

## 15. ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

### 15.1 INTRODUCTION

IAC Archaeology has prepared this chapter to assess the impact, if any, on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage resource of the proposed project at Ballyfasy, County Kilkenny (see Figure 15-1, in Appendix 15-5).

This assessment determines, from existing records, the nature of the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage resource in and within the study area of the proposed project using appropriate methods of study. The study areas for the assessment are described in Section 15.2.

Desk-based assessment is defined as a programme of study of the historic environment within a specified area or site that addresses agreed research and/or conservation objectives. It consists of an analysis of existing written, graphic, photographic, and electronic information in order to identify the likely heritage assets, their interests and significance and the character of the study area, including appropriate consideration of the settings of heritage assets (ClfA 2014).

This leads to the following:

- Determining the presence of known cultural heritage assets that may be affected by the proposed project;
- Assessment of the likelihood of finding previously unrecorded archaeological remains during the construction programme;
- Determining the potential impact upon the setting of known cultural heritage sites in the study area; and
- Suggested mitigation measures based upon the results of the above research.

The assessment involved detailed interrogation of the archaeological and historical background of the proposed project and study area. This included information from the Record of Monuments and Places of County Kilkenny, the topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland, and cartographic and documentary records. Inspection of the aerial photographic and satellite imagery coverage of the proposed project held by Tailte Éireann, Bing Maps, and Google Earth has also been carried out. A field inspection was carried out during February 2025 in order to identify any known archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage sites and previously unrecorded features, structures, and portable finds within the proposed project.

#### 15.1.1 Statement of Authority

This chapter was prepared by Faith Bailey (MA Cultural Landscape Management, BA (Hons) Archaeology, MIAI, MCIfA) and Jonny Small (PhD, MSci Archaeology, MIAI). Faith is a licence eligible archaeologist, a member of the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists, a member of the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland and has over 21 years' experience working in the commercial cultural heritage sector. She has been responsible for the production and delivery of multiple assessments and EIAR for renewable energy projects, including The Yellow River Wind Farm (Co. Offaly), Derrysallagh Wind Farm (Co. Sligo), Derreenacrinnig Wind Farm (Co. Cork) and the Robertstown Wind Farm (Co. Waterford). Jonny is a member of the Institute of

Archaeologists of Ireland and has seven years' experience working in the cultural heritage sector, both in research, fieldwork and consultancy. Jonny has been responsible for the production of impact assessments and EIAR, built heritage reports and fieldwork reports, including large-scale, multi-period High Speed Two (HS2) sites.

### 15.1.2 Definitions

In order to assess, distil and present the findings of this assessment, the following definitions apply:

'Cultural Heritage' where used generically, is an over-arching term applied to describe any combination of archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage features, where the term:

- 'Archaeological heritage' is applied to objects, monuments, buildings or landscapes of an (assumed) age typically older than AD 1700 (and recorded as archaeological sites within the Record of Monuments and Places).
- 'Architectural heritage' is applied to structures, buildings, their contents and settings of an (assumed) age typically younger than AD 1700.
- 'Cultural heritage', where used specifically, is applied to other (often less tangible) aspects of the landscape such as historical events, folklore memories and cultural associations.

### 15.1.3 Consultation

Following the initial research, a number of statutory and voluntary bodies were complied with to gain further insight into the cultural background of the proposed project and study area, as follows. The only response relevant to archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage was from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Housing (DoHLGH).

The Department recommended that an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) be carried out at an early stage of planning and design. The AIA must incorporate all lands on which development may be proposed, including but not limited to, access areas, haul roads, temporary compounds, borrow areas, cable array/connection routes, etc. The Department also noted that the AIA must include an assessment of the possible effects of the proposal on the wider archaeological landscape.

The Department stated that the AIA must incorporate the following elements:

- A baseline archaeological and historical study comprising site inspections and, documentary research including reviews of historical, cartographic and aerial photography sources.
- An Archaeological/Historic Landscape study.
- An assessment of impacts on archaeological heritage and present mitigation measures at all stages of the proposed development – Construction, Operation and Decommissioning. The assessment should include direct and indirect effects, including a Visual Impact Assessment.

The desk-study and field inspection regime should inform:

- Targeted non-intrusive advance geophysical survey or prospection (such as Ground Penetrating Radar Surveys).
- Targeted advance archaeological test excavation.

The Department noted that all intrusive advance investigations (such as ground investigations for soils/geology/hydrogeology) carried out as part of the EIAR or design process should be subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring by a suitably qualified archaeologist

The Department noted that national policy as detailed in Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Government of Ireland, 1999) is that there should always be a presumption in favour of avoiding developmental impacts on the archaeological heritage.

#### **15.1.4 Guidance and Legislation**

The following legislation, standards and guidelines were complied with as part of the assessment.

- National Monuments Act, 1930 to 2014;
- The Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended);
- Heritage Act, 1995 (as amended);
- Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Report 2022, EPA;
- Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, 1999, (formerly) Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht, and Islands; and
- Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2000 (as amended).

### **15.2 METHODOLOGY**

The definition of the study areas utilised for the assessment of the proposed project are detailed in Table 15-1. The determination of study areas is based on professional judgement, given there are no national guidelines available with regards to how the development of wind farms may impact on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage resource.

The study area for the proposed wind farm site is large, due to the potential visual that may occur in the relation to the setting of archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage sites (indirect effects).

