

14 CULTURAL HERITAGE

14.1 INTRODUCTION

This Chapter assesses the effects of the Proposed Development (**Figure 1.2**) on Cultural Heritage which encompasses assets relevant to both the tangible resources (archaeology and architectural heritage); and non-tangible resources (history, folklore, tradition, language, placenames etc.). The recorded and potential Cultural Heritage resource within Study Areas (described in **Section 14.2.1**) encompassing the various elements of the Proposed Development and surrounding lands was assessed in order to compile a comprehensive Cultural Heritage baseline and context.

The Proposed Development refers to all elements of the application for the construction of Tirawley Wind Farm (**Chapter 2: Project Description**). Where negative effects are predicted, the chapter identifies appropriate mitigation strategies therein. The assessment considers the potential effects during the following phases of the Proposed Development:

- Construction of the Proposed Development
- Operation of the Proposed Development
- Decommissioning of the Proposed Development

Common acronyms used throughout this EIAR can be found in **Appendix 1.1**. This chapter of the EIAR is supported by **Figures 14.1 – 14.8** provided in Volume III and by the following Appendix document provided in Volume IV of this EIAR:

- **Appendix 14.1 Photographic Record**
- **Appendix 14.2 Inventory Descriptions**

A Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) is appended to the EIAR in **Appendix 2.1**. This document will be developed into a Site-Specific CEMP post consent/pre-construction once a contractor has been appointed and will cover construction of the Proposed Development. It will include all the mitigation measures recommended within the EIAR. For the purpose of this application, a summary of the mitigation measures is included in **Appendix 18.1**.

14.1.1 Statement of Authority

The chapter was prepared by Kate Robb of John Cronin and Associates. Ms. Robb holds B.A. and M.A. degrees in archaeology (University College Galway (UCC) 1999/2001) and a Post Graduate Diploma in EIA/SEA Management (University College Dublin, 2005). She has 16 years' industry experience and has prepared a wide range of archaeological, architectural and Cultural Heritage assessments for renewable energy projects.

14.1.2 Assessment Structure

In line with the revised EIA Directive and current EPA guidelines (2022) consideration of Cultural Heritage effects in this chapter are as follows:

- Details of methodologies utilised for both desk and field studies, in the context of legal and planning frameworks
- Baseline Descriptions (including a review of recorded cultural heritage assets, historical cartographic sources, aerial imagery, and walkover field survey findings)
- Assessment of Potential Effects (construction, operational and decommissioning stages)
- Detailed Mitigation Measures
- Assessment of Residual Effects
- Assessment of Cumulative Effects
- Summary of Significant Effects and Statement of Significance

14.2 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY AND SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

14.2.1 Definition of Study Area

There are no professional guidelines which define the extent of Study Areas required to assess the effects of wind farm developments on the Cultural Heritage resource. The extent of the Study Areas used for this assessment are, therefore, informed by the years of experience and professional judgement of the specialist and are considered suitable for the assessment of potential effects.

The Study Area reviewed for the assessment comprised the area within the Wind Farm Site and the surrounding lands extending for 1 km in all directions beyond the Wind Farm Redline Boundary and a 100 m wide corridor area centred on the Grid Connection Route (GCR) and work areas required to facilitate the Turbine Delivery Route (TDR). The extent of the 1 km Study Area radius of the Wind Farm Site boundary has suitably facilitated the compilation of a robust baseline context for the known and potential Cultural Heritage resource within the Wind Farm Site. This has informed the assessment of potential direct and indirect effects of likely medium-high magnitude on the location and setting of known Cultural Heritage assets within this area. The extent of the 100 m Study Area centred on the GCR and the TDR work areas has suitably facilitated the compilation of a robust baseline context for the known and potential Cultural Heritage resource within the vicinity of their localised footprints. This has informed an appraisal of the potential presence of any sub-surface elements which may be susceptible to direct or indirect effects.

In addition, the wider landscape extending for 10 km in all directions from the Wind Farm Site was reviewed to determine the presence of any nationally significant Cultural Heritage assets with heightened visual sensitivities, such as National Monuments in State Care and World Heritage sites (including 2022 Tentative List sites). This also included a review of other Cultural Heritage assets within the 10 km Study Area that possess visual attributes that extend beyond their immediate settings, such as archaeological monuments with ritual visual alignments across the wider landscape (e.g., stone circles, stone rows and megalithic tombs). The extent of this 10 km area is based on professional judgement and suitably facilitates an appraisal of the wider landscape and identification of individual monuments or groupings that may be susceptible to potential high-to-medium magnitudes of indirect effects on their wider landscape settings or alignments.

It is noted that the assessment of the significance of visual effects on publicly accessible Cultural Heritage receptors within 20 km of the Wind Farm Site is presented in the Landscape and Visual Amenity Assessment chapter which was reviewed as part of this assessment (see **Chapter 12**).

14.2.2 Assessment Methodology

The methodology used for this assessment is based on Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) *Guidelines for Information to be Contained in EIAR* (2022). The chapter seeks to comply with the requirements of Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU, and the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended). The assessment has also been informed by guidelines for the assessment of effects on the Cultural Heritage resource as published by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS 2011¹).

Overall, the assessment methodology was based on a programme of desk-based research combined with a site inspection and these studies were undertaken to identify any features of Cultural Heritage significance likely to be affected by the Proposed Development.

14.2.3 Relevant Legislation and Guidance

The tangible elements of the Cultural Heritage resource can be loosely divided into the archaeological resource comprising sites and monuments dating from the prehistoric period to the post-medieval period (1700 AD) and the architectural heritage resource, encompassing standing structures and sites of cultural importance often dating to the post-

¹ ICOMOS 2011. *Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties*

medieval and modern periods. In addition, assets such as local placenames, folklore and traditions are considered part of the intangible Cultural Heritage resource.

The management and protection of the Cultural Heritage resource in Ireland is achieved through a framework of international conventions and national laws and policies. This framework was established in accordance with the provisions of the 'European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage' (the Valletta Convention) and the 'European Convention on the Protection of Architectural Heritage' (Grenada Convention). Both of these conventions were ratified by the Republic of Ireland in 1997.

In addition, the UNESCO 'Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage', 1972 (World Heritage Convention) was ratified by Ireland in 1991. While there is no current national legislation providing legal protection for the Irish intangible heritage resource it is noted that the UNESCO *Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage*, 2003, which seeks to safeguard and promote awareness of this element of cultural heritage, was ratified by Ireland in 2015.

The relevant legislation and guidelines that are relevant to this assessment include the following:

- Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023
- National Monuments Act 1930 (as amended)
- Heritage Act 1995 (as amended)
- National Cultural Institutions Act 1997 (as amended)
- Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)
- Department of Arts, Heritage, and Gaeltacht (2011) *Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities*
- Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht, and the Islands (1999) *Framework and Principles for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage*
- International Council on Monuments and Sites (2011) *Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties*
- Office of the Public Regulator (2022) *A Guide to Architectural Heritage*
- Office of the Public Regulator (2021) *Archaeology in the Planning Process*
- Environment Protection Agency (2015) *Draft Advice Notes for Preparing an EIS*
- Environment Protection Agency (2022) *Guidelines on the information to be contained in EIARs*
- Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (2018) *Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment*

- European Commission (2017) *Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects: Guidance on the Preparation on the Environmental Impact Assessment Report*
- Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (2019) *Wind Energy Development Guidelines (Draft Revised)*

14.2.3.1 Archaeological Heritage

The National Monuments Service (NMS) is currently based in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and is responsible for the preservation, protection, and promotion of Ireland's archaeological heritage.

The *Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023* ('the Act') was enacted on 13th October 2023, with a Commencement Order of some of its elements effective from 31st May 2024. While the Act is now law, it is important to note that most of its provisions will not enter into force until the Minister (DHLGH) has made one or more Commencement Orders per subsections (7) to (13) of section 1 of the Act.

At the time of writing, section 225 and a number of non-heritage related "miscellaneous" provisions in Part 13 of the Act have entered into force as well as section 159 (relating to records and objects) and sections 134, 138, 139, 142 and 147 (relating to underwater cultural heritage). As no other aspects of the Act have yet entered into force, this means that section 7 of the Act (which provides for the repeal of the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 and related legislation) has not entered into force. Accordingly, the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 (as amended) currently remain fully in force.

There are a number of mechanisms under the *National Monument Act 1930-2014*, the *Heritage Act 1995* and relevant provisions of the *National Cultural Institutions Act 1997*, that are applied to secure the protection of archaeological remains, which are held to include all man-made structures of whatever form or date except buildings habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes.

The *National Monuments Act 1930-2014* secures designation of sites of national significance as National Monuments, enters archaeological sites onto the Register of Historic Monuments (RHM) and the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and includes sites in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP). All RMP sites receive statutory protection under the Act. The Act also allows for the placing of Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders on endangered sites, which secures designation protection as that for National Monuments.

A National Monument is described as 'a monument or the remains of a monument, the preservation of which is a matter of national importance by reason of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching thereto' (Section 2, National Monument Act, 1930).

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) was established under Section 12(1) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 and was based on the earlier Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and Register of Historic Monuments (RHM). These records comprise lists and maps of all known archaeological monuments and places for each county in the state.

The National Monuments Service maintains an online Historic Environment Viewer which comprises an interactive map/search facility that provide access to current records stored on its national database of sites and monuments. The Viewer includes designated areas around recorded monuments known as 'zones of notification' which do not comprise buffer zones but are intended to indicate areas of archaeological potential within their environs².

All archaeological sites listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) receive statutory protection under the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 and no works can be undertaken at their locations without providing two months advance notice to the National Monuments Service.

The known archaeological sites located within the Study Area are detailed in **Section 14.3** of this chapter. The potential for the presence of hitherto unrecorded, sub-surface archaeological features within proposed construction areas is also considered.

14.2.3.2 Architectural Heritage

Protection of the architectural heritage resource is provided for through a range of legal instruments that include the Heritage Act 1995 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). Section 2.1 of the Heritage Act 1995 (as amended), describes architectural heritage as including:

All structures, buildings, traditional and designed, and groups of buildings including streetscapes and urban vistas, which are of historical, archaeological, artistic, engineering, scientific, social or technical interest, together with their setting, attendant grounds, fixtures, fittings and contents, and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, includes

² Archaeology and the Planning Process. Available at: <https://www.opr.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Planning-Leaflet-13-Archaeology-in-the-Planning-Process.pdf> [Accessed 17.09.2025]

railways and related buildings and structures and any place comprising the remains or traces of any such railway, building or structure.

The conservation principles of care and protection of architectural heritage and the facilitation of the listing of significant buildings of architectural merit are set out in Part IV of the *Planning and Development Act (2000)* (as amended). This requires Local Authorities to maintain a Record of Protected Structures (RPS) of structures with special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, or technical interest, to be included in Local Authority Development Plans.

The current RPS for County Mayo is published in the *Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028*. The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) also provides for the inclusion of objectives for preserving the character of places, areas, groups of structures or townscapes of special interest designated as Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs).

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH), including its Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes Survey, comprises a non-statutory record of a representative sample of post AD 1700 architectural heritage structures and associated lands. While inclusion in the inventory does not provide statutory protection to listed structures or lands, it does provide an indication of their architectural heritage value and is intended to advise Local Authorities on the compilation of their Records of Protected Structures.

The designated architectural heritage structures within the Study Areas reviewed as part of this assessment are detailed in **Section 14.3** of this chapter.

14.2.3.3 Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028

The *Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028* includes the following relevant objectives in relation to the protection of the archaeological and architectural heritage resource within the county:

- BEO 1: To protect the archaeological heritage and sites identified in the Record of Monuments and Places, National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the State in addition to National Monuments that are the subject of Preservation Orders, and to safeguard the integrity of the archaeological sites in their setting.
- BEO 2: To protect the tentative World Heritage Site in Mayo on the UNESCO Tentative List- Ireland 2010, The Céide Fields, from inappropriate development and support its nomination to World Heritage Status³.

³ Note: the Céide Fields have not been included in Ireland's latest Tentative List for World Heritage status.

- BEO 3: To implement, in partnership with the County Mayo Heritage Forum, relevant stakeholders and the community, the County Mayo Heritage Plan, and any revisions thereof.
- BEO 4: To ensure that development in the vicinity of a Recorded Monument or Zone of Archaeological Potential is sited and designed in a sensitive manner, avoiding adverse effects on landscape setting and context of monument.
- BEO 5: To protect all sites and features of archaeological interest discovered subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monument and Places, in situ (or at a minimum preservation by record), having regard to the advice and recommendations of the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
- BEO 6: To protect archaeological sites, monuments, underwater archaeology and archaeological objects in their setting, which are listed on the Record of Monuments and Places for Mayo.
- BEO 7: To promote awareness and the appropriate adaptation of Ireland's built and archaeological heritage to deal with the effects of climate change with reference to the Built and Archaeological Heritage Climate Change and Adaptation Plan.
- BEO 8: To review and update the Record of Protected Structures within 12 months of adopting this plan, and on-going basis, and to make additions and deletions, as appropriate. Where exceptional circumstances apply, that discretion would be applied to work with affected parties.
- BEO 9: To ensure the protection and sympathetic enhancement of buildings and structures included and proposed for inclusion in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) that are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, or technical interest, together with the integrity of their character and setting.
- BEO 10: To protect the setting of protected structures and seek to prevent the demolition or inappropriate alteration of Protected Structures, which would adversely impact on the character and special interest of the structure, where appropriate.
- BEO 11: To ensure that any new development or alteration to a building within or adjoining an Architectural Conservation Area positively enhances the character of the area and is appropriate in terms of the proposed materials, scale, density, layout, proportions, plot ratio and building lines.
- BEO 12: To identify places of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, or technical interest, and to define them as Architectural Conservation Areas and to undertake an assessment to inform the potential ACA designation for the following areas: Castlebar, Ballinrobe, Killala, Pontoon and Doogort

or any other special character areas considered by the Planning Authority worthy of such protection in County Mayo.

- BEO 13: To protect the built heritage of Ballina, Castlebar and Westport, including the protected structures listed in the existing town and environs development plans and seek to review the Record of Protected Structures for County Mayo to incorporate protected structures from the plan areas of these towns.
- BEO 14: To identify and retain good examples of vernacular architecture and historic street furniture in situ, for example, cast-iron post boxes, water pumps, signage, street lighting, kerbing and traditional road and street surface coverings.
- BEO 15: To ensure that conversions or extensions of traditional buildings or the provision of new adjoining buildings, are sensitively designed and do not detract from the character of the historic building.
- BEO 16: To update the survey of surviving thatched structures in the county and to promote available grant schemes in order to assist owners with their retention and repair.
- BEO 17: To preserve the character and setting (for example, gates, gate piers and courtyards) of historic building and vernacular buildings, where deemed appropriate by the planning authority.

