Placenames in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

A Primary Schools' Resource

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Libraries acquired nearly 700 postcards of the area from the sale of the Seamus Kearns Collection of Postcards in 2019. These images form the basis of a publication entitled **What's in a Name? Dun Leary – Kingstown – Dún Laoghaire: A Visual History**, an accompanying onsite and online exhibition featuring a selection of these postcards and a series of talks and videos to mark the centenary of the name change from Kingstown to Dún Laoghaire in 1920. In 1821 the name Dunleary or Dun Leary was changed to Kingstown in honour of King George IV's visit to this bustling and rapidly developing town. In 1920 it was officially given the name Dún Laoghaire, referring back to the original Irish name for Dunleary. It was a deliberate political act during the War of Independence, an act of defiance against the old order in Ireland. In the years following the establishment of the Irish Free State, the use of Kingstown gradually diminished and was replaced in the consciousness of visitors and residents of the town by variants of the name – Dunleary, Dun Laoire and Dún Laoghaire.
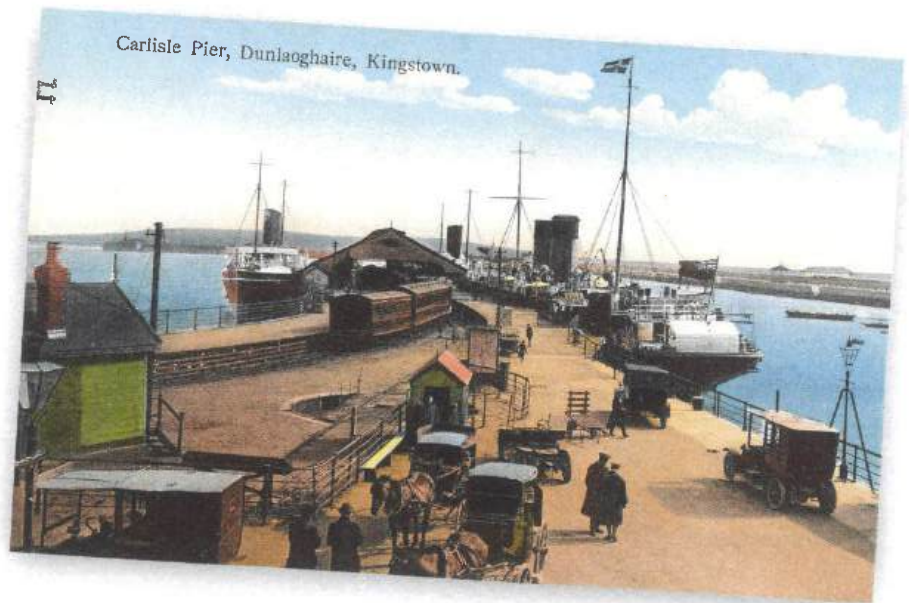
Carlisle Pier, Dunlaoghaire, Kingstown.

This resource includes Lesson Plans that cover topics such as the origin of Dún Laoghaire, Martello Towers, the derivation of Early Christian and more recent Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown placenames, royal connections and the growth of the harbour. A link to these resources for teachers can be found at **www.scoilnet.ie**

The publication **What's in a Name? Dun Leary – Kingstown – Dún Laoghaire: A Visual History** edited by David Gunning, Nigel Curtin and Marian Thérèse Keyes can be obtained via Dubray Books and the exhibition of the same name is online at **https://libraries.dlrcoco.ie/events-and-news/online-exhibition#dunleary**

dlr Comhairle Contae County Council

ciste na gcuntas díomhaoin the dormant accounts fund

Rialtas na hÉireann Government of Ireland

An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

Blackrock Education Centre

Placenames in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

dlr LexIcon in association with Blackrock Education Centre
Compiled by Séamus Cannon and Ríonach O Callaghan

LESSON PLAN 1:

Origin of Dún Laoghaire

Focus:
- Origin of Dún Laoghaire
- 'Dún' in placenames

1. **Resources**
   1. Teacher background information
   2. Aerial photograph of Dún Laoghaire today
   3. Location of the original 'dún'
   4. Commemorative plaque of Laoghaire
   5. Image of iron age fort
   6. St. Patrick meeting Laoghaire
   7. King Laoghaire text
   8. Student activity sheets

2. **Introduction:**
   1. Show 2, photograph of Dún Laoghaire today
   2. Discuss Dún Laoghaire, its location, how to get there, what students already know about Dún Laoghaire

3. **Development:**
   1. Show 3, map of Dún Laoghaire with location of Dún marked
   2. What is unusual about its name? (Irish form used in English)
   3. What does 'dún' mean?
   4. Laoghaire had a fort (dún) in this place. Show 4, plaque marking location of Dún, and 5, diagram of iron-age fort. For further images of iron age forts google 'iron age fort Ireland'
   5. For further information on iron age forts and Celts check also http://colaistecoissiuire.blogspot.com

4. Show 7: Information on Laoghaire (Text slide)
   Laoghaire was High King of Ireland in the fifth century. At the time there were five provinces in Ireland: Ulster, Munster, Leinster, Connacht and Meath, each with its own king. The king of Meath was the High King. His throne was in Tara in county Meath and he was the most important king. Laoghaire's father has also been a very powerful high king called Niall of the Nine Hostages. He often raided the coast of Britain and carried off slaves. This was how St. Patrick was taken to Ireland as a boy. When St. Patrick met Laoghaire, the miracles he performed convinced Laoghaire that he had been sent by God. There is a stained glass window in St. Patrick's RC church in Monkstown showing St. Patrick baptising Laoghaire. Show 6.

5. Why do you think Laoghaire built a fort on the east coast?

6. **Conclusion**
   1. Student activities: see attached sheet

Placenames in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

dlr LexIcon in association with Blackrock Education Centre
Compiled by Séamus Cannon and Ríonach O Callaghan

TEACHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION
LESSON 1

King Laoghaire

Died 461. The year of his birth is unknown.

King Laoghaire was High King of Ireland in the fifth century. At that time there were five provinces in Ireland, Ulster, Munster, Leinster, Connacht and Meath, each with its own king. The word for province in Irish is 'Cúige', meaning a fifth part of something. The king of Meath was the High King whose throne was in Tara in County Meath. The High King was the most important king and other kings had to pay him homage and taxes. When he was High King, Laoghaire built a fort beside a small estuary on the south side of Dublin Bay, near the location of the Purty Kitchen nowadays. It was called Dún Laoghaire after him. At that time, it was commonplace for Irish kings to raid the coast of Britain and carry off slaves. This was how the boy Patrick was taken to Ireland, quite possibly captured by Laoghaire's father Niall of the Nine Hostages.
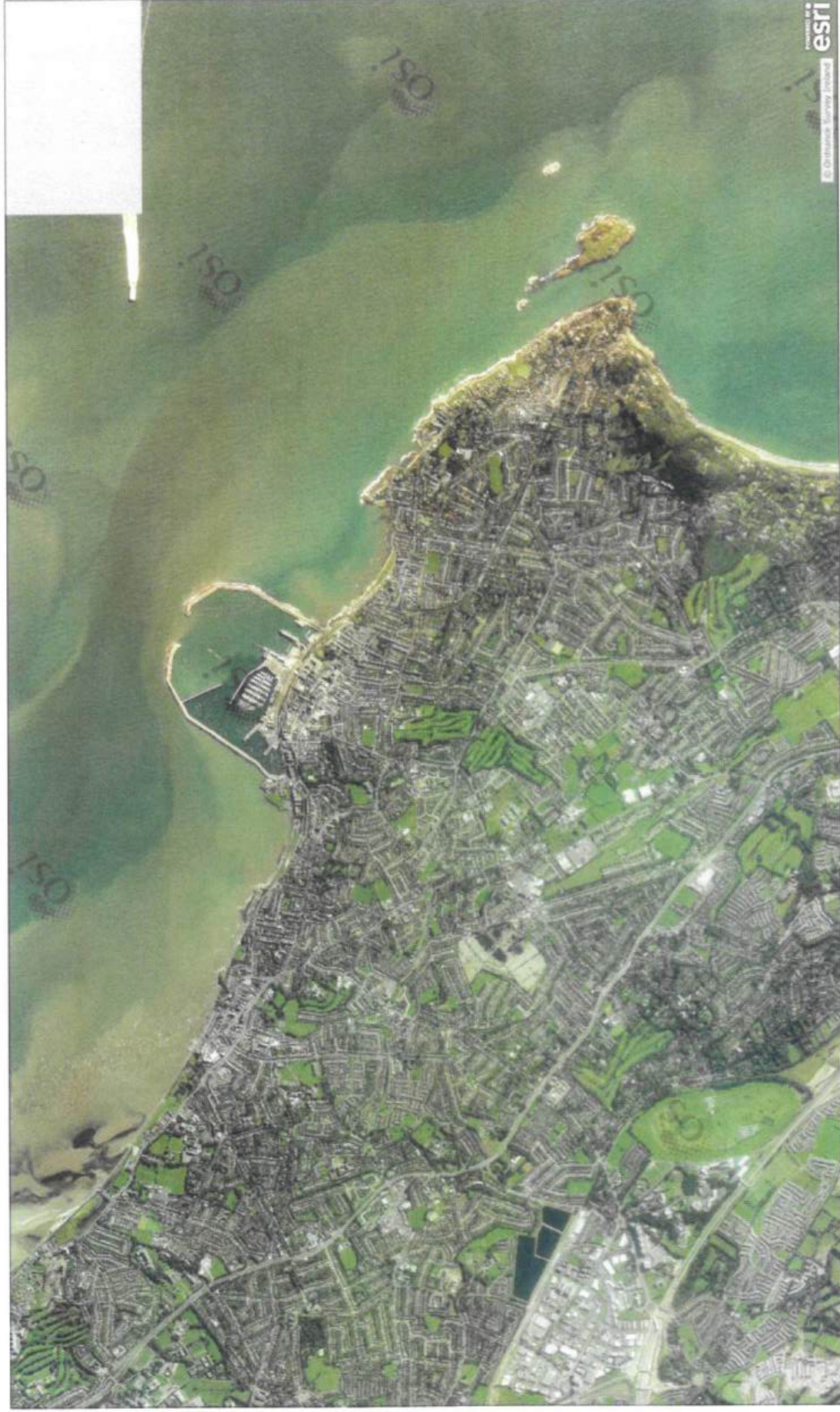
King Laoghaire normally resided at Tara. When St. Patrick came to Ireland to convert the pagans to Christianity, he landed at the mouth of the Boyne and went to the hill of Slane. It was Easter time and the practice was for the High King to light a fire at Tara. Anyone who would light a fire before the king would be put to death. St. Patrick lit an Easter fire on the nearby hill of Slane before Laoghaire. Laoghaire was furious and with his soldiers and druids he rushed off to punish him. Patrick was asked to explain himself and he argued with the druids: using miraculous powers he raised one druid in the air and dashed him to the ground, killing him against a rock. When Laoghaire and his men tried to seize Partrick, he caused darkness to fall and the ground to shake, confusing the soldiers. Other miracles followed, convincing Laoghaire that Patrick was indeed sent by God and he consented to being baptized. There is an image of St. Patrick baptizing Laoghaire in St. Patrick's church in Monkstown.

Laoghaire reigned until 461. He died in battle against the king of Leinster who was refusing to pay the tax Laoghaire believed he was due. At that time the tax was paid in cattle and he was collecting his cattle when he was attacked. Some time before he had been captured by the Leinstermen and had agreed that he would no longer collect the tax. However, he went back on his word and died in battle. He was buried facing towards his enemies. This was a practice of the times: even in death you faced your enemy.