The study area for the two proposed Grid Connection Options (GCOs) and the proposed Turbine Delivery Route (TDR) is smaller as the footprint of these works are small-scale and the proposed GCO will be buried beneath the existing road network (for the most part). As GCO Two is located within the study area of the proposed wind farm site and follows the route of proposed site roads, it is included in the assessment of the proposed wind farm site. As such, an individual study is not defined for GCO Two.

The proposed TDR will include accommodation works and oversail. The section of the TDR that follows the R704 and L3417 is included in the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage assessment, and includes two areas of proposed groundworks (Location 10 and Location 14) and six areas of proposed oversail. The section of the TDR that follows the existing M9 road corridor (see Appendix 2-2) has been screened out of the assessment, as the M9 road corridor has been subject to previous archaeological investigation during the N9/N10 Waterford to Powerstown scheme.

Table 15-1: Study Area Definitions

Proposed Project Element	Study Area	Site Types
Wind farm site	10 km	All sites of national significance, including National Monuments under state care or guardianship and any sites subject to a Preservation Order.
Wind farm site	5 km	All archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage assets subject to statutory protection, including sites listed in the RMP and RPS, NIAH structures and demesne landscapes
Wind farm site	2 km	All previously unrecorded sites or structures of cultural heritage merit, such as buildings of architectural heritage merit (not included in the RPS/NIAH) and archaeological sites not included in the RMP.
Grid Connection Options (GCO)	50 m	All recorded and previously unrecorded cultural heritage sites.
Works proposed on the R704 and L3417 section of the Turbine Delivery Route (TDR)	50 m	All recorded and previously unrecorded cultural heritage sites.

The following sources were examined, and a list of heritage assets and areas of archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage potential was compiled. The most up-to-date versions of the following sources were used, and most recently accessed in October 2025.

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);
- Record of Monuments and Places for County Kilkenny;
- Sites and Monuments Record for County Kilkenny;
- National Monuments in State Care Database;
- List of Preservation Orders;
- Register of Historic Monuments;
- Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland;
- Cartographic and documentary sources relating to the receiving environment;
- Kilkenny City and County Development Plan (2021–2027);
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage County Kilkenny (Architectural & Garden Survey);
- Aerial photographs;
- Excavations Bulletin (1970–2025); and
- Place name analysis - Irish Local Names Explained by P.W Joyce (1870) and the Place Names Database of Ireland ([www.loganim.ie](http://www.loganim.ie)).

The function of a UNESCO World Heritage list is to encourage member states to protect and manage their natural and cultural heritage. Properties considered for inclusion have cultural, historical, scientific or other significance, considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. There are three sites inscribed onto the UNESCO World Heritage List on the island of Ireland. These comprise the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast, Brú na Bóine and Skellig Michael,

none of which lie within 10 km of the Proposed Project. In addition, the tentative list includes the Royal Sites of Ireland, the Passage Tomb Landscape of County Sligo and the Transatlantic Cable Ensemble. There are no tentative World Heritage Properties within 10 km of the Proposed Project.

Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) was established under Section 12 (1) of the National Monuments Act 1994 (as amended) which provides that the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DoHLGH) shall establish and maintain a record of monuments and places (RMP) where it is known that such monuments exist. The record comprises of a list of monuments and relevant places and mapping showing each monument and relevant place in respect of each county in the State. Sites recorded on the RMP all receive statutory protection under the National Monuments Act. All sites listed on the RMP are referred to as Archaeological Heritage (AH sites) within this assessment.

Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) holds documentary evidence and records of field inspections of all known archaeological sites and monuments. Some information is also held about archaeological sites and monuments whose precise location is not known e.g. only a site type and townland are recorded. These are known to the National Monuments Service as termed 'un-located sites' and cannot be afforded legal protection. As a result, these are omitted from the RMP. SMR sites are also listed on a website maintained by the DoHLGH – [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie). All sites listed on the SMR are referred to as Archaeological Heritage (AH sites) within this assessment.

It should be noted that revisions are proposed to the RMP and SMR, with some sites listed as redundant records and proposed for removal and other, newly discovered sites, proposed for inclusion. As the revisions have yet to take place, all current RMP/SMR sites are listed as AH sites within this assessment, with the relevant detail provided as to the nature and extent of each site included.

National Monuments in the State Care Database is a list of all the National Monuments in the State guardianship or ownership. Each is assigned a National Monument number whether in guardianship or ownership and has a brief description of each monument. A National Monument receives statutory protection and 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' (National Monuments Act, 1930, Section 2).

The Minister for the DoHLGH may acquire National Monuments by agreement or by compulsory order. The State or Local Authority may assume guardianship of any National Monument (other than dwellings). The owners of National Monuments (other than dwellings) may also appoint the Minister or the Local Authority as guardian of that monument if the State or Local Authority agrees. Once the site is in ownership or guardianship of the State, it may not be interfered with without the written consent of the Minister.

Preservation Orders List and/or Temporary Preservation Orders, can be assigned to a site or sites that are deemed to be in danger of injury or destruction. Orders are allocated under the National Monuments Act, 1930. Preservation Orders make any interference with the site illegal. Temporary Preservation Orders can be attached under the National Monuments Act, 1954. These perform the same function as a Preservation Order but have a time limit of six months,

after which the situation must be reviewed. Work may only be undertaken on or in the vicinity of sites under Preservation Orders with the written consent, and at the discretion, of the Minister (DoHLGH). There are no sites that possess Preservation Orders within the proposed project site footprint or the 10 km study area.

