Borrisbeg Grid Connection

Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage

IE002700
Borrisbeg Grid Connection
F
15.09.2025

Document status

Version	Purpose of document	Authored by	Reviewed by	Approved by	Review date
F	Final for Submission	MC	KM/PC	PC	16.09.2025

Approval for issue

PC	16.09.2025

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12.1 Introduction

This cultural heritage chapter was prepared by Tobar Archaeological Services Ltd. It presents the results of an archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage impact assessment of the Proposed Grid Connection. The Proposed Grid Connection is described in detail in Chapter 3 of this EIAR. The purpose of this chapter is to assess the potential direct and indirect effects of the Proposed Grid Connection on the surrounding archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage landscape. The assessment is based on both a desktop review of the available cultural heritage and archaeological data and a field inspection of the Site. An assessment of potential effects, including cumulative effects, is presented.

12.2 Proposed Grid Connection

The Proposed Grid Connection will connect to the national grid via a 'loop-in-loop-out' connection. The onsite 110kV substation will connect to the nearby Ikerrin to Thurles 110kV overhead line (OHL) via c.2.1km of underground electricity cabling which will run in a south-eastward direction from the proposed onsite 110kV substation through a mix of local road and new track over agricultural land to the existing OHL. The existing OHL will be broken by 2 no. end masts (lattice type towers). A full and detailed development description is contained in Chapter 3 of this EIAR.

12.3 Location and Topography

The "Site" (EIAR Study Boundary) is located within a rural setting in north Tipperary, approximately 14.5km south of Roscrea Town and approximately 3.8km northeast of Templemore town centre. The Site location context is shown in Figure 1-1. The Site measures approximately 47.5 hectares and falls within the townlands of Clonmore, Strogue, and Ballycahill. Landuse currently comprises a mix of pastoral agriculture and local roads. The surrounding landuse predominantly comprises pastoral agriculture, local roads and commercial and residential within Templemore town. Existing access is the L-7039, L-70391, L7038 in the southeast.

Upgrades to the L-70391 local road within the Site and upgrade of the junction between the L-70391 and the L-7039 will be undertaken as part the Consented Wind Farm. The consented works will result in the widening of 460m of the L-70391 road and resurfacing of the of the entire L-70391 (approx. 1.1km total length). This Site entrance will provide operational access for maintenance of the Proposed Grid Connection and the Consented Wind Farm, as well as maintenance the existing public access to lands involved in both projects.

12.4 Statement of Authority

This chapter of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) has been prepared by Miriam Carroll of Tobar Archaeological Services Ltd. Miriam graduated from University College Cork in 1998 with a Master's degree in Methods and Techniques in Irish Archaeology. She is licensed by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) to carry out excavations and is a member of the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland. Miriam has been working in the field of archaeology since 1994 and has undertaken numerous projects for both the private and public sectors including excavations, site assessments (EIAR) and surveys. Miriam Carroll is a director of Tobar Archaeological Services which has been in operation for 20 years.

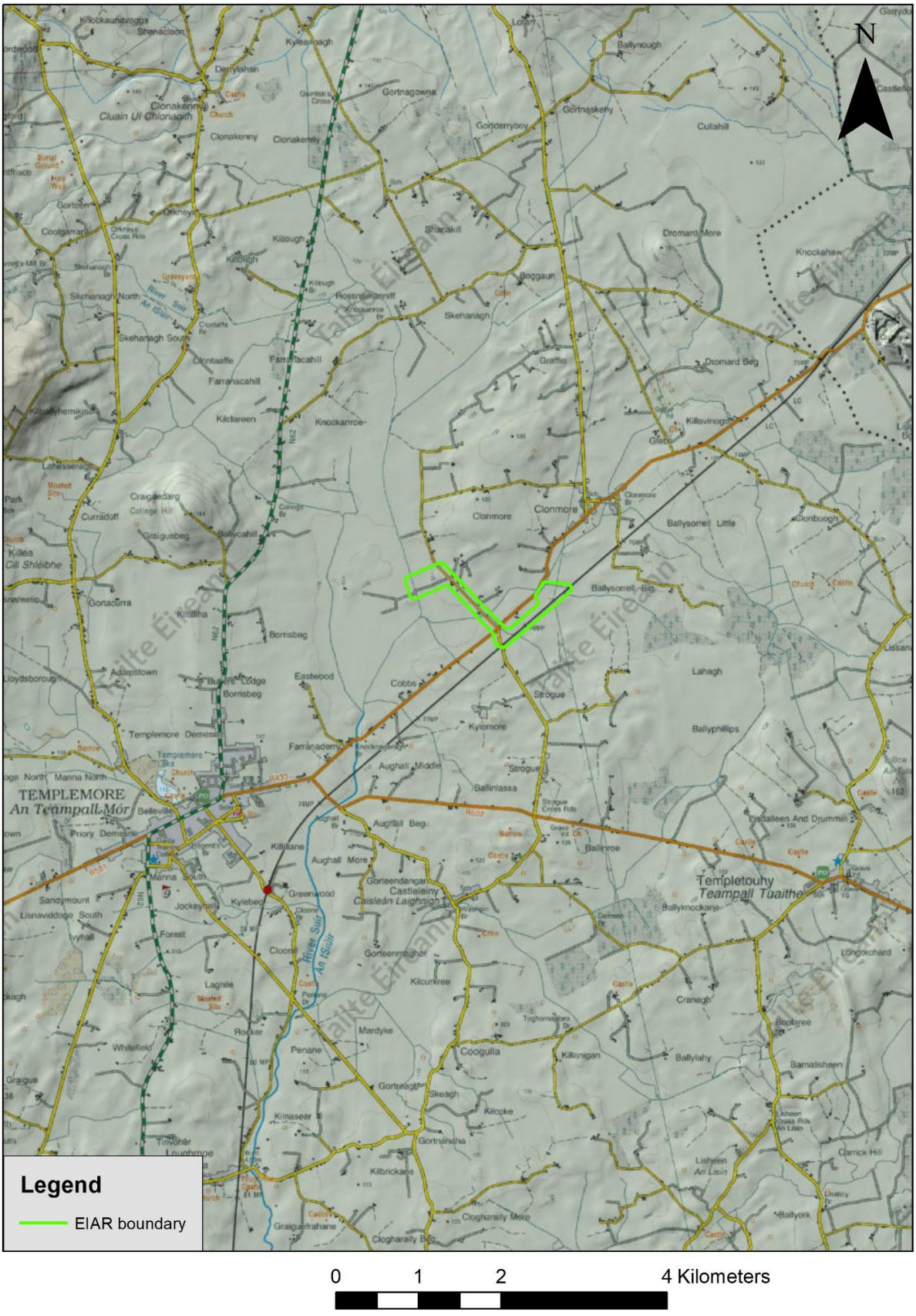

Figure 12-1: Site location.

12.5 Relevant Guidance and Legislation

12.5.1 Guidance

The assessment of the potential effects of the Proposed Grid Connection on cultural heritage has been carried out in accordance with the following:

- Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2011).
- Guidelines on the information to be contained on the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EPA, 2022).
- Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, 1999).
- Guidance on Setting and the Historic Environment (Historic Environment Division, February 2018).
- Guidelines for Assessment of Ecological Impacts of National Road Schemes. National Roads Authority, Ireland (NRA, 2009).
- Guidelines for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, Government of Ireland (DoHPLG) (2018).
- Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended).
- Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028. (Tipperary County Council, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, 2022).

12.5.2 Legislation

Archaeological monuments are safeguarded through national and international policy, which is designed to secure the protection of the cultural heritage resource. This is undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta Convention). This was ratified by Ireland in 1997.

Both the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2004 and relevant provisions of the Cultural Institutions Act 1997 are the primary means of ensuring protection of archaeological monuments, the latter of which includes all man-made structures of whatever form or date. There are a number of provisions under the National Monuments Acts which ensure protection of the archaeological resource. These include the Register of Historic Monuments (1997 Act) which means that any interference to a monument is illegal under that Act. All registered monuments are included on the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP).

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) was established under Section 12 (1) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994 and consists of a list of known archaeological monuments and accompanying maps. The Record of Monuments and Places affords some protection to the monuments entered therein. Section 12 (3) of the 1994 Amendment Act states that any person proposing to carry out work at or in relation to a recorded monument must give notice in writing to the Minister (Environment, Heritage and Local Government) and shall not commence the work for a period of two months after having given the notice. All proposed works, therefore, within or around any archaeological monument are subject to statutory protection and legislation (National Monuments Acts 1930-2004).