14.2.4 Desktop Study

The assessment presents the results of a desktop study of relevant published sources and datasets undertaken to identify all recorded and potential archaeological, architectural, and other Cultural Heritage sites/features/areas within the Study Areas including GCR and TDR work areas.

The principal sources reviewed for the assessment of the recorded archaeological resource were the Sites and Monuments Record and the Record of Monuments and Places. The Record of Protected Structures and the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage for Co. Mayo were consulted for assessing the locations of designated elements of the architectural heritage resource.

Other sources consulted as part of the desktop study included the following:

*National Monuments Service's Historic Environment Viewer*⁴: There is currently no published archaeological inventory for County Mayo but the NMS online Historic Environment Viewer (HEV) does present summary descriptions of certain recorded

⁴ Historic Environment Viewer, National Monuments Service. Available at: <https://heritagedata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=0c9eb9575b544081b0d296436d8f60f8> [Accessed 12/09/2025]

archaeological sites within the county and these entries are included within **Section 14.3**. Additional follow-up consultation with the NMS archives unit in May 2023 also provided digital copies of SMR sites descriptions held on file but not yet published on the HEV.

*Heritage Council of Ireland Map Viewer*⁵: This online mapping resource collates various Cultural Heritage datasets provided by, among others, the National Monuments Service, the National Museum of Ireland, Local Authorities, and the Office of Public Works.

Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland: These files comprise paper and digital records of known information on Irish artefacts, including their discovery locations. The file archive is stored in the museum premises in Kildare Street, Dublin and was inspected as part of the assessment.

Database of Irish Excavation Reports: This online database contains summary accounts of archaeological site investigations carried out in Ireland (North and South) from 1970 to present⁶.

Literary Sources: Various published sources were consulted to assess the archaeological, historical, architectural heritage and folklore record of the Study Area.

Cartographic Sources: A review of available historic cartographic sources was undertaken, and these included the 17th-century Down Survey and various map editions published by the Ordnance Survey from the mid-19th century onward. These sources can indicate the presence of past settlement patterns, including features of archaeological and architectural heritage significance that no longer have any surface expression. Relevant extracts from the reviewed cartographic sources are provided in **Volume III**.

Aerial and Satellite imagery: A review of available imagery of the Study Area was undertaken to review the extent of modern interventions and to ascertain if any traces of unrecorded archaeological sites were visible within Proposed Development areas.

Irish National Folklore Collection: A review was undertaken of transcribed material from the National Folklore Collection archive which has been digitised and published online at www.duchas.ie.

⁵ The Heritage Council, Heritage Maps. Available at: www.heritagemaps.ie [Accessed September 2025]

⁶ Excavations of Ireland Database. Available at: www.excavations.ie [Accessed September 2025]

UNESCO World Heritage Sites and Tentative List (2022): There are currently two designated World Heritage sites in Ireland (Brú na Bóinne, Co. Meath and Sceilg Mhichíl, Co. Kerry). A number of other significant examples have been included in the latest Tentative List to be nominated by Ireland for consideration as World Heritage Sites. These comprise the Passage Tomb Landscape of County Sligo, the Transatlantic Cable Ensemble, County Kerry, the Royal Sites of Ireland (Dún Ailinne County Kildare; Hill of Uisneach, County Westmeath; Rock of Cashel, County Tipperary; Rathcroghan, County Roscommon and Tara, County Meath) and The Historic Astronomical Observatories of Ireland (Armagh, Birr and Dunsink)⁷. None of these Tentative List sites are located in Co. Mayo or are within the environs of its county boundary. It is noted that the Céide Fields Neolithic field complex, which is located c.9.5 km to the west of the Site, was included in an earlier Tentative List (2010) but has not been included in the 2022 list.

14.2.5 Field Survey

Proposed construction locations within the Proposed Development area were subjected to field walking surveys and inspections of the GCR and work areas along the TDR where ground works are required were also undertaken. These surveys were carried out in April 2022, May 2022, September 2023, and December 2023.

There are no relevant guidelines in relation to specific methodological approaches to Cultural Heritage field surveys for wind farm developments. In the professional judgement of the specialist, the duration, frequency, and method of the field surveys carried out as part of this assessment were suitable to the existing environment at the location of the Proposed Development. The surveyed lands were assessed in terms of historic landscape, existing land use, vegetation cover and the potential for the presence and survival of unrecorded archaeological and undesignated architectural heritage sites or features. The results of the field surveys are described within the chapter (**Section 14.3.13**) while annotated extracts from the photographic record are provided in **Appendix 14.1**. The Cultural Heritage receptors located within portions of the Study Area outside the Redline Boundary are within private property portfolios and were not accessible during field surveys. These receptors were assessed based on a combined review of their type of classification and condition (per available published inventory descriptions) as well as a review of their respective topographic setting per the consulted historic OS mapping and modern aerial/satellite imagery.

⁷ Tentative World Heritage List, Ireland. Available at: <https://www.worldheritageireland.ie/tentative-list/> [Accessed 17.09.25]

14.2.6 Consultation

A scoping request for the Proposed Development was issued to relevant stakeholders (see **Chapter 1: Introduction**) on 28/09/2023 however no responses in relation to the Cultural Heritage resource was received.

14.2.7 Predicted Effects on Cultural Heritage

The following summarises the criteria applied to determine the nature of effects in order to outline the methodology applied to the cultural heritage resource. Assessment was achieved by a consideration of the duration, quality, type, magnitude, and value/sensitivity of effect(s) on the cultural heritage resource.

Duration of Effect

The duration of effects is assessed based on the following criteria:

- Momentary (seconds to minutes)
- Brief < 1 day
- Temporary <1 year
- Short-term 1-7 years
- Medium Term 7-15 years
- Long Term 15-60 years
- Permanent > 60 years
- Reversible: Effects that can be undone, for example through remediation or restoration

Quality of Effect

The quality of an effect on the Cultural Heritage resource can be positive, neutral, or negative:

- Positive Effect – a change which improves the quality of the Cultural Heritage environment (e.g. increasing amenity value of a site in terms of managed access, signage, presentation etc. or high-quality conservation/restoration and re-use of an otherwise vulnerable derelict structure).
- Neutral Effect – no change or effects that are imperceptible, within the normal bounds of variation for the Cultural Heritage environment.
- Negative Effect – a change which reduces the quality of the Cultural Heritage resource (e.g. visual intrusion on the setting of an asset, physical intrusion on features/setting of a site etc.)

Type of Effect

The type of effect on the Cultural Heritage resource can be direct, indirect, or no predicted effect.

- Direct Effect – where a Cultural Heritage site is physically located within the footprint of the EIA Development, which will result in its complete or partial removal.
- Indirect Effect – where a Cultural Heritage site or its setting in the landscape is located within the environs of the EIA Development.
- No predicted effect – where the Proposed Development will not adversely or positively affect a cultural heritage site.

In addition, both cumulative and residual effects on the Cultural Heritage resource are considered:

- Cumulative – The addition of many minor or significant effects, including effects of other projects, to create larger more significant effects.
- Residual – Degree of environmental change that will occur after the proposed mitigation measures have taken effect.

Magnitude of Effect

Determination of the Magnitude of Effect is based on a consideration of character, duration, probability, and consequences of the likely effect on the cultural heritage receptor. Magnitude of Effect (degree of change) can be negative or positive and should be ranked without regard to the value of the asset according to the following scale: High; Medium; Low and Negligible. Ranking levels have been informed by criteria published in the International Council on Monuments and Sites *Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties* (ICOMOS 2011) (**Table 14.1**).

Table 14.1: Magnitude of Effect Assessment Indicators for the Cultural Heritage Asset

Indicative factors for assessing the Magnitude of Effect on the Cultural Heritage Asset (after ICOMOS Guidelines 2011)	
High	- Most or all key archaeological or architectural materials affected such that the resource is totally altered - Comprehensive changes to setting - Changes to most or all key historic landscape elements, parcels, or components; extreme visual effects; fundamental changes to use or access; resulting in total change to historic landscape character unit - Major changes to area that affect Intangible Cultural Heritage activities or associations or visual links and cultural appreciation

Indicative factors for assessing the Magnitude of Effect on the Cultural Heritage Asset (after ICOMOS Guidelines 2011)	
Medium	- Changes to many key archaeological or historic building materials/elements such that the resource is clearly/significantly modified. - Considerable changes to setting that affect the character of the archaeological asset. - Changes to the setting of a historic building, such that it is significantly modified. - Change to many key historic landscape elements, parcels or components, visual change to many key aspects of the historic landscape, considerable changes to use or access, resulting in moderate changes to historic landscape character. - Considerable changes to area that affect the Intangible Cultural Heritage activities or associations or visual links and cultural appreciation.
Low	- Changes to key archaeological materials/historic building elements, such that the resource is slightly altered/slightly different. - Slight changes to setting of an archaeological monument. - Change to setting of a historic building, such that it is noticeably changed. - Change to few key historic landscape elements, parcels, or components; slight visual changes to few key aspects of historic landscape; slight changes to use or access; resulting in limited change to historic landscape character. - Changes to area that affect the Intangible Cultural Heritage activities or associations or visual links and cultural appreciation.
Negligible	- Very minor changes to key archaeological materials or setting. - Slight changes to historic building elements or setting that hardly affect it. - Very minor changes to key historic landscape elements, parcels, or components; virtually unchanged visual effects; very slight changes to use or access; resulting in very small change to historic landscape character. - Very minor changes to area that affect the Intangible Cultural Heritage activities or associations or visual links and cultural appreciation.

Note: This table is indicative only and to be used together with a consideration of the location, type, siting, design, and layout of the Proposed Development.

Value assessment criteria

The evaluation of the Value/Sensitivity of a heritage asset is largely based on its significance criteria, and is not to be considered definitive, but rather an indicator which contributes to a wider judgment based on the individual circumstances of each feature. Generally, the more criteria that are evident for a given asset, the higher in scale its respective value shall be. Criteria to be considered in addition to any legal designations include a consideration of the condition/preservation, documentary/historical significance, group value, rarity, visibility in the landscape, fragility/vulnerability, and amenity value.

The Value/Sensitivity of all known or potential assets that may be affected by the Proposed Development are ranked according to the following scale: Very High, High, Medium, Low and Negligible. The indicative criteria outlined in **Table 14.2** below has been informed by

the International Council on Monuments and Sites *Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties*.⁸

Table 14.2: Value/Sensitivity Assessment Indicators of the Cultural Heritage Asset

Indicative factors for assessing the Value of the Cultural Heritage Asset (after ICOMOS Guidelines 2011)	
Very High	- World Heritage Sites (including Tentative List properties) - Assets of acknowledged international importance, including buildings - Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged international research objectives
High	- Designated <i>National Monuments</i> (archaeological) - Assets of significant quality and importance, including designated RMP sites - Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged national research objectives - Protected Structures/National NIAH Grade Buildings - Conservation Areas containing significant buildings of importance, including group value - Archaeological Landscapes with significant inter-group value
Medium	- Assets of good quality and importance, including designated RMP sites - Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged regional research objectives - Regional Grade NIAH Buildings - Other undesignated buildings that can be shown to have exceptional qualities in their fabric or historical associations - Undesignated structures of potential national importance (archaeological, potential 'new sites') - Conservation Areas containing buildings that contribute significantly to its historic character - Historic townscape or built-up areas with important historic integrity in their buildings, or built settings (e.g. including street furniture and other structures)
Low	- Designated and undesignated assets of local importance, including buildings - Assets compromised by poor preservation and/or poor survival of contextual associations - Assets of limited value, but with potential to contribute to local research objectives - Historic Townscape or built-up areas of limited historic integrity in their buildings, or built settings (e.g. including street furniture and other structures)
Negligible	- Assets with very little or no surviving archaeological interest - Buildings of no architectural or historical note; buildings of an intrusive character

⁸ ICOMOS (2011). *Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties*. ICOMOS, Paris. pp.14-17.

Note: This table is indicative only and to be used together with a consideration of the condition/preservation; documentary/historical significance, group value, rarity, visibility in the landscape, fragility/vulnerability, and amenity value of the Cultural Heritage Asset itself on a case-by-case basis.

Significance of Effects

The Significance of Effect is calculated based on a consideration of the magnitude of effect combined with the value/sensitivity of the asset and can be described as Profound, Very Significant, Significant, Moderate, Slight, Not Significant, or Imperceptible (**Table 14.3**).

Table 14.3: Significance of Effects (per EPA EIAR Guidelines 2022)

Magnitude of Effect	High	Not Significant/ Slight	Moderate/ Significant	Significant/ Very Significant	Very Significant/ Profound
	Medium	Not Significant	Slight	Moderate/ Significant	Significant/ Very significant
	Low	Not Significant/ Imperceptible	Slight/ Not Significant	Slight	Moderate
	Negligible	Imperceptible	Not Significant/ Imperceptible	Not Significant/ Slight	Slight
		Negligible	Low	Medium	High / Very High
Value/Sensitivity of the Asset					

The significance of effects is described in **Table 14.4** and have been informed by EPA EIAR Guidelines 2022.

Table 14.4: Describing Significance of Effects on Cultural Heritage

Describing Significance of Effect	
Imperceptible	An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences. Can directly or indirectly affect the cultural heritage resource but is without noticeable consequences.
Not Significant	An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences. Can directly or indirectly affect the cultural heritage resource.
Slight	An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without affecting its sensitivities. Can directly or indirectly affect the cultural heritage resource.
Moderate	An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner that is consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends. Directly or indirectly affects the cultural heritage receptor but not such where the integrity of the resource is compromised.
Significant	An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment. Directly or indirectly affects the cultural heritage receptor in part, with partial loss of integrity, character, and data.
Very Significant	An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity significantly alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment. Directly or indirectly affects the cultural heritage receptor for the most part, with loss of integrity, character and data.

Describing Significance of Effect	
Profound	An effect which obliterates sensitive characteristics. Completely and irreversibly affects the cultural heritage receptor with total loss of integrity, character, and data.

14.3 BASELINE DESCRIPTION

14.3.1 Introduction

The following sections present summary details of the main periods within the Irish archaeological record with references to known archaeological sites, designated architectural heritage structures (RPS and NIAH) and identified undesignated Cultural Heritage assets located within the Study Areas for the Wind Farm Site (**Section 14.3.2**), Grid Connection (**Section 14.3.11**) and TDR (**Section 14.3.12**).