Laoghaire's father, Niall of the Nine Hostages had been a very powerful High King. He got his name from the fact that he held power over other kings by having one of their sons as a hostage. From Niall were descended a long line of kings, who were known as the O'Neills. Niall was famous for his raiding abroad and it may well have been on one of these raids that the boy Patrick was abducted and brought to Ireland.

A story is told of Niall when his father was choosing his heir from among his five sons. The five were set to work in a forge, making iron implements. On the king's orders the forge was set on fire by a druid. He who would salvage the most valuable implement would be a worthy successor. Niall emerged with the anvil, the most valuable implement in the forge and he was proclaimed the winner. There are many legends of his travels to Scotland, Britain and even Brittany!

1. Aerial Photo Dún Laoghaire

Scale: 1 : 25,000

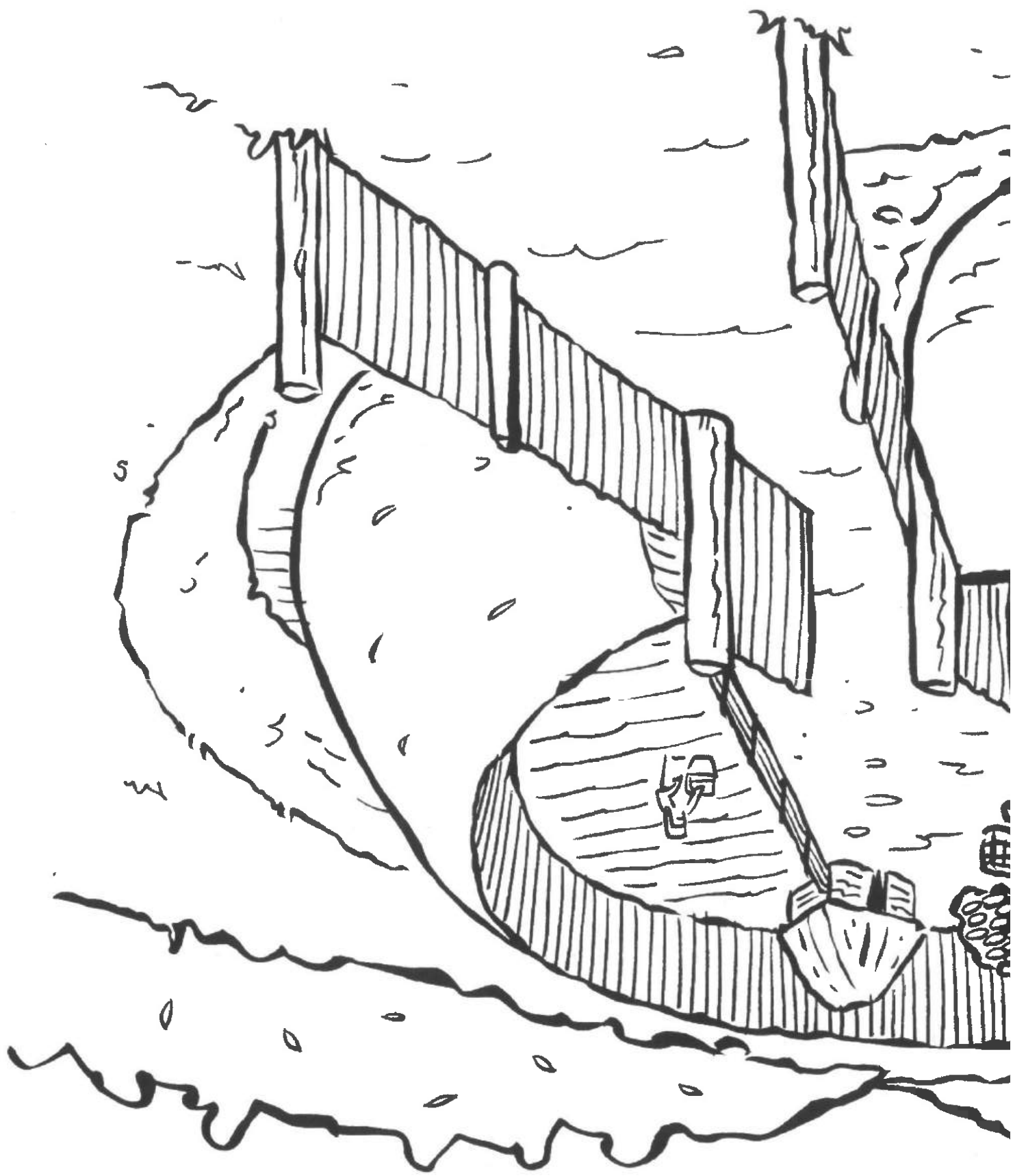Easting: 718548   Northing: 724493

Site of Dun Laoghaire

Site of Dun Laoghaire

POWERED BY esri

Scale: 1: 10,000

Easting: 721674   Northing: 728303
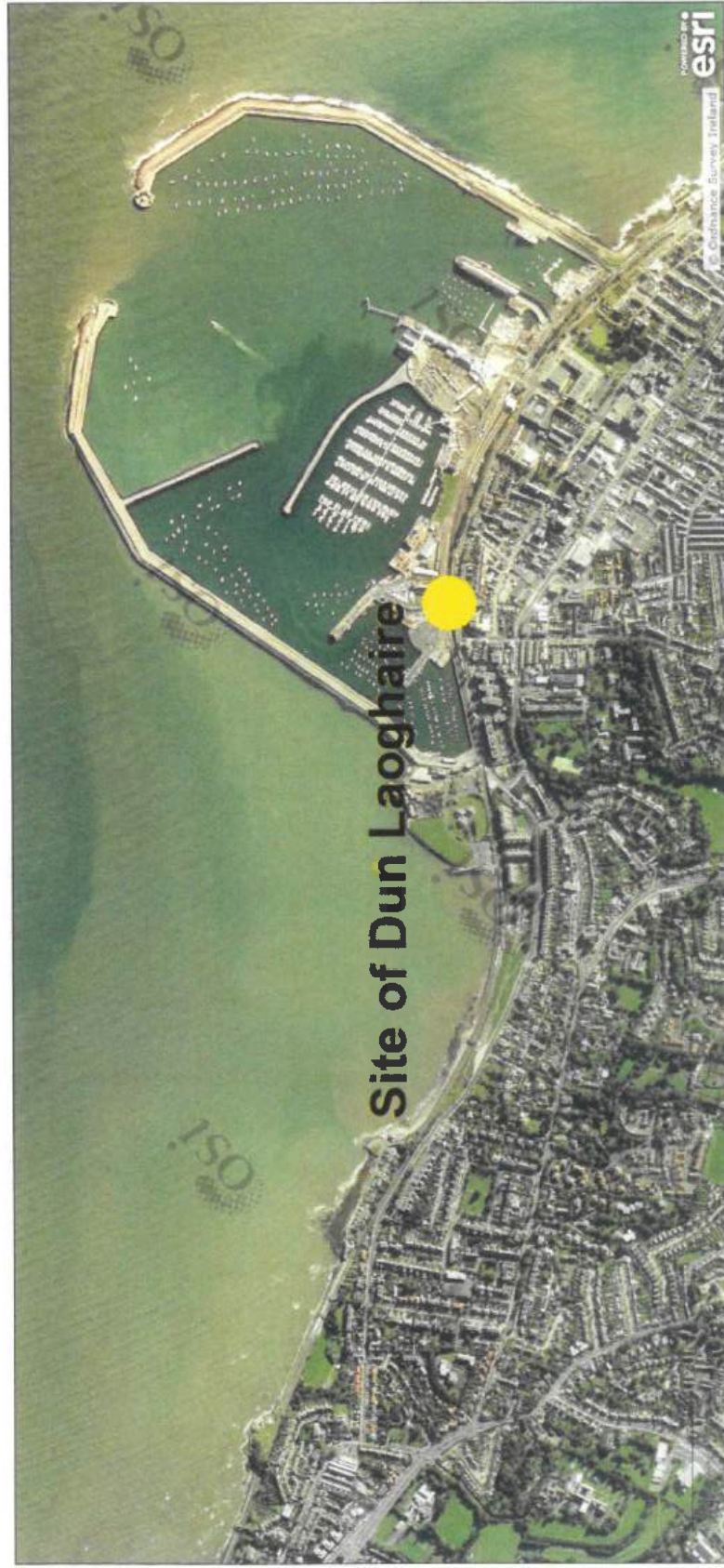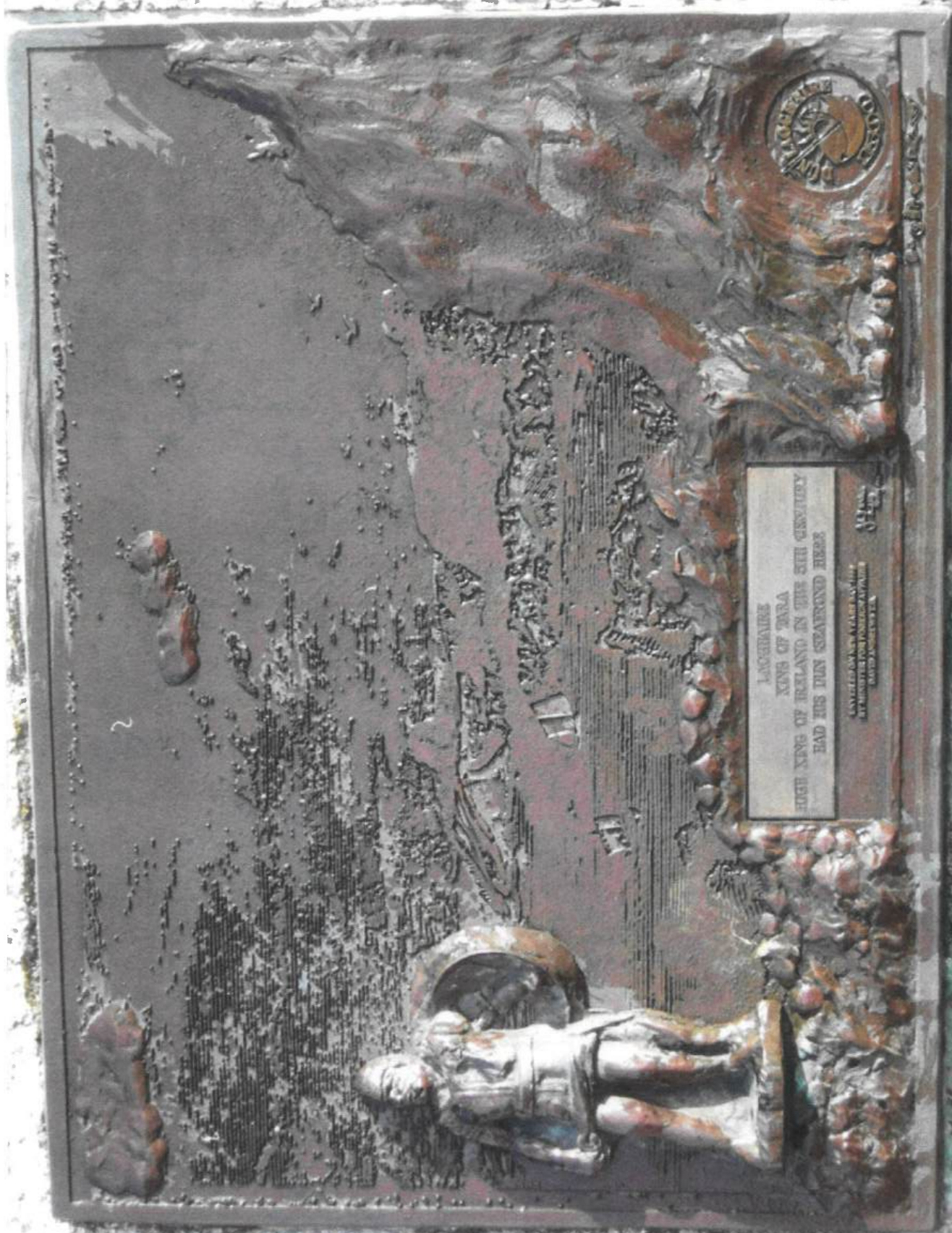
LAOGHAIRE
KING OF TARA
HIGH KING OF IRELAND IN THE 5TH CENTURY
HAD HIS DUN SEAFOUND HERE

King Laoghaire

Laoghaire was High King of Ireland in the fifth century. At the time there were five provinces in Ireland: Ulster, Munster, Leinster, Connacht and Meath, each with its own king. The king of Meath was the High King. His throne was in Tara in county Meath and he was the most important king. Laoghaire's father has also been a very powerful high king called Niall of the Nine Hostages. He often raided the coast of Britain and carried off slaves. This was how St. Patrick was taken to Ireland as a boy. When St. Patrick met Laoghaire, the miracles he performed convinced Laoghaire that he had been sent by God. There is a stained glass window in St. Patrick's RC church in Monkstown showing St. Patrick baptising Laoghaire. Laoghaire died in 461

Placenames in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

dlr LexIcon in association with Blackrock Education Centre
Compiled by Séamus Cannon and Ríonach O Callaghan

WORKSHEET 1
LESSON 1

Using your atlas can you find other places in Ireland with 'dún' in their names?