Register of Historic Monuments was established under Section 5 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1987 and requires the Minister to establish and maintain such a record. Historic monuments and archaeological areas included in the register are afforded statutory protection under the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1987. The register also includes sites under Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders. All registered monuments are included in the RMP.

The topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland are the national archive of all known finds recorded by the National Museum. This archive relates primarily to artefacts but also includes references to monuments and unique records of previous excavations. The find spots of artefacts are important sources of information on the discovery of sites of archaeological significance.

Cartographic sources are important in tracing land use development within the proposed project site and its receiving environment as well as providing important topographical information on areas of archaeological potential and the construction of buildings. Cartographic analysis of all relevant maps has been made to identify any topographical anomalies or structures that no longer remain within the landscape. These include current and former townland and parish boundaries.

All sites of potential archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage merit identified during the map analysis and aerial photographic analysis are listed as Cultural Heritage (CH) sites within this assessment.

Documentary sources were consulted to compile background information on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage receiving environment of the proposed project. A full list of references is given in Section 15.11.

Development Plans contain a catalogue of all the Protected Structures, archaeological sites and Architectural Conservation Areas within every county. The Kilkenny City and County Development Plan (2021–2027) was examined as part of this assessment. All protected structures are referred to as Built Heritage sites (BH) as part of this assessment.

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) was established under the provisions of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999. It is a government-based organisation tasked with making a nationwide record of locally, regionally, nationally and internationally significant structures dating to post-1700 AD, which in turn provides local authorities with a guide as to what structures to list within the Record of Protected Structures. Only those structures of regional importance or above are included in the Minister's recommendations for inclusion in the RPS. The NIAH have also carried out a nationwide desk-based survey of historic gardens, including demesnes that surround large houses. All NIAH structures are referred to as Built Heritage sites (BH) as part of this assessment.

Whilst the NIAH Garden Survey was utilised as part of this assessment, this was carried out in conjunction with detailed analysis of the first edition Ordnance Survey maps and field inspection, in order to identify any designed landscapes (DL) within the receiving environment of the proposed project.

Aerial photographic coverage is an important source of information regarding the precise location of sites and their extent. It also provides information on the terrain and its likely potential for archaeology. Aerial photographs held by Tailte Éireann (1995–2013), Google Earth (2015–2024) and Bing Maps (2023) were examined for this assessment.

Excavations Bulletin is a summary publication that has been produced every year since 1970. This summarises every archaeological excavation that has taken place in Ireland during that year up until 2010 and since 1987 has been edited by Isabel Bennett. This information is also available online ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)) from 1970-2025. Information from this resource is vital when examining the archaeological content of any area, which may not have been recorded under the SMR and RMP files. All previous excavations are listed as Excavations (EX).

Place Names are an important part in understanding both the archaeology, history and cultural heritage of an area. Place names can be used for generations and in some cases have been found to have their roots deep in the historical past. The main references used for the place name analysis is Irish Local Names Explained by P.W Joyce (1870), and the Place Names Database of Ireland ([www.loganim.ie](http://www.loganim.ie)).

### 15.2.1 Field Inspection

Field inspection is necessary to determine the extent and nature of archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage remains and can also lead to the identification of previously unrecorded or suspected sites and portable finds through topographical observation and local information.

The field inspection for the proposed project was carried out during February 2025 and entailed:

- Noting and recording the terrain type and land usage;
- Noting and recording the presence of known and previously unknown features of archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage significance;
- Verifying the extent and condition of recorded sites and structures (RMPs/ RPS/ NIAH); and
- Visually investigating any suspect landscape anomalies to determine the possibility of their being anthropogenic in origin and of archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage significance.

## 15.3 IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

Each archaeological and cultural heritage receptor within the defined study areas have been assessed in terms of its sensitivity, the type of potential effect, magnitude of same and the potential significance of the effect.

The quality and type of an impact can be classed as one of the following (as per the Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EPA 2022):



- Negative Impact: A change which reduces the quality of the environment, for example a change that will detract from or permanently remove an archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage site from the landscape;
- Neutral Impact: A change which does not affect the quality of the environment; or
- Positive Impact: A change which improves the quality of the environment, for example a change that improves or enhances the setting of archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage site.

The below terms are used in relation to the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage and relate to whether a site will be physically impacted upon or not:

- Direct Impact: Where an archaeological/architectural/cultural heritage feature or site is physically located within the footprint of the proposed project and entails the removal of part, or all, of the monument or feature; and
- Indirect Impact: Where a feature or site of archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage merit or its setting is located in close proximity to the footprint of a development.

### 15.3.1 Sensitivity of Receptor

For each impact, the assessment identifies receptors sensitive to that impact and implements a systematic approach to understanding the impact pathways, magnitude and the level of effects on given receptors.

The definitions of receptor sensitivity for the purpose of the archaeology, architectural and cultural heritage assessment are provided in Table 15-2. This is based on the presence (or not) of statutory protection and the determination by the author.



Table 15-2: Criteria for determination of receptor sensitivity

Sensitivity	Criteria
Very High	Sites of International Importance: UNESCO World Heritage Properties (including tentative list) National Monuments Monuments subject to Preservation Orders
High	RMP Proposed RMP Record of Protected Structures (RPS) Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) Well-preserved demesne landscapes Previously unrecorded archaeological sites
Medium	SMR Sites listed on the NIAH (upstanding) Buildings not on NIAH/RPS (based on professional judgement) Moderately well-preserved demesne landscapes Townland boundaries
Low	Buildings not on NIAH/RPS (based on professional judgement) Poorly preserved demesne landscapes
Very Low	SMR – Record only or redundant record Proposed RMP – excavated Fully developed demesne landscapes

### 15.3.2 Magnitude of Impact

The scale or magnitude of potential impacts (both beneficial and adverse) depends on the degree and extent to which the proposed development activities may change the environment, which usually varies according to project phase (i.e. construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning).

