

A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE CONDITION OF A STRUCTURE

**Architectural
Services
Department**

File Ref: **2012 / CL / 01**

Date of Report: **15 / 05 / 2012**

Location: **Water pumps and columns at various locations around Clondalkin village**

Purpose of the inspection

The Architectural Services Department of South Dublin County Council was asked to inspect three structures (water pumps and columns) around Clondalkin village which were identified by a councillor, to ascertain what defects exist and what works might be necessary to prevent further deterioration.

Extent of the inspection

The inspection was done on Tuesday 15th May 2012 and lasted about 2 hours. The inspection was superficial; no footpaths, parts or cavities were opened up for further examination. No paint or finishes were removed. A brief desk-top survey of the available historical documentation was carried out to support the evidence provided by the inspection. Refer to the maps in Appendix 01.

Status and statutory protections

All but two of the pumps or columns are situated within the Clondalkin village Architectural Conservation Area (A.C.A.) and as such, are protected under the Planning and Development Acts;

In an ACA the carrying out of works will be exempted development only if these works would not materially affect the character of an area. ... The "aspects of an area which (could) detract from its character could include excessive traffic or intrusive traffic signage, advertising hoarding, inappropriate replacement windows and the like ..." (Source: Chapter 3 of "Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities" (DoEHLG 2004))

The site of two of the pumps or columns is also protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930 – 1994 because they are within the Zone of Archaeological Potential established around Clondalkin village which is subject to statutory protection in the Record of Monuments and Places, established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994. This is identified on the map below and referred to in the Council's Record of Monuments and Places (R.M.P.) (Recorded Monument Reference No. DU017-041) under the County Development Plan 2010 - 2016 - Schedule 1, Record of Monuments and Places, referred to as a "Town".

Inspection notes:	
General	Three pumps or columns were located in the village and the site of a fourth was identified. The latter has been removed .
Tower Road	<p>A cast iron column is situated on the east side of Tower Road, across the road from and to the south-east of the round tower. It is built into and supported by the public footpath and is adjacent to an existing stone boundary wall and to two modern ESB mini pillars.</p> <p>The column is of cast iron with a fluted base and central shaft. The base is mostly buried in the footpath. The capping appears to be of concrete or another cementitious material. It is approximately 1 metre tall above footpath level, and may be taller, having been partly buried by the gradual increase in depth of the footpath construction.</p> <p>The column is painted with a dark green colour, considerably weathered and is partly covered with mill scale, a natural occurrence which develops on unpainted or exposed cast iron and protects it from further corrosion.</p>
Old Nangor Road and Mill Lane	<p>A cast iron column is situated on the south-eastern corner of the junction of the Old Nangor Road and Mill Lane. It is partly obscured by an advertising hoarding.</p> <p>The column is very similar on profile to that on Tower Road and shares the same moulded detail and fluted base. Unlike that at Tower Road, most of the base of the column is visible. However it has a much taller shaft, which suggests that it may have been part of a public lighting scheme originally. It is possible that the column on Tower Road may have been altered or reduced in height. Further research would establish this.</p> <p>The column is painted with a pale green colour, considerably weathered and is partly covered with mill scale, a natural occurrence which develops on unpainted or exposed cast iron and protects it from further corrosion.</p>
Old Nangor Road	<p>A water pump is situated on the north side of the Old Nangor Road, beside the office of the Clondalkin Pipe Band, which also functions as a local pre-school childcare facility. There is no footpath at this location and the pump is vulnerable by reason of its exposed location at the edge of the road.</p> <p>The pump is complete; it still has its operating handles and all its features but no longer delivers water. It consists of a fluted central shaft shaped like a classical column, under a Doric entablature with a lion's mask facing the road and fluted cap with finial on top. The pump is of cast iron painted a pale green, much weathered and covered with mill scale.</p> <p>The name of the foundry "Glenfield, Kennedy, Kilmarnock" is stamped on the front of the pump. This was a Scottish foundry which produced a great deal of cast iron goods during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.</p>
The junction of Boot Road, Convent Road and St. John's Road	From discussions with the council's water and drainage section and with local people there was once a water pump with valve and hand pump at the junction of Boot Road, Convent Road and St. John's Road. This pump no longer exists. It may still be in storage and photographs may exist which would confirm its previous location and appearance but no further information is available for the purposes of this report.