- Mark them on the map
- What information does 'dún' give you about that place?
- Record your thoughts in the box

1.

2.

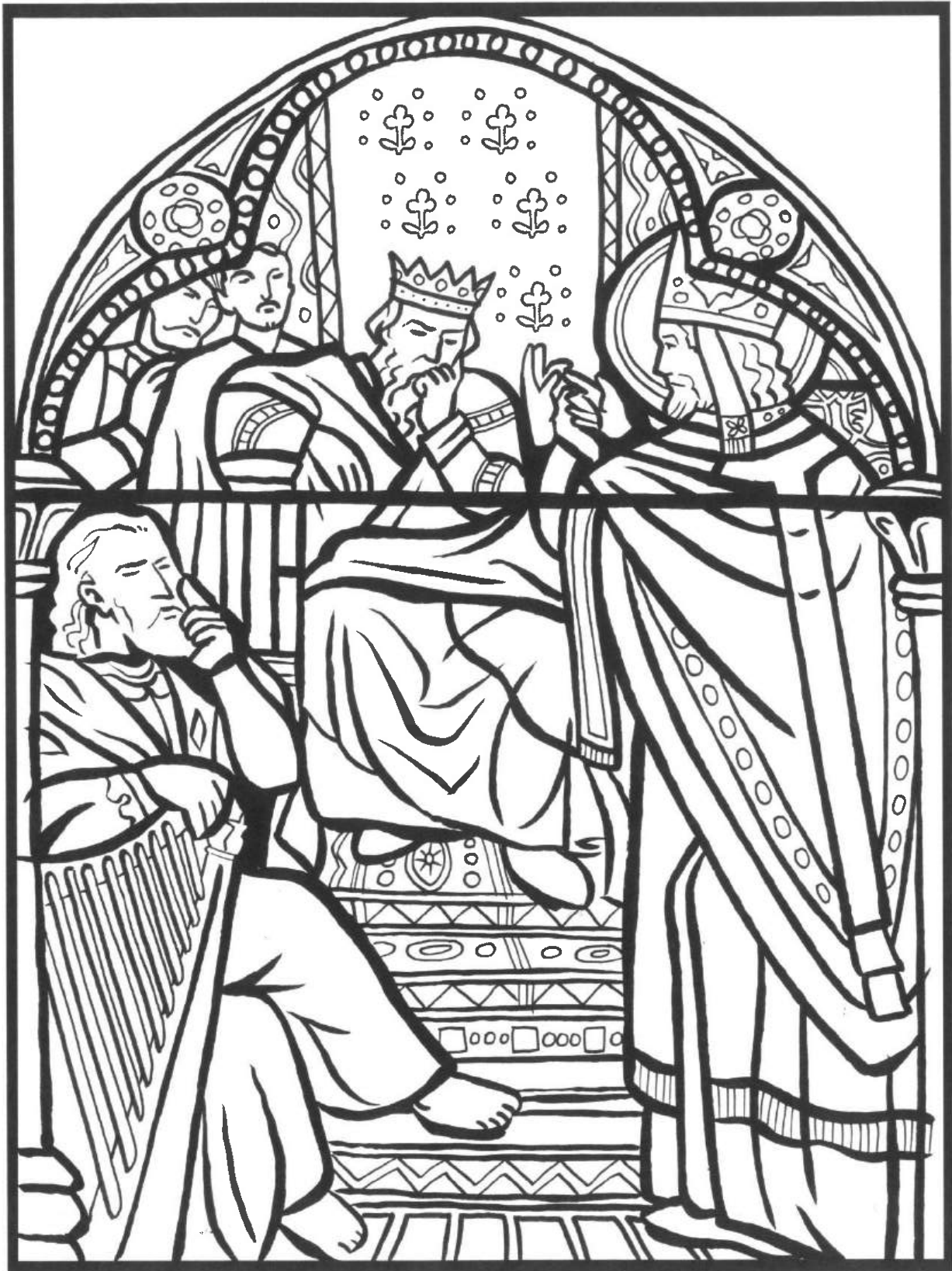# Placenames in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

dlr LexIcon in association with Blackrock Education Centre
Compiled by Séamus Cannon and Ríonach O Callaghan

WORKSHEET 2
LESSON 1

- Colour the stained glass window
  showing St. Patrick meeting Laoghaire

Placenames in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

dlr LexIcon in association with Blackrock Education Centre
Compiled by Séamus Cannon and Ríonach O Callaghan

LESSON PLAN 2:

Martello Towers

Focus:
  - Martello Towers - location and purpose; structure of Martello Towers

1. **Resources**
    1. Teacher information
    2. Map of Martello Towers along the coast
    3. Photographs of Seapoint Martello Tower
    4. Diagram of Tower
    5. Cannon on Seapoint Tower
    6. Student activity sheet

2. **Introduction:**
    1. Revisit Dún Laoghaire - iron age ringfort. A Martello tower was erected on the site of Laoghaire's fort.
       It was demolished in 1836 when the railway was built. Establish students' understanding of Martello Towers.

3. **Development:**
    1. Show no. 2 map of Martello Towers. 26 towers and 10 gun batteries were built along the coast of County Dublin
       in 1804-5 to defend Dublin from invasion by Napoleon. The towers were built from Bray to Balbriggan. The
       United Kingdom was at war with France at this time.
       1. Can you guess from the map where Napoleon was expected to land? Why there?

    2. Show 3, photographs of Seapoint Tower. Discuss shape, construction, windows, door. The photographs show
       the machicolation from the outside and inside; the murder hole above the entrance passage; the gun platform
       with the rails on which the gun rotated, pulled by ropes through the rings on the wall; the furnace for heating
       the cannon balls to white heat.

    3. The door was placed high up facing the land. Why was that? Soldiers entered by ladder. Explain features like
       Machicolation (the projecting platform which protected the door) and the murder hole inside the door

    4. Show 4. The tower had three levels. Explain why the ammunition was in the basement – the thickest walls;
       what each floor was used for; why the copper door on the ammunition room and a copper key for the door?
       The middle floor was the living area for the 12-16 soldiers: it must have been very uncomfortable. The rooftop
       was where the cannon gun and flagpole were placed.

    5. Show 5, photos of rooftop, gun platform, furnace, machicolation and murder hole. The cannon could rotate and
       fire in any direction. There was a furnace area on the roof where the cannon balls could be heated till they were
       white hot. Why do you think this was important? (To set the wooden sailing ships on fire)

4. **Conclusion**
    1. Student activities: see attached sheet

Placenames in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

TEACHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION
LESSON 2

Martello Towers

The 'dún' of Laoghaire was at the mouth of a small stream on a very rugged, uninhabited coastline. The little fishing village which grew up there much later, alongside the present site of the Purty Kitchen was called Dunleary. In 1804, the British government built a Martello tower on the site of the 'dún' and the dún was destroyed. The tower was one of many built on the Irish coast at that time, but what were they for?

At the time of the tower's construction, the United Kingdom was at war with France, led by Napoleon Bonaparte. Ireland was part of the United Kingdom since the Act of Union in 1800 and the British feared that Napoleon would invade Ireland. An earlier failed attempt at invasion had taken place in 1796. The British authorities were afraid that if the French did invade, they would have been supported by the Irish who had revolted against the crown in 1798 and in 1803. The principal target for the French was thought to be Dublin itself, and Dublin was very poorly defended. It was decided then to build a series of heavily armed small forts along the coast to protect Dublin Bay, starting at Bray Head and going as far north as Balbriggan, 28 in all. As well as a chain of Martello towers, there were several gun batteries, including at Dunleary. However, the French invasion never came and over time the Martello towers fell into disuse. The Martello tower at Dunleary was itself demolished in 1836 when the railway line from Dublin was extended through the tower site to its present location. All remaining traces of the dún of Laoghaire were erased at that time.

Several Martello towers remain in place. The Tower at Seapoint has a replica cannon gun on top and is open to the public at certain times. Several towers have been converted into private residences. South Tower number 2, Bray Point, was the home of Bono, star of U2 for a time. Possibly the most famous Martello of all, in Sandycove, was the home of James Joyce, the famous writer, for a short while in 1904. He immortalized it as the location for the opening chapter of his most famous work, Ulysses. Joyce left the tower after only six nights and walked to Dublin in the middle of the night, all because of a row over a black panther, but that's another story!

The construction of the tower is interesting. Generally, a tower was built from stone quarried close to the site. In Dún Laoghaire that was obviously granite. The walls are very thick, to withstand gunfire from ships. The door to the tower was at first floor level and was accessed by ladder. This was the living area of the tower for the 12 to 16 men stationed there. On the ground floor, in the area least vulnerable to an enemy shell, was the ammunition store and there were trapdoors to enable the ammunition to be lifted to the top. The basement also accommodated the sergeant in charge, and the cooking area. Access to each floor within the tower was by a narrow staircase built into the wall. At the top was a very large cannon gun and the furnace chamber for heating the cannonballs to a white heat. This was intended to set the enemy's wooden sailing ships on fire. The cannon could rotate a full 360 degrees to face an enemy from any direction. Above the entrance was a machicolation, a platform with holes in it that enabled the defenders to shoot at any attackers at the door. If the enemy did break in there was a murder hole above the entrance passage.