The term ‘national monument’ as defined in Section 2 of the National Monuments Act 1930 means 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’. National monuments in

State care include those which are in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Section 5 of the National Monuments Act (1930) allows owners of other national monuments to appoint the Minister for the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht or the relevant local authority as guardian of such monuments, subject to their consent. This means in effect that while the property of such a monument remains vested in the owner, its maintenance and upkeep are the responsibility of the State. Some monuments are also protected by Preservation Orders and are also regarded as National Monuments. National Monuments also includes (but not so as to limit, extend or otherwise influence the construction of the foregoing general definition) every monument in Saorstát Éireann to which the Ancient Monuments Protection Act, 1882, applied immediately before the passing of this Act, and the said expression shall be construed as including, in addition to the monument itself, the site of the monument and the means of access thereto and also such portion of land adjoining such site as may be required to fence, cover in, or otherwise preserve from injury the monument or to preserve the amenities thereof.

The Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 will replace the existing National Monuments Acts (1930-2014) when it is brought into force by Ministerial Order. The majority of provisions of the Act have not yet come into force. One Commencement Order relating to Sections 1-6 and Section 7 insofar as relates to the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999 (other than section 5) came into effect on the 31 May 2024. These provisions relate to World Heritage Property in the State, inventories, the protection of certain records, the promotion of heritage, and the issuing of statutory guidance. Certain related and supporting provisions concerning implementation and enforcement are also commenced (www.archaeology.ie/news). The provisions now in force allow for the establishment and maintenance of inventories of relevant things of archaeological interest, architectural heritage, and wrecks of archaeological or historic interest. This bolsters the status of existing inventories recording sites of archaeological, historic and architectural interest, both on land and under the sea. It also ensures that legal protection is afforded to certain records or archaeological objects in the event that a person or company in possession of such records is no longer in a position to maintain them, which further strengthens existing practices (https://www.gov.ie/).

Under the Heritage Act (1995) architectural heritage is defined to include ‘all structures, buildings, traditional and designed, and groups of buildings including street-scapes 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…’. A heritage building is also defined to include ‘any building, or part thereof, which is of significance because of its intrinsic architectural or artistic quality or its setting or because of its association with the commercial, cultural, economic, industrial, military, political, social or religious history of the place where it is situated or of the country or generally’.

12.5.2.1 Granada Convention

The Council of Europe, in Article 2 of the 1985 Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention), states that 'for the purpose of precise identification of the monuments, groups of structures and sites to be protected, each member State will undertake to maintain inventories of that architectural heritage’. The Granada Convention emphasises the importance of inventories in underpinning conservation policies.

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) was established in 1990 to fulfil Ireland's obligations under the Granada Convention, through the establishment and maintenance of a central record, documenting and evaluating the architectural heritage of Ireland. Article 1 of the Granada Convention establishes the parameters of this work by defining 'architectural heritage' under three broad categories of Monument, Groups of Buildings, and Sites:

- Monument: all buildings and structures of conspicuous historical, archaeological, artistic, scientific, social or technical interest, including their fixtures and fittings;

- Group of buildings: homogeneous groups of urban or rural buildings conspicuous for their historical, archaeological, artistic, scientific, social or technical interest, which are sufficiently coherent to form topographically definable units;
- Sites: the combined works of man and nature, being areas which are partially built upon and sufficiently distinctive and homogenous to be topographically definable, and are of conspicuous historical, archaeological, artistic, scientific, social or technical interest.

The Council of Europe's definition of architectural heritage allows for the inclusion of structures, groups of structures and sites which are considered to be of significance in their own right, or which are of significance in their local context and environment. The NIAH believes it is important to consider the architectural heritage as encompassing a wide variety of structures and sites as diverse as post boxes, grand country houses, mill complexes and vernacular farmhouses.

12.5.3 Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028

The Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028 came into effect on 22nd August 2022. The relevant policies and objectives of Tipperary County Council regarding archaeology and built heritage were consulted in the CDP and include the following:

12.5.3.1 Architectural Heritage

It is the policy of the Council to:

13 - 1 Encourage and support the sympathetic restoration, re-use and maintenance of protected structures thereby ensuring their conservation and protection. In considering proposals for development, the Council will have regard to the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities, (DAHG 2011) or any amendment thereof, and proposals that will have an unacceptable impact on the character and integrity of a protected structure or adjoining protected structure will not be permitted.

13 - 2 Encourage and support new development that contributes to the enhancement of ACAs with regard to; a) Impact on the character, appearance and integrity of the ACA in terms of compatibility in design, colour, finishes and massing of form; b) Impact on the existing amenities, character and heritage of the ACA; c) The importance of retaining important architectural and townscape elements such as shopfronts, sash windows, gutters and down pipes, plasterwork etc as appropriate.

13 - 3 Seek the sympathetic restoration, appropriate re-use and maintenance of buildings/features which are considered to be of local and vernacular architectural importance.

It is the objective of the Council to:

13 - A Support the owners of structures on the RPS and structures in ACAs through educational and information actions to assist in the conservation and active use of built heritage.

13 - B Administer and manage built heritage funding schemes such as the ‘Built Heritage Investment Scheme’, ‘Structures at Risk Scheme’ etc and any review thereof, to support owners of built heritage in the county.

12.5.3.2 Archaeological Heritage

It is a policy of the Council to:

13 - 4 Safeguard sites, features and objects of archaeological interest, including Recorded Monuments, National Monuments and Monuments on the Register of Historic Monuments, and archaeological remains found within Zones of Archaeological Potential located in historic towns and other urban and rural areas. In safeguarding such features of archaeological interest, the Council will seek to secure their preservation (i.e. in situ or in exceptional circumstances preservation by record) and will have regard to the advice and recommendation of the Department of Arts, Heritage

and the Gaeltacht. Where developments, due to their location, size or nature, may have implications for archaeological heritage, the Council may require an archaeological assessment to be carried out. This may include for a requirement for a detailed Visual Impact Assessment of the proposal and how it will impact on the character or setting of adjoining archaeological features. Such developments include those that are located at, or close to an archaeological monument or site, those that are extensive in terms of area (1/2 ha or more) or length (1 kilometre or more), those that may impact on the underwater environment and developments requiring EIA.

13 - 5 Respect and preserve the remains (both sub-surface and upstanding) of the medieval towns in line with the Conservation, Management and Interoperation Plans in place for each town, in line with the guidance of the Heritage Council and the National Policy on Town Defences (DEHLG, 2008).

13 - 6 Consider landscapes of archaeological significance and, if considered necessary, require an impact assessment for proposed development which could have a significant impact on the identified landscape.

13 - 7 Consider underwater archaeology and ensure that development to river banks or coastal edges within the vicinity of a site of archaeological interest shall not be detrimental to the character of the archaeological site or its setting.

It is an objective of the Council to:

13 - C Ensure that the towns of Cashel, Fethard, Carrick on Suir and Clonmel remain members of the Irish Walled Towns Network, and to carry out an annual maintenance, interpretation and conservation programme in respect of each of these towns

13 - D Carry out an audit of archaeological landscapes in Tipperary over the lifetime of the Plan, having consideration to landscapes that may extend into adjoining counties.

13 - E Work closely with the relevant State bodies, International Council on Monuments and Sites, UNESCO, the relevant local authorities and local stakeholders to support the designation of the Royal Sites as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

13 - F Safeguard archaeological artefacts found on land or in rivers and, as appropriate, to file a ‘Report of Discovery’ with the National Museum of Ireland under Section 68 (2) of the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997.

12.5.4 Statutory Consultations

12.5.4.1 Tipperary County Council

No scoping response relating to archaeology or cultural heritage was received from Tipperary County Council.

12.5.4.2 National Monuments Service

A scoping response pertaining to archaeology was received from the Development Applications Unit (DAU) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH). The response states that the Department notes an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) will be carried out as part of the EIA process and recommends that it be carried out at an early stage of planning and design. It goes on to state the following in relation to the AIA:

The Archaeological Impact Assessment must include:

- *A baseline archaeological and historical study comprising site inspection/s by a suitably qualified Archaeologist and documentary research including reviews of historical, cartographic and aerial photography sources.*
- *Walkover surveys and field inspections*

- *An Archaeological/Historic Landscape study.*
- *Visual Impact Assessment*
- *The desk-study and field inspection regime should inform (as appropriate):*
  - *Targeted non-intrusive advance geophysical survey or prospection (such as Ground Penetrating Radar Surveys)*
  - *Targeted advance archaeological test excavation*
- *Any and all intrusive advance investigations (such as, but not limited to, ground investigations for soils/geology/hydrogeology) carried out as part of the EIA or design process should be subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring by a suitably qualified archaeologist. Comprehensive assessment is required in order to fully characterise the archaeological potential of the lands proposed for development and allow a clear and comprehensive archaeological impact statement to be made. The results of these investigations should inform the EIA process and be incorporated within the EIA Report.*

Sub-surface archaeological features and deposits may exist within the greenfield or undeveloped sections of the PDS. Advance prospection would be required to establish the extent of such features so that the potential likely impacts of the proposed development could be established. Therefore, we would strongly advise that the EIA methodology includes such investigations and does not rely solely on desk-based research.