As per the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Guidelines, the nature of impacts can be categorised as follows:

- Quality: Positive, neutral or negative
- Nature: Direct, indirect
- Probability: Likely or unlikely
- Duration: Momentary, brief, temporary, short-term, medium-term, long-term, permanent, reversible
- Frequency: Once, rarely, occasionally, frequently, constantly

The criteria used to assess the different impacts associated with the proposed project are shown in Table 15-3. The criteria have been defined in consideration of the “Guidelines on Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Statements” (EPA 2022).

**Table 15-3: Criteria for determination of Magnitude of Impact.**

Magnitude	Criteria
Very High	These impacts arise where an archaeology or cultural heritage site, either below ground or upstanding, is completely and irreversibly destroyed.
High	An impact which, by its magnitude, duration or intensity, alters an important aspect of the archaeological and cultural heritage environment, including the setting of upstanding monuments. An impact 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 or cultural heritage feature/site.
Medium	A medium impact arises where a change to a site/monument is proposed which though noticeable, is not such that the archaeological or cultural heritage integrity of the site is compromised. The change is likely to be consistent with existing and emerging trends. Impacts are probably reversible and may be of relatively short duration.
Low	An impact which causes changes in the character of the environment, such as a visual impact, which are not high or very high and do not directly impact or affect an archaeological or cultural heritage feature or monument.
Very Low	An impact on an archaeological or cultural heritage feature or monument capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences.

### 15.3.3 Significance of Effects

An Impact Assessment Matrix (IAM) is used to determine the significance of an effect. In basic terms, the potential significance of an effect is a function of the sensitivity of the receptor and the magnitude of the impact, as shown in Table 15-4.

The matrix provides a framework for the consistent and transparent assessment of predicted effects although it is important to note that the assessments are based on the application of expert judgement.

The matrix provides levels of effect significance ranging from imperceptible to profound. For the purposes of this assessment, potential effects identified to be of significant significance or above (i.e., significant, very significant or profound) are considered to be “significant in EIA terms” and additional mitigation will be required. Potential effects identified as less than significant (i.e. moderate, slight, imperceptible or not significant) are considered to be not significant in EIA terms.

The definition of the Significance of Effects (as defined by the EPA 2022 Guidelines) are detailed in Chapter 1 (Introduction) of this EIAR.

Table 15-4: Impact assessment matrix for determination of significance of effect.

Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Impact				
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
<b>Very High</b>	Profound	Very Significant	Significant	Moderate	Slight
<b>High</b>	Very Significant	Significant	Significant-Moderate	Moderate	Not Significant
<b>Medium</b>	Significant	Significant-Moderate	Moderate	Slight	Imperceptible
<b>Low</b>	Moderate	Moderate-Slight	Slight	Not Significant	Imperceptible
<b>Very Low</b>	Slight	Not Significant	Imperceptible	Imperceptible	Imperceptible

## 15.4 EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

### 15.4.1 Archaeological and Historical Background

The proposed wind farm site is located within the townlands of Ballyfasy Upper, Ballymartin, Ballywairy, Bishopsmountain and Knockbrack within County Kilkenny. The proposed GCO One passes through a further six townlands (Ballymackillagill, Cappagh, Castlebanny, Coolnahau, Glenpipe and Mullennakill). The proposed GCO One is within the proposed wind farm site, in the townlands of Ballymartin, Ballyfasy Upper and Ballywairy. The proposed TDR includes accommodation works in Ballymartin, Ballynoony West, Garrandarragh, Granny, Kilmurry and Rathpatrick.

The proposed wind farm site is primarily comprised of coniferous forestry plantation and surrounding pasture fields. There are no recorded monuments within the proposed wind farm site; however, there are 116 recorded archaeological sites, or groups of sites, located within the 5 km study area (of the proposed wind farm site), including three redundant records. In total, 31 recorded structures of architectural merit are noted within the 5 km study area of the proposed wind farm site, including 15 protected structures. Furthermore, 30 previously unrecorded sites of cultural heritage significance have been identified within the 2 km study area of the proposed wind farm site as part of this assessment.

One recorded monument is located within 50 m of the proposed GCO One (AH02). Three previously unrecorded monuments of cultural heritage significance have been identified within 50 m of the proposed GCO One. A total of 15 archaeological sites, or groups of sites, are located within 50 m of the proposed TDR. The Zone of Notification (ZoN) of two further sites extend into the 50 m study area of the proposed TDR. Upstanding remains are present for two of these sites (AH125 and AH127). Additionally, one unrecorded monument of cultural heritage has been identified within the proposed TDR (CH34).

Definitions of the study areas in relation to the proposed project and archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage resource are given in Table 15-1.

### **15.4.1.1 Prehistoric Period**

#### **15.4.1.1.1 Mesolithic Period (c. 8000 - 4000 BC)**

Recent discoveries may suggest the possibility of a human presence in the southwest of Ireland as early as the Upper Palaeolithic (Dowd and Carden 2016), however; the Mesolithic period is the earliest time for which there is clear evidence for prehistoric human colonisation of the island of Ireland. During this period people hunted, foraged and gathered food and led a primarily mobile lifestyle. The presence of Mesolithic communities is most commonly evidenced by scatters of worked flint material, a by-product of the production of flint implements.