Interesting fact: the presence of gunpowder meant that great care had to be taken not to set off an explosion! The key to the tower and the door of the ammunition store were made of copper as were the studs on the men's boots. Copper doesn't spark against stone.
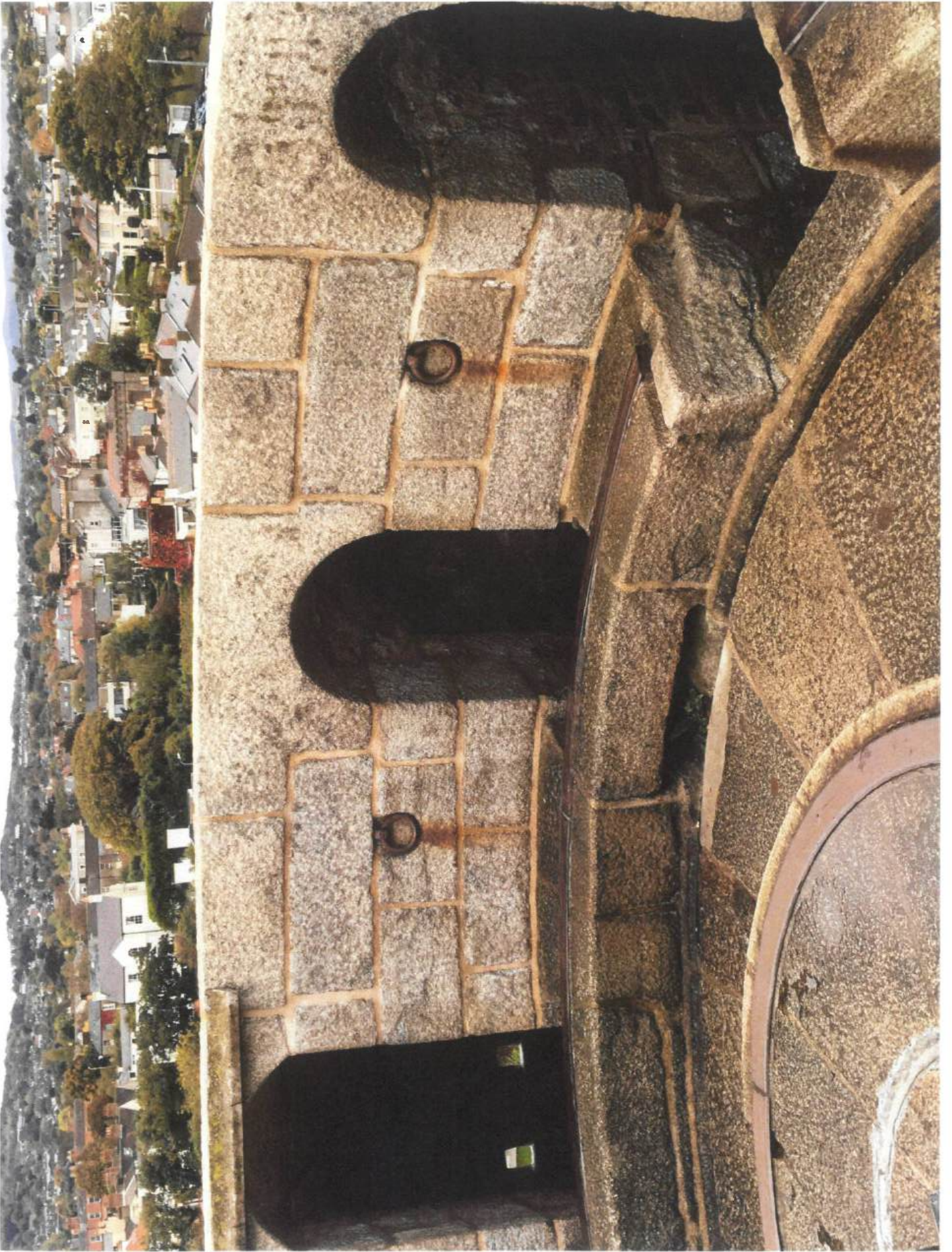
There was one exception to the location of the door on Martello Towers. On Dalkey island the Tower was accessed though the roof! This was because it was surrounded by sea on all sides and there was no safe side to put the door.
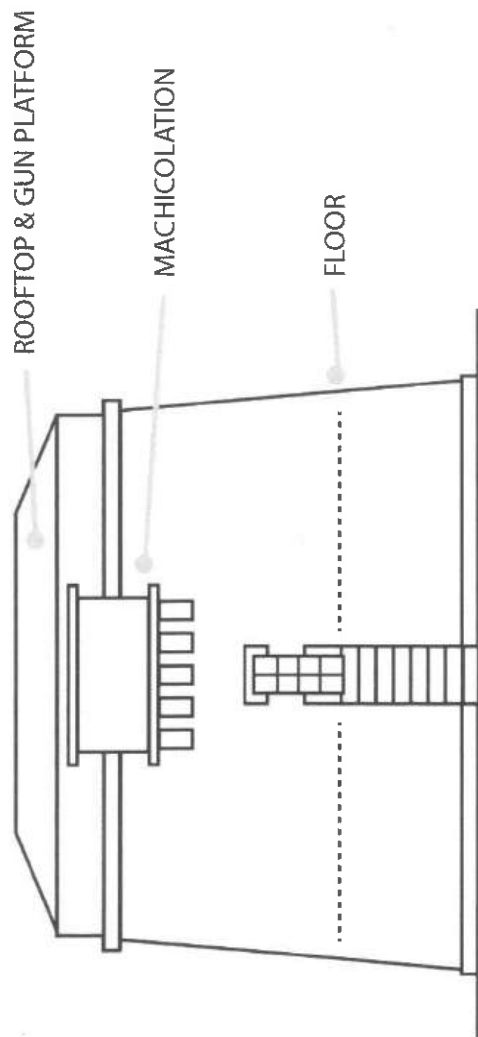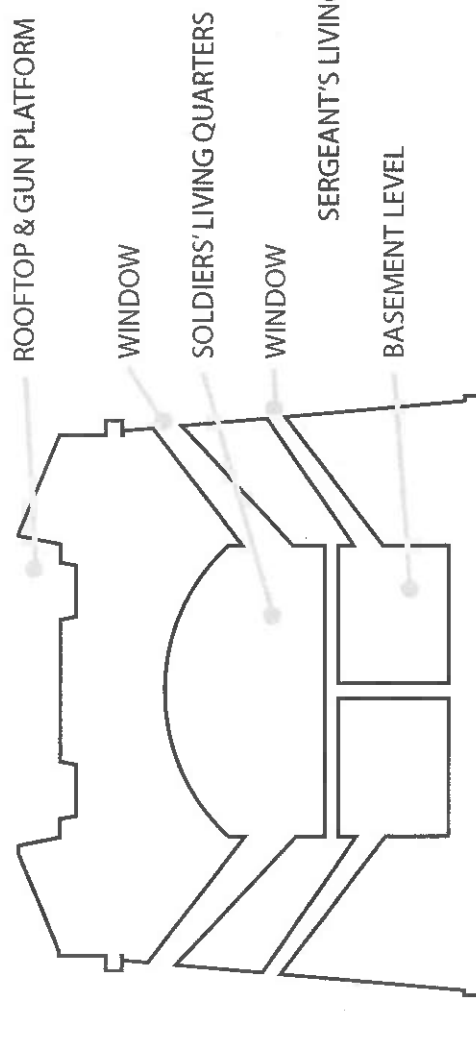
scoil**net** maps | web mapping
                    for irish schools

Martello Towers and Batteries

Key

● Existing towers/batteries
● Destroyed towers/batteries

Dun Laoghaire
Seapoint
Williamstown
Booterstown
N31
Monkstown
Glasthule
Sandycove
Glenthule
Dalkey
Kill
of The
Grange
Sallynoggin
Killiney
Linstein Battery
Tara Hill
Killiney Beach
Ballybrick
Loughlinstown
Loughlinstown Battery
Mabera Point
Shankill
Dalkey Island
Bartra Rock

Corke Abbey
Bray Point
Bray Head
Bray North
Bray
Bray Central
Bray South
M11

Cabinteely
N11
M50

Kilternan
Glencullen
Stepaside
Three Rock
Mountain
Two Rock
Mountain
Glencullen
Mountain

Mertion
Clonskeagh
Milltown
Windy Arbour
Churchtown
Dundrum
Ballinteer
Sandyford
Kilmashogue
Mountain
Tibradden
Mountain
Cruagh
Mountain
Glendoo
Mountain
Glassamucky
Mountain

Ballsbridge
N11
N31
Mount Merrion

Harolds
Cross
Crumlin
Rathgar
Rathfarnham
Templeogue
Ballyboden
Knocklyon
Edmondstown
Rockbrook

Bluebell
Kimmage
Glenhills
Walkinstown
Kilnamanagh
Firhouse
Tallaght N81
Oldbawn

Fox & Geese
ndalkin
nistown

Glenree

Corrig
Mountain

3km

Scale: 1: 100,000   **Easting: 706639   Northing: 715934**

© Ordnance Survey Ireland

esri

ROOFTOP & GUN PLATFORM

MACHICOLATION

FLOOR

STAIRS

WINDOWS

HATCH OVERHEAD

SERGEANT'S LIVING QUARTERS & KITCHEN

AMMUNITION STORE WITH COPPER DOOR

AIR VENTS

ROOFTOP & GUN PLATFORM
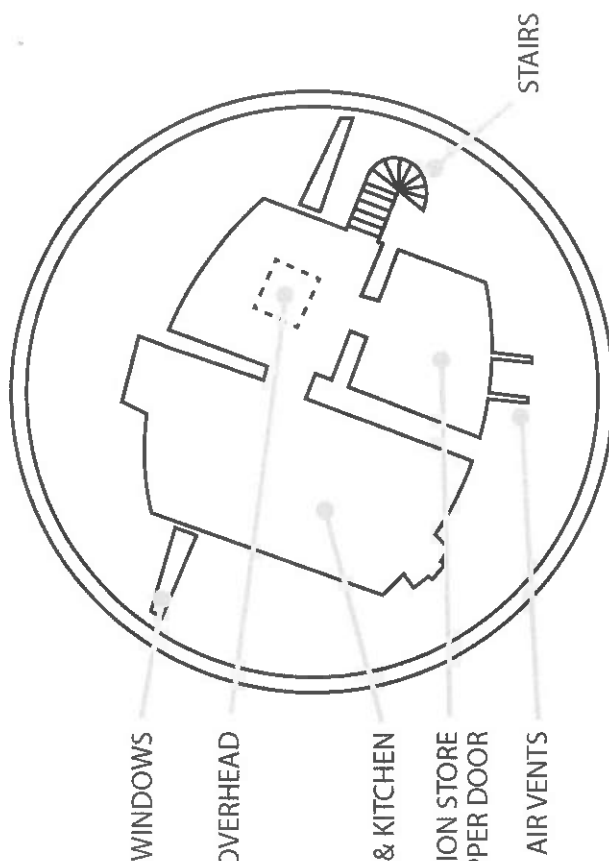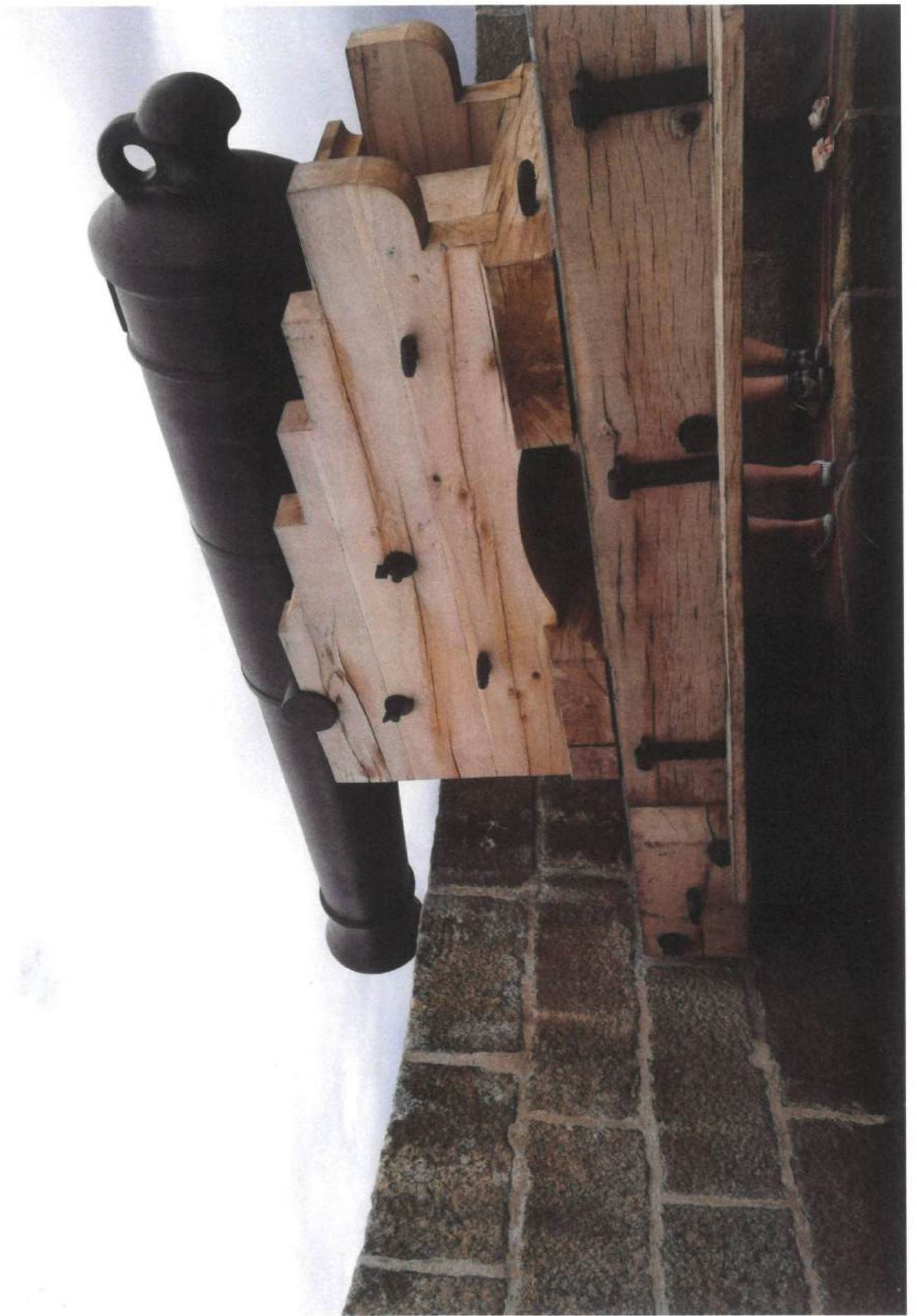
WINDOW