12.5.4.3 The Heritage Council

No scoping response relating to archaeology or cultural heritage was received from The Heritage Council.

12.6 Assessment Methodology

The assessment of the archaeology, architecture and cultural heritage of the Proposed Grid Connection included geographic information system (GIS) mapping, desk-based research and field inspection.

12.6.1 Geographical Information Systems (GIS)

GIS is a computer database which captures, stores, analyses, manages and presents data that is linked to location. GIS is geographic information systems which includes mapping software and its application with remote sensing, land surveying, aerial photography, mathematics, photogrammetry, geography and tools that can be implemented with GIS software. GIS was used to manage the datasets relevant to the archaeological and architectural heritage assessment and for the creation of all the maps in this section of the report. This involved the overlaying of the relevant archaeological and architectural datasets on georeferenced aerial photographs and road maps (i.e. Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI)), where available. The integration of this spatial information allows for the accurate measurement of distances of a proposed development from archaeological and cultural heritage sites and the extraction of information on ‘monument types’ from the datasets. Areas of archaeological or architectural sensitivity may then be highlighted in order to mitigate the potential negative effects of a development on archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage.

12.6.2 Desktop Assessment

The desktop assessment for the Proposed Grid Connection included but was not limited to the consultation of the following sources:

- The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)

- The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)
- National Monuments in State Care County Tipperary
- The Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland
- First edition Ordnance Survey maps (Tailte Éireann)
- Second edition Ordnance Survey maps (Tailte Éireann)
- Third edition Ordnance Survey maps (Tailte Éireann)
- Aerial photographs (copyright of Tailte Éireann)
- Excavations Database
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)
- Record of Protected Structures

Each of these are discussed in the following sections.

12.6.2.1 Record of Monuments and Places, Sites and Monuments Record and National Monuments

A primary cartographic source and base-line data for the assessment was the consultation of the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) for County Tipperary. All known recorded archaeological monuments are indicated on 6-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) maps and are listed in these records. The SMR/RMP is not a complete record of all monuments as newly discovered sites may not appear in the list or accompanying maps. In conjunction with the consultation of the SMR and RMP the electronic database of recorded monuments and SMRs which may be accessed at www.heritagedata.maps.arcgis.com was also consulted.

A review of all National Monuments in State Care and those subject to Preservation Orders in Counties Tipperary and Laois was also undertaken as part of the assessment.

12.6.2.2 Cartographic Sources and Aerial Photography

The 1st (1829-41), 2nd (1897-1913) and third (1830s -1930s) edition OS maps for the area were consulted, where available, as was Tailte Éireann aerial photography.

12.6.2.3 Topographical Files - National Museum of Ireland

Details relating to finds of archaeological material and monuments in numerous townlands in the country are contained in the topographical files held in the National Museum of Ireland. In order to establish if any new or previously unrecorded finds had been recovered from the Site these files, as available on Heritage Maps (www.heritagemaps.ie), were consulted for each townland within and immediately adjacent to the Proposed Grid Connection.

12.6.2.4 Archaeological Inventory Series

Further information on archaeological sites may be obtained in the published County Archaeological Inventory series prepared by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH). The archaeological inventories present summarised information on sites listed in the SMR/RMP and include detail such as the size and location of particular monuments, as well as any associated folklore or local information pertaining to each site. The inventories, however, do not account for all sites or items of cultural heritage interest which are undiscovered at the time of their publication. Many sites have been discovered since the publication of the Inventory Series, which have now been added to the Sites and Monuments Record.

12.6.2.5 Record of Protected Structures

The current County Development Plan was consulted for the schedule of buildings (Record of Protected Structures) and items of cultural, historical or archaeological interest which may be affected by the Proposed Grid Connection . The development plan also outlines policies and objectives relating to the protection of the archaeological, historical and architectural heritage landscape of County Tipperary. The dataset for the Tipperary Record of Protected Structures were added to the base mapping for the Proposed Grid Connection in order to accurately assess any potential impacts on such structures.

12.6.2.6 Excavations Database

The Excavations Database is an annual account of all excavations carried out under license. The database is available online at www.excavations.ie and includes excavations from 1985 to 2025. This database was consulted as part of the desktop research for this assessment to establish if any archaeological excavations had been carried out within or near to the Proposed Grid Connection.

12.6.2.7 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)

This source lists some of the architecturally significant buildings and items of cultural heritage and is compiled on a county by county basis by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH). The NIAH database was consulted for all townlands within and adjacent to the Proposed Grid Connection. The NIAH survey has been published and the digital dataset was downloaded on to the base mapping for the Proposed Project (www.buildingsofireland.ie). The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) is a state initiative under the administration of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and established on a statutory basis under the provisions of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999.

The purpose of the NIAH is to identify, record, and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, uniformly and consistently as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage. NIAH surveys provide the basis for the recommendations of the Minister for the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to the planning authorities for the inclusion of particular structures in their Record of Protected Structures (RPS).

12.6.2.8 Previous Assessments

The Proposed Grid Connection was previously assessed as part of the Cultural Heritage assessment carried out for the Consented Wind Farm. The assessment included desk-based research, field inspection and GIS mapping.

12.6.3 Field Inspection

The Proposed Development was subject to a walk- over survey and windscreen survey in May 2023. A photographic and descriptive record was made of the Proposed Grid Connection area and any features of interest therein. The photographic record is included as Appendix 12-1 of this EIAR.

12.6.3.1 Limitations Associated with Fieldwork

No limitations were encountered during fieldwork and all areas were accessed.

12.6.4 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

The likely effects on the existing archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage environment are assessed using the criteria as set out in the Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in

Environmental Impact Assessment Reports' (EPA, 2022) and described in Chapter 2: Consideration of Alternatives. The following terminology is used when describing the likely effects of the Proposed Grid Connection from a Cultural Heritage perspective.

12.6.4.1 Types of Effect

- Direct effects arise where an archaeological heritage feature or site is physically located within the footprint of the development whereby the removal of part, or all of the feature or site is thus required.
- Indirect effects may arise as a result of subsurface works undertaken outside the footprint of the development, secondary environmental change such as a reduction in water levels and visual effects.
- Cumulative effects arise when the addition of many effects create a larger, more significant effect.
- Residual effects are the degree of environmental changes that will occur after the proposed mitigation measures have been implemented.

12.6.4.2 Magnitude of Effects (Significance)

- Profound: Applies where mitigation would be unlikely to remove adverse effects. Reserved for adverse, negative effects only. These effects arise where an archaeological site is completely and irreversibly destroyed.
- Very Significant: An effect which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity significantly alters most of the sensitive aspect of the environment.
- Significant: An effect which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment. An effect like this would be where part of a site would be permanently impacted upon, leading to a loss of character, integrity and data about an archaeological site.
- Moderate: A moderate effect arises where a change to an archaeological site is proposed which though noticeable, is not such that the integrity of the site is compromised and which is reversible. This arises where an archaeological site can be incorporated into a modern day development without damage and that all procedures used to facilitate this are reversible.
- Slight: An effect which causes changes in the character of the environment which are not high or very high and do not directly impact or affect an archaeological site.
- Not Significant: An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.
- Imperceptible: An effect on an archaeological site capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences.

12.6.5 Methodology for the assessment of impacts on visual setting (indirect effects)

A standardised approach was utilised for the assessment of effects on visual setting (indirect effects) according to types of monuments and cultural heritage assets which may have varying degrees of sensitivity. This assessment does not include visits to each and every site as this is considered to be beyond the scope of this EIAR as they are mainly located on private lands to which the public have no access. The analysis used in the assessment of potential effects on the visual setting of cultural heritage assets in the wider landscape of 1km considers the effects of the proposed substation and end masts as they comprise the most prominent elements of the Proposed

Grid Connection from a visual perspective and have the most potential to give rise to significant, indirect, effects.

Other components of the Proposed Grid Connection, i.e. proposed underground grid connection cable route are not deemed to be visually prominent and its underground nature will not result in significant visual effects on any cultural heritage assets.

Cultural Heritage assets within 100m of the Proposed Grid Connection were included in the assessment in order to ascertain any potential direct effects and any required mitigation measures to alleviate or minimise such effects if identified.