The wider landscape may have been visited by Mesolithic communities; however, no evidence to substantiate Mesolithic activity within the proposed Project has been discovered to date.

#### **15.4.1.1.2 Neolithic Period (c. 4000 - 2500 BC)**

During the Neolithic period communities became less mobile and their economy became based on the rearing of stock and cereal cultivation. The transition to the Neolithic was marked by major social change. Communities expanded and created more permanent settlements. This afforded the development of agriculture which demanded an altering of the physical landscape. Forests were rapidly cleared and field boundaries were constructed. Pottery was also being produced, possibly for the first time. The advent of the Neolithic period also provided the megalithic tomb tradition. There are four types of Neolithic tombs in Ireland, namely the Court Cairn, Portal tomb, Passage tomb and Wedge tomb; of which the latter style straddles the Neolithic to Bronze Age transition.

Two parallel Neolithic houses (AH90) were uncovered in 2006 in advance of the N9/N10 Waterford to Kilcullen Road Scheme (Licence no. E3005). Both were orientated northwest-southeast and were located c. 4 m apart. AH90 is located c. 4.2 km to the west of the proposed wind farm site. Additionally, a possible domestic structure comprising a series of post/stake-holes and curving slot trenches (AH92) was uncovered c. 4.4 km to the southwest of the proposed wind farm site (Licence no. E3001).

Four megalithic tombs within the 5 km are likely to date to the Neolithic period, comprising a court tomb (KK040-020001), two unclassified tombs (KK040-002001 and KK040-037) and a wedge tomb (KK036-051), which may be Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age in date.

#### **15.4.1.1.3 Bronze Age (c. 2500 - 800 BC)**

This period is marked by the use and production of metal for the first time. As with the transition from Mesolithic to Neolithic, the transition into the early Bronze Age was accompanied by changes in society. Megalithic tombs went into decline and the tradition ended in favour of individual, subterranean cist or pit burials that occur either in isolation or in small cemeteries. These burials contained inhumed or cremated remains and were often, but not always, accompanied by a pottery vessel. Ring-barrows are also common Bronze Age funerary monuments, typically comprising a circular enclosure surrounding the interior which is usually a low mound. This mound often contains an inhumation or cremation burial. Although ring-barrows have been dated from the Neolithic through to the early medieval period, they are prevalent in the Bronze Age. A ring barrow (AH65) is located c. 2.9 km to the south of the proposed wind farm site, although this may also be Iron Age in date.

There are a number of standing stones recorded within the 5 km study area of the proposed wind farm site (AH23, AH74, AH78, AH82, AH86, AH87 and AH114). There are several possible interpretations of a standing stone, with some potentially representing burial markers, whilst others may function as boundary markers in the landscape or denote a particular routeway. These monuments are usually attributed to the Bronze Age, although it should be noted that they may also be Iron Age in date. Some standing stones occurring in pairs or rows and on defined alignments. A stone row (AH15) is recorded within the study area of the proposed wind farm site. This comprises three granite stones, aligned north-south, and known locally as “the three friars”.

A further feature of the Bronze Age ceremonial landscape is the timber circle, consisting of rings of upright posts. A timber circle (AH92) uncovered 4.4 km to the southwest of the proposed wind farm site was radiocarbon dated to 1043-918 cal BC.

Over 7,000 burnt mounds or fulacht fia sites have been recorded in the country and c. 1,500 examples excavated, making them the most common prehistoric monument in Ireland (Waddell 2022, 164). Although burnt mounds of shattered stone occur as a result of various activities that have been practiced from the Mesolithic to the present day, the Bronze Age has long been believed to have seen the peak of this activity. Dating evidence from a growing number of burnt mounds, suggests activities resulting in burnt mounds were being carried over a span of 3,500 years in Ireland (Hawkes 2018). They are typically located in areas where there is a readily available water source, often in proximity to a river or stream or in places with a high-water table. In the field burnt mounds may be identified as charcoal-rich mounds or spreads of heat shattered stones, however, in many cases, the sites have been disturbed by later agricultural activity and are no longer visible on the field surface. Nevertheless, even disturbed spreads of burnt mound material often preserve the underlying associated features, such as troughs, pits and gullies, intact. A total of 16 fulacht fia sites, or groups of sites, are recorded within the 5 km study area (AH07, AH22, AH37, AH38, AH40, AH63, AH64, AH89, AH93, AH94, AH99, AH107, AH109, AH110, AH112, AH113).

#### **15.4.1.1.4 Iron Age (c. 800 BC - AD 500)**

There is increasing evidence for Iron Age settlement and activity in recent years as a result of development-led excavations as well as projects such as Late Iron Age and Roman Ireland (Cahill Wilson 2014). Yet this period is distinguishable from the rather rich remains of the preceding Bronze Age and subsequent early medieval period, by a relative paucity within the current archaeological record. The Iron Age in Ireland is problematic for archaeologists as few artefacts dating exclusively to this period have been found and without extensive excavation, it cannot be determined whether several monument types, such as ring-barrows or standing stones, date to the late Bronze Age or Iron Age. As noted above, a ring barrow (AH65), several standing stones (AH23, AH74, AH78, AH82, AH86, AH87 and AH114) and a stone row (AH15) are recorded within the 5 km study area. It is likely that there was significant continuity in the Iron Age, with earlier monuments re-used in many cases. Evidence of Iron Age activity has been confirmed c. 4.3 km to the northwest of the proposed wind farm site, where a pit was radiocarbon dated to 753-413 cal BC (AH90).