Datasets have been interrogated and retrieved from current state and local authority sources and are considered accurate at the time of writing.

14.3.2 Wind Farm Study Area: Archaeological and Historical Context

14.3.2.1 Prehistoric Periods

Until the recent identification of Palaeolithic human butchery marks on a bear bone recovered from a cave site in County Clare, the earliest recorded evidence for human activity in Ireland dated to the Mesolithic period (7000 - 4000 BC) when groups of hunter-gatherers lived on the heavily wooded island. The archaeological record indicates that these mobile groups tended to favour coastal, lake and river shores which provided a transport resource and also provided elements of their varied diet. They did not construct any settlements or monuments that have left any above ground traces although their presence in an area can often be identified by scatters of worked flints in ploughed fields or sub-surface traces of their settlements revealed during earth-moving undertaken as part of development works. There are no known archaeological sites dating to the Mesolithic period located within the 1 km Study Area surrounding the Wind Farm Site.

The Neolithic period (4000 - 2400 BC) began with the arrival of agriculture and its establishment as the principal form of economic subsistence, which resulted in more permanent settlement patterns. As a consequence of the more settled nature of agrarian life, new site-types, such as substantial rectangular timber houses, field systems and various types of megalithic tombs, begin to appear in the archaeological record.

The Study Area contains six recorded court tombs which are megalithic monuments dating to the Neolithic period. They comprise long rectangular or trapezoidal cairns delimited by

kerbs of upright stones and typically contain an unroofed forecourt area at the broader end of the cairn which gave access to a roofed burial gallery which is often divided into two to four chambers of containing cremation burials. An archaeological excavation of one of the examples (MA007-016006-) in the north end of the Study Area, which is within a notable complex of archaeological monuments located in the Rathlacken bogland area, was undertaken during the 1990s (**Appendix 14.1 Plates 14.1 and 14.2**).⁹ The investigations revealed a number of house structures, as well as enclosures and field boundaries, within its environs, including one example that was dated to the Neolithic period (MA007-016018-). The Study Area also contains the recorded locations of four unclassified megalithic structures which is a term assigned to examples of these monument types that often do not retain sufficient remains to allow for definitive type classification.

Metalworking arrived in Ireland with the advent of the Bronze Age period (c. 2400 - 500 BC). This new technology introduced a new assemblage of artefacts into the Irish archaeological record and this period was also associated with the construction of new monument types such as standing stones, stone rows, and stone circles. The development of new burial practices meant that the construction of funerary monuments such as cairns, barrows, boulder burials and tumuli or cists was a common practice during this period. There are two recorded cairn monuments within the Study Area at Knockboha (MA007-031---) and at Carn (MA014-061002-). Cairn site MA007-031--- is located on a prominent rise and is likely prehistoric in date although there are no other discernible features; while cairn MA014-061002- is located within an early medieval ecclesiastical complex and described as a memorial cairn, possibly associated with the site itself or host to an earlier sacred place prior to the arrival of Christianity. Mound sites are also recorded at Atticloghy (MA014-080--) and at Lissadrone East (MA014-0125---) however the former is possibly a natural feature, and the latter has no associated SMR archive survey file available.

The arrival of iron-working technology in Ireland saw the advent of the Iron Age (600 BC – 400 AD). Relatively little has been known about settlement patterns during this period until recent decades when the corpus of evidence has been greatly increased by the discovery of Iron Age sites during archaeological investigations undertaken as part of various development projects. There are no recorded archaeological sites within the Study Area that can be definitively assigned an Iron Age date based on their morphology.

⁹ Excavations Database of Ireland. Available at: <https://excavations.ie/report/1990/Mayo/0001024/> [Accessed 12.09.2025]

14.3.2.2 *Early Medieval Period*

The early medieval period began with the introduction of Christianity to Ireland and continued until the arrival of the Anglo-Normans in the late 12th century (c. 400 - 1169 AD). While this period saw the emergence of the first phases of urbanisation around the larger monasteries and the Hiberno-Norse ports, the dominant settlement pattern continued to be rural-based and founded on an agricultural economy centred on enclosed farmsteads known as ringforts and their stone-built equivalents known as cashels.

There are 26 ringforts located within the 1 km Study Area around the Wind Farm Site and the presence of these sites demonstrates the presence of widespread farming communities within the general area during this period. The Study Area also contains three early medieval souterrain sites which comprise underground structures containing of one or more chambers connected by narrow passages that appear to have been built as defensive feature and/or for storage purposes. Two of these souterrains are located within ringfort enclosures. There is also one early medieval ogham stone (MA014-101----) located within the Study Area. These comprise upright monoliths containing ogham script which consists of lines and notches incised along the edge of the stone that spell a person's name (usually male) as well as the name(s) of their ancestor. The stones may have functioned as memorials, grave markers or territorial markers and date from the late 4th to the early 8th century AD.

There are also sixteen enclosure sites located within the Study Area and while sites assigned this classification can theoretically date from any period from prehistory onwards, many may form the remains of unclassified ringforts, but this cannot be conclusively proved without recourse to archaeological excavation. One of the enclosures (MA014-061005-) within the Study Area at Carn townland contains a cross (MA014-061003-), the potential location of a church (MA014-062002-) and two children's burial grounds (MA014-061001- and MA014-062001-) which indicates that it may have been an early ecclesiastical enclosure. This grouping of monuments at Carn is subject to a Preservation Order Ref. 11/1983 and is a National Monument Ref. 389 (see **Section 14.3.4**).

14.3.2.3 *High and Late Medieval Periods*

The arrival of the Anglo-Normans in the late 12th century broadly marks the advent of the Irish high medieval period which continued to c.1400 and was followed by the late medieval period which extended to c.1550. These periods saw the continuing expansion of Irish urbanisation as many of the port cities developed into international trading centres and numerous villages and towns began to develop throughout the country, often within the

environs of Anglo-Norman manorial centres which were defended by masonry castles. By the 15th century, the native Irish chieftains and lords began to construct tower-house castles within their own landholdings as centres of territorial control. The Study Area contains an extant late medieval church and graveyard (MA014-018001- / MA014-018002-) which is located in Glebe townland and the recorded sites of two levelled castles (MA014-057----and MA014-097----) located in the townlands of Carrickanass and Castlelacken Demesne.

14.3.2.4 Post Medieval Period

The centuries following 1550 comprise the post-medieval period which continued into the middle of the 19th century and the period thereafter is often described as early modern. The early phase of the post-medieval period was a turbulent time in Ireland and saw a period of wars between the 1560s and 1603 with further conflict during the mid-17th century Cromwellian Wars which resulted in extensive dispossession of forfeited Gaelic lands. An agricultural boom in the late 18th and early 19th centuries saw a rise in prices for both Irish tillage and dairy produce which resulted in landlords investing in extensive land improvement works within their holdings to increase productivity. This included widespread land drainage works and enclosure of open lands into field systems that survive to the present-day.

The post-medieval period saw the development of high and low status stone houses throughout the Irish countryside and rural settlement clusters at this time typically consisted of single-storey thatched cottages with associated farm buildings while two-storey farmhouses became more common during the 19th century. The settlement pattern throughout much of the rural landscape was greatly affected by the Famine period and its aftermath in the middle of the 19th century which saw the depopulation of many areas. The ruins of former vernacular stone cottages and farmsteads of the 19th century are noted throughout the region, including the Study Area. Country houses and designed landscapes often associated with the landlord classes are also a feature of the 18th and 19th centuries. There are four such houses located within the Study Area (see **Section 14.3.7**) with a recorded tree ring (MA014-118---), a designed formal landscape feature, within the grounds of Lissadrone House (undesigned) in Lissadrone East townland.

14.3.2.5 Archaeological monuments with landscape setting sensitivity

A review of the lands extending for 10 km in all directions from the Wind Farm Site was carried out to ascertain if they contain any additional prehistoric archaeological monuments with potential inherent ritual visual alignments or topographical settings across the wider

landscape. The reviewed monument types included all classes of megalithic monuments, stone circles, stone rows and standing stone pairs.

There are 9 no. unclassified cairns, 8 no. unclassified structures, 35 no. court tombs, 2 no. portal tombs, 10 no. unclassified megalithic tombs, 4 no. wedge tombs, 1 no. stone pair, 3 no. stone circles and 1 no. stone row.

There are no recorded passage tombs within 10 km of the Study Area. Unlike passage tombs, such as those in the Boyne Valley, there is no data to indicate that court tombs, portal tombs or wedge tombs had inherent astronomical alignments as part of their original construct or design, although landscape setting and inter-group visibility of contemporaneous monuments may have been a factor in their locational siting.

The stone pair (MA013-007---) at Keerglen townland has a northeast/southwest axis and retains good views to the south and the Keerglen River. The stone row (MA020-002---) at Tawnywaddyduff townland is now within a forestry plantation, sited adjacent to a court tomb (MA020-002---) and is aligned north-south. The Proposed Development is located to the northeast of these locations and may be partially visible from the stone pair location although the predominant landscape aspect for the monument appears to be to the south.

There are two unclassified cairn features of note within 10 km of the Proposed Development: MA014-002005- and MA014-002006-, sited along and atop of a predominant high mountainous ridge to the west. There is also a recorded field system (MA014-002008-) and a court tomb (MA014-002007-) at this elevated area. Site inspections indicate that cairn MA014-002005- is sited on the highest point of the hill, along a townland boundary (Aghaleague/Rathoonagh) and is very well preserved despite possible roof collapse in the central area, which may be indicative of an internal burial chamber (**Appendix 14.1, Plate 14.3**). Cairn MA014-002006- (disturbed) is also sited on the hilltop ridge, further south and marginally downslope of cairn MA014-002005- and is also placed alongside a townland boundary (Ballinglen/Carrowcuilleen). Cairn MA014-002005- in particular retains extensive panorama views to the northwest/north/northeast/east, whilst cairn MA014-002006- retains predominant views to the southeast/south/southwest/west. The ground rises to the north which restricts immediate foreground views, however, despite cairn MA014-002006- being deeply buried in the bog, it is likely that there was originally deliberate intervisibility between the two cairn sites, along the hilltop ridge. The Proposed Development is located east of these hilltop monuments and is likely to be visible from same (**Appendix 14.1, Plate 14.4**).

Similarly, another cairn site located at an elevated position is MA007-031--- at Knockboha townland. The ground slopes to the south, and although there is an established forestry plantation the Proposed Development to the east/southeast and south, it is likely to be visible in part. It is also noted that this townland placename may have booleying associations (see **Section 14.3.10**).

14.3.2.6 Céide Fields

The Céide Fields (MA006-032002-), an archaeological prehistoric field system complex and visitor's centre are located c. 9.5 km northwest of the Proposed Development. This complex was previously included on the Tentative List (2010) nominated by Ireland for consideration as a World Heritage Site and, while it is not included in a revised 2022 Tentative List, it is considered a high-value cultural heritage receptor.

The *Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028* refers to the value of the Céide Fields as a Cultural Heritage asset in the context of tourism potential for Ballina town, proposed walking, and greenway routes (Céide Coast), as well as specific objective BEO 2 'To protect [the] Céide Fields, from inappropriate development'.

This prehistoric archaeological complex is located c. 9.5 km from the northern portion of the Proposed Development. The prehistoric agrarian complex does not in and of itself retain inherent attributes connected to landscape setting considerations in terms of visual astronomical and landscape alignments. From the entrance area to the visitors centre, there are views along the coastline to the east but views towards the southeast and the general direction of the Proposed Development is generally restricted by the local rising natural topography. A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment of this location and heritage amenity receptor has been undertaken, and the results are presented in **Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Impact**.

14.3.3 Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)/Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)

There RMP/SMR list a total of 85 recorded archaeological sites located within 1 km of the boundary of the Wind Farm Site and these sites are listed in **Table 14.5** and are mapped on **Volume III; Figure 14.1**). Two of these sites have been classified as 'redundant records' by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) as they are likely not archaeological in origin.

Table 14.5 Recorded Archaeological Monuments (SMRs) within 1 km of Wind Farm Site

Monument SMR No.	Class	Townland	Approx. distance from nearest development area
MA007-016001-	Field system	BELTRA (Tirawley By., Lackan Par.), CASTLETOWN (Tirawley By., Lackan Par.), RATHLACKAN	750 m northwest of AT17
MA007-016002-	Enclosure	RATHLACKAN	1,000 m north of AT17
MA007-016003-	Enclosure	BELTRA (Tirawley By., Lackan Par.), RATHLACKAN	880 m north of AT17
MA007-016004-	Megalithic tomb - unclassified	RATHLACKAN	1,000 m north of AT17
MA007-016005-	Megalithic structure	BELTRA (Tirawley By., Lackan Par.)	930 m northwest of AT17
MA007-016006-	Megalithic tomb - court tomb	RATHLACKAN	935 m northwest of AT17
MA007-016007-	Megalithic tomb - court tomb	CASTLETOWN (Tirawley By., Lackan Par.)	710 m northwest of AT17
MA007-016008-	Megalithic tomb - court tomb	CASTLETOWN (Tirawley By., Lackan Par.)	545 m north of AT17
MA007-016009-	Enclosure	CASTLETOWN (Tirawley By., Lackan Par.)	545 m north of AT17
MA007-016010-	Redundant record	CASTLETOWN (Tirawley By., Lackan Par.)	550 m north of AT17
MA007-016011-	House - indeterminate date	RATHLACKAN	1,000 m north of AT17
MA007-016012-	House - indeterminate date	RATHLACKAN	920 m north of AT17
MA007-016013-	House - indeterminate date	RATHLACKAN	890 m north of AT17
MA007-016014-	House - indeterminate date	BELTRA (Tirawley By., Lackan Par.)	875 m north of AT17
MA007-016015-	House - indeterminate date	BELTRA (Tirawley By., Lackan Par.)	970 m northwest of AT17
MA007-016016-	House - indeterminate date	BELTRA (Tirawley By., Lackan Par.)	970 m northwest of AT17
MA007-016017-	House - indeterminate date	CASTLETOWN (Tirawley By., Lackan Par.)	650 m northwest of AT17
MA007-016018-	House - Neolithic	RATHLACKAN	940 m north of AT17
MA007-016019-	Enclosure	RATHLACKAN	940 m north of AT17
MA007-031----	Cairn - unclassified	KNOCKBOHA	770 m north of AT14
MA007-057----	Megalithic tomb - court tomb	LECARROWNTemple	340 m southwest of Site Access Track to AT18
MA007-058----	Megalithic tomb - court tomb	LECARROWNTemple	340 m southwest of Site Access Track to AT18
MA007-059----	Enclosure	CASTLETOWN (Tirawley By., Lackan Par.)	270 m east of soil deposition area
MA007-081012-	Megalithic structure	CARROWMORE ([Tirawley By., Lackan Par.)	1,000 m northwest of AT14