12.7 Existing Environment

12.7.1 Results of Field Inspection

No new previously unrecorded above-ground archaeological monuments were noted within the Site. One item of cultural heritage merit (CH1) comprising a stone road bridge is located on the public road along which the proposed underground electrical cabling will extend (See Section 12.7.9 below for further discussion).

12.7.2 UNESCO World Heritage Sites and those on Tentative List

No UNESCO World Heritage Sites (WHS) or those on the Tentative list are located on or in the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Grid Connection. The nearest WHS (Tentative list) comprises the royal site of Cashel which is situated c. 33km to the south south-east.

12.7.3 National Monuments

No National Monuments in State Care or those subject to a preservation order are located within 1km of the proposed substation and end masts or within 100m of the underground electrical cabling route. The nearest National Monument (Nat. Mon. 113) comprises a church (LA027-024----) at Errill in Co. Laois which is located over 7.5km north-east of the proposed end masts and c. 8.8km north-east of the proposed substation. The nearest monument subject to a Preservation Order (PO 57/1938) is a tower house, Loughmoe Castle TN035-030005-, which is located c. 7.6km south-west of the proposed substation and over 8km south-west of the proposed end masts.

12.7.4 Recorded Monuments

No recorded monuments are located within 100m of the proposed underground electrical cabling route. Four recorded monuments are located within 1km of the proposed substation, with one recorded monument within 1km of the proposed end masts (Table 12-1). Three of the four monuments within 1km of the proposed substation either have no above-ground expression (TN029-028---- and TN029-029----) or are regarded as non-archaeological (TN029-030----).

The nearest recorded monument to the proposed underground electrical cabling route and end masts comprises an earthwork TN029-031 which is located c. 270m to the north of the north-east end of the underground cabling route. The nearest recorded monument to the proposed 110kV substation and temporary compound comprises an enclosure TN029-029 c. 280m to the north-west. According to the descriptions of the monuments as provided on the Historic Environment Viewer (HEV) no above-ground trace of either monument is apparent (see below).

TN029-029---- : Enclosure : CLONMORE (Killavinoge Par.)

Description: No surface remains visible (Stout 1984, 51) no cartographical evidence for any site.

Compiled by: Jean Farrelly and Caimin O'Brien. Date of upload/revision: 22 September 2008.

TN029-031---- : Earthwork : CLONMORE (Killavinoge Par.)

Description: Situated on flat pasture in an upland area. Depicted as a circular enclosure intersected by a road at W on the 1st ed. OS 6-inch map (Stout 1984, 51) Not visible at ground level.

The above description is derived from 'The Archaeological Inventory of County Tipperary. Vol. 1 - North Tipperary' compiled by Jean Farrelly and Caimin O'Brien (Dublin: Stationery Office, 2002). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research. Date of upload/revision: 22 September 2008

Table 12-1: Recorded monuments within 1km of the proposed substation

SMR	ITM E	ITM N	Class	Townland	Distance to Proposed Substation
TN029-029----	613828	674810	Enclosure	CLONMORE (Killavinoge Par.)	302
TN029-028----	613818	674960	Enclosure	CLONMORE (Killavinoge Par.)	443
TN029-027----	614047	675170	Earthwork	CLONMORE (Killavinoge Par.)	619

Table 12-2: Recorded monuments within 1km of the proposed end masts

SMR	ITM E	ITM N	Class	Townland	Distance to Proposed End Masts
TN029-031----	615367	674630	Earthwork	CLONMORE (Killavinoge Par.)	283

12.7.5 Sub-Surface Archaeological Potential

Approximately 1.2km of the proposed underground electrical cabling route and the proposed 110kV substation and associated construction compound are located in pasture. Given the greenfield nature of these areas it is possible that previously unrecorded sub-surface archaeological finds, features or deposits are located within them. The potential therefore exists that sub-surface archaeological sites or features, if present within these areas, may be directly affected by construction phase activities. Mitigation measures to ameliorate this potential effect are detailed in Section 0 below.

12.7.6 Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland

The topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland on www.heritagemaps.ie were consulted for archaeological finds from the townlands within or adjacent to the Proposed Grid Connection . No finds are recorded within the vicinity of the Proposed Grid Connection with the nearest shown on www.heritagemaps.ie being located c. 5km to the south-east and comprises a bronze ring brooch (IA/28/1988).

Figure 12-2: Recorded monuments within 1km of the proposed 110kV substation and proposed end masts.

12.7.7 Protected Structures

No Protected Structures are located within 100m of either side of the proposed underground electrical cabling route or within 1km of the proposed end masts or the proposed 110kV substation and temporary construction compound. The nearest RPS structure (TRPS699) is located c. 1.9km north-east of the proposed substation and c. 1.1km north-east of the proposed end masts (Figure 12-3). It comprises Saint Anne's Roman Catholic Chapel and is also included in the NIAH (Reg. 22402902) (see below).

12.7.8 NIAH Structures and Historic Gardens

No NIAH structures are located within 100m of the proposed underground electrical cabling route or within 1km of the proposed 110kV substation and temporary construction compound or proposed end masts. As outlined above, the nearest structure comprises Saint Anne’s Catholic Church (NIAH Reg. 22402902) which is also a Protected Structure (TRPS699) situated c. 1.9km north-east of the proposed substation and c. 1.1km north-east of the proposed end masts.

No historic gardens are located within 100m of the proposed underground electrical cabling route or within 1km of the proposed 110kV substation and temporary construction compound or proposed end masts. The nearest historic gardens comprise that associated with Eastwood House c. 1.9km south-west of the proposed substation and that associated with Sorrelhill House located c. 2km north-east of the proposed end masts (Figure 12-3).

12.7.9 Cartographic Evidence and Local Cultural Heritage

The available historic Ordnance Survey maps were consulted for any items of cultural heritage merit that may be located along the proposed underground electrical cabling route and end masts, and in the vicinity of the proposed 110kV substation and temporary construction compound. No items of local cultural heritage merit are indicated on the historic mapping in the footprint of the proposed 110kV substation or associated temporary construction compound.

The proposed underground electrical cabling route extends through pasture adjacent to the Great Southern and Western Railway which is indicated and named on the second edition 25-inch OS map and is still an operational railway. The underground electrical cabling route also crosses a stone road bridge (CH1) on the public road which is indicated but not named on the available historic mapping (Figure 12-4 and Figure 12-5). Directional drilling will be utilised at this crossing therefore direct effects to the structure are not anticipated.