SOLDIERS' LIVING QUARTERS

WINDOW

BASEMENT LEVEL

Placenames in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

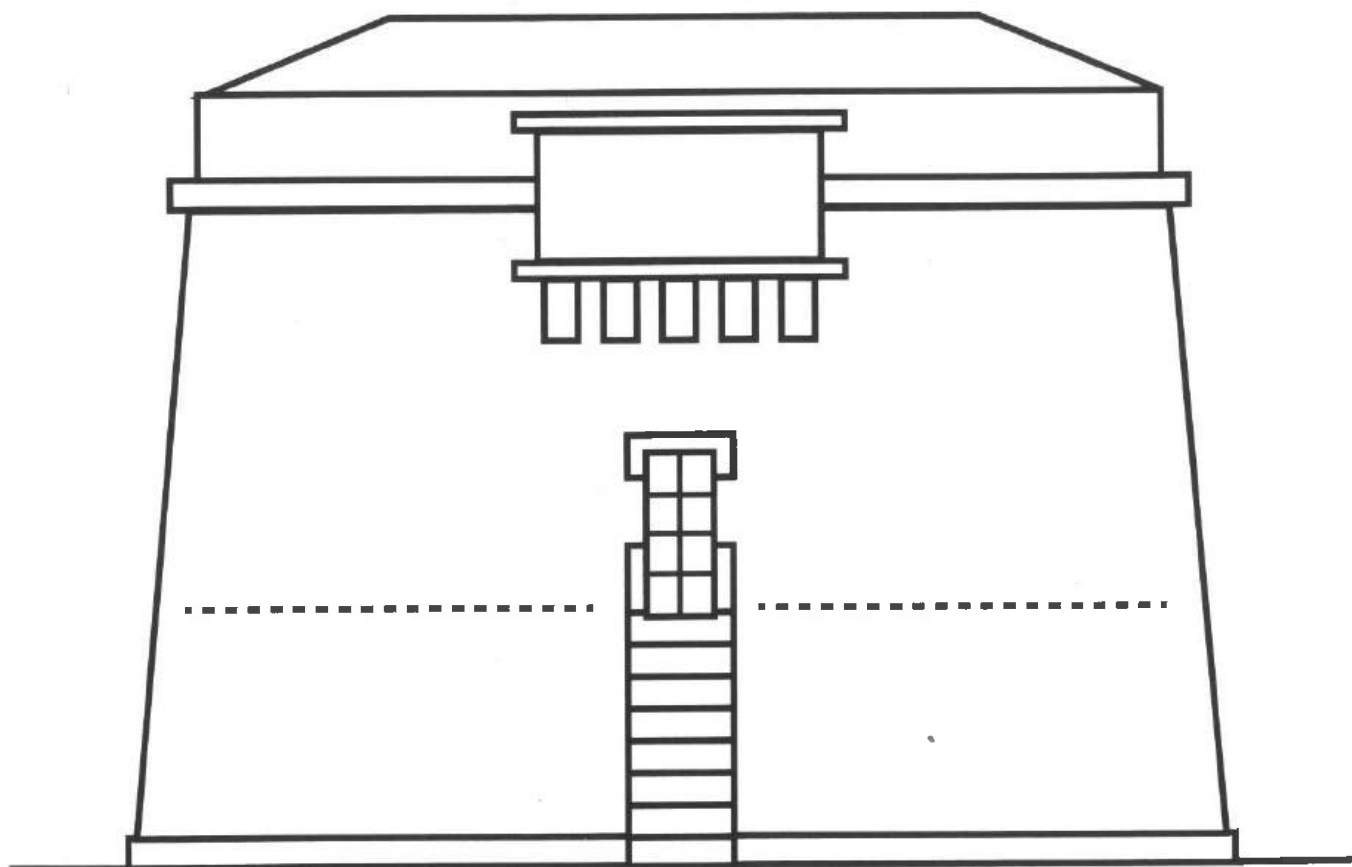dlr LexIcon in association with Blackrock Education Centre
Compiled by Séamus Cannon and Ríonach O Callaghan

WORKSHEET 2
LESSON 2

Outline drawing of Martello Tower

- Draw in all the things should be on each level
- Create a model/drawing of a Martello Tower

Placenames in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

dlr LexIcon in association with Blackrock Education Centre
Compiled by Séamus Cannon and Ríonach O Callaghan

LESSON PLAN 3:

Dalkey and Killiney

Focus:
- Origin of names of Dalkey and Killiney. Some common prefixes

1. **Resources**
    1. Teacher background Information
    2. Photo of Dalkey Island Martello Tower
    3. Photo of Killiney Bay and information
    4. Photos of Old Killiney Church, Cill Iníon Léinín
    5. Photo of Glendalough
    6. Map of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown showing a selection of placenames
    7. Student activity sheet

2. **Introduction:**
    1. Re-visit Martello Tower drawings (lesson 2) and discuss
    2. Show photo of Dalkey Island Tower 2.1. Discuss position of door (facing away from the sea). Where might the door be on an island tower? (On Dalkey Island it was on the roof!)

3. **Development:**
    1. Look at the name Dalkey. It's a Viking name. Dalk means thorn and ey (or ei) means island in scandinavian.
    2. The Irish name for Dalkey is the same as the Viking name Deilg (thorn) inis (island). This is the shape of the island when viewed from a height. During Viking times, Dalkey Island was a holding centre for Irish slaves being sent to Scandinavia.Students invited to suggest other placenames with 'Inis': *Inis Mór, Inis Meáin, Inis Oírr*. Sometimes used for peninsula Inishowen.
    3. Show 4. Understanding placenames in Irish gives us information about that area. Near Dalkey is Killiney. Kill or 'Cill' in Irish is common in placenames. What does it mean? (Church) Cill Iníne Léinín means the church of the daughters of Léinín. This refers to the seven daughters of a local chieftain called Léinín who had a great reputation for holiness and who established a church there. The remains of the church are still to be seen.
    4. Record student suggestions of other places with 'Kill' or 'Kil' in their names: Shankill (sean chill), Kilmacud (Cill Mochuda), Kiltiernan.
    5. Show 5. Glen is another word that appears in Irish placenames. Glendalough gives us very little information but Gleann dá Loch tells us about the area (valley of the two lakes)
    6. Show 6. Record other student suggestions of places with 'glen': Glencullen, Glenmalure. Sometimes the meaning is not clear: Glenageary could be Gleann na gCaorach (valley of the sheep) or Gleann na gCaora (valley of the berries). Which is it more likely to be?

4. **Conclusion**
    1. Student activities: see attached sheet

Placenames in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

dlr LexIcon in association with Blackrock Education Centre
Compiled by Séamus Cannon and Ríonach O Callaghan

TEACHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION
LESSON 3

Early Christian Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

Many placenames in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown begin with Kill or Kil: Killiney, Kilmacud, Kiltipper, Kiltiernan. 'Cill' in Irish means church and this is evidence of an early Christian church in that location, possibly associated with a hermit or with a monastery. Killiney – Cill Iníon Léinín is associated with the seven holy daughters of Léinín, a local chieftain of the late 6th century. A church dating from the 11th century is still standing there. It would have replaced an earlier wooden church.

There are many other places named after saints: Kill Avenue, Kill Lane, Abbey Road, St. Fintan's Park all relate to the ruined church at Kill o' the Grange associated with St. Fintan. Saints Patrick, Brigid, Columbanus, Gall all have places or streets named after them. Shankill, Seanchill, is of course 'the old church', the location of which is unknown. Monkstown also has a religious origin and is derived from the association with the monks of St. Mary's Abbey in Dublin. A local legend has it that, even earlier, the monks of Inispatrick/Holmpatrick, off Skerries fled the Vikings in the year 798 and sailed across Dublin Bay in their currachs, docking at the little estuary where Laoghaire had earlier established his dún. They proceeded up along the stream to establish their monastery where the old Monkstown graveyard is located at Carrickbrennan. Since this little stream was to become the location for the construction of the largest artificial harbour in the world a thousand years later we can see how important a role it played in three different phases of our history.

Where the remains of an early church or monastic settlement have vanished the placename is often the best way of identifying the location and of preserving the name of the saint. Kilmacud, (cill MacCoda) is one example. Taney, (Teach Naithí) recalls St. Nathy. There are several places named after these local saints. There is no evidence that MacCoda was a GAA supporter! Rathmichael is an example of a well preserved monastic site, constructed within an earlier Iron age fort. We cannot be sure who the founder was since Michael may be a corruption of an earlier name.

Several places in Dalkey carry the name of St. Begnet who established a monastery on Dalkey Island. The church can clearly be seen from the mainland, though it has been altered. The men building the Martello Tower there converted the church into a residence for the duration of the construction! By the way, since, as we have seen, the door to a Martello tower was on the landward side, what did they do on Dalkey Island which is surrounded by sea on all sides? (They used a ladder to climb to the roof and entered that way). The reason the door was on the landward side was of course to avoid an enemy ship landing a shell through it!

The name Dalkey is of Viking origin and means 'Thorn Island' ('eye' oe 'ei' is the scandinavian word for island), corresponding exactly to the Irish Deilg Inis. Bulloch is also a Viking word. Ireland's Eye got its name in the same way and has nothing to do with sight! The Vikings left their mark on Dalkey in other ways. There is evidence that they used Dalkey Island as a detention centre for Irish captives who were to be sold into slavery in their homelands. In the year 939, an Irish bishop who had been captured, drowned while trying to escape from the island.

Over time there is evidence that the Vikings became well integrated and many converted to Christianity. Ballaly or Baile Amhlaoibh or the Town of Olaf, a Viking saint. The early Christian churches still standing were most probably built by Vikings.