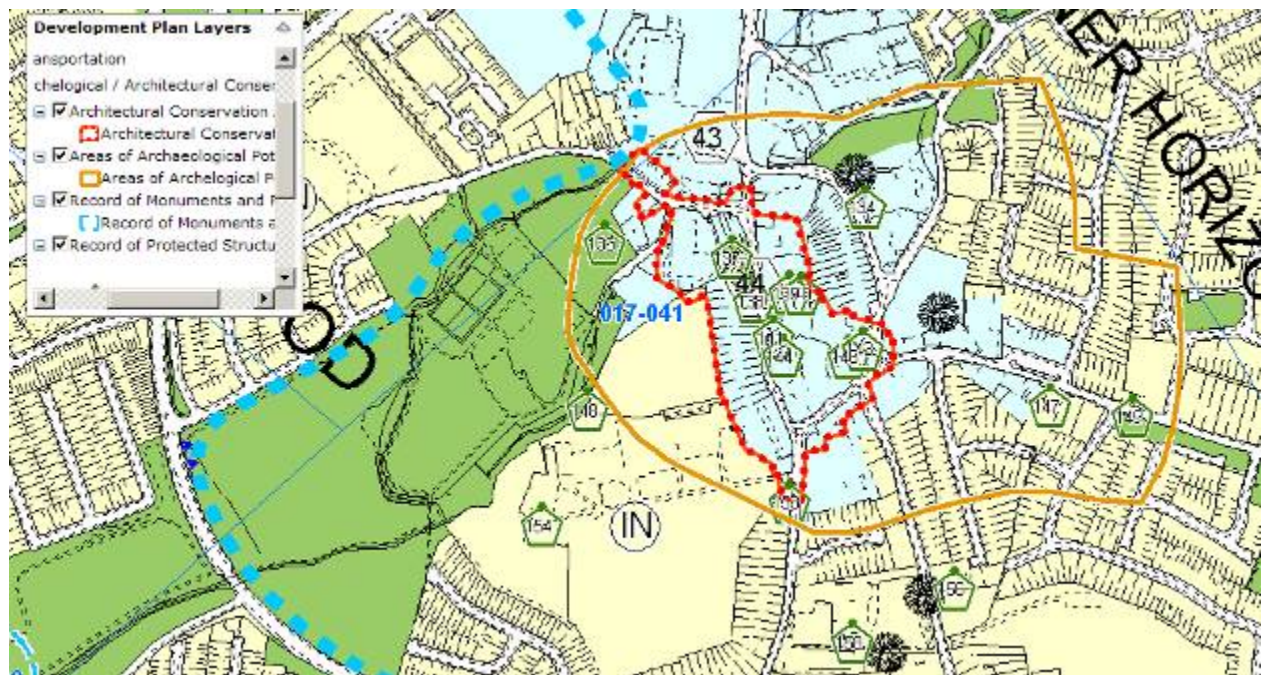
External areas and boundaries	The council's water and drainage section have always had a policy of preserving these features in situ as artefacts of local historic value, industrial heritage and because of their technical significance. However they are vulnerable to road widening projects and to mechanical damage by vehicles. Also cast iron is brittle by nature and can shatter if struck hard enough.
--------------------------------------	--

Recommendations:	
1)	The history of the columns and pump should be investigated further to ascertain their function and appearance. This would entail some examination of the historic maps and photographs.
2)	The decorative history of the columns and pump should be established by taking a paint sample for laboratory analysis.
3)	The cast iron pump and columns should be protected from further corrosion by being painted to prevent further development of corrosion and rust.

Photos:	
 <p>The column on Tower Road</p>	 <p>The column at the Old Nangor Road and Mill Lane</p>



The water pump at the Clondalkin Pipe Band office on Old Nangor Road



A map of Clondalkin extracted from the 2011 – 2015 County Development Plan

Feargal Ó Súilleabháin
Senior Executive Architect