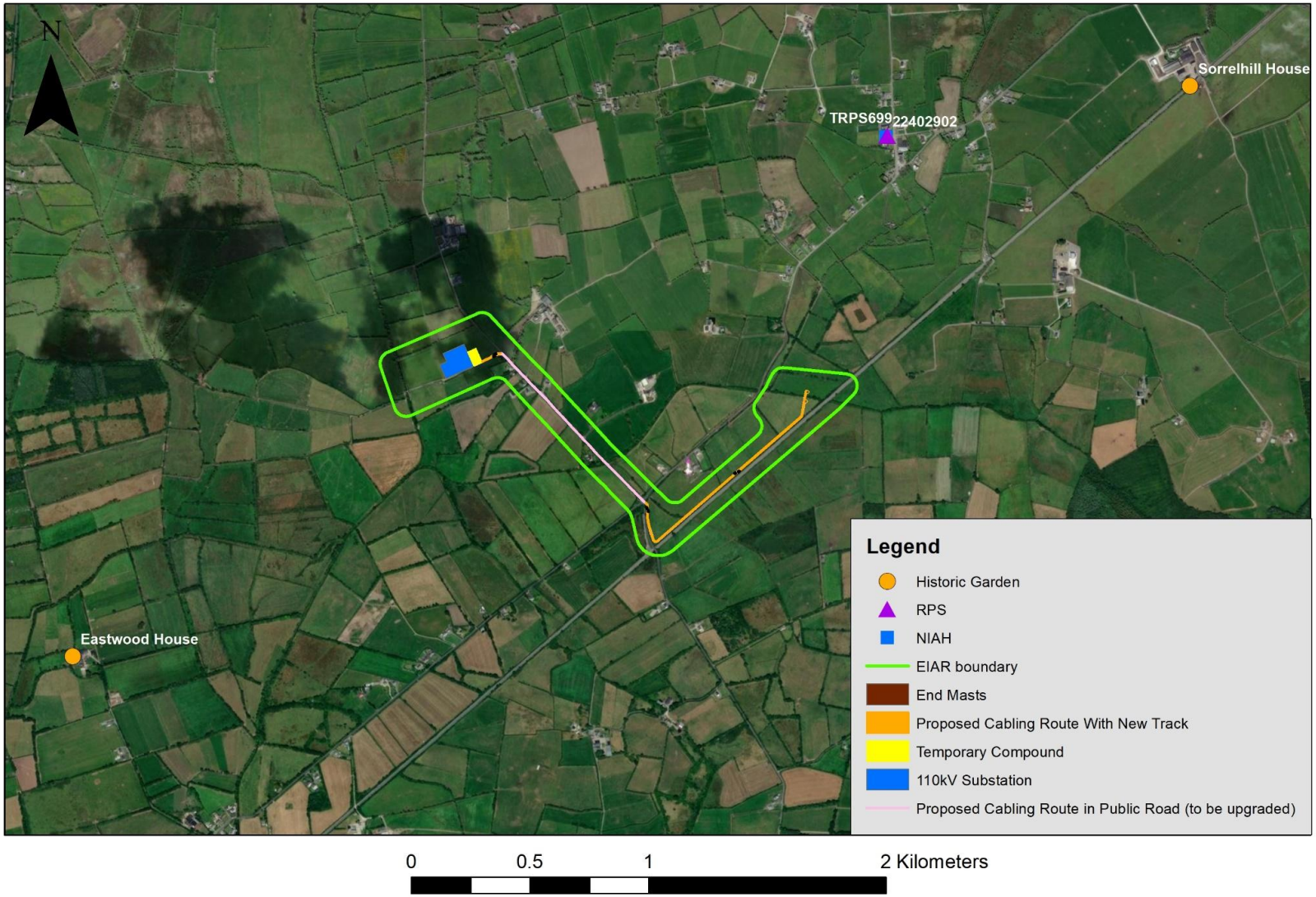

Figure 12-3: Nearest RPS and NIAH structures and historic gardens to Proposed Grid Connection.

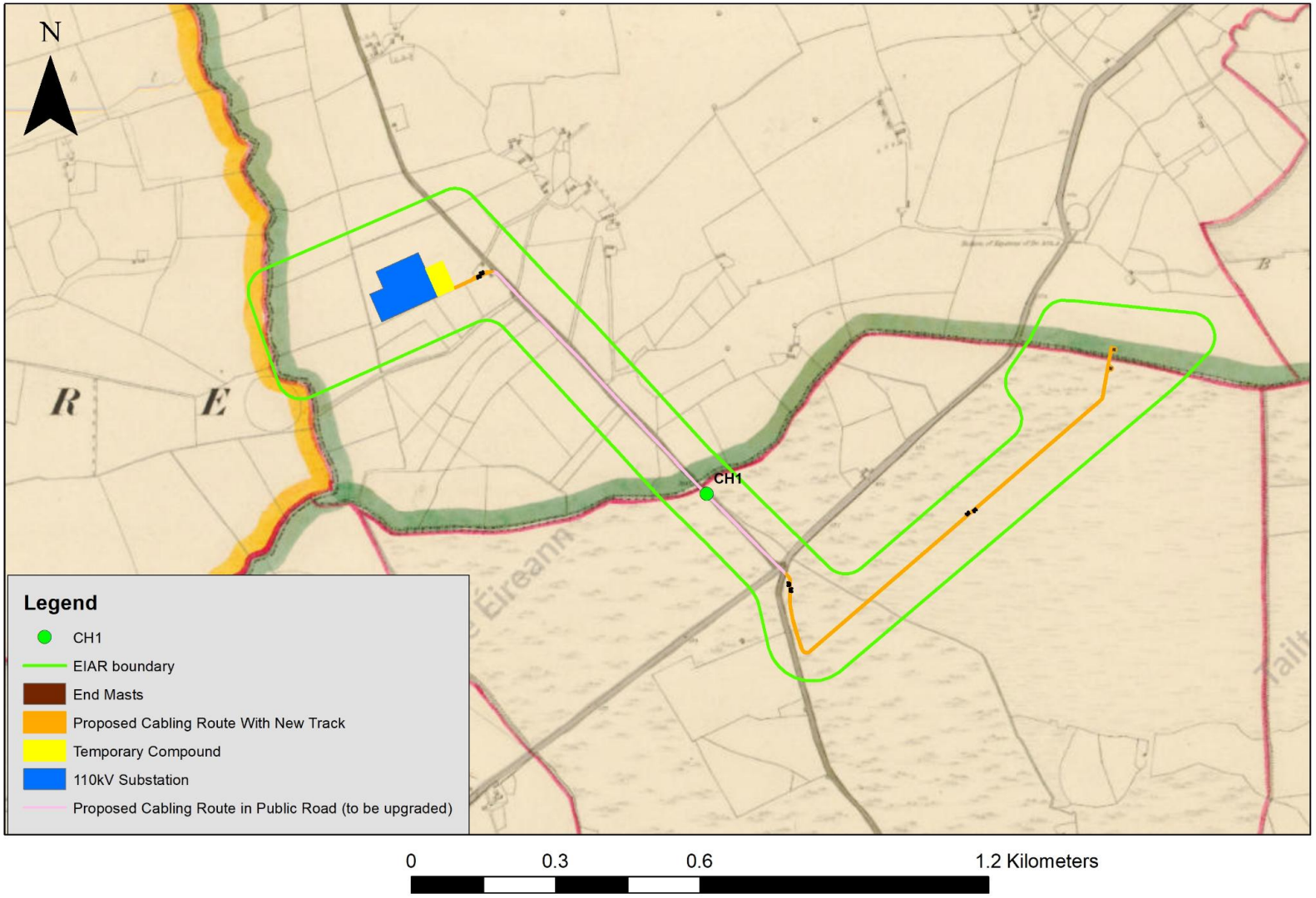

Figure 12-4: Proposed Grid Connection on first edition OS background (note slight overlay discrepancy in relation to location of CH1).

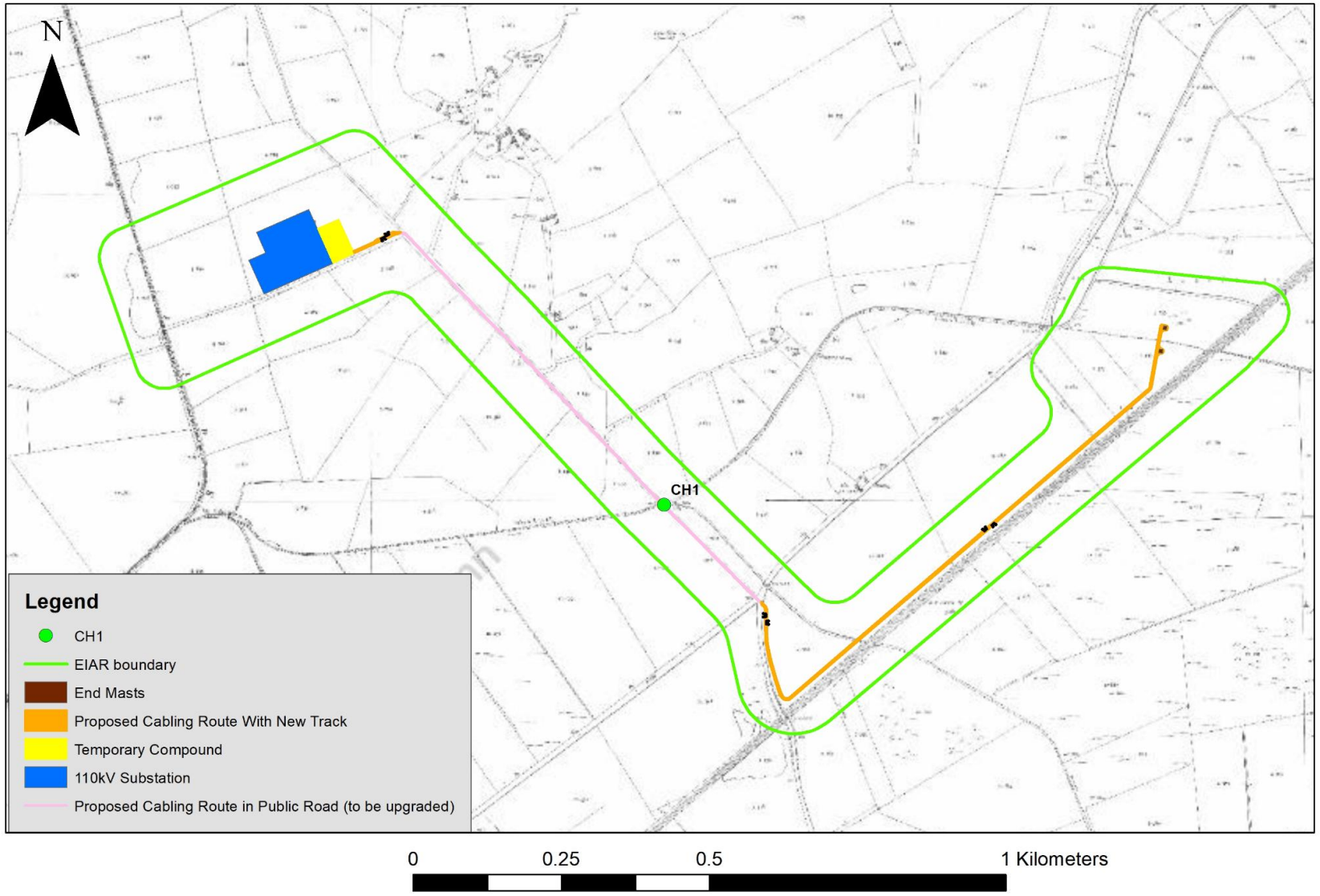

Figure 12-5: Proposed Grid Connection on second edition OS background.

