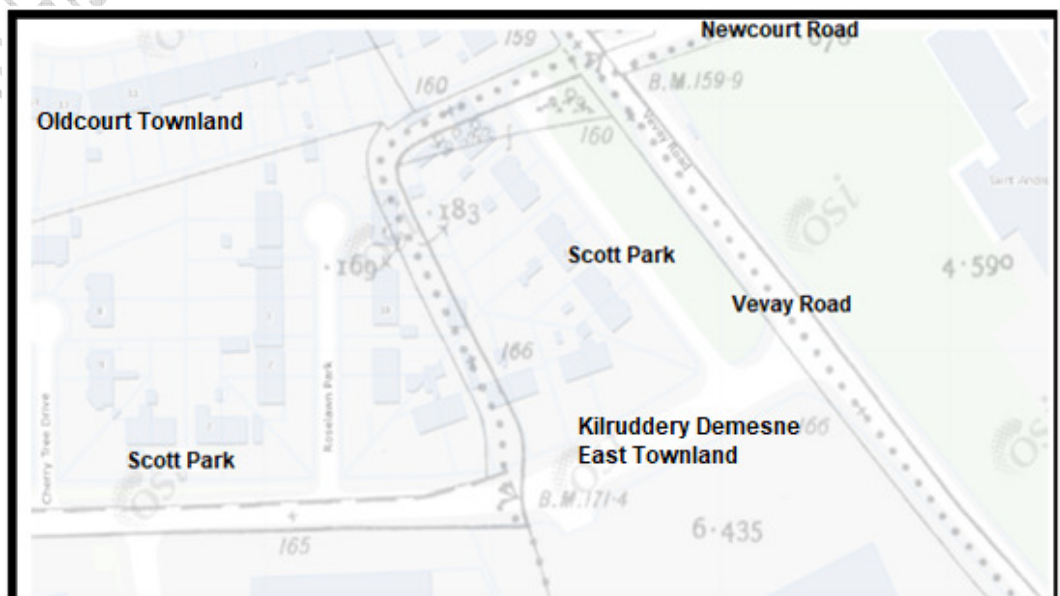
During National Heritage Week 2021, the Bray Cualann Historical Society will publish a series of papers about the Boghall area dating back from around 1744.

The Boghall road is approximately 1.62 kilometers in length from the Wicklow Road at Ballywaltrim to the Greystones Road. 99% of the road is in the townland of Oldcourt and 1% is in the townland of Killruddery Demesne East.

The Boghall Road. map indicating the Townland boundary.



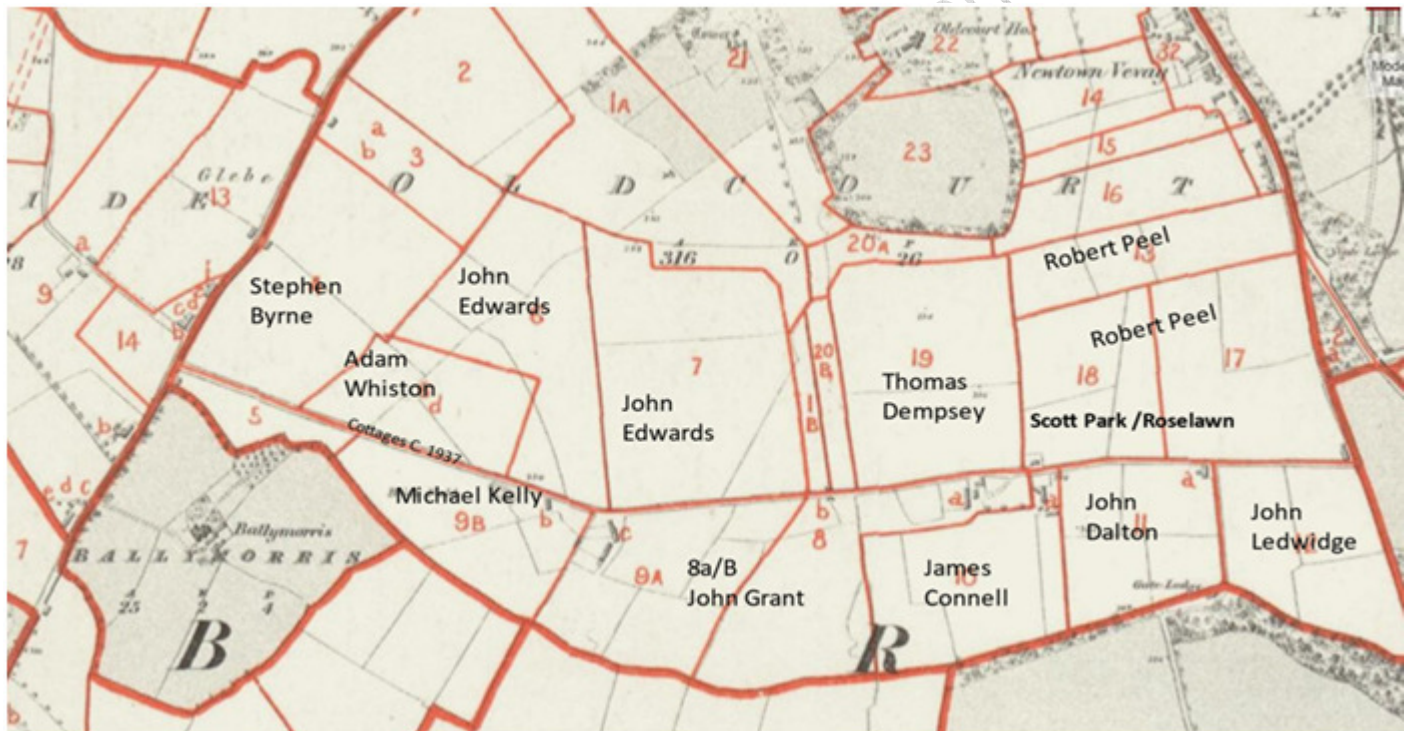
Map of Boghall Road indicating the Killruddery Demesne East and Oldcourt Townland, also the layout of the Boghall Road before the realignment of the road to join the Vevay Road/Greystones Road in 1951.