Monument SMR No.	Class	Townland	Approx. distance from nearest development area
MA007-087----	Souterrain	CASTLETOWN (Tirawley By., Lackan Par.)	865 m east of AT17
MA014-003----	Children's burial ground	RATHOONAGH	840 m northwest of Site Access Track to AT08
MA014-004----	Megalithic tomb - court tomb	RATHOONAGH	640 m northwest of Site Access Track to AT08
MA014-005----	Ringfort - rath	AGHALEAGUE	235 m southwest of road widening at AT08
MA014-006----	Ringfort - rath	AGHALEAGUE	650 m southwest of Site Access Track to AT08
MA014-007----	Enclosure	CLOONANASS	220 m north of Site Access Track to AT08
MA014-008----	Ringfort - rath	CLOONANASS	135 m north of Site Access Track to AT08
MA014-008001-	Souterrain	CLOONANASS	135 m north of Site Access Track to AT08
MA014-009----	Ringfort - rath	AGHALEAGUE	345 m south of Site Access Track to AT08
MA014-010----	Megalithic tomb - court tomb	AGHALEAGUE	430 m southeast of AT07
MA014-011001-	Field boundary	AGHALEAGUE, BARNHILL UPPER, CARROWMORE ([Tirawley By., Lackan Par.)	550 m west of Site Access Track to AT10
MA014-011002-	Megalithic tomb - court tomb	BARNHILL UPPER	660 m west of Site Access Track to AT10
MA014-012----	Ringfort - rath	LISSADRONE WEST	400 m southeast of Site Access Track to AT11 and AT12
MA014-012001-	House - indeterminate date	LISSADRONE WEST	400 m southeast of Site Access Track to AT11 and AT12
MA014-013----	Ringfort - rath	LISSADRONE EAST	590 m east of Site Access Track to AT11 and AT12
MA014-013001-	House - indeterminate date	LISSADRONE EAST	590 m east of Site Access Track to AT11 and AT12
MA014-014----	Ringfort - rath	CARROWMORE ([Tirawley By., Lackan Par.)	355 m east of Site Access Track to AT09
MA014-015----	Ringfort - rath	GLEBE (Tirawley By., Lackan Par.)	290 m south of Site Access Track to AT18
MA014-016----	Ringfort - rath	LISSADRONE EAST	680 m southeast of Site Access Track to AT18
MA014-017----	Ringfort - rath	LISSADRONE EAST	580 m southeast of Site Access Track to AT18

Monument SMR No.	Class	Townland	Approx. distance from nearest development area
MA014-018001-	Church	GLEBE (Tirawley By., Lackan Par.)	550 m southeast of Site Access Track to AT18
MA014-018002-	Graveyard	GLEBE (Tirawley By., Lackan Par.)	550 m southeast of Site Access Track to AT18
MA014-019----	Ringfort - rath	LISSADRONE EAST	770 m east of Site Access Track to AT10
MA014-030----	Enclosure	BARNHILL UPPER	55 m northwest of met mast
MA014-033----	Ringfort - rath	CARROWCUILLEEN	900 m southwest of road widening area
MA014-034----	Ringfort - rath	CARROWCUILLEEN	1,000 m west of AT04
MA014-035----	Ringfort - rath	BILLOOS	300 m south of AT05
MA014-036----	Ringfort - rath	BARNHILL UPPER	215 m west of Site Access Track to AT10
MA014-037----	Ringfort - rath	BARNHILL LOWER	270 m northwest of AT01
MA014-038----	Enclosure	BALLYNALECK	950 m east of AT01
MA014-039----	Enclosure	CARRICKANASS	950 m east of AT01
MA014-056----	Ringfort - rath	CARN (Tirawley By., Lackan Par.)	125 m west of Site Access Track to AT04
MA014-057----	Castle - unclassified	CARRICKANASS	430 m south of Site Access Track to AT01
MA014-057001-	Bawn	CARRICKANASS	430 m south of Site Access Track to AT01
MA014-058----	Ringfort - rath	CARRICKANASS	480 m south of Site Access Track to AT01
MA014-059----	Ringfort - rath	CARN (Tirawley By., Lackan Par.)	515 m east of Site Access Track to AT03
MA014-060----	Enclosure	CARN (Tirawley By., Lackan Par.)	515 m east of Site Access Track to AT03
MA014-061001-	Children's burial ground	CARN (Tirawley By., Lackan Par.)	360 m southeast of Site Access Track to AT03
MA014-061002-	Cairn - unclassified	CARN (Tirawley By., Lackan Par.)	360 m southeast of Site Access Track to AT03
MA014-061003-	Cross	CARN (Tirawley By., Lackan Par.)	360 m southeast of Site Access Track to AT03
MA014-061004-	Souterrain	CARN (Tirawley By., Lackan Par.)	360 m southeast of Site Access Track to AT03
MA014-061005-	Enclosure	CARN (Tirawley By., Lackan Par.)	360 m southeast of Site Access Track to AT03

Monument SMR No.	Class	Townland	Approx. distance from nearest development area
MA014-062001-	Children's burial ground	CARN (Tirawley By., Lackan Par.)	390 m southeast of Site Access Track to AT03
MA014-062002-	Church	CARN (Tirawley By., Lackan Par.)	390 m southeast of Site Access Track to AT03
MA014-062003-	Enclosure	CARN (Tirawley By., Lackan Par.)	390 m southeast of Site Access Track to AT03
MA014-063----	Ringfort - rath	CARRICKANASS	1,000 m southeast of Site Access Track to AT01
MA014-080----	Mound	ATTICLOGHY	1,000 m southeast of AT02
MA014-097----	Castle - unclassified	CASTLELACKAN DEMESNE	880 m southeast of spoil deposition area
MA014-101----	Ogham stone	AGHALEAGUE	695 m south of road widening area
MA014-106----	Ringfort - rath	BALLYMURPHY	250 m southeast of road widening
MA014-107----	Ringfort - rath	LISSADRONE WEST	300 m northeast of Site Access Track to AT11 and AT12
MA014-108----	Redundant record	LISSADRONE WEST	450 m southeast of Site Access Track to AT11 and AT12
MA014-109----	Ringfort - rath	LISSADRONE EAST	780 m southeast of Site Access Track to AT18
MA014-110----	Megalithic structure	LISSADRONE EAST	910 m southeast of Site Access Track to AT18
MA014-111001-	Enclosure	LISSADRONE EAST	930 m east of Site Access Track to AT10
MA014-111002-	Children's burial ground	LISSADRONE EAST	930 m east of Site Access Track to AT10
MA014-115----	Enclosure	AGHALEAGUE	380 m west of road widening area
MA014-116----	Ringfort - rath	GORTATOOR	450 m north of Site Access Track to AT08
MA014-118----	Designed landscape - tree-ring	LISSADRONE EAST	930 m northeast of Site Access Track to AT10
MA014-119----	Enclosure	CARBAD MORE	1,000 m east of Site Access Track to AT01
MA014-125----	Mound	LISSADRONE EAST	650 m east of Site Access Track to AT11 and AT12

14.3.4 National Monuments in State Ownership/Guardianship

There are six National Monuments in State Care (Ownership or Guardianship) located within 10 km of the Wind Farm Site, and these are in lands to the east and southwest (**Table 14.6** and **Volume III; Figure 14.3**).

A round tower located in the centre of Killala town is listed as a National Monument in State Ownership (ref. no 105) and consists of a circular tower which stands to its full height (c. 25 m) and has a conical cap. While this round tower is not included in an OPW Places to Visit website¹⁰ which identifies monuments in their care that are accessible to the public, including examples with guided tours and other accessible monuments, a review of its location revealed that it can be accessed from an adjacent street. There appears to be no public access to the interior of the structure.

Rathfran friary (National Monument no. 269) was founded in 1274 for the order of Friars Preachers or Dominicans. The Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) describe the remains of the friary as consisting of a rectangular nave and chancel church, with a side chapel, a two-storey domestic building, and immediately to north of the church, a cloister surrounded by remnants of a domestic range, and a second courtyard enclosed by a further range of buildings. The main entrance is through a doorway in the west gable of the church, which does not retain its original stonework. Two main building phases are evident: the primary construction of the church and cloister in the 13th century and was by episodes of rebuilding and expansion in the late 14th/15th century with other works also carried out in following centuries. This monument is listed as an accessible unguided site on the OPW Places to Visit website¹¹.

National Monument No. 389 comprises a number of archaeological sites in Rathfran townland which entail a stone circle, mound, ringfort, souterrain & enclosure. The ASI record that the stone circle encloses a circular area (19.5 m E-W; 19 m N-S) defined by a low bank in which are set twelve surviving upright boulders that stand to heights of 0.8 - 1.45 m. The ASI description does not record a potential alignment of this monument. This National Monument also includes a ringfort, within an internal souterrain, within lands to the east of the stone circle. The ringfort survives as a subcircular platform (20.6 m NE-SW; c. 20 m NW-SE) rising c. 1 m above the surrounding field, which is enclosed by an irregular, broadly sloping scarp. A souterrain is evident as a sub-rectangular depression, in the northeast

¹⁰ <https://heritageireland.ie/visit/places-to-visit/?map=true>

¹¹ <https://heritageireland.ie/unguided-sites/rathfran-dominican-friary/>

corner of the ringfort. This National Monument is not listed as an accessible site on the OPW Places to Visit website.

National Monument no. 415 comprises an ogham stone in Breastagh townland which the ASI record was found lying prostrate on the ground in the 19th century and appeared to overlie a possible grave (MA015-018002-). The stone was re-erected in its current position and stands to a height of 2.75 m. This National Monument is not listed as an accessible site on the OPW Places to Visit website.

National Monument No. 631 comprises a ringfort in Carbad More townland which the ASI record as a raised circular area (diameter 22.9 m) which is defined by a scarp. This National Monument is not listed as an accessible site on the OPW Places to Visit website.

National Monument No. 633 comprises a wedge tomb located in Rathfrankpark townland. The surviving remains of this monument comprise two rows of boulders stones with smaller internal stones that form a double walling. No traces of roof-stones exist at the location. The alignment of the surviving stones appears to be to the southwest and this does not align with the location of the Wind Farm Site which is to the west. This National Monument is not listed as an accessible site on the OPW Places to Visit website although a small stile in the roadside field boundary to the west may facilitate access to the monument.

In addition to the above National Monuments in State Care, the 10 km Study Area also contains an ecclesiastical complex within Carn townland (MA014-061001- to MA014-061005-) which is subject to a Preservation Order (PO 11/1983) and these sites are located c.580 m to the east of Turbine AT02 (**Volume III; Figure 14.3**). The ASI record that accounts suggest that there may have been a church associated with an enclosure (MA014-061005-), cross (MA014-061003-) and two children's burial grounds (MA014-061001-; MA014-062001-) at this location but note that there is no evidence to confirm this.

Table 14.6: National Monuments in State Care within 10 km of Site

National Monument No. and Status	RMP No.	Class	Townland	Approx. distance from nearest turbine
105 (Ownership)	MA022-017001-	Round Tower	Townplots West (Killala town)	5.9 km southeast of AT02
269 (Ownership)	MA015-031005-	Friary (Dominican)	Rathfran	3.3 km southeast of AT01
389 (Ownership)	MA015-025001-, MA015-025002-,	Stone circle, mound, ringfort,	Rathfran	3.36 km east of AT01

National Monument No. and Status	RMP No.	Class	Townland	Approx. distance from nearest turbine
	MA015-026001-, MA015-026002-, MA015-026003-, MA015-026004-	souterrain & enclosure.		
415 (Guardianship)	MA015-018001-	Ogham Stone	Breastagh	2.5 km east of AT01
631 (Ownership)	MA014-066----	Ringfort	Carbad More	2.29 km southeast of AT01
633 (Ownership)	MA015-027001-	Wedge tomb	Rathfrankpark	2.67 km east of AT01

Landscape settings that form part of monument character and original function are particularly relevant to the wedge tomb at Rathfrankpark (National Monument Ref. 633), the stone circle at Rathfrank (National Monument Ref. 389) and the Dominican friary at Rathfrank Abbey (National Monument Ref. 269). The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) prepared for the Proposed Development (**Chapter 12**) has also identified the Céide Fields (located c. 9.5 km northwest of the Proposed Development) as well as Rathfrank Abbey (c. 3.3 km southeast of the nearest turbine) and other notable publicly accessible heritage sites within the wider landscape. The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment concludes that the Proposed Development will not result in significant visual effects in respect of the assessed heritage and amenity features.

14.3.5 Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland

A review of the finds database available at www.heritagemaps.ie and an inspection of the Topographical Files in the National Museum of Ireland on 5th April 2022 revealed a high volume of recorded findspots of archaeological objects within the townlands surrounding the Proposed Development (**Table 14.7**). There has been a rich array of finds, particularly prehistoric flints and other stone tools, as well as Bronze Age metal artefacts, with many found in bogland contexts. Wooden vessels and bog butter have also been found within boglands in the Study Area.

Of particular relevance to the Proposed Development are discoveries within the townlands of Carn, Castletown, Conaghra, Lissadrone East, Lissadrone West and Carrownedden. At Carn townland there is record of a bronze halberd found in a bog while a perforated whetstone and a polished stone axe were found in ploughed tillage. A copper axe head was found in bog at Castletown while there are also records of human remains (possible from a burial mound) also at Castletown. A stone axehead was found at Conaghra; while at Lissadrone East a cist burial and polished stone axehead are recorded and at Lissadrone West a number of items were found within a bog: a flint arrowhead, a gold bracelet and a

stone axehead. It is also noted that at Carrowneden townland, where there is record of a wooden logboat dredged from a lake as well as a socketed iron spearhead and a flint arrowhead. The records of the discovery of these archaeological objects is indicative of human settlement within the Study Area and the high potential for the presence of as yet undiscovered archaeological objects within the Proposed Development lands, particularly in bogland areas.