12.7.10 Townlands and administrative boundaries

Townlands and administrative boundaries may indicate the presence of archaeological features within a development site. Administrative counties are subdivisions of pre-established counties which were formed for administrative purposes in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Baronies are administrative units larger than civil parishes and originally established as the primary subdivision of counties by the British administration in Ireland. Irish baronies which were formed at the time of the Norman conquest were usually named either after Irish territories, or from places which had been of importance in pre-Norman times. Irish baronies came into existence at different periods. The division of Ireland into counties and baronies was a process which continued down to the reign of James I. The original baronies in Ireland were the domains of the Norman barons; in the final stage of development they were divisions of counties created merely for greater convenience of administration. The word barony is of feudal origin, and was applied to a tenure of a baron, that is, of one who held his land by military service, either directly from the king, or from a superior feudal lord who exercised royal privileges. The origin of the Irish barony (a division of land corresponding to the English hundred) is to be found in the grants of lands which were made to the barons of Leinster and the barons of Meath (Liam Price, 'Ráith Oinn', Éigse VII, lch. 186-7). Civil parishes are administrative units larger than townlands and based on medieval ecclesiastical parishes. Civil parishes, modern Catholic parishes and Church of Ireland parishes may differ in extent and in nomenclature. Counties are administrative units larger than baronies and originally established by the British administration in Ireland between the twelfth and the seventeenth centuries. Some of these were subsequently subdivided into smaller administrative county units.

Townlands are the smallest land units which were determined and established in the Irish administrative system in the first half of the nineteenth century. Many of the townlands were in existence prior to that. The Proposed Grid Connection is located in the townlands of Clonmore, Strogue and Ballysorrell Big. The aforementioned stone road bridge CH 1 is located on the townland boundary between Clonmore and Strogue.

Townland names are a valuable source of information, not only on the topography, land ownership and land use within the landscape, but also on its history, archaeological monuments and folklore. Logainm.ie was utilised to ascertain the origin of the townland names within the Proposed Grid Connection. None of the placenames would seem to refer to sites or features of archaeological or cultural heritage potential.

Table 12-3: Townlands within the Proposed Grid Connection and their meaning

Townland	Logainm.ie meaning
Clonmore	Big meadow or pasture
Strogue	Top of a hill
Ballysorrell Big	No precise meaning provided

12.8 Likely Effects and Associated Mitigation Measures

12.8.1 Do Nothing Scenario

If the Proposed Grid Connection did not receive a grant of permission, the Site will continue to function as it does at present, with no changes made to the current landuse and potential for impacts on Cultural Heritage through the construction and operation of the Proposed Grid Connection would not occur.

If the Proposed Grid Connection were not to proceed, the Consented Wind Farm would not be constructed, therefore the indirect short term construction phase impacts and long term operational

phase impacts, (which have been determined to not have significant environmental effects, refer to ACP Planning Reference 318704), will not occur.

Likewise, the indirect positive contribution the Proposal Grid Connection to meeting National and EU targets for the production and consumption of electricity from renewable resources by 2030 and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The opportunity to generate local employment and investment and to diversify the local economy during the construction and operational phase (albeit limited) would also be lost.

12.8.2 Construction Phase Potential Effects (Indirect)

Indirect effects, in terms of archaeology, architectural and cultural heritage are considered to be those effects which happen away from 'the Site'. This includes effects on visual setting of any cultural heritage assets in the wider landscape. Since these effects are only possible once development is operational, they are considered operational effects and are therefore discussed in Section 12.8.4 below. No indirect effects were identified which would occur at the construction stage.

12.8.3 Construction Phase Potential Effects (Direct)

Direct effects refers to a 'physical impact' on a monument or site. The construction phase of a development may consist of earthmoving activities such as topsoil removal and excavation works as part of the construction phase. This may have a number of potential negative effects on the known and potential archaeological heritage. These are outlined below with the suggested mitigation measures.

12.8.3.1 UNESCO World Heritage Sites and those on Tentative List

No UNESCO World Heritage Sites (WHS) or those on the Tentative list are located on or in the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Grid Connection . The nearest WHS (Tentative list) comprises the royal site of Cashel which is situated c. 33km to the south south-east.

12.8.3.2 National Monuments

National Monuments are those recorded monuments which are in the ownership / guardianship of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage. They are frequently referred to as being in 'State Care'. National Monuments also include those which are subject to a Preservation Order.

No National Monuments in State Care or those subject to a preservation order are located within 1km of the proposed substation and end masts or within 100m of the underground electrical cabling route. The nearest National Monument (Nat. Mon. 113) comprises a church (LA027-024----) at Errill in Co. Laois which is located over 7.5km north-east of the proposed end masts and c. 8.8km north-east of the proposed substation. The nearest monument subject to a Preservation Order (PO 57/1938) is a tower house, Loughmoe Castle TN035-030005-, which is located c. 7.6km south-west of the proposed substation and over 8km south-west of the proposed end masts. No direct effects to such monuments will therefore occur as a result of the Proposed Grid Connection .

12.8.3.3 Recorded Monuments

No recorded monuments are located within 100m of the proposed underground electrical cabling route. Four recorded monuments are located within 1km of the proposed substation, with one recorded monument within 1km of the proposed end masts. As none of the recorded monuments are located in close proximity to the Proposed Grid Connection no potential direct effects to those monuments will occur.

12.8.3.4 Sub-Surface Archaeological Potential

12.8.3.4.1 Identification of Effect

Approximately 1.2km of the proposed underground electrical cabling route and the proposed 110kV substation, associated temporary construction compound and 2 no. end masts are located in pasture. Given the greenfield nature of these areas, it is possible that previously unrecorded sub-surface archaeological finds, features or deposits are located within them. The potential therefore exists that sub-surface archaeological sites or features, if present within these areas, may be directly affected by construction phase activities. The potential effect on sub-surface archaeological finds and features, should they exist, as a result of ground works located in pasture areas is likely to be direct, negative and permanent in the absence of appropriate mitigation measures.

12.8.3.4.2 Proposed Mitigation Measures

- Pre-development archaeological testing of the Proposed Grid Connection infrastructure in previously undisturbed greenfield areas of the site under licence from the National Monuments Service. This is in order to identify any archaeological features at the earliest stage possible in the project to allow time to deal with any requirements such as preservation in situ (redesign / avoidance) or preservation by record (archaeological excavation).
- A report on the testing will be compiled on completion of the work and submitted to the NMS and the Planning Authority.
- Further mitigation such as preservation in situ (avoidance), preservation by record (excavation), buffer zones may be required depending on the results of the testing.
- Archaeological monitoring of all groundworks during the construction stage of the Proposed Grid Connection by a licensed archaeologist.
- A report on the monitoring will be compiled on completion of the work and submitted to the NMS and the Planning Authority.
- Further mitigation such as preservation in situ (avoidance), preservation by record (excavation), buffer zones may be required depending on the results of the monitoring.

12.8.3.4.3 Residual Effect

Any archaeological features or sites, if detected during the testing or monitoring will be preserved by record (archaeologically excavated) or preserved in-situ (avoidance) and therefore a full record made of same. In this regard, the potential effect after the implementation mitigation measures is likely to be Not Significant.

12.8.3.4.4 Significance of Effects

The overall significance of effects will be Not Significant.

12.8.3.5 Protected Structures

No Protected Structures are located within 100m of either side of the proposed underground electrical cabling route or within 1km of the proposed end masts or the proposed 110kV substation and temporary construction compound. The nearest RPS structure (TRPS699) is located c. 1.9km north-east of the proposed substation and c. 1.1km north-east of the proposed end masts. It comprises Saint Anne's Roman Catholic Chapel and is also included in the NIAH (Reg. 22402902). No potential direct effects to this structure as a result of the Proposed Grid Connection will occur.