#### 15.4.1.2 Early Medieval Period (c. AD 500 – 1100)

The early medieval period is depicted in the surviving sources as an almost entirely rural based society. Territorial divisions were based on the túath, or petty kingdom, with Byrne (1973) estimating that there may have been at least 150 kings in Ireland at any given time. This period, with a new religious culture and evolving technologies, saw significant woodland clearance and the expansion of grassland. A new type of plough and the horizontal mill were two innovations that improved agriculture and allowed for the population to increase. Consequently, from c. AD 500 onwards, the landscape became well settled, as evidenced by the profuse distribution of ringforts, a dispersed distribution of enclosed settlements, normally associated with various grades of well-to-do farming and aristocratic classes in early medieval Ireland (Stout and Stout 1997, 20).

The ringfort or rath is considered to be the most common indicator of settlement during the early medieval period (Stout 1997). One of the most recent studies of early medieval settlement enclosures has suggested that there is potential for at least 60,000 such sites to have existed on the island (O’Sullivan et al. 2014, 49). Ringforts were often constructed to protect rural farmsteads and are usually defined as a broadly circular enclosure delineated by a bank and ditch. Ringforts can be divided into three broad categories – univallate sites, with one bank or ditch; multivallate sites with as many as four levels of enclosing features and platform or raised ringforts, where the interior of the ringfort has been built up. These enclosed sites were intimately connected to the division of land and the status of the occupant.

A large number of ringforts are located within the 5 km study area of the proposed wind farm site (AH03, AH05, AH08, AH13, AH17, AH19, AH21, AH25, AH27, AH28, AH33, AH35, AH41, AH44, AH45, AH46, AH48, AH49, AH50, AH52, AH53, AH54, AH57, AH58, AH59, AH60, AH61, AH62, AH66, AH72, AH76, AH79, AH80, AH81, AH83, AH84, AH85, AH97, AH98, AH101, AH103, AH105, AH106, AH108, AH116, AH117), in addition to several enclosures (AH04, AH06, AH09, AH14, AH29, AH30, AH31, AH43, AH36, AH42, AH47, AH51, AH56, AH75, AH90, AH96, AH105). Many monuments recorded as enclosures represent ringforts or similar sites, which are too denuded or do not meet the standard shape and size expected of sites classified as ringforts. In addition, there is one souterrain in the 5 km study area of the proposed wind farm site (AH72). Souterrains are often associated with ringforts and consist of underground passages and chambers. These sites are usually interpreted as being used for storage and defence by early medieval groups.

The early medieval period marked the arrival of Christianity in Ireland, which was to have a profound impact on the country. This is evidenced by the proliferation of ecclesiastical sites throughout the country during this period. A total of seven churches, or sites of churches, are recorded within the 5 km study area of the proposed wind farm site, several of which may have origins in the early medieval period (AH11, AH27, AH47, AH51, AH71, AH95, AH100). Several of these church sites are associated with ballaun stones (AH47, AH51, AH95), which are may have been used as fonts. One church is located immediately to the east of the GCO One (AH02).

In addition, AH102, located c. 3.2 km to the southeast of the proposed wind farm site, comprises two recorded holy wells. The veneration of well sites is one of the oldest traditions in Irish Christianity and most likely has its origins in pagan ritual activities. These wells can manifest themselves in a variety of forms ranging from natural springs to rain collecting rock depressions. Many holy wells can be found associated with early ecclesiastical sites and well veneration and

its antecedent well worship is not confined to Ireland or even to Europe. Plummer (1910) demonstrates that at least some holy wells in Ireland were important venues of pre-Christian ritual activity.

#### **15.4.1.3 Medieval Period (c. AD 1100 – 1600)**

The piecemeal conquest by the Anglo-Normans of Ireland, which commenced in AD 1169, had a fundamental impact on the Irish landscape. Their presence was strongest in the east of the country, and it is mainly in this region that land was carved up and granted to the newly arrived lords who participated. The main success of the Anglo-Norman occupation was the welding of scattered territories into a cohesive unit through the introduction of the English form of shire government. The rural landscape became a network of manorial centres; these units would generally contain a castle (motte and bailey), a manorial house and a number of dwellings, with extensive surrounding acreage. A motte (AH10) is located 3 km to the northeast of the proposed wind farm site. During the 14th to 16th centuries, tower houses were the typical residence of the Irish gentry and are a common feature in the Irish landscape. In addition to the motte, five recorded castles are located within the 5 km study area of the proposed wind farm site (AH32, AH43, AH70, AH73, AH104).

The prevalence of the Anglo-Normans in the wider environment of the proposed wind farm site is exemplified by the town of New Ross, located c. 9.2 km to the east of the proposed wind farm site. The site was founded by William Marshall from 1192–1207. The town was sited in a strategic position to serve as a port for the surrounding lands (Alastair Coey Architects 2008, 3). By the end of the 13th century the town was the busiest port in Ireland. The construction of a defensive wall around the town was necessitated by frequent attacks from neighbouring Irish chieftains and a feud between the Fitzmaurices and the De Burghs in 1264, and is described in a poem written by Friar Michael Bernardi in 1265 (Alastair Coey Architects 2008).