Table 14.7: List of artefact finds within Study Area (NMI Topographical Files)

Townland	Townland in Development Area?	NMI ID Ref.	Artefact Type	Notes
Beltra	No	1999:33	Human remains	Found exposed on surface. Human skull.
Beltra	No	1998:42	Human remains	Exposed by weathering of mound on seaward side
Beltra	No	1998:41	Copper alloy zoomorphic penannular brooch	Found exposed on surface of mound on seaward side. The hoop is cast and round in cross-section. The pin is complete. The shank is bent where it crosses the hoop. The pinhead, which is bent into a loop, is a barrel-moulded rectangle wrapped around the hoop. The terminals are slightly expanded but uneven. It is not possible to say if any glass or enamel has survived. The eyes and snouts are decorated with herring bone ornament. The backs of the terminals are flat and may be decorated with incised lines. Due to heavy corrosion this is not clear.
Carn	Yes	P1950:37	Perforated whetstone	Open Field during Tillage. Pendant type. Broken at tip & chipped at perforated end. Square in cross-section.
Carn	Yes	P1950:36	Polished stone axehead fragment	Open Field during Tillage. Butt-end missing.
Carn	Yes	P1939:146	Bronze halberd	Bog.
Carrowkeel	No	RIA1916:17.1	Copper alloy seal matrix	Found 1 st April 1916 on the sealing of a window in the dormitory.
Carrowneden	Yes	1995:177	Wooden logboat	Dredged from lake by OPW.
Carrowneden	Yes	1968:195	Socketed iron spearhead	Found at depth of 2 ft in white clay at bed
Carrowneden	Yes	1931:425	Flint arrowhead	Bog
Castletown	Yes	1953:51	Human remains	Burial mound? Sand-hill
Castletown	Yes	1929:1338	Flat copper axehead	Bog
Conaghra	Yes	1938:9784	Polished stone axehead	N/A
Creevagh	No	1967:136	Human remains	Found in a long stone cist

Townland	Townland in Development Area?	NMI ID Ref.	Artefact Type	Notes
Glebe	No	1965:59	Flat bronze axehead	Found in River Moy during drainage operations.
Glebe	No	1965:58	Socketed bronze axehead	Found in River Moy during drainage operations.
Lissadrone East	Yes	1985:41	Stone lid	Covering a pit-burial
Lissadrone East	Yes	1932:5	Polished stone axehead	Bog
Lissadrone West	Yes	P1951:45	Flint barbed and tanged arrowhead	Bog: found in a sod of turf
Lissadrone West	Yes	1941:1154.2	Pollen samples	Bog
Lissadrone West	Yes	1941:1154	Gold bracelet	Bog
Lissadrone West	Yes	1935:523	Stone axehead	Bog

14.3.6 Aerial/Satellite Images

A review of online aerial and satellite imagery published by Tailte Éireann, Bing, and Google, revealed the presence of a modern forestry plantations and vacant pasture fields within the Wind Farm Site. No potential unrecorded Cultural Heritage assets were noted within the Proposed Development lands during a review of these sources. Further details on the review of these sources in relation to the locations of various elements of the Proposed Development are presented in **Table 14.14**.

14.3.7 Designated Architectural Heritage

The *Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028* lists six protected structures located within 1 km of the Wind Farm Site, and these are listed in **Table 14.8** (see also **Volume III: Figure 14.2**). Heathfield House (RPS 226) is a rectangular, single fronted gabled country house constructed in c.1780. The walled garden at Heathfield House is also protected (RPS 226). Carn House (RPS 187) is a detached, three bay, two storey country house with a L-shaped plan which was constructed in c.1850. Carn House is located at the southern portion of the Study Area, 135 m east of the Site Access Track to AT02, AT03 and AT04 (within forestry). Castlelacken House (RPS 188) comprised a three bay, two storey country house that was constructed in c.1880 and is now in ruins. The former estate at Castlelacken also has an associated folly, and obelisk (RPS 16) built c. 1840 on elevated ground, that still retains a landmark quality to the area.

Carrowmore House (RPS 190) is a detached, three bay, two storey house which was constructed in c.1810 and incorporates element of an 18th century dwelling. Further details

on the layout of their associated lands in relation to the Wind Farm Site during the 19th and 20th centuries are presented in the review of historic map sources provided in **Section 14.3.9**.

These houses, as well as associated outbuildings and boundary features, are also included in the NIAH, including examples with associated lands included in the NIAH Garden Survey, which has assigned a Regional rating to each house. The NIAH also lists a 19th century two-arch road bridge located within the Study Area (ref. 31301409) which is not listed as a protected structure. The *Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028* does not list any Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) within the Study Area.

Table 14.8: Designated Architectural Heritage Sites within 1 km of Wind Farm Site

RPS Ref.	Name	NIAH Building ref.	NIAH Rating	NIAH Garden ref.	Townland	Distance from nearest development area
RPS 187	Carn House	31301410	Regional	n/a	CARN	135 m east of Site Access Track to AT02, AT03 and AT04
n/a	Road bridge	31301409	Regional	n/a	BILLOOS	455 m northwest of AT04
RPS 226	Heathfield House (including walled garden)	31301406 31301407	Regional	Survey ID: 4702	GORTATOOR	460 m north of Site Access Track to AT08
RPS 190	Carrowmore House	31301413 31301414	Regional	Survey ID: 4657	CARROWMORE	940 m east of AT09
-	Lissadrone house	-	-	Survey ID 4719	LISSADRONE EAST	577 m to northwest of Site Access Track to AT10
RPS 188 & RPS 16	Castlelacken House (including folly structure)	31301411 31300708	Regional	Survey ID: 4662	CASTLELACKAN DEMESNE	House = 890 m to southwest of soil deposition area in quarry Folly = 115 m to east of soil deposition area in quarry

14.3.8 Previous Archaeological Work in the Wider Area: Excavations Database

A review of the Database of Irish Excavation Reports revealed that it does not record any archaeological investigations undertaken within the Wind Farm Site but does contain a number of entries for investigations within surrounding lands. Of particular note are the findings from Rathlackan which is now has a heritage amenity focus location with interpretative board (**Appendix 14.1, Plate 14.2**).

A series of seasonal research excavations were carried out during the 1990s at an archaeological complex in Rathlacken townland in the north end of the Study Area

surrounding the Wind Farm Site. This included the excavation of a court tomb site (MA007-016006-) and associated structure and enclosure features¹².

A programme of archaeological monitoring (Licence Ref. 07E0091¹³) for a group water scheme in the Carrowmore/Lacken area revealed a burnt mound in Doonamona townland and a souterrain in Castletown townland. Both of these sites were avoided and subsequently reported to the National Monuments Service for inclusion in the SMR.

At Lissadrone East townland there is record of discovery of a pit burial with urn inside a stone mound which was found when the ground was being levelled in 1985 (NMI Burial Excavation Records¹⁴).

Pre-development testing in Rathfran townland in advance of the construction of a private dwelling revealed nothing of archaeological significance (Licence Ref 01E1105¹⁵).

Pre-development testing at a ringfort site (MA015-011---) in Tooreen townland (Licence Ref. 05E1323¹⁶) revealed two ditches associated with the ringfort.

14.3.9 Ordnance Survey Maps

The consulted historic 1st edition 6-inch, 25-inch, and 2nd edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) maps surveyed in the 19th and early 20th century show the Wind Farm Site as demonstrating typical nucleated settlement and irregular field enclosure systems, all of which is indicative of late 19th century agricultural practices that can present a range of vernacular structures (cottages, outbuildings, bridges, wells, lime kilns, mills etc.). Details of undesignated vernacular features and structures noted during field surveys are outlined in **Section 14.3.13**. The location of the Wind Farm Site superimposed on the 1st edition 6-inch OS map (1839) is presented in **Volume III; Figure 14.4**.

Land-use type is predominantly a mix of improved pasture with marshy/bogland throughout. Formalised modest historic demesne sites per the RPS and/or NIAH Garden Survey records are mapped throughout which show the form and extent of these holdings that retain architectural built heritage interest (see **Section 14.3.7**).

¹² Database of Irish Excavation Reports. Available at: <https://excavations.ie/report/1993/Mayo/0001555/>

¹³ Database of Irish Excavation Reports. Available at: <https://excavations.ie/report/2007/Mayo/0018200/>

¹⁴ Database of Irish Excavation Reports. Available at: <https://excavations.ie/report/1985/Mayo/0028597/>

¹⁵ Database of Irish Excavation Reports. Available at: <https://excavations.ie/report/2001/Mayo/0006860/>

¹⁶ Database of Irish Excavation Reports. Available at: <https://excavations.ie/report/2005/Mayo/0014143/>

14.3.10 Undesignated Cultural Heritage Assets

While encompassing the protected archaeological and architectural heritage resources, Cultural Heritage also includes various undesignated assets such as demesne landscapes and vernacular structures as well as intangible assets such as folklore, placenames and historical events and associations.

The Wind Farm Site extends into 21 townlands which are small geographical land divisions used in Ireland. The townland system is of Gaelic origin, pre-dating the Anglo-Norman conquest, and delineate territories often having names of Irish origin (**Table 14.9**). The boundaries and names of Irish townlands were recorded and standardised by the Ordnance Survey (OS) in the 19th century, and these typically comprised anglicisations of their original Irish names.

The Irish origins of townland names often refer to natural topographical features, past landowners, farming practices, etc. but some name elements may also indicate the presence of potential archaeological sites within the townland, e.g., lios or rath may indicate an association with a ringfort while temple, saggart, termon or kill may record associations with a church site. The translations of the townland names within the Wind Farm Site presented in **Table 14.9**.

Table 14.9 have been sourced from the Placenames Database of Ireland¹⁷.

Several of the townlands refer to natural landscape features that visually define the area such as a glen, marsh, or hillside. However, there are some that retain indicators of known and/or potential archaeological significance.

Aghaleague refers to 'field of the pillar-stone' and there is a recorded ogham stone from the townland (MA014-101---). Carn townland has direct reference to the cairn MA014-061002- at the archaeological complex also comprising a children's burial ground MA014-061001- and cross MA014-061003-; as well as a grouping of sites to the immediate north (MA014-062001- to MA014-062003-) children's burial ground, church, and enclosure (PO 11/1983).

Carrickanass townland name has direct reference to the castle and bawn site MA014-057-- and MA014-057001-; while Castlelackan Demesne has direct reference to a castle site MA014-097--- (unclassified). Castlelackan House is sited on the former castle location

¹⁷ Placenames Database of Ireland. Available at: <https://www.logainm.ie/en/> [Accessed 12.09.2025]

together with its formal demesne layout. Similarly, there is a house MA007-016017- (indeterminate date) recorded at Castletown.

There is reference to a number of ringforts throughout Lissadrone East and Lissadrone West where there is a high density of recorded ringforts (7 no.). At Knockboha, the hill at this eastern location (186 m OD) retains a cairn site MA007-031--- and may also be indicative of booleying practice (requiring upland temporary hut sites or 'booleys' to take advantage of seasonal summer pastures for livestock grazing purpose) in late/post medieval times.

Table 14.9: Translation of townland names within the Wind Farm Site Boundary

Townland	Irish Origin	Translation/Notes
Aghaleague	<i>Achadh Liag</i>	Field of the stone (or pillar-stone)
Ballynaleck	<i>Baile na Leice</i>	Town/Homestead of the rock/flagstone
Ballymurphy	<i>Baile Mhurcha</i>	Murphy's town/homestead
Barnhill Lower	<i>Beairnín Íochtair</i>	Northern small top
Barnhill Upper	<i>Beairnín Uachtair</i>	Southern small top
Barroe	<i>An Barr Rua</i>	Red Top
Carn	<i>An Carn</i>	Cairn, Pile of Rocks; 1838 Descriptive Remark: a burying place in which there is a trig. Station; Carnn, 1838 Rathmore [...] and Rathbeg in Carn – both lie N. of Carn Mountain. The townland contains a recorded cairn site (MA014-061002-)
Carrickanass	<i>Carraig an Easa</i>	Rock; 1838 'a castle [and bawn] belonging to Paddin family stood here – it was destroyed by Cromwell'. The townland contains a recorded castle site (MA014-057----)
Carrowmacshane	<i>Ceathrú Mhic Sheáin</i>	Mac Shane's Quarter[land]
Carrowmore	<i>An Cheathrú Mhór</i>	The big quarter [land]
Castlelackan Demesne	<i>Caisleán Leacan</i>	Lacken Castle 1938(OD:AL 'This belonged to the McEgan family; 'Knox's residence occupies the site of the castle' . The townland contains a recorded castle site (MA014-097----).
Castletown	<i>Baile an Chaisleáin</i>	Town of the Castle; 1838 Resc.Rem:AL 'W of townland is an old castle. It cannot be ascertained when or by whom it was built' . Likely records an association with known castle site (MA014-097----) in adjoining townland
Cloonanass	<i>Cluain an Easa</i>	Meadow, Pasture 'lawn of the waterfall' (OD:AL)
Cloonavarry	<i>Cluain Uí Bheara</i>	O'Berry's lawn or meadow'. "Old castle was here formerly." (1848). There is no recorded castle in this townland and may refer to a castle in adjoining townland (MA014-057----)
Conaghra	<i>Conach Réidh</i>	'Land of the firewood'
Glebe	<i>An Ghléib</i>	area of church land
Knockboha	<i>Cnoc Botha</i>	'Hill of the booth or hut'
Lackanhill	<i>Cnoc Leacan</i>	Hill of Lackan or slope'
Lecarrowntemple	<i>Leithcheathrú an Teampaill</i>	'Half quarter of the church' May record an association with church (MA014-018001-) in adjoining townland
Lissadrone East	<i>Lios Ó nDróin Thoir</i>	'Lios eadair abhainn: Ringfort between the river'

Townland	Irish Origin	Translation/Notes
		There is a recorded ringfort located within townland (MA014-107----
Lissadrone West	<i>Lios Ó nDróin Thiar</i> <i>Lios 'ringfort'</i>	1838 Desc.Rem: E of townland is a fort called Lisadrone in which it is said there is a giant buried called Drone. It is supposed this townland took its name from the giant called 'Drone' who is buried in the fort'. There is a recorded ringfort located within townland (MA014-109----

A review of the National Folklore Collection UCD Digitisation Project¹⁸ revealed that it contains a record referring to the discovery of a stone-built grave in Carrickanass townland which was found in a quarry¹⁹. A review of the historic OS maps did not reveal any depicted quarries within the area, but the potential exists that this account may refer to a known cist burial site (MA014-103----) located in the townland. The collection also contains an account referring to buried treasure within the Lissadrone area and this is confirmed by the stone tools and gold bracelet noted in the NMI Topographical records for Lissadrone East and Lissadrone West (see **Section 14.3.5**) but no locational information in relation to this local tradition is provided²⁰. No other accounts relation to the potential presence of features of cultural heritage interest within townlands extending into in the Wind Farm Site were noted.