In 1823 Mrs Grant, a travel writer from Scotland, visited Bray and the Boghall area. At Irishtown she encountered a young boy and was struck by his beauty. He stood upright by a wall. As Mrs Grant approached he bowed gracefully and held out his hand. She placed a penny in his hand. He smiled and said nothing, at first Mrs Grant thought he was dumb but learned that he knew no English and only spoke or understood Irish. Mrs Grant was invited to visit a wayside cottage near Boghall. The family was seated at breakfast for tea, around a table on which was spread a clean tablecloth. The cottage was of superior order, though its walls were of mud, with an earthen floor. There were two wooden beds on which were spread blankets, sheets and clean cover lids; the windows were of glass; and as is usual in Scotland.

In 1826 the land owners who paid church tithes were Hugh Kelly with 5 acres, Daniel Gainer with 31 acres, James Cooney with 9 acres, Ulick Burk with 28 acres and the Widow Murphy with 2 roods.

By 1842 the land owners of Boghall were Stephen Byrne, Adam Whiston, Thomas Dempsey, Robert Peel, Michael Kelly, John Grant, James Connell, John Dalton and John Ledwidge.



Names of land owners from Griffith's Valuations

The Boghall Road is intersected by a stream that begins on Little Sugarloaf where it is known as Giltspur brook. When it passes under Boghall to the north side of the road (Oldcourt Estate) it is known as "The Slang" (an old term for a narrow strip of land), and before it enters the Dargle River it is known as the Swan River.



The second stream known as the Cockbrook stream (or Newcourt stream), begins in the Kilruddery estate near the Wilton Hotel. The watercourse is now largely culverted and passes beneath the Greystones Road, through Briary Field (site of St Andrew's National School), crossing Newcourt Road into Presentation college, to Putland Road, down to Sidmonton Road, Meath Road. The stream enters the sea at the site of the old boat slip beside the Boathouse. The stream originally entered the sea opposite the Strand Hotel. The section of this stream in the forested area behind the former Nixdorf/ Dell Computers site was used for some exciting battle scenes in the film Excalibur released back in 1981.



Photo of Boghall Road and Newcourt Road (1972), the course of the Cockbrook can be seen crossing the Briary Field.



A modern view of the Eastern section of the Boghall Road, illustrating the development of the area since 1972.



The outfall of the Cockbrook Stream at Bray beach, large boulders protect the outfall pipe from rough seas.

For more detail of the Newcourt Stream in a report for the OPW.

<http://eastcfam.irish-surge-forecast.ie/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Bray.pdf>

In the autumn of 1867 Dr Whistler and Dr Lenny of Bray attended 132 cases of Cholera in the Boghall area, alas only 60 patients returned to full health. A decade later in 1876 Dr. Thompson fought an outbreak of Cholera at Boghall, he died in December of that year and a memorial to him was erected outside Quin's Hotel now the Royal Hotel, he is buried in St. Paul's graveyard just across the road from his memorial.

In 1894, Dr William Robert Moorhead accompanied by his son Thomas, who was training to be a doctor, were attending a patient at Boghall, when a dog bit Thomas. Dr William dressed the wound on his son's leg. The chief constable heard of the incident but Dr. Moorhead requested the constable to take no action.

In 1877 the chief constable of Bray summoned a man from the Boghall area for having his goat tethered to a post beside the highway.

In 1893 the Rathdown Board of Guardians looked at a number of sites for a new burial ground in the Bray area and included on their list was a site on Lord Meath's land just off the Boghall Road. One of the items that ruled out the Boghall site was the water table in the area. The other sites looked at were Fassaroe on a field owned by Mr Barrington and a site on the Herbert Road, but eventually the Board of Guardians approved a site beside St Peter's Church in Little Bray. The new graveyard was opened in 1905, close to the old graveyard at St Peter's. The new graveyard was extended in 1955.

The Dispensary for the Boghall area was located at Kilmurray south of Kilmacanogue. There are a considerable number of Boghall residents buried in the old and new graveyards at Kilmacanogue. Boghall Road was declared as a Regional Road with Number R768 in January 1995.



The Dispensary at Kilmurray was demolished in a road widening scheme about 30 years ago