Killiney Church is very accessible from Killiney Dart station. It is located on Marino Ave. West. A key is held by local residents.

Dalkey Island Tower and Battery
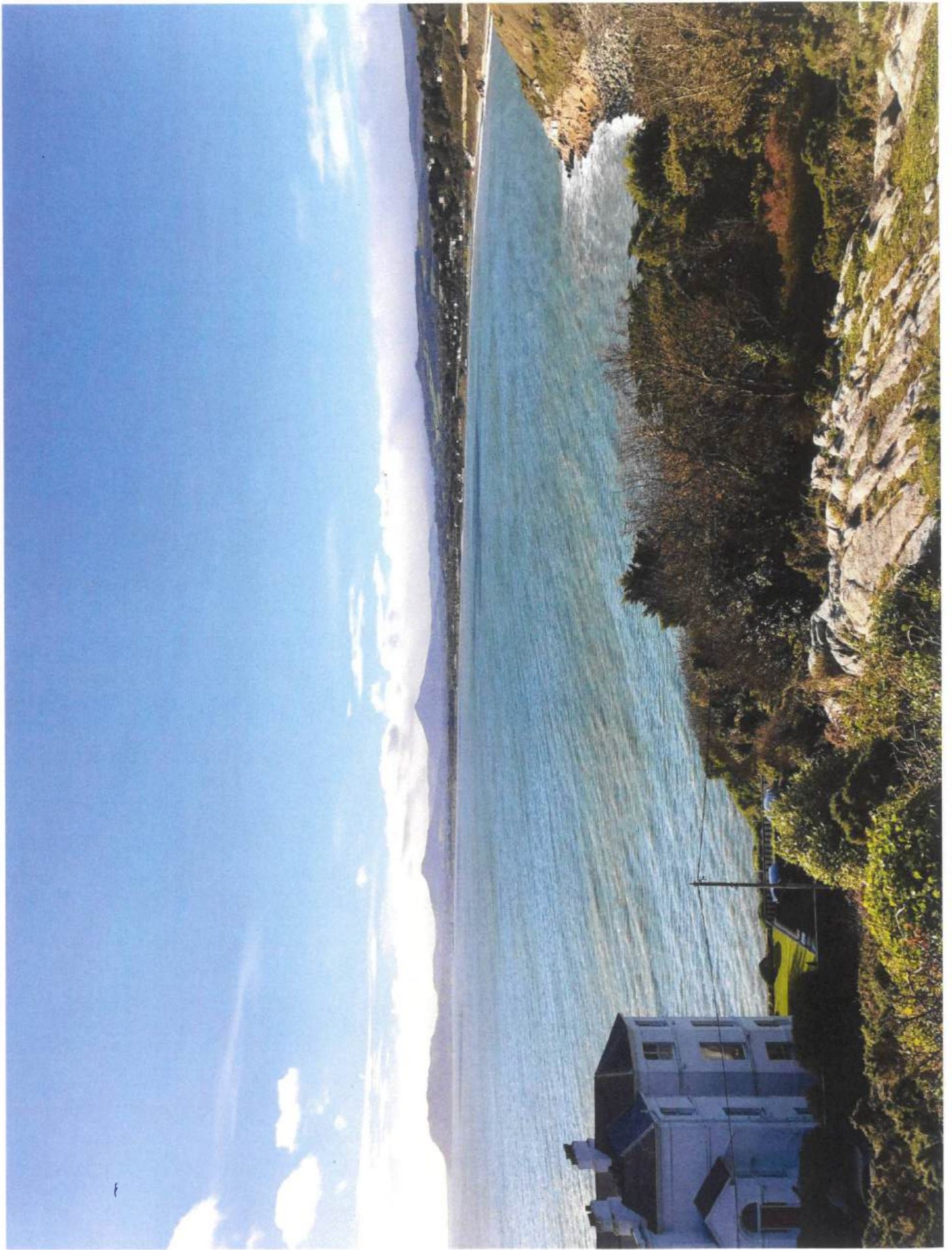

Tower

Battery

© Ordnance Survey Ireland

POWERED BY esri

Scale: 1 : 5,000

Easting: 726850   Northing: 726013

Killiney Bay

scoilnet maps | web mapping for Irish schools

Scale: 1 : 25,000

■ Easting: 719493   Northing: 719956

scoilnet maps | web mapping for Irish schools

Glendalough 1

esri

© Ordnance Survey Ireland

Scale: 1: 10,000

Easting: 708977 Northing: 695341

scoilnet maps | web mapping for Irish schools

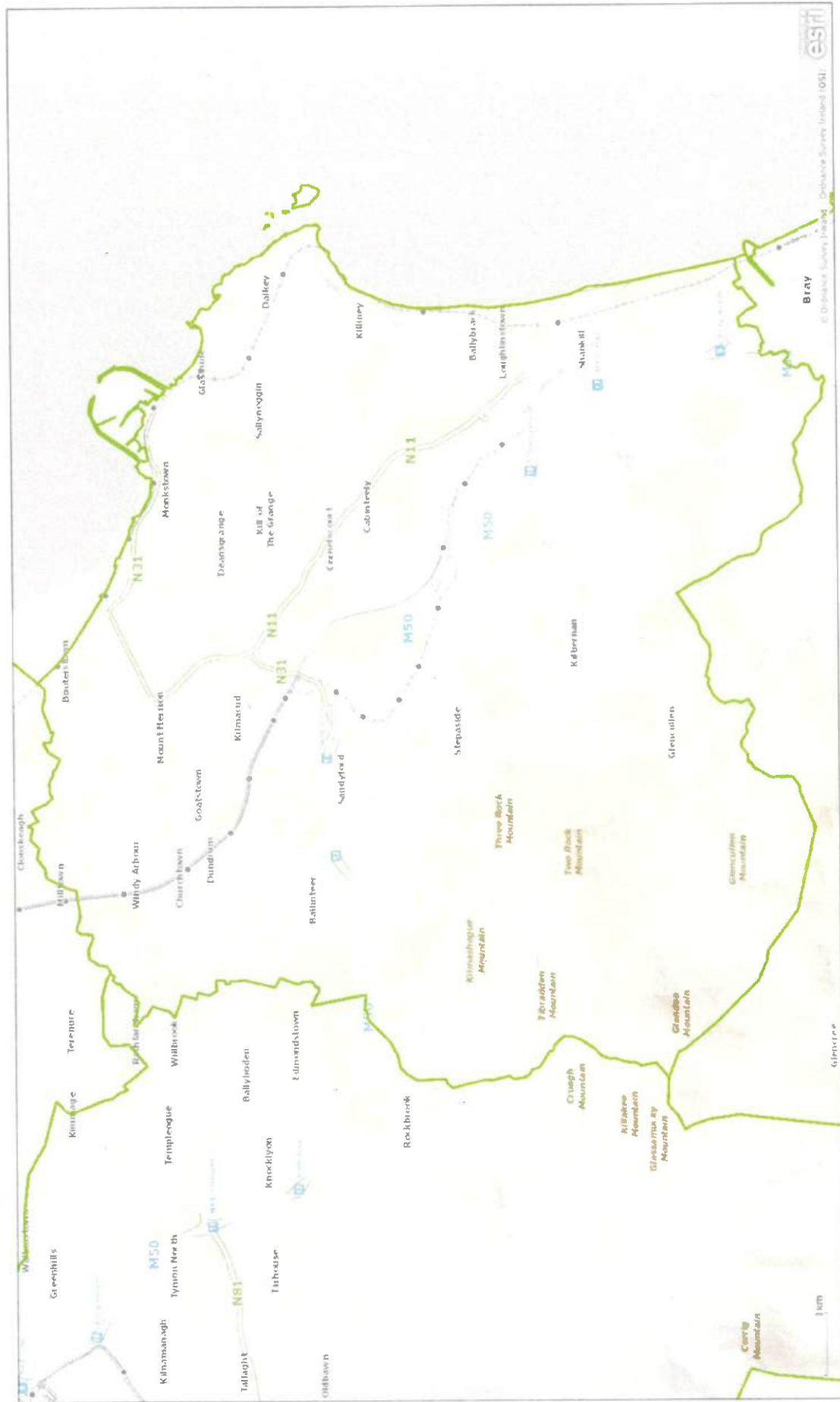L3 DLR county

Scale : 1 : 50,000

■ Easting: 708486   Northing: 717912

Placenames in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

dlr LexIcon in association with Blackrock Education Centre
Compiled by Séamus Cannon and Ríonach O Callaghan

WORKSHEET 3
LESSON 3

Study the examples and add 3 more to each category.
You can use the map of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown to help.

Gaeilge	English	Sample	Information
Inis	Island	Inis Mór	Big island
Cill	Church	Cill Iníon Léinín	Church of the daughters of Léinín
Gleann	Glen/Valley	Gleann dá Loch	Glendalough
Baile	Town	Baile Breac	Speckled town (scattered houses)

Placenames in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

dlr LexIcon in association with Blackrock Education Centre
Compiled by Séamus Cannon and Ríonach O Callaghan

LESSON PLAN 4:

The varied origins of placenames

Focus:
- Varied influences on local placenames, Irish, Viking, Italian

1. **Resources**
   1. Teacher background information
   2. Photo of Sorrento Terrace
   3. Photo of directional sign for Leopardstown
   4. Screen shot showing words of Irish origin that occur frequently in placenames
   5. Student Activity sheet

2. **Introduction:**
   1. Revise Scandinavian influence in the name Dalkey
   2. Show 2. Traditionally Dalkey, Killiney and the surrounding areas are where many wealthy people chose to live. There are many place names in these areas that come from places in Europe, e.g. Sorrento, Vico, Nerano. Why do you think that happened?

3. **Development:**
   1. Bally is often found at the start of Irish placenames, e.g. Ballybrack. Baile in Irish means 'town' or settlement. Ballybrack = *Baile Breac* = speckled town (possibly houses widely scattered); Ballyogan = *Baile Uí Ógáin* = Hogan's town   Ballybough = *Baile Bocht*. The Irish translation provides information about the area

   2. Show 3. Leopardstown photo. The Irish for Leopardstown is interesting. Explain the origin of the name: '*Baile na Lobhar*' means lepers' town. Why do you think the local area beside Leopardstown was called 'Galloping Green'?

   3. Show 4. As a class group, work out meanings. Full information in teachers' information

4. **Conclusion**
   See student worksheet

Placenames in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

dlr LexIcon in association with Blackrock Education Centre
Compiled by Séamus Cannon and Ríonach O Callaghan

TEACHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION
LESSON 4

Common Irish words used in placenames

We've seen that names of places have historical origins that explain something of our past. Many of them come from Irish, such as *dún, cill, baile, Inis, gleann*. Here are some other Irish words that are frequently encountered in local placenames:

English	Irish	Meaning
Rath	Ráth	Fort
Lis	Lios	Fort
Bally	Baile	Town, settlement
Ath	Áth	Ford
Kill	Cill	Church
Dun	Dún	Castle
Tigh	Tigh	House
Carrick	Carraig	Rock
Carn	Carn	Mound/ cairn (e.g. of stones)
Clon	Cluain	Meadow
Glen	Gleann	Valley
Tubber	Tobar	Well
Tully	Tualch	Hillock
Slieve	Sliabh	Mountain
Ard	Ard	Height
Alt	Alt	Cliff
Park	Páirc	Field
Knock	Cnoc	Hill
Boher	Bóthar	Road
Gort	Gort	Field
Barr	Barr	Top
Barna	Bearna	Gap
Ben	Beann	Peak
Inver	Inbhear	Estuary

Some names come from other European countries. Along the coast in particular we find many names of Italian origin: Nerano, Sorrento, Vico, Maretimo. These derive from a time when wealthy young aristocrats would travel to the sites of ancient civilizations in Italy to round off their education. This was called the 'Grand Tour'. Often they stayed for a few years and they were very much influenced by the places they visited. Killiney Bay was regarded as being very like the bay of Naples and so, many of the returned aristocrats gave Italian names to their houses and copied classical architecture in their design. It was also common to purchase art and classical sculpture for installation in their Irish homes. Lord Cloncurry, of Maretimo in Blackrock arranged for the delivery of a four shiploads of artifacts but tragically lost a great deal when one ship was sunk off Wicklow Head.