14.3.11 Grid Connection Route: Cultural Heritage Constraints

A review of Cultural Heritage constraints within a 100 m wide corridor centred on the GCR was carried out and these comprised recorded archaeological sites and designated architectural heritage structures. Reviews of historic OS maps and aerial/satellite images were also undertaken in order to assess the potential presence of unrecorded Cultural Heritage constraints within the roadways that comprise the route of the Grid Connection.

A review of the 1st edition 6-inch OS map of 1839 revealed that the existing road network which forms the route was present at that time apart from localised sections in the townlands of Barroe, Carn, Rathowen West and Maherabrack which are depicted on the 25-inch OS map of 1898. This indicates that these sections were constructed as localised road realignments in the second half of the 19th century. These cartographic sources show a dispersed settlement pattern along the roadsides which appear to comprise small farm buildings, and no potential undesignated features of Cultural Heritage interest were noted within any sections of the roadways.

¹⁸ National Folklore Collection UCD Digitization Project. Available at: <https://www.duchas.ie/en> [Accessed 12.09.2025]

¹⁹ National Folklore Collection UCD Digitization Project. Available at: <https://duchas.ie/en/cbes/4428039/4371232/4475951?HighlightText=Carrickanass+&Route=stories&SearchLanguage=ga> [Accessed 12.09.2025]

²⁰ National Folklore Collection UCD Digitization Project. Available at: <https://duchas.ie/en/cbes/4428030/4369937?HighlightText=Lissadrone&Route=stories&SearchLanguage=ga> [Accessed 12.09.2025]

There are seven recorded archaeological sites located within the Study Area, and these comprise six ringforts and one holy well (**Table 14.10**) which are all located within private lands (see also **Volume III; Figure 14.5**). A review of their depictions on historic OS maps and aerial/satellite images revealed that they are located at distances of 20 m - 35 m from the nearest sections of the roadways that the route follows.

There are six designated architectural heritage structures located within the GCR Study Area (**Table 14.10 and Volume III; Figure 14.6**) and of these, only one example extends into the roadway that forms the route. This is Palmerstown Bridge which is an 18th century road bridge listed as a protected structure (RPS 017) and is located in the townland of Doonamona. The proposed Grid Connection methodology within the environs of its location will comprise Horizontal Directional Drilling will not require any interventions to the bridge or within the associated watercourse.

Table 14.10: Recorded Archaeological Sites within GCR 100 m Study Area

Monument No.	Classification	Townland	Approx. distance from Route
MA022-011----	Ringfort - rath	Rathowen East	30 m to east
MA022-006----	Ringfort - rath	Rathowen East	20 m to east
MA021-022----	Ringfort - rath	Rathcash	20 m to south
MA022-028----	Ritual site - holy well	Cloonawillin	35 m to south
MA022-049----	Ringfort - rath	Carrowreagh	20 m to west
MA014-063----	Ringfort - rath	Carrickanass	20 m to south
MA014-091----	Ringfort - rath	Doonamona	20 m to east

Table 14.11: Designated Architectural Heritage Structures within GCR Study Area

RPS	NIAH	Name/Class	Townland	Approx. distance from Route
RPS 017	31301417	Palmerstown Bridge	Doonamona	Adjacent
n/a	31301418	Castlereagh walled garden	Castlereagh	25 m to east
n/a	31301419	Post box	Castlereagh	15 m to northeast
n/a	31302204	Ballysakeery Church	Lisglennon	40 m to south (gate 15m to south of road)
n/a	31302205	School	Lisglennon	In roadside property on south side of road
n/a	31302206	Mullafarry Presbyterian Church	Mullafarry	30 m to north (gate adjacent to road)

14.3.12 Turbine Delivery Route Work Areas: Cultural Heritage Constraints

The locations of proposed road widening areas to facilitate the TDR to the Wind Farm Site were reviewed in order to ascertain if there are any known or potential Cultural Heritage

constraints located within 100 m of their environs. The results of this review are presented in **Table 14.12**.

Table 14.12: Review of Cultural Heritage constraints within environs of TDR work areas

Townland	Depiction of work area on historic OS map	Recorded Cultural Heritage Constraint within 100m of location
Garranard	Existing road is present on historic OS maps and no potential unrecorded Cultural Heritage features are depicted within work area	None
Creevagh More	Existing road is present on historic OS maps and no potential unrecorded Cultural Heritage features are depicted within work area	None
Annagh Beg	There are three localised areas of road widening within this townland. The westernmost area is located on a junction on a section of the R315 road that is present on historic OS maps and two other areas on a local road to the east which is not present on the 1839 OS map. There are no potential unrecorded Cultural Heritage features depicted within the work areas on the historic OS maps.	A megalithic structure (MA014-050----) is located within a greenfield area 70m to the northwest of the westernmost road widening area (Volume III; Figure 14.7)
Bilooos	Road widening at a crossroads includes a section of a northeast to southwest local road present on the 1839 OS map. There are no potential unrecorded Cultural Heritage features depicted within the work area on the historic OS maps.	None

14.3.13 Field Work

The Proposed Development was inspected on a number of occasions in April 2022, May 2022, September 2023 and December 2023. Each of the development elements associated with the Proposed Development are described with respect to field walkover surveys in **Table 14.14**. In addition, a number of vernacular structures were noted within the Wind Farm Site during the inspection and these comprised the derelict remains of small farm buildings depicted on the 1st edition OS maps (**Table 14.13** and **Volume III, Figure 14.8**).

Table 14.13 Undesignated vernacular structures observed during field survey

Type	Townland	ITM	Photo Ref.
Vernacular structure	Lackanhill	515934, 837466	Appendix 14.1, Plate 14.7
Vernacular structure	Carn	515296, 833137	Appendix 14.1, Plate 14.7
Vernacular structure	Leacarrowntemple	516641, 837147	Appendix 14.1, Plate 14.8

Table 14.14 Field Survey of Development Elements

Development Element	Distance to nearest archaeological site	1 st edition 6-inch OS Map	Aerial images	Field Survey Notes	Representative Field Survey Photo
AT01	280 m southeast of ringfort MA014-037---	Enclosed field	Drainage channels visible in field	Situated on relatively flat rough pasture and across multiple land parcels. Access limited due to presence of livestock in survey lands. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted on the surface.	
AT02	590 m west of Carn complex MA014-061001- to MA014-061005- and MA014-062001- to MA014-062003- [PO 11/1983]	Enclosed field	Wet ground	Located at the southern end of the proposed Wind Farm Site. The proposed turbine location is situated between the edge of two forestry plantations (to N and S) within a large and undulating overgrown field of shrubs and rough pasture. Access was limited due to the presence of livestock on the survey lands. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted on the ground surface.	

Development Element	Distance to nearest archaeological site	1 st edition 6-inch OS Map	Aerial images	Field Survey Notes	Representative Field Survey Photo
AT03	270 m southeast of ringfort MA014-056---	Enclosed marshy ground	Commercial forestry	The proposed turbine location is situated across an area of dense commercial forestry. Access was severely restricted.	
AT04	120 m northeast of MA014-056---	Enclosed marshy ground	Commercial forestry	The proposed turbine location is within a partially accessible area of dense forestry. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted on ground surface.	

Development Element	Distance to nearest archaeological site	1 st edition 6-inch OS Map	Aerial images	Field Survey Notes	Representative Field Survey Photo
AT05	300 m to north of ringfort MA014-035---	Enclosed area	Improved pasture	The proposed turbine location is situated on an area of relatively flat pastureland comprised of multiple land parcels. The Survey Area rises gently to a small plateau along the northern field boundary. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted on the ground surface.	
AT06	355 m northwest of ringfort MA014-035---	Enclosed area	Commercial Forestry	Not accessible during field survey due to dense forestry plantation growth.	n/a

Development Element	Distance to nearest archaeological site	1 st edition 6-inch OS Map	Aerial images	Field Survey Notes	Representative Field Survey Photo
AT07	420 m north of court tomb MA014-010---	Wet ground – large open area	Commercial forestry	Not accessible during field survey due to dense forestry plantation growth.	
AT08	430 m east of ringfort MA014-008--- and souterrain MA014-008001-	Enclosed area - improved	Commercial forestry	Not accessible during field survey due to dense forestry plantation growth.	

Development Element	Distance to nearest archaeological site	1 st edition 6-inch OS Map	Aerial images	Field Survey Notes	Representative Field Survey Photo
AT09	365 m west of MA014-014---ringfort	Series of E-W extending small, enclosed fields and associated vernacular structures to each easternmost boundary	Open area marginal ground, raised scrubby area to north – likely former paleochannel or drainage channel clearance	The proposed turbine location is situated across a relatively flat area of rough pasture which offers vistas to the east. Access was limited due to the presence of livestock on the survey lands. Earthen banks (ITM:516039, 835755) noted along the northern boundary of the field - it is possible that these banks were constructed during the creation of a large drainage ditch which demarks this boundary.	
AT10	440 m northwest of ringfort MA014-014---	Enclosed area	Wet ground with drainage channels	The proposed turbine location is situated across an area of wet bogland, rough pasture and mature shrubs. Access to this area was difficult given the overgrown nature of the landscape. A curvilinear earthen bank was noted along the southern boundary of the field (Appendix 14.1, Plate 14.9) (ITM:516064, 835828) and may be related to the construction of the substantial drainage ditch which divides the land.	

Development Element	Distance to nearest archaeological site	1 st edition 6-inch OS Map	Aerial images	Field Survey Notes	Representative Field Survey Photo
AT11	500 m west of ringfort MA014-012--- and souterrain MA014-012001-	'Lissadrone' settlement/ clachan to N between AT14 and AT15. 'Pound' noted to SE (outside Site)	Commercial forestry	Located south of AT15. The proposed turbine location is situated across a combination of rough pasture and mature forestry plantation, which limited access. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted on the ground surface.	
AT12	350 m west of ringfort MA014-107---	'Lissadrone' settlement/ clachan to south located in lands between AT12 and AT11.	Commercial forestry	Not accessible during field survey due to dense forestry plantation growth.	

Development Element	Distance to nearest archaeological site	1 st edition 6-inch OS Map	Aerial images	Field Survey Notes	Representative Field Survey Photo
AT13	630 m northwest of ringfort MA014-107----	Marshy enclosed ground, trackway to NW	Marginal ground, wet; forestry plantation	Located south of AT17 and AT18. The proposed turbine location is situated across an area of relatively flat and wet rough pasture at north and extends into a forestry plantation at south. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted on the surface.	
AT14	770 m south of unclassified cairn MA007-031----	Unenclosed marshy ground	Commercial forestry	The proposed turbine location is situated across an area of mature forestry plantation and was therefore inaccessible during the field survey.	

Development Element	Distance to nearest archaeological site	1 st edition 6-inch OS Map	Aerial images	Field Survey Notes	Representative Field Survey Photo
AT15	790 m northwest of court tomb MA007-057----	Unenclosed marshy ground	Marginal wet ground	The proposed turbine location is situated across an area of wet, flat pastureland. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted on the ground surface.	
AT16	495 m northwest of court tomb MA007-057----	Marshy ground with small vernacular structures to south	Improved pasture	The proposed turbine location is situated across an area of flat pastureland. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted on the surface during the field survey. However, with regards to sites of cultural heritage significance, a small single storey vernacular cottage and associated gardens was noted c. 10 m outside the south side of the hardstand (ITM:515934, 837466) (Figure 14.8 and Appendix 14.1 Plate 14.6).	

Development Element	Distance to nearest archaeological site	1 st edition 6-inch OS Map	Aerial images	Field Survey Notes	Representative Field Survey Photo
AT17	550 m northwest of enclosure MA007-059---	Unenclosed marshy area	Commercial forestry	The proposed turbine location is situated across an area of mature forestry plantation and was therefore inaccessible during the field survey.	
AT18 and soil deposition area	430 m east of enclosure MA007-059---- RPS16 Castlelacken Folly is located 190 m to the east of an existing quarry at this location	Unenclosed marshy area	Quarry	The proposed turbine and soil deposition area are located within an existing quarry, where the land has been significantly disturbed as a result of extraction works. A review of Tailte Éireann aerial images indicates that the quarrying commenced in the 1990s. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted on the surface. However, with regards to cultural heritage sites, the remains of an unroofed vernacular building were noted along the east side of the existing roadway south of the quarry (Appendix 14.1, Plate 14.8).	

Development Element	Distance to nearest archaeological site	1 st edition 6-inch OS Map	Aerial images	Field Survey Notes	Representative Field Survey Photo
Met Mast	343 m south of MA014-056---ringfort	Small enclosed field with track/roadway fronting to south	Commercial forestry, no trace of trackway to south	The proposed mast location is situated across an area of mature forestry plantation and was inaccessible during the field survey.	
Grid Route	Various – see Section 14.3.11 and Figures 14.5 and 14.6	Various – see Section 14.3.11	Various – see Section 14.3.11	The proposed grid route is located along existing roadways. Nothing of unrecorded archaeological significance was noted along the route. There are a number of architectural heritage structures and recorded archaeological sites located within adjoining third party lands (see Section 14.3.11). No traces of any features associated with constraints in adjoining lands were noted extending within the roadways. There is one recorded architectural heritage constraint located within the roadways that the route follows and this comprises Palmerstown Bridge (RPS 017) which is a road bridge over the Cloonaghmore River. The proposed crossing	

Development Element	Distance to nearest archaeological site	1 st edition 6-inch OS Map	Aerial images	Field Survey Notes	Representative Field Survey Photo
				methodology at this location with entail horizontal directional drilling and this will not require any interventions to the bridge or the river (Appendix 14.1, Plate 14.10)	
Sub-station, BESS and Temporary Site Compound	440 m northwest of unclassified castle MA014-057---	Enclosed fields, trackways	Improved pasture	Located south of AT01, area of relatively flat Improved pasture and across multiple land parcels. Access limited due to presence of livestock in lands at time of field inspection	n/a
Temporary Site Compound and Operations Building	1,030 m south of unclassified cairn MA007-031----	Open marginal ground	Area occupied by existing modern farm buildings and residence (bungalow)	Nothing of cultural heritage interest noted at location.	n/a

14.3.14 Summary

14.3.14.1 The Site

The potential exists that anaerobic conditions within peatlands can preserve organic archaeological finds and features and there is high potential for the presence of unrecorded, sub-surface archaeological sites to exist in undisturbed locations within the Wind Farm Site.