12.8.3.6 NIAH Structures and Historic Gardens

No NIAH structures are located within 100m of the proposed underground electrical cabling route or within 1km of the proposed 110kV substation and temporary construction compound or proposed end masts. As outlined above, the nearest structure comprises Saint Anne's Catholic Church (NIAH Reg. 22402902) which is also a Protected Structure (TRPS699) situated c. 1.9km north-east of the proposed substation and c. 1.1km north-east of the proposed end masts.

No historic gardens are located within 100m of the proposed underground electrical cabling route or within 1km of the proposed 110kV substation and temporary construction compound or proposed end masts. The nearest historic gardens comprise that associated with Eastwood House c. 1.9km south-west of the proposed substation and that associated with Sorrelhill House located c. 2km north-east of the proposed end masts.

No direct effects to any NIAH structures or historic gardens as a result of the Proposed Grid Connection will occur.

12.8.3.7 Features of Local Cultural Heritage Merit

No items of local cultural heritage merit are located on the proposed 110kV substation site or associated temporary construction compound. The underground electrical cabling route crosses a stone road bridge (CH1) on the public road which is indicated but not named on the available historic mapping. Directional drilling will be utilised at this crossing therefore direct effects to the structure are not anticipated.

12.8.4 Operational Phase Potential Effects (Indirect)

Indirect effects are where a feature or site of archaeological, architectural heritage merit or their setting is located in close proximity to a Proposed Grid Connection. Indirect effects here are mainly concerned with effects on setting of cultural heritage sites.

Effects on settings of sites may arise when a development is proposed immediately adjacent to a recorded monument or cluster of monuments. While the Proposed Grid Connection may not physically impact on a site, it may alter the setting of a monument or group of monuments. There is no standardised industry-wide approach for assessing the degree of effect on the setting of a monument. For purposes of assessing visual effects on setting, the uniqueness of the monuments, the potential interrelationships of monuments, the inter-visibility of monuments, visual dominance and whether a setting is altered or unaltered can be used to assess effect. The nature and dominance of the Proposed Grid Connection is also taken into consideration and the topography within which the Proposed Grid Connection is located. Operational effects are considered largely as a result of the proposed 110kV substation and proposed end masts. Other elements of the Proposed Grid Connection such as the underground electrical cabling are not considered capable of having visual effects given their underground nature.

12.8.4.1 UNESCO World Heritage Sites and those on Tentative List

No UNESCO World Heritage Sites (WHS) or those on the Tentative list are located on or in the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Grid Connection. The nearest WHS (Tentative list) comprises the royal site of Cashel which is situated c. 33km to the south south-east. Given the distance of the Proposed Grid Connection to the WH Tentative Site no potential visual effects to same will occur.

12.8.4.2 National Monuments

12.8.4.2.1 Identification of Effect

No National Monuments in State Care or those subject to a preservation order are located within 1km of the proposed substation and end masts or within 100m of the underground electrical cabling route. The nearest National Monument (Nat. Mon. 113) comprises a church (LA027-024----) at Errill in Co. Laois which is located over 7.5km north-east of the proposed end masts and c. 8.8km north-east of the proposed substation. The nearest monument subject to a Preservation Order (PO 57/1938) is a tower house, Loughmoe Castle TN035-030005-, which is located c. 7.6km south-west of the proposed substation and over 8km south-west of the proposed end masts. A change to the immediate setting of this monument as a result of the Proposed Grid Connection will not therefore occur. A change to the wider setting within which the tower house is located is identified but is regarded as Imperceptible, Neutral and Long Term.

12.8.4.2.2 Mitigation Measures

It is noted that natural screening, boundaries, buildings and vegetation will potentially screen any visual effects.

12.8.4.2.3 Residual Effect

The residual effect is considered to be Imperceptible.

12.8.4.2.4 Significance of Effects

The overall significance of effects will be Imperceptible.

12.8.4.3 Recorded Monuments

No recorded monuments are located within 100m of the proposed underground electrical cabling route. Four recorded monuments are located within 1km of the proposed substation, with one recorded monument within 1km of the proposed end masts. Three of the four monuments within 1km of the proposed substation either have no above-ground expression (TN029-028---- and TN029-029----) or are regarded as non-archaeological (TN029-030----).

The nearest recorded monument to the proposed underground electrical cabling route and end masts comprises an earthwork TN029-031 which is located c. 270m to the north of the north-east end of the underground cabling route. The nearest recorded monument to the proposed 110kV substation and temporary compound comprises an enclosure TN029-029 c. 280m to the north-west. According to the descriptions of the monuments as provided on the Historic Environment Viewer (HEV) no above-ground trace of either monument is apparent. Given that the monuments in question no longer have any above-ground remains no potential visual effects to their wider setting as a result of the Proposed Grid Connection are identified.

12.8.4.4 Protected Structures

12.8.4.4.1 Identification of Effect

No Protected Structures are located within 100m of either side of the proposed underground electrical cabling route or within 1km of the proposed end masts or the proposed 110kV substation and temporary construction compound. The nearest RPS structure (TRPS699) is located c. 1.9km north-east of the proposed substation and c. 1.1km north-east of the proposed end masts. It comprises Saint Anne's Roman Catholic Chapel and is also included in the NIAH (Reg. 22402902). No potential effects to the immediate setting of the structure is identified. A change to the wider

setting in which the protected structure is located is acknowledged but is regarded as Imperceptible, Neutral, Long Term.

12.8.4.4.2 Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures provided. It is noted that natural screening, boundaries, buildings and vegetation will potentially screen any visual effects.

12.8.4.4.3 Residual Effect

The residual effect is considered to be Imperceptible.

12.8.4.4.4 Significance of Effects

The overall significance of effects will be Imperceptible.

12.8.4.5 NIAH Structures and Historic Gardens

12.8.4.5.1 Identification of Effect

No NIAH structures are located within 100m of the proposed underground electrical cabling route or within 1km of the proposed 110kV substation and temporary construction compound or proposed end masts. As outlined above, the nearest structure comprises Saint Anne's Catholic Church (NIAH Reg. 22402902) which is also a Protected Structure (TRPS699) situated c. 1.9km north-east of the proposed substation and c. 1.1km north-east of the proposed end masts.

No historic gardens are located within 100m of the proposed underground electrical cabling route or within 1km of the proposed 110kV substation and temporary construction compound or proposed end masts. The nearest historic gardens comprise that associated with Eastwood House c. 1.9km south-west of the proposed substation and that associated with Sorrelhill House located c. 2km north-east of the proposed end masts.

No potential effects to the immediate setting of the structure is identified. A change to the wider setting in which the structure is located is acknowledged but is regarded as Imperceptible, Neutral, Long Term. Given the intervening distance to the nearest historic gardens, no potential visual effects to the wider setting of the gardens as a result of the Proposed Grid Connection is anticipated.

12.8.4.5.2 Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures provided. It is noted that natural screening, boundaries, buildings and vegetation will potentially screen any visual effects.

12.8.4.5.3 Residual Effect

The residual effect is considered to be Imperceptible.

12.8.4.5.4 Significance of Effects

The overall significance of effects will be Imperceptible.

12.8.4.6 Features of Local Cultural Heritage Merit

One local cultural heritage feature (CH1) comprising a stone road bridge is located on the proposed underground electrical cabling route. Given the underground nature of the electrical cabling no potential visual effects to the bridge are identified.

12.8.5 Cumulative Effects

Cumulative impact is defined as 'The addition of many small impacts to create one larger, more significant, impact' (EPA, 2022). Cumulative effects encompass the combined effects of multiple developments or activities on a range of receptors. In this case, the receptors are the archaeological monuments and architectural/cultural heritage sites in the vicinity of the Proposed Grid Connection. The potential cumulative impacts between and the Proposed Grid Connection the other projects described in Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects and Interactions of the EIAR, hereafter referred to as the other projects, have been considered in terms of effects on archaeology and cultural heritage.

The projects considered in relation to the potential for in combination impacts arising from construction and operational phases of the Proposed Grid Connection and for which all relevant data was reviewed include the Consented Wind Farm and all other extant planning applications within 2km of the Proposed Grid Connection. It should be noted that, if consented, the Proposed Grid Connection will not be decommissioned. Refer to section 12.8.6 for details.