Baile na Lobhar
LEOPARDSTOWN
R 113
(N11)
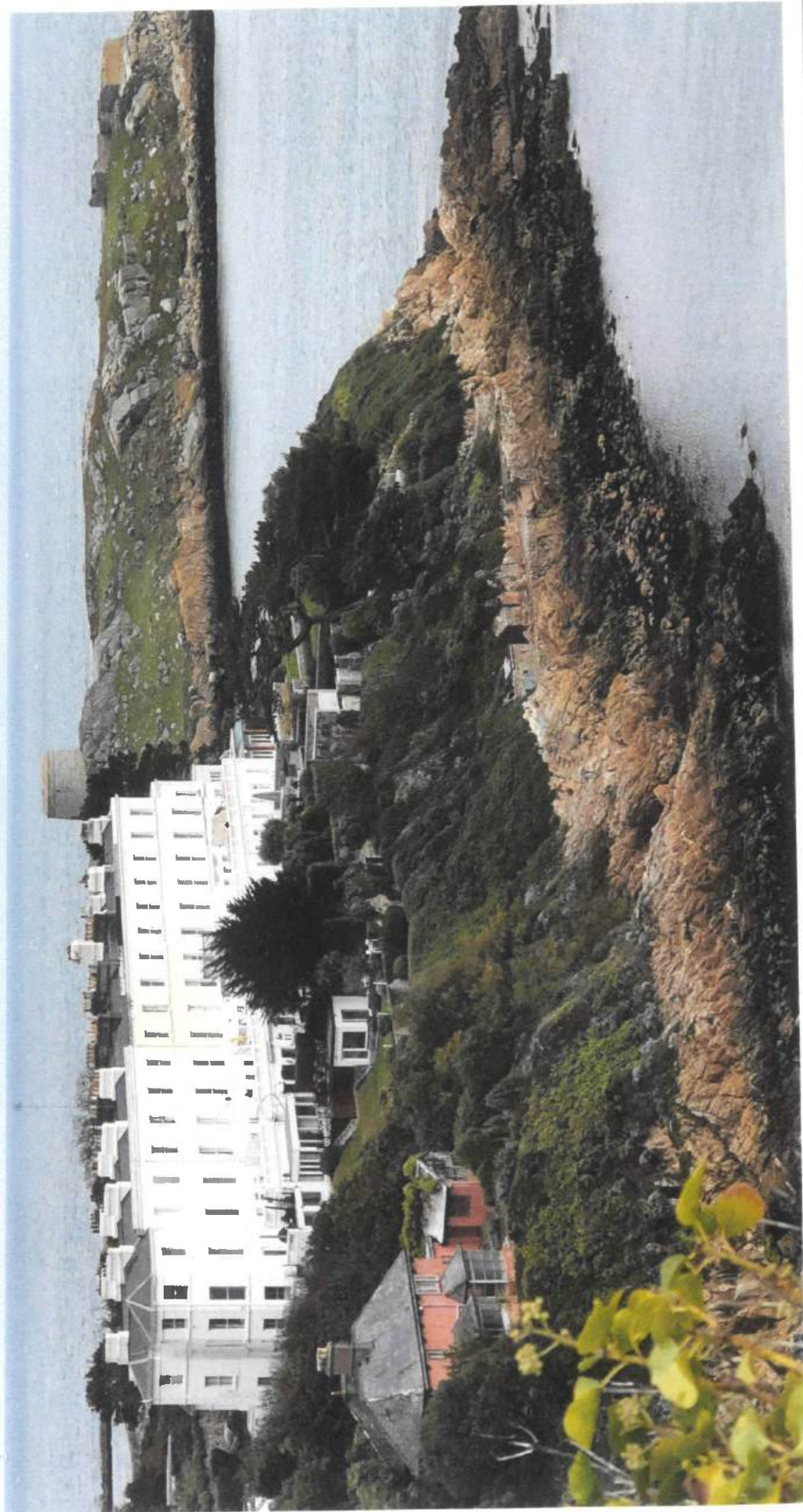
English	Irish	Meaning
Rath	Ráth	
Lis	Lios	
Bally	Baile	
Ath	Áth	
Kill	Cill	
Dun	Dún	
Tigh	Tigh	
Carrick	Carraig	
Carn	Carn	
Clon	Cluain	
Glen	Gleann	
Tubber	Tobar	
Tully	Tulach	
Slieve	Sliabh	
Ard	Árd	
Alt	Alt	
Park	Páirc	
Knock	Cnoc	
Boher	Bóthar	
Gort	Gort	
Barr	Barr	
Barna	Bearna	
Ben	Beann	

Placenames in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

dlr LexIcon in association with Blackrock Education Centre
Compiled by Séamus Cannon and Ríonach O Callaghan

WORKSHEET 4
LESSON 4

1. Choose a placename in your locality that you find interesting. Translate it into Irish. Does it tell you anything new about the place?

2. Choose a placename and represent it with a drawing or a model

Placenames in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

dlr LexIcon in association with Blackrock Education Centre

Compiled by Séamus Cannon and Ríonach O Callaghan

LESSON PLAN 5:

From Kingstown to Dún Laoghaire

Focus:
- The change of name from Kingstown to Dún Laoghaire in 1920. British influence on local placenames
- Dún Laoghaire as a holiday destination as evidenced in postcards

1. Resources
1. Teacher's background information
2. Picture of King George IV
3. Photo of King George IV monument
4. Minute of council meeting that caused the name to be changed
5. Lexicon online exhibition of local postcards
6. Student activity sheet

2. Introduction:
1. Discussion about how placenames can change over time: Dunleary – Kingstown – Dún Laoghaire

3. Development: *(see teacher's notes)*
1. George IV

2. Why did George visit Ireland in 1821? He was unpopular at home and glad to have a holiday in Ireland. He had landed in Howth but left from the little town of Dunleary after a short stay. Refer to streets named after George and other members of royal family. The royal visits added greatly to the attractiveness of the area as a holiday destination. The mailboat was also a key attraction.

3. Show 3, the George IV monument

4. Minute of council meeting of 1920 showing motion to change the name from Kingstown to Dún Laoghaire. Discuss why the name was changed (Nationalist movement, War of Independence, rejection of things English and associations with royalty)

5. Show 6, exhibition of holiday postcards on dlr Libraries website at
   https://libraries.dlrcoco.ie/events-and-news/online-exhibition#dunleary

4. Conclusion
See student worksheet

Placenames in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

dlr LexIcon in association with Blackrock Education Centre
Compiled by Séamus Cannon and Ríonach O Callaghan

TEACHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION
LESSON 5

King George IV

When George IV visited the little town of Dunleary in 1821, he was on his way back to England after a short stay. He was glad to have been away from England for a while since he was not at all popular, so the visit was in the nature of a holiday. Work had begun on the new harbour at Dunleary in 1817 and the small fishing village had begun to grow into a town with hundreds of workers and their families attracted by the opportunity to work in the quarry or on the construction of the harbour itself. The little fishing village of Dunleary had a population of 300 in 1815. This was to rise dramatically through the next 50 years.

King George named the harbour and the town 'Kingstown' in honour of himself!

King George was born in 1762, son of George III. When George III became mentally ill, his son reigned in his place as regent from 1811 until he was crowned king in 1820. The Regency period in British history is regarded as a time when new fashions were set in art, architecture and leisure. Both as regent and as king George caused a scandal with his wild and irresponsible personal life. He fell out with his parents and with his wife, whom he banned from attending his coronation, and lived far beyond his very substantial means. When Napoleon died, it was said that an aide approached George to say: 'your greatest enemy has died, sire' to which George replied 'Has she, by God?" He was reputed to be a witty conversationalist, 'drunk or sober' and he was reportedly very drunk indeed as he left the newly named Kingstown

As well as giving the new town a name, George is commemorated in the principal street, George's St. Several members of his family are also honoured: Sussex St., Clarence St., Cumberland St., York St., Cambridge Terrace are named after his brothers and Adelaide St. after his sister in law!

Along the seafront in Dún Laoghaire, you can see a prominent monument to commemorate King George's visit. There is also a monument to mark the visit of Queen Victoria who came on four occasions and gave her name to Queen's Rd. Other British monarchs to have visited included Edward VII and George V. No memorials have been erected to mark their visits but like other monarchs, their elaborately inscribed initials are to be found on local letterboxes.

The royal visits added greatly to the attractiveness of the area as a holiday destination, and over time, the mailboat and the new railway drew many visitors to local guest houses and hotels. Daytrips to Powerscourt were popular. Sailing clubs were established and regattas attracted huge interest. Ladies and gentlemen enjoyed the sea air on a walk along the pier, and the Pavilion Theatre became a social centre for Dublin gentry. The popularity of Kingstown / Dún Laoghaire is very evident in the postcard display hosted by the LexIcon.

For more information on Dún Laoghaire and its harbour, check out 'You'd be Filled with Wonder – the story of Dún Laoghaire Harbour', by Séamus Cannon and published by Blackrock Education Centre