A total of seven churches, or sites of churches, are recorded within the 5 km study area of the proposed wind farm site, several of which may have origins in the early medieval period (AH11, AH27, AH47, AH51, AH71, AH95, AH100). Several of these church sites are associated with ballaun stones (AH47, AH51, AH95), which are may have been used as fonts. One church is located immediately to the east of the GCO One (AH02).

There are seven churches, or sites of churches, are recorded within the 5 km study area of the proposed wind farm site (AH11, AH27, AH47, AH51, AH71, AH95, AH100), many of which may be medieval in date and are associated with graveyards. One church, associated with a graveyard, is located immediately to the east of the GCO One (AH02). The church in medieval Ireland plays an integral role in society. While some the churches in the 5 km study area may date to the early medieval period or the post-medieval period, they are noted here under the medieval heading as many may have medieval origins, even if the upstanding remains post-date the medieval period.

#### **15.4.1.4 Post-Medieval Period (c. AD 1600 – 1800)**

The ending of the Williamite Wars saw the beginning of a comparative politically calm era, which allowed the country's landowners the security to experiment with the latest styles of architecture without the need to refer to defensive matters. Initially, constraints on available resources resulted in mansions of a relatively modest scale and relatively plain appearance; however, as the Irish aristocracy's sense of security grew over the following decades, their



greater access to wealth helped foster a shift towards more ostentatious buildings. There are a total of four demesne landscapes in the 5 km study area of the proposed wind farm site. These are examples of the estates of wealthy landowners. The proposed wind farm site itself occupies an upland and relatively marginal landscape and would not have been considered attractive for the siting of large country houses and associated demesne landscapes. However, often landscapes containing features such as hills and mountains were often incorporated into the views as a scenic backdrop to the setting of a country house and demesne.

Ballyquin House (DL01) is located c. 390 m west of the proposed wind farm site. The principal structure is Ballyquin House (CH33), which survives in a ruinous state. The demesne retains its tree-lined boundaries and shelter belts, although much of the ornamental planting appears to have been removed. Aerial imagery (Google Satellite 2025) shows that the modern farmyard respects the boundary of the walled garden, suggesting that this may survive.

Earlsrath House (DL02) is located c. 4.1 km northwest of the proposed wind farm site. The principal structure (BH03) survives and is a Protected Structure. The demesne retains its original entrance avenue, some shelter bands and woodland surrounding the principal structure. The original demesne has been truncated by the construction of the M9 to the east and has been bisected by the Great Southern and Western Railway.

Glenpipe House (DL03) is located c. 3.3 km north-northwest of the proposed wind farm site. The principal structure, Glenpipe House, no longer exists. The demesne has largely been subsumed back into the agricultural landscape, although the original entrance avenue and shelter belts survive.

Glebe House (DL04) is located c 2.7 km to the northeast of the proposed wind farm site. The principal structure is no longer present, and several domestic and agricultural buildings have been constructed in the northeast of the demesne. A church and graveyard (AH11) are recorded in the north of the demesne, although there are no upstanding remains of the church. The lands of the modest demesne are relatively unchanged, comprising pasture fields with some tree-lined boundaries surviving.

Buildings of architectural heritage value in the vicinity of the proposed project include a large number of buildings within the settlements of Mullinavat and Glenmore. Several buildings of architectural heritage value date to the 18th century, including two houses (BH10–BH11), four bridges (BH01, BH06, BH07, BH16), a former corn mill complex (BH08) and two graveyards (BH22 and BH25). The corn mill complex in Mullinavat (BH08), located c. 4.3 km to the west of the proposed wind farm site, represents an important element of the industrial heritage of the wider environs. The placename Mullinavat derives from the Irish Muilleann an Bhata, which means the ‘mill of the stick’. Tradition derives the name from a mill situated here whereby a person approaching the mill would have to pass over a rough stick laid across the Glendonnell River, where Mullinavat Bridge (BH07) is now located. The location of this mill correlates with BH08.

In total, there are 31 buildings of architectural heritage merit, or the site of buildings, throughout the designated 2 km study area of the proposed wind farm site and the 50 m study area of the proposed GCOs and TDR, which are noted in this assessment. These buildings include bridges, churches, industrial sites (e.g. mills), a school, a water pump, a convent and the former Mullinavat railway station. In addition to these civic or public structures, several houses

and outbuildings are recorded. These structures are characteristic of the post-medieval landscape and represent the homes of farmers and workers. 'Vernacular architecture' is a term used to describe traditional buildings constructed using locally available materials and according to local/regional styles i.e. the homes and workplaces of the ordinary people. This is in contrast to formal architecture, such as the grand estate houses of the gentry, churches and public buildings, which were often designed by architects or engineers. The majority of vernacular buildings are domestic dwellings. Examples of other structures that may fall into this category include shops, outbuildings, mills, limekilns, farmsteads, forges, gates and gate piers.

#### 15.4.2 Summary of Previous Archaeological Fieldwork

A review of the Excavations Bulletin (1970–2025) has revealed that no previous archaeological investigations have taken place within the proposed site to date. Four previous excavations have been carried out within 2 km of the proposed wind farm site. These are listed below in Table 15-5 and shown in Figures 15-2a–e. No previous excavations have taken place within 50 m of the proposed GCO One.