12.8.5.1 All Extant Planning Applications within 2km

A list of all extant planning applications within 2km of the Proposed Grid Connection was considered in terms of cumulative effects. The majority of these applications comprise agricultural and residential developments such as single dwelling houses, and agricultural buildings. Such developments if located in proximity to archaeological monuments or other cultural heritage assets may have the potential to directly or indirectly impact on such features. It is considered, however, that the planning authority would have regard to the protection of any known or unknown cultural heritage sites through the requirement for assessments or implementation of appropriate mitigation measures through the planning process or the discharge of conditions attached to a grant of planning permission, where relevant.

Many of the extant applications are relatively small and localised in nature.

12.8.5.2 The Consented Wind Farm

12.8.5.2.1 Cumulative Effects (Direct Effects – Construction stage)

The addition of the Consented Wind Farm to the Proposed Grid Connection was considered in order to assess cumulative effects. Direct effects for the Proposed Grid Connection are considered to be confined to within the Site and relate to construction effects.

12.8.5.2.1.1 Cumulative effects to UNESCO World Heritage sites (tentative), National Monuments in State Care, Recorded Monuments, NIAH and RPS

No UNESCO World Heritage Sites, National Monuments in State Care, RPS structures or NIAH sites are located within the footprint of the Proposed Grid Connection and therefore no direct effects to these assets were identified when considering the Proposed Grid Connection alone. When the Proposed Grid Connection is added to the Consented Wind Farm therefore, it does not result in direct cumulative effects since none were identified in the first place. The aforementioned cultural heritage assets are located away from the Proposed Grid Connection and therefore are not capable of being directly affected by the Proposed Grid Connection. No cumulative effects will occur, therefore.

12.8.5.2.1.2 Cumulative effects on potential sub-surface archaeology

Potential direct effects identified at the construction stage of the Proposed Grid Connection are those which may occur to hitherto unknown sub-surface archaeological finds, features or deposits. This potential effect was identified as being permanent, negative and significant. After the

mitigation measures are implemented, however, these potential effects will be Not Significant. The overall significance of effects is therefore Not Significant.

The same potential construction stage effect could be identified for the Consented Wind Farm since groundworks could impact on hitherto unknown archaeological, finds, features or deposits or other cultural heritage assets. In this regard there could potentially be a cumulative effect when the Proposed Grid Connection is added to the Consented Wind Farm. Mitigation measures seek to alleviate such negative effects if not remove the effect altogether and therefore there will be no significant cumulative effects on sub- surface remains.

If the mitigation measures prescribed in this EIAR are implemented then cumulative direct effects to unknown sub-surface archaeology will not occur, regardless of the Consented Wind Farm.

12.8.5.2.1.3 Cumulative Effects (Indirect Effects on Setting)

Indirect effects on setting occur at the operational stage of the development. In this regard in order to assess overall cumulative effects on archaeology and cultural heritage, the Proposed Grid Connection is considered in the context of the Consented Wind Farm.

UNESCO World Heritage sites (tentative)

No UNESCO World Heritage Sites (WHS) or those on the Tentative list are located on or in the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Grid Connection. The nearest WHS (Tentative list) comprises the royal site of Cashel which is situated c. 33km to the south south-east. Given the distance of the Proposed Grid Connection to the WH Tentative Site no potential visual effects to same will occur.

No potential cumulative effects will therefore occur to this aspect of the Cultural Heritage resource when considering the Proposed Grid Connection with the Consented Wind Farm.

National Monuments in State Care

No National Monuments in State Care or those subject to a preservation order are located within 1km of the proposed substation and end masts or within 100m of the underground electrical cabling route. The nearest National Monument (Nat. Mon. 113) comprises a church (LA027-024----) at Errill in Co. Laois which is located over 7.5km north-east of the proposed end masts and c. 8.8km north-east of the proposed substation. The nearest monument subject to a Preservation Order (PO 57/1938) is a tower house, Loughmoe Castle TN035-030005-, which is located c. 7.6km south-west of the proposed substation and over 8km south-west of the proposed end masts. A change to the immediate setting of this monument as a result of the Proposed Grid Connection will not therefore occur. A change to the wider setting within which the tower house is located is identified but is regarded as Imperceptible, Neutral and Long Term.

When considered cumulatively with the Consented Wind Farm it is likely that the proposed turbines will theoretically be visible in the wider landscape in which the National Monuments and those subject to a Preservation Order are located. The immediate setting of the monuments will not be affected, however, and it is not considered that the additional of the Consented Wind Farm will result in any significant cumulative effects to their wider setting.

Recorded Monuments

No recorded monuments are located within 100m of the proposed underground electrical cabling route. Four recorded monuments are located within 1km of the proposed substation, with one recorded monument within 1km of the proposed end masts. Three of the four monuments within 1km of the proposed substation either have no above-ground expression (TN029-028---- and TN029-029----) or are regarded as non-archaeological (TN029-030----).

The nearest recorded monument to the proposed underground electrical cabling route and end masts comprises an earthwork TN029-031 which is located c. 270m to the north of the north-east

end of the underground cabling route. The nearest recorded monument to the proposed 110kV substation and temporary compound comprises an enclosure TN029-029 c. 280m to the north-west. According to the descriptions of the monuments as provided on the Historic Environment Viewer (HEV) no above-ground trace of either monument is apparent. Given that the monuments in question no longer have any above-ground remains no potential visual effects to their wider setting as a result of the Proposed Grid Connection are identified.

When considered cumulatively with the Consented Wind Farm a change to the wider setting within which the recorded monuments are located is acknowledged, however, no significant cumulative effects are anticipated.

Protected Structures and NIAH

No Protected Structures, NIAH structures or historic gardens are located within 100m of either side of the proposed underground electrical cabling route or within 1km of the proposed end masts or the proposed 110kV substation and temporary construction compound. The nearest RPS structure (TRPS699) is located c. 1.9km north-east of the proposed substation and c. 1.1km north-east of the proposed end masts. It comprises Saint Anne's Roman Catholic Chapel and is also included in the NIAH (Reg. 22402902). No potential effects to the immediate setting of the structure is identified. A change to the wider setting in which the protected structure/NIAH structure is located is acknowledged but is regarded as Imperceptible, Neutral, Long Term.

When considered cumulatively with the Consented Wind Farm a change to the wider setting within which the RPS/NIAH structures are located is acknowledged, however, no significant cumulative effects are anticipated.

12.8.6 Decommissioning

The Consented Wind Farm has permission for a 30-year operation. Following the end of this period, the wind turbines may be replaced with a new set of turbines, subject to planning permission being obtained, or the Consented Wind Farm may be decommissioned fully. Should the Consented Wind Farm be decommissioned, the substation will remain in place as it will be under the ownership and control of ESBN/EirGrid.

Any impact and consequential effect that occurs during the decommissioning phase will be similar to that which occurs during the construction phase, however to a lesser extent and lesser duration.

12.9 Conclusion

This cultural heritage chapter was prepared by Tobar Archaeological Services Ltd. It presents the results of an archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage impact assessment of the Proposed Grid Connection. The purpose of the chapter is to assess the potential direct and indirect effects of the Proposed Grid Connection on the surrounding archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage resource. The assessment is based on both a desktop review of the available cultural heritage and archaeological data and a field inspection of the Proposed Grid Connection. No National Monuments recorded monuments or recorded architectural heritage items are located on or in close proximity to the Proposed Grid Connection. One item of local cultural heritage merit (CH1 stone road bridge) is located on the proposed underground electrical cabling route. Directional drilling will be utilised at this structure. In this regard no potential direct effects to the known archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage resource will occur as a result of the Proposed Grid Connection.

Where potential direct effects have been identified such as to sub-surface archaeology, should it exist, appropriate mitigation measures have been proposed in the form of pre-development archaeological testing of greenfield areas.

Chapter 12 Cultural Heritage

An assessment of potential visual effects on the wider cultural heritage landscape with other proposed or consented wind projects within the surrounding landscape, and other relevant non-wind projects (existing, permitted or proposed) has been carried out with the purpose of identifying what influence the Proposed Grid Connection will have on Cultural Heritage as well as the interactions between these factors, when considered cumulatively and in combination with relevant existing, permitted or proposed projects and plans in the vicinity of the Site. Please see Chapter 15 for Interactions and Cumulative Effects for the detailed cumulative assessment methodology. Please refer to Appendix 15-1 for a comprehensive listing of the considered cumulative and in combination with relevant existing, permitted or proposed projects and plans in the vicinity of the Site. No significant visual effects as a result of the Proposed Grid Connection are identified. Furthermore, no significant cumulative effects, either direct or indirect, are anticipated when considered with the Consented Wind Farm and any other proposed plans or projects as detailed in Appendix 15-1.