BOTANIC ABBAIS

YORK ROAD
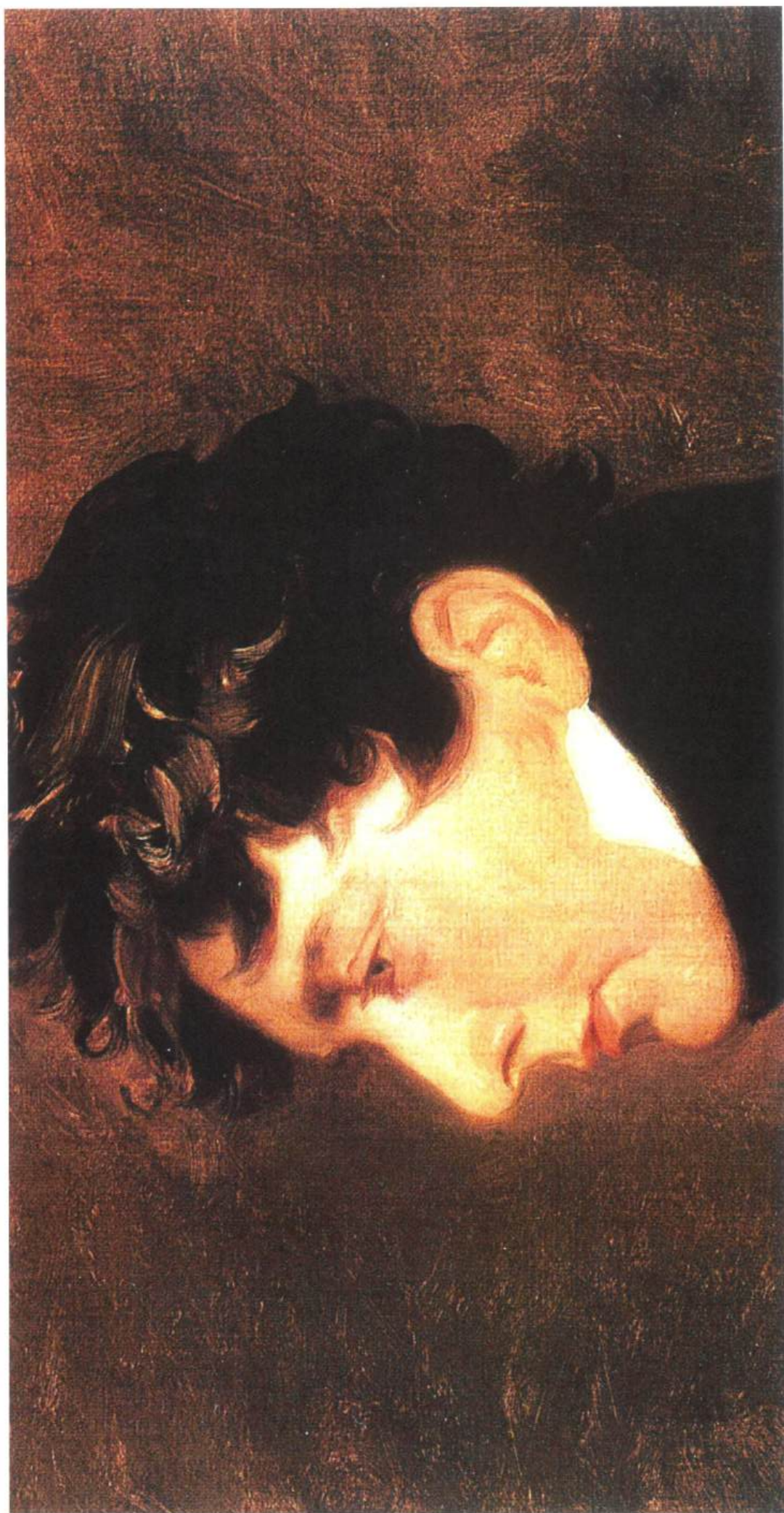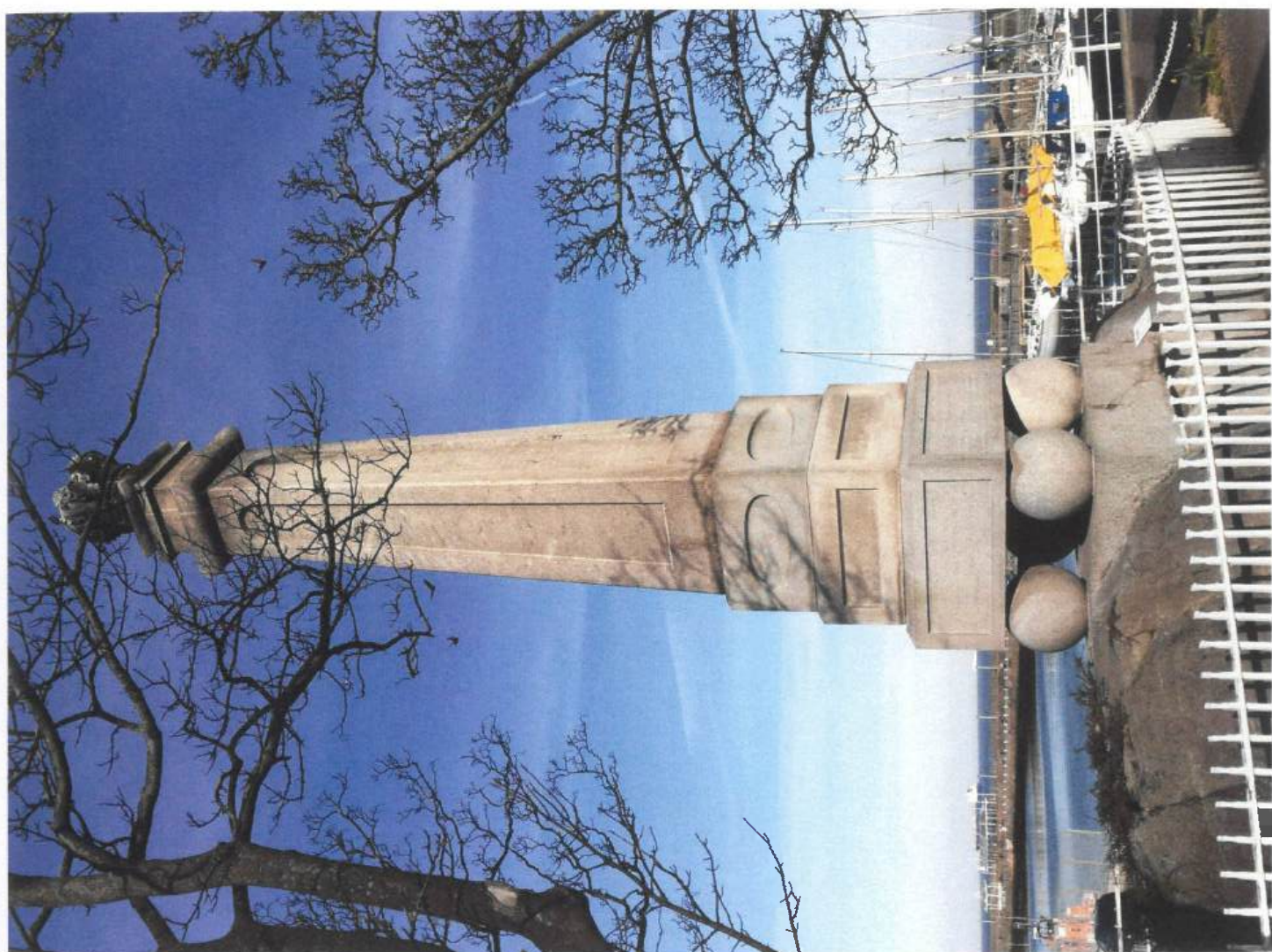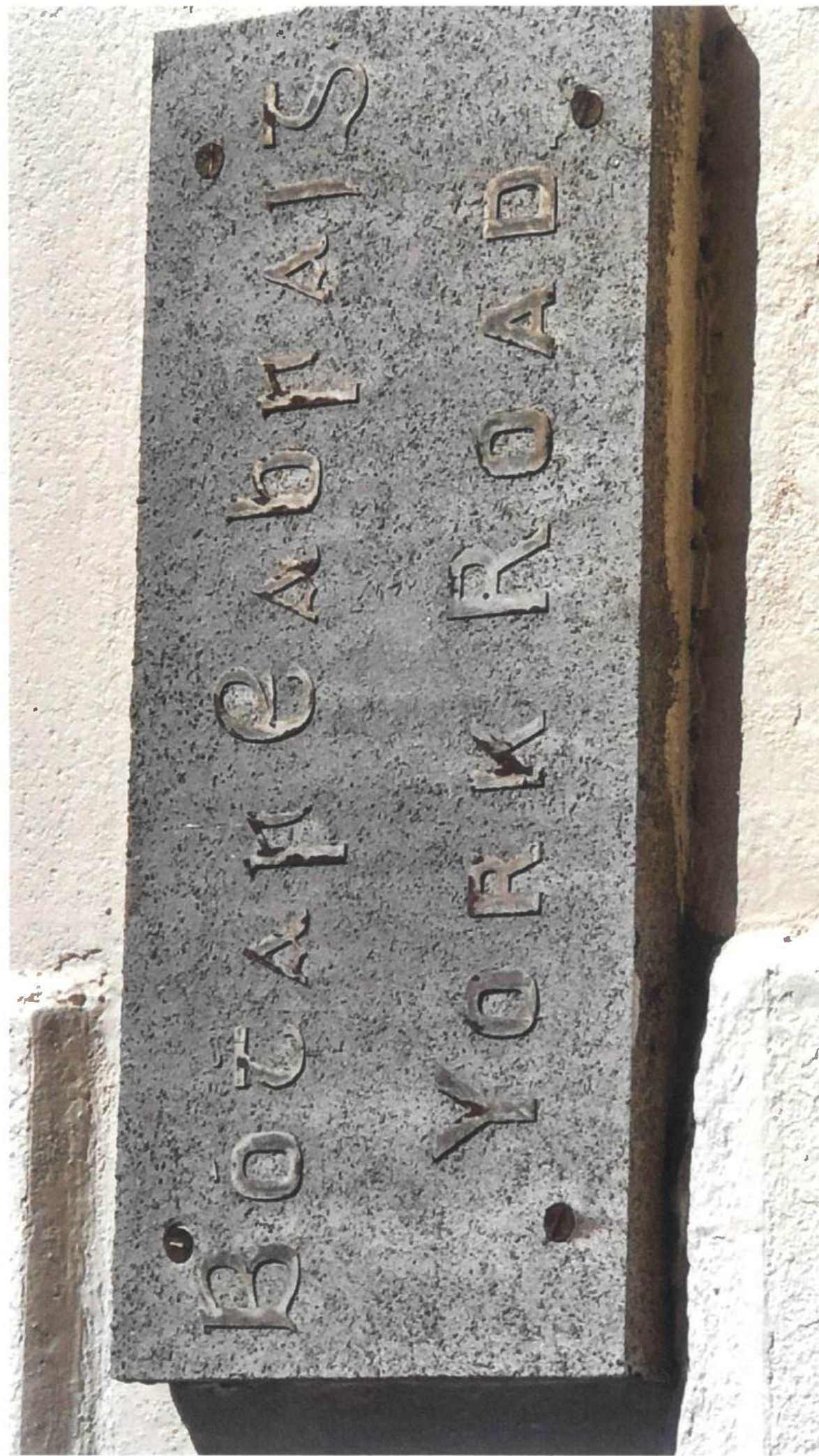
be vacated or amended as may be necessary"

Proposed by Councillor Ó Ruadhaigh
moved by Councillor Ó hUadhaigh Ó hOcáin.

Proposed by Councillor O'Ruadhaigh;
Seconded by Councillor Kelly:-

(1) Resolved that this Kingstown Urban district Council do hereby change their name and style and the name of their district. & the Dún Laoghaire Urban District Council and the Dún Laoghaire Urban District respectively"

In reply to Councillor Bolster, the Chairman states that he was informed by the Law Agent that the question was a one

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

DUN LEARY · KINGSTOWN · DÚN LAOGHAIRE

A VISUAL HISTORY

A WELCOME AWAITS YOU AT
DUN-LAOGHAIRE (KINGSTOWN)

Gate of IRELAND

I've got you in my eye at KINGSTOWN.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

DUN LEARY · KINGSTOWN · DÚN LAOGHAIRE

A VISUAL HISTORY CELEBRATING THE CENTENARY OF THE TOWN'S NAME CHANGE IN 1920 DURING THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

2 NOVEMBER 2020 – 31 JANUARY 2021

LEVEL 3, DLR LEXICON, HAIGH TERRACE, MORAN PARK, DÚN LAOGHAIRE

An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán
Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

dlr
Comhairle Contae Dún Laoghaire-Ráth an Dúin

In 2020 dlr Libraries published a book called *What's in a Name? Dun Leary - Kingstown - Dún Laoghaire* and created an exhibition of the same name. Both the book and exhibition provide information about postcards and a short history of Dún Laoghaire. The online exhibition can be found at **https://libraries.dlrcoco.ie/events-and-news/online-exhibition#dunleary** and the book is available from Dubray Books.

The postcards were acquired in 2019 from the sale of the Seamus Kearns Postcard Collection and are part of dlr LexIcon's Local Studies Department at Haigh Terrace, Moran Park, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. See also **libraries.dlrcoco.ie**

Placenames in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

WORKSHEET 5
LESSON 5

- Historical photographs in the Lexicon postcard exhibition. The postcards highlight the attraction of Kingstown/Dún Laoghaire as a holiday destination. What were the principal attractions in your view?

- Create your own postcard of Dún Laoghaire, or of your own homeplace. Choose who you would like to send it to. Find out their address and write them a message.