The recorded archaeological dataset from the Study Area indicates that human settlement and habitation was in place from early prehistoric times and throughout the medieval periods, to the present day. This longevity of settlement pattern is demonstrated by the known datasets with a high volume of both SMR monuments (85 no.) and stray finds/artefacts noted. It is also noted that both upland mountainous terrain and lower lying areas of improved pasture were host to a range of recorded archaeological monuments.

A review of archaeological monuments with landscape setting sensitivities within 10 km indicates that there are two prominently sited cairn sites (unclassified) to the west of the Wind Farm Site (MA014-002005- and MA014-002006-) that are intervisible to each other and retain extensive panoramic vistas. These sites are not publicly accessible but given the elevated position, the Proposed Development is likely to be visible from their locations.

An extensive prehistoric complex, subject to previous archaeological excavation at Rathlackan, including court tomb (MA007-016006-) to the north of the Wind Farm Site is now facilitating amenity rest area together with interpretative signage with heritage focus. It is likely that the Proposed Development will be partially visible from same.

There are six National Monuments in State Care (Ownership or Guardianship) located within 10 km of the Wind Farm Site, and these are in lands to the east and southwest. Landscape settings that form part of monument character and original function are particularly relevant to the wedge tomb at Rathfrankpark (Ref. 633), a stone circle at Rathfrank (Ref. 389) and the Dominican friary at Rathfrank Abbey (Ref. 269).

The LVIA chapter has assessed a number of publicly accessible cultural heritage receptors within a 20 km Study Area, including the Céide Fields, Kilbride Graveyard (MA007-027001- and MA007-027002-), Local Road at Knockboha near Rathlackan (MA007-016006-), Lack Old Graveyard (MA014-018001- and MA014-018002-), Templemurray Graveyard (MA015-031001-) (immediately east of Rathfrank Abbey), Killala Cemetery (south of round tower National Monument No. 105) and Rosserk Abbey (MA022-082001- from L2605 opposite side of mouth of River Moy).

The *Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028* lists six protected structures located within 1km of the Wind Farm Site. Of particular note to the Proposed Development is the adjacent location of Carn House (RPS 187) as well as Castlelackan Folly (RPS 016).

14.3.14.2 Grid Connection

There are seven recorded archaeological sites located within the 100 m wide Study Area centred on the GCR, and these comprise six ringforts and one holy well, all of which are located within private lands at distances of 20 m-35 m from the public roads that the route follows. In addition, there are six designated architectural heritage structures within the Study Area of which one, Palmerstown bridge (RPS 017) extends into the roadway that forms the route. The proposed crossing methodology at this location will comprise Horizontal Directional Drilling and will not require any intervention to the bridge or within the associated riverine watercourse.

14.3.14.3 Turbine Delivery Route

There are discreet sections of road widening required to facilitate the TDR and there are no recorded cultural heritage constraints at any of the locations of these works.

14.3.14.4 Field Survey

A number of undesignated vernacular structures were noted within the Survey Area, of which three are located within the Redline Boundary and these are within Lackanhill townland (near AT16 hardstand), in Carn townland (near a Site Access Track) and in Leacarrowntemple townland (within the route of a Site Access Track to AT18).

Given the large volume of recorded archaeological monuments within the Study Areas, as well as the scale of the Proposed Development, it is likely that sub-surface archaeological remains or features continue to survive with no visible surface trace. This is particularly relevant for the following constraints:

- Area of heightened archaeological sensitivity at Carrickanass castle and bawn site (MA014-057--- and MA014-057001-);
- Enclosure MA014-030--- and ringforts MA014-008--- (and souterrain MA014-008001-), MA014-035---, MA014-056---, MA014-058---, MA014-059--- and MA014-060---
- Area of heightened archaeological sensitivity at Carn archaeological complex MA014-061001- to MA014-061005-) and location of Carn House (RPS 187) (setting)

14.4 ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS

14.4.1 Construction Phase – Direct Effects

Wind Farm Site

The construction phase will have no predicted direct effects on the known archaeological monuments within the wider landscape surrounding the Wind Farm Site as no examples are located within the footprint of any Proposed Development areas. In addition, there are no designated architectural structures located within the Wind Farm Site.

Three undesignated features of cultural heritage interest were identified within the Redline Boundary during the desktop study and field surveys carried out as part of this assessment (**Figure 14.8**). These comprise 19th century vernacular farmhouses at Lackanhill townland (**Appendix 14.1; Plate 14.6**), Carn townland (**Appendix 14.1; Plate 14.7**) and Leacarrowntemple townland (**Appendix 14.1; Plate 14.8**). These structures are farm buildings of random rubble construction, which are depicted on the 1st edition 6-inch OS maps, and the example in Lackanhill townland is the only one to retain roofing. The derelict, unroofed structure in Leacarrowntemple townland will be directly impacted during the construction phase. This is considered a permanent negative direct effect of high magnitude on a low value receptor, resulting in a moderate significance of effect. Ground works will occur within the environs of the other two structures which will result in short-term, indirect, low magnitude effects of slight significance on their settings.

There are a number of proposed crossings of land drainage channels and minor streams within the Wind Farm Site. The proposed methodology for watercourse crossings within the Wind Farm Site will comprise clear span concrete culverts with no in-channel works. There will be no predicted direct effects on any potential unrecorded underwater archaeological features at water crossing locations.

It is concluded that the construction phase within the Wind Farm Site will result in no predicted direct effects on the known archaeological and designated architectural heritage resource. While the existence, location, extent, and significance of any unrecorded, sub-surface archaeological remains that may be present within the Wind Farm Site is unknown, the potential exists for direct, adverse, and permanent construction phase effects of medium to high magnitude (potential moderate significance of effect) on any such remains situated within the footprint of proposed construction areas and this will require mitigation.

Grid Connection Route (GCR)

There are a number of known cultural heritage constraints located within the 100 m Study Area centred on the grid route which extends along areas previously disturbed by the construction of existing roads (see **Table 14.10** and **Table 14.11** and **Volume III; Figures 14.5 and 14.6**). One of these constraints, Palmerstown Bridge (RPS ref. 017), is located within the route corridor while the other examples are located within private properties located adjacent to the route (six ringforts, a holy well and five architectural heritage structures). The proposed use of Horizontal Directional Drilling at Palmerstown Bridge will not require any interventions to this bridge or the associated watercourse. It is, therefore, concluded that the construction phase will result in no direct effects on the bridge structure or any potential unrecorded underwater archaeological features within the river.

The construction of the GCR will result in no predicted direct effects on the known cultural heritage resource. While the existence, location, extent, and significance of any unrecorded, sub-surface archaeological remains that may be present within the Study Area is unknown, the potential exists for direct, adverse, and permanent construction phase effects of medium to high magnitude (potential moderate significance of effect) on any such remains situated within the footprint of proposed construction areas and this will require mitigation.

Turbine Delivery Route (TDR)

The TDR requires discreet working areas (widening) to facilitate wide and abnormal loads (turning) along existing local road networks. There are no recorded cultural heritage constraints at any of the locations of these works. A megalithic structure (MA014-050----) is located within a greenfield area 70 m to the northwest of a road widening area in Annagh Beg townland and a neutral effect on this archaeological site is predicted (**Volume III; Figure 14.7**).

Table 14.15: Summary of Construction Phase Direct Effects on the Cultural Heritage Resource

Receptor	Type	Value	Type of Effect	Quality of Effect	Magnitude of Effect	Duration	Significance of Effect
Undesignated built heritage – Lackanhill	Vernacular structure	Low	Indirect	Negative	Low-Medium	Short term	Slight
Undesignated built heritage – Carn	Vernacular structure	Low	Indirect	Negative	Low-Medium	Short term	Slight
Undesignated built heritage – Leacarrownte mple	Vernacular structure	Low	Direct	Negative	High	Permanent	Moderate

Receptor	Type	Value	Type of Effect	Quality of Effect	Magnitude of Effect	Duration	Significance of Effect
Potential sub-surface archaeological remains (Wind Farm Site & GCR)	Unknown	Potential Medium	Potential Direct	Negative	High	Potential Permanent	Potential Moderate

14.4.2 Construction Phase – Indirect Effects

Wind Farm Site

There are a number of cultural heritage receptors located in close proximity to the Wind Farm Site and other examples within the wider landscape that retain sensitive landscape setting characteristics. These include Carn House (RPS 187), Carn archaeological complex (MA014-061001- to MA014-061005-), Castlackson folly (RPS 016), cairn sites MA014-002005- and MA014-002006-, Rathlackson archaeological complex and amenity area including court tomb MA007-016006-, wedge tomb at Rathfrankpark (National Monument 633), stone circle at Rathfrank (National Monument 389) and Rathfrank Abbey (National Monument 269). There will be a predicted temporary negative indirect effect of negligible-low magnitude on these medium-high value receptors, resulting in Not Significant - Slight significance of indirect effect during the construction phase.

Grid Connection Route (GCR)

There are thirteen Cultural Heritage receptors located within the 100 m wide Study Area centred on the route (see **Section 14.3.11**). The majority of these receptors are set back from the public roadways within adjacent fields and two retain visiting public amenity value/use (Mullafarry presbyterian church NIAH 31302206) and Ballysakeery church (NIAH 31302204). There is predicted temporary negative indirect effect of negligible magnitude on these medium value receptors, resulting in a Not Significant significance of indirect effect during the construction phase.

Turbine Delivery Route (TDR)

There are no recorded cultural heritage constraints at any of the locations of localised road widening works required to facilitate the delivery of turbines to the Wind Farm Site. A megalithic structure (MA014-050---) is located within a greenfield area 70 m to the northwest of the westernmost road widening area in Annagh Beg townland and a neutral effect on this archaeological site is predicted.

Table 14.16: Summary of Construction Phase Indirect Effects on the Cultural Heritage Resource

Receptor	Type	Value	Type of Effect	Quality of Effect	Magnitude of Effect	Duration	Significance of Effect
Carn House (RPS 187)	House	High	Indirect	Negative	Low	Temporary	Slight
Carn archaeological complex (MA014-061001- to MA014-061005-)	Archaeological Complex – various	High	Indirect	Negative	Low	Temporary	Slight
Castelackan folly (RPS 016)	Designed landscape feature	High	Indirect	Negative	Low	Temporary	Slight
Cairn sites MA014-002005- and MA014-002006-	Unclassified cairn sites	Medium	Indirect	Negative	Negligible	Temporary	Not Significant
Rathlackan archaeological complex and amenity area including court tomb MA007-016006-	Archaeological and amenity complex – various	High	Indirect	Negative	Low	Temporary	Slight
Wedge tomb at Rathfrankpark (National Monument 633)	Wedge tomb	High	Indirect	Negative	Negligible	Temporary	Not Significant
Stone circle at Rathfrank (National Monument 389)	Stone circle	High	Indirect	Negative	Negligible	Temporary	Not Significant
Rathfrank Abbey (National Monument 269).	Abbey	High	Indirect	Negative	Negligible	Temporary	Not Significant
Mullafarry Presbyterian Church NIAH 31302206	Church	Medium	Indirect	Negative	Negligible	Temporary	Not Significant
Ballysakeery Church (NIAH 31302204)	Church	Medium	Indirect	Negative	Negligible	Temporary	Not Significant
Palmerstown Bridge (RPS 0017)	Bridge	High	No predicted effect	n/a	n/a	n/a	None

14.4.3 Operational Phase – Direct Effects

There are no recorded archaeological or architectural heritage receptors within the Site. The operational phase of the Proposed Development will result in no predicted direct physical effects on the known cultural heritage resource. In addition, the successful implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in **Section 14.5** will result in the preservation in situ (by avoidance) or the preservation in record (by archaeological

excavation) of any undesignated and/or unrecorded, sub-surface archaeological sites or features that may exist within proposed construction areas. There will, therefore, be no predicted direct effects on any such undesignated receptors and/or potential unrecorded archaeological sites during the operational phase.

14.4.4 Operational Phase – Indirect Effects

Wind Farm Site

There are a number of archaeological monuments and designated architectural structures located in close proximity to the Wind Farm Site which retain sensitive landscape setting characteristics. These include Carn House (RPS 187), Carn archaeological complex (MA014-061001- to MA014-061005-), Castlelackan folly (RPS 016), cairn sites MA014-002005- and MA014-002006-, Rathlackan archaeological complex and amenity area including court tomb MA007-016006-, wedge tomb at Rathfrankpark (National Monument 633), stone circle at Rathfrank (National Monument 389) and Rathfrank Abbey (National Monument 269).

In addition, the Céide Fields is also located within 10 km of the Wind Farm Site and an assessment of visual effects on this receptor presented in the Landscape and Visual Amenity assessment (**Chapter 12**) concluded that this will be Slight in significance. Rosserk Abbey (National Monument 104) is located outside the 10 km study area assessed in this chapter but potential visual effects within the environs of that receptor have been assessed in the Landscape and Visual Amenity Chapter as Slight in significance.

There is an ecclesiastical complex at Carn (MA014-061001- to MA014-061005-), which is also subject to a Preservation Order 11/1983; as well as the location of a Children's Burial Ground (MA014-062001-), the site of a church (MA014-062002-), and enclosure (MA014-062003-). This archaeological complex retains heightened levels of sensitivity and heritage value. The complex is sited on a natural elevated position within low-lying ground between the R314 and a local road (**Appendix 14.1, Plate 14.12**). There are proposed turbine locations 500 m – 900 m to the west of this ecclesiastical complex (AT02, AT03 and AT04 and Met Mast). It is also noted that Carn House, a protected structure (RPS 187) is located to the north of this cluster of archaeological sites.

Rathfrank Abbey (National Monument 269) was founded in AD 1274 for the order of Friars Preachers or Dominicans and dedicated to the Holy Cross. It is located on low-lying ground on the north bank of the Palmerstown River, at a point where the river becomes tidal and opens into Rathfrank Bay (**Appendix 14.1 Plate 14.13**). The abbey site is located 3.3 km

southeast of the nearest proposed turbine (AT01), although visibility of several of the windfarm turbines are visible on the horizon view (see VP25, Landscape and Visual Amenity assessment, **Chapter 12**).

Overall, these are considered high value receptors that are likely to have predicted negative long-term (reversible) indirect effect of medium-high magnitude on setting and this will result in Moderate-Significant significance of effect (**Table 14.17**).

Table 14.17: Summary of Operational Phase Indirect Effects on the Cultural Heritage Resource

Receptor	Type	Value	Type of Effect	Quality of Effect	Magnitude of Effect	Duration	Significance of Effect
Carn House (RPS 187)	House	High	Indirect	Negative	High	Long-term	Significant
Carn archaeological complex (MA014-061001- to MA014-061005-)	Archaeological Complex – various	High	Indirect	Negative	High	Long-term	Significant
Castletackan folly (RPS 016)	Designed landscape feature	High	Indirect	Negative	Medium	Long-term	Moderate
Cairn sites MA014-002005- and MA014-002006-	Unclassified cairn sites	Medium	Indirect	Negative	Medium	Long-term	Moderate
Rathlackan archaeological complex and amenity area including court tomb MA007-016006-	Archaeological and amenity complex – various	High	Indirect	Negative	Medium	Long-term	Moderate
Wedge tomb at Rathfrankpark (National Monument 633)	Wedge tomb	High	Indirect	Negative	Medium	Long-term	Moderate
Stone circle at Rathfrank (National Monument 389)	Stone circle	High	Indirect	Negative	Medium	Long-term	Moderate
Rathfrank Abbey (National Monument 269).	Abbey	High	Indirect	Negative	Medium	Long-term	Significant
Rosserk Abbey (National Monument 104)	Abbey	High	Indirect	Negative	Medium	Long-term	Moderate
Céide Fields	Prehistoric field system & Visitor Centre	Very High	Indirect	Negative	Low	Long-term	Slight

14.5 MITIGATION MEASURES AND RESIDUAL EFFECTS

14.5.1 Construction Phase Mitigation Measures

The layout of the Wind Farm Site was informed by the archaeological desktop studies and fieldwork undertaken during the design and assessment phases and was designed to avoid the known locations of known and potential archaeological constraints.

Ground works during the construction phase will be subject to archaeological monitoring by a suitably qualified archaeologist under licence by the National Monuments Service. This will also include a systematic advance programme of archaeological field-walking surveys within Proposed Development areas in forestry plantations following tree felling to confirm the conditions predicted in this assessment, i.e., that they contain no visible surface traces of potential unrecorded archaeological or architectural heritage sites.

In the event that any sub-surface archaeological features are identified during archaeological monitoring they will be securely cordoned off, cleaned and recorded *in situ*. The National Monuments Service will then be notified and consulted to determine further appropriate mitigation measures, which may include preservation *in situ* (by avoidance) or preservation by record (archaeological excavation).

There are three undesignated vernacular structures located within the Wind Farm Site and one of these, in Leacarrowntemple townland, will be directly impacted during the construction phase. The remains of this structure will be subject to a written, drawn and built heritage survey prior to removal (preservation by record).

The identified temporary indirect negative effects on the Cultural Heritage resource during construction stage are of a visual nature only that detract from the setting and/or amenity value/access to the identified sensitive receptor. There are no appropriate mitigation measures to reduce or offset these indirect effects on setting.

14.5.2 Construction Phase Residual Effects – Direct

The mitigation measures presented in **Section 14.5.1** will provide for either the avoidance of the potential unrecorded, sub-surface archaeological resource within the footprint of proposed construction locations or the proper and adequate recording of this resource by full archaeological excavation/built heritage record. No residual construction phase direct effects are predicted following the implementation of these mitigation measures. The derelict remains of the vernacular structure in Leacarrowntemple townland will be subject

to a written, drawn and built heritage survey prior to removal (preservation by record) and this will result in a slight residual effect on this undesignated structure.

14.5.3 Construction Phase Residual Effects – Indirect

There are no available mitigation measures to reduce or offset identified indirect effects on the Cultural Heritage resource. Nonetheless, these construction stage indirect effects are temporary in nature and reversible.

14.5.4 Operational Phase Mitigation Measures

Following the successful implementation of the mitigation measures presented in **Section 14.5.1** at construction stage, the operational phase of the Proposed Development will result in no predicted direct effects on the known and potential Cultural Heritage resource. As such, no mitigation measures are required.

As detailed in **Section 14.4.4**, the Proposed Development will result in a range of long term, indirect negative effects on the wider setting of archaeological monuments and designated architectural heritage structures within the landscape surrounding the Wind Farm Site. These indirect operational stage effects range from moderate to significant in terms of significance of effect (**Table 14.17**). Given the nature of the Turbine structures, there are no mitigation measures that can address the indirect effects on heritage landscape setting. It is noted that these effects will be reversible at the decommissioning phase.

14.5.5 Operation Phase Residual Effects - Direct

There are no operational phase direct residual effects on the cultural heritage resource are predicted following the successful implementation of mitigation measures.

14.5.6 Operation Phase Residual Effects - Indirect

The operational phase will result in a range of moderate to significant long term residual indirect effects on the setting of archaeological sites within the environs of the Proposed Development. It is noted that these effects will be reversible following decommissioning of the Proposed Development.

14.6 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

A review of operational, consented, and proposed wind farm developments within 20 km of the Proposed Development was carried out in order to assess potential cumulative effects on the cultural heritage resource (**Table 14.18**). This included a review of any available relevant reports contained in the online planning files published on the An Bord Pleanála website and the Mayo and Sligo County Councils' planning enquiry systems as well as the results of any archaeological site investigations at their locations published in the Database of Irish Excavation Reports.

The locations of other developments, including infrastructure, energy supply and agricultural projects, within 10 km of the Wind Farm Site were also reviewed (**Chapter 2; Table 2.2**) and this did not identify any developments that will combine with the Proposed Development to result in any likely significant cumulative effects on the Cultural Heritage resource would occur.

Table 14.18: Cultural Heritage review of Wind Farms within 20 km

Name	No. WTG	Approximate Distance from the Site	Planning Status	Cultural Heritage Context
Killala Community Wind Farm (Phase 1)	5	6.0 km southeast	Operational	A review of the EIS ²¹ prepared for this development revealed that the Cultural Heritage Assessment predicted that it would result in no predicted significant effects on the cultural heritage resource.
Killala Community Wind Farm (Phase 2)	1	5.22 km	Operational	An advance programme of archaeological test trenching at the location of this development was carried out to comply with planning requirements and revealed nothing of archaeological significance ²² .
Keerglen Wind Farm	8	6.5 km Southwest	Preplanning	A review of the Cultural Heritage Chapter in the EIAR prepared for this proposed development revealed that it identified no likely significant construction, operational or cumulative effects on the cultural heritage resource ²³ .
Lackan Wind Farm	3	13.6 km east	Conditional	A review of the Database of Irish Excavation Reports revealed that nothing of archaeological significance was identified during a programme of archaeological test trenching ²⁴ at this location.
Oweninny (Phase 1-3) Phase 1 = 29 turbines, Phase 2 = 31 Phase 3 = 18 Total turbines = 78	18	13.9 km to 19.6 km Southwest	Oweninny Phase 1 & 2 Operational Oweninny Phase 3 Conditional	A review of a sourced copy of the Phase 3 EIAR for this wind farm revealed that the Cultural Heritage Chapter does not identify any likely significant effects on the cultural heritage resource ²⁵ . A review of the Database of Irish Excavation Reports revealed that it contains no entries for the excavation of any archaeological features identified during the construction of the operational Phase 1 and 2 wind farm developments.
Dooleeg	1	19 km southwest	Conditional	A review of the Database of Irish Excavation Reports revealed that it contains no entries for the excavation of any archaeological features identified during the construction of this development.
Bellacorrick	21	16.8 km Southwest	Decommissioning*I	A review of the Database of Irish Excavation Reports revealed that it contains no entries for the excavation of any archaeological features identified during the construction of this wind farm.
Sheskin	8	18 km Southwest	Conditional	A review of the EIS prepared for this development revealed that the Cultural Heritage Assessment ²⁶ identified no likely significant cumulative effects on the cultural heritage resource within the wider landscape.

²¹ <https://idocsweb.mayococo.ie/iDocsWeb/ViewFiles.aspx?docid=745114&format=djvu>

²² <https://www.eplanning.ie/MayoCC/AppFileRefDetails/19260/0>

²³ <https://www.eplanning.ie/MayoCC/AppFileRefDetails/2460537/0>

²⁴ <https://excavations.ie/report/2003/Sligo/0010695/>

²⁵ https://www.oweninnywindfarmphasethreeplanning.ie/wp-content/uploads/sites/37/2023/04/Chapter_18_Archaeological,_Architectural_and_Cultural_Heritage.pdf

²⁶ <https://idocsweb.mayococo.ie/iDocsWeb/ViewFiles.aspx?docid=1262249&format=djvu>

Name	No. WTG	Approximate Distance from the Site	Planning Status	Cultural Heritage Context
Sheskin South	18	19.9 km Southwest	Consented	A review of the EIAR prepared for this development revealed that the Cultural Heritage Assessment ²⁷ predicted that it would result in no predicted significant cumulative effects on the cultural heritage resource within the wider landscape.
Glenora	22	6.9 km West	Awaiting Decision	A review of the EIAR prepared for this development revealed that the Cultural Heritage Assessment ²⁸ predicted that it would result in no likely significant direct, indirect, or cumulative effects on the cultural heritage resource.
Knockboha (Domestic)	1	1.1 km Northwest	Operational	A review of the Database of Irish Excavation Reports revealed that it contains no entries for the excavation of any archaeological features identified during the construction of this wind turbine.
Leadymore (Domestic)	1	4.1 km Southeast	Operational	A review of the Database of Irish Excavation Reports revealed that it contains no entries for the excavation of any archaeological features identified during the construction of this wind turbine. ²⁹
Gortnahurra	18	11.7 km Southwest	Preplanning	No online cultural heritage reports sourced. No pre-planning investigations noted in Database of Irish Excavation Reports.

* = Decommissioning of Bellacorrick Windfarm will be scheduled to take place alongside the construction of the proposed Oweninny Phase (3)

²⁷: <https://www.pleanala.ie/publicaccess/EIAR-NIS/315933/Environmental/EIAR%20Chapters/Chapter%2012%20-%20Archaeology%20and%20Cultural%20Heritage.pdf?r=419777980340>

²⁸ <https://www.pleanala.ie/publicaccess/EIAR-NIS/318701/ENVIRONMENTAL/EIAR%20CHAPTERS/Ch.%2013%20Archaeology%20and%20Cultural%20Heritage%20F%20-%20202023.12.01%20-%202021120.pdf?r=167651496625>

²⁹ <https://www.eplanning.ie/MayoCC/AppFileRefDetails/1340/0>

Given the absence of any predicted direct effects on the recorded cultural heritage resource arising from the Proposed Development, in combination with the results of the above review of wind farms, it is concluded that the Proposed Development is not predicted to contribute to any significant direct cumulative effects on the cultural heritage resource of the wider area.

However, it is noted that, the operational phase of the Proposed Development will result in indirect operational moderate-significant effects on the settings of identified sensitive Cultural Heritage sites within the environs of the Proposed Development. In considering the cumulative effect of same in the context of **Table 14.17**, Rosserk Abbey (National Monument 104) is notable. The proposed turbines are visible from Rosserk Abbey in the distant background (skyline and terrain). The cumulative effect of this is considered a negative indirect effect of low magnitude on a high value receptor resulting in a slight significance of effect.

The locations of other developments, including infrastructure, energy supply and agricultural projects, within 10 km of the Wind Farm Site were also reviewed (**Chapter 2; Table 2.2**) and this did not identify any instance where, combined with the Proposed Development, any likely significant cumulative effects on the Cultural Heritage resource would occur.

14.7 DECOMMISSIONING EFFECTS

No direct effects on known elements of the cultural heritage resource are predicted during the decommissioning phase as any recorded Cultural Heritage assets located within the footprint, or close environs of the Proposed Development will be resolved by mitigation at construction phase.

Any previously unrecorded archaeological remains that could potentially be identified during the site investigations detailed in **Section 14.5.1** will either be preserved by avoidance within the Site or preserved by record (excavation). No decommissioning effects on such potential features are predicted.

The decommissioning of the Proposed Development will result in the reversal of the long term, indirect, negative operational effects on the archaeological monuments located both within the environs of the Proposed Development and the wider landscape (**Table 14.17**).

14.8 CONCLUSIONS

The Proposed Development will not result in any predicted direct negative effects on any known archaeological monuments or designated architectural heritage structures. However, there is potential for direct effects at areas of heightened cultural heritage sensitivity, with respect to proximity (and hitherto unknown sub-surface extent or survival) of known receptors.

There will be a direct effect on one undesignated vernacular structure within the Wind Farm Site and this comprises the derelict remains of a small farmhouse in Leacarrowntemple townland. This structure will be subject to a written, drawn, and photographic built heritage record prior to its removal.

The potential exists for the presence of unrecorded, sub-surface archaeological features at proposed construction areas within the Wind Farm Site, GCR, TDR works areas and a series of pre-construction and construction phase archaeological investigation under licence by the National Monuments Service will be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist.

In the event that any sub-surface archaeological remains are identified during site investigations, they will be cleaned, recorded and left to remain in situ within cordoned off areas while the National Monuments Service are notified and consulted in relation to appropriate future mitigation strategies, which may entail preservation in situ by avoidance or preservation by record by archaeological excavations.

The Proposed Development will result in a range of moderate-significant indirect negative effects on the settings of archaeological monuments located within surrounding lands during the operational phase. These indirect effects will be long term in duration and will be reversible during the decommissioning phase.

14.9 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

No predicted significant direct or cumulative effects on the Cultural Heritage resource arising from the Proposed Development have been identified. There is predicted indirect significant effect at operational stage on Carn House (RPS 187) and an archaeological complex subject to a Preservation Order (MA014-061001- to MA014-061005-) in Carn townland, and at Rathfran Abbey (National Monument Ref. 269) (**Table 14.17**). These sites, although without any known astronomical alignments inherent to their design layout, are located at prominent elevated or riverine positions within the landscape. There are no

mitigation measures to ameliorate these indirect operational stage effects on setting, however it is noted that the duration of same is long-term and the effect is reversible by decommissioning.

14.10 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

An assessment has been made of the potential for significant effects of the Proposed Development on the Cultural Heritage resource. Following the application of effective mitigation measures based on best practice guidelines, including archaeological inputs during the design process for the Proposed Development combined with onsite archaeological works prior to and during the construction phase, the Proposed Development is not predicted to result in likely direct Significant effects on the Cultural Heritage resource at construction stage.

There is predicted indirect Significant effect at operational stage at Carn House and Carn archaeological complex, and at Rathfran Abbey (**Table 14.17**). It is acknowledged that this indirect significant effect on landscape setting is reversible at decommissioning stage of the Proposed Development.