**Table 15-5: Previous excavations within the Study Area.**

Proposed Wind Farm			
EX NO.	Location	Description	Distance From Project
EX01	Ballymartin	No archaeological finds or features were uncovered during archaeological monitoring of construction of a wind farm. Licence No. 10E0427.	c. 800 m north-northeast
EX02	Ballymartin	Two test-trenches were mechanically excavated across an area identified as being of archaeological potential in an EIS in advance of a wind farm development. No features or finds of archaeological significance were revealed. Licence No. 10E0077.	c. 900 m north-northwest
EX03	Smithstown	A 28m section of a north-west/south-east-running track flanked on either side by a shallow drainage ditch. The southern ditch fill contained a 13th-14th century rowel spur. Licence No. 11E0149.	c. 1.3 km north-northwest
EX04	Ballintlea	Six pits, seven post-holes and two hearths were associated with Leinster Cooking Ware and Kilkenny-type ware, suggesting a 13th–14th century date. Licence No. 13E0130.	c. 1.7 km west

### 15.4.3 Cartographic Analysis

#### 15.4.3.1 *Down Survey of the Barony of Knocktopher and the Barony of Ida, Irgin and Ibercon, in the County of Kilkenny, 1657.*

This mapping was concerned with the identification and recording of land ownership as opposed to the accurate mapping of topographical features or towns and villages. Occasionally major features in the landscape (for example castles or churches) are shown. The map shows the area of the proposed wind farm site within the parishes of Kilbride and Listerlin. The 'Barren Mountains' are shown in the southwest of the proposed wind farm site. The baronies of Knocktopher and Ida, Irgin and Ibercon are shown to be divided by the Arrigle River. A settlement is depicted in Smithstown townland, which may relate to the moated site (AH 16) located c. 1.6 km to the north of the proposed wind farm site. Several settlements are shown to the east and southeast of the proposed wind farm site, in Ballyfasy and Kilbride townlands for example.

#### 15.4.3.2 *First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1842, scale 1:10,560*

Large areas in the west of the proposed wind farm site are shown in this mapping as being marginal in character. The eastern portion of the site is divided into several small pasture fields. Two watercourses are shown to be passing through the proposed wind farm site, which correlate with townland boundaries. A small number of vernacular structures are depicted within the proposed wind farm site, and along the proposed GCO One. These primarily comprise vernacular houses. One vernacular building in the western portion of the proposed wind farm site has been assigned CH01 for the purposes of this report and this is in proximity to an upstanding lime kiln (CH35). Two buildings within Ballyfasy Upper have been assigned CH36; these are within the footprint of the proposed location of Turbine T9 (Plate 15-1, Appendix 15-6).

The proposed GCO One follows the existing L3417 and L3418 roads, which are both established roads with the exception of a c. 2.5 km section which passes through pasture fields to the south of a stream.

The proposed TDR follows existing roads from the proposed wind farm site (L3417, R704) until it joins the M9 motorway. These roads are established roads on the 1842 OS map. The route of the motorway passes through an agricultural landscape of pasture fields. Accommodation works are required at TDR Location 10, which is immediately to the east of the site of Ballynoony Castle, marked on the 1842 OS map as a circle. A stone boundary wall, located to the east of the road at TDR Location 10, likely relates to a complex of vernacular buildings (CH34) marked on the 1842 OS map, which are still upstanding. The wall is included in the TDR oversail.

Within the 5 km study area of the proposed wind farm site, the landscape is depicted as predominantly rural with dispersed settlement, typically consisting of single or small groups of farmsteads. A large number of the recorded ringforts and enclosures are depicted as earthworks. Demesne Landscapes, DL01-04 are also shown in detail. The largest settlement in the receiving environment at this time is Mullinavat, which is shown in this mapping with a R.C. Chapel and graveyard, a police station, and two corn mills.

### 15.4.3.3 Ordnance Survey Map, 1903, scale 1:2500

By the time of the 1903 OS map, many of the vernacular structures have seen alterations, a large number being removed entirely from the landscape, which may reflect a lower population in the area following the famine years. A lime kiln (CH35) is depicted immediately to the south of the proposed location of turbine T10 (Plate 15-2, Appendix 15-6).

A major change in the wider landscape by the time of this map is the addition of the Great Southern and Western Railway, which passes through Mullinavat in a north-south direction. The railway transformed parts of the landscape, including the Earlsrath House demesne (DL02). There is little change to the proposed GCOs and TDR by the time of this map, with the routes following established roadways primarily and the proposed GCO One passing through pasture fields to the south of a stream.

As previously shown on the 1842 OS map, the proposed TDR follows existing roads from the proposed wind farm site (L3417, R704) until it joins the M9 motorway. These roads are still established by the time of the 1903 OS map. A well is marked within the extent of TDR Location 13 accommodation works, although this is no longer extant. The site of Ballynoony Castle is still marked at TDR Location 10, and there have been some alterations to the vernacular buildings to the east of the road (CH34).

## 15.4.4 County Development Plan

### 15.4.4.1 Archaeology

The Kilkenny City and County Development Plan (2021–2027) recognises the statutory protection afforded to all RMP sites under the National Monuments Legislation (1930–2014). The development plans list a number of aims and objectives in relation to archaeological heritage (see Appendix 15-1).

There are no sites included onto the UNESCO World Heritage List, or the tentative List, within the 10 km study area of the proposed wind farm site.

There are no recorded monuments within the proposed wind farm site. A total of 116 archaeological sites, or groups of sites, are located within the 5 km study area of the proposed wind farm site, including two redundant records. These are listed below in Table 15-6 and shown in Figures 15-2a–e (see Appendix 15-5). These sites have been designated AH1-116 for the purposes of this assessment. A further group of archaeological sites (AH99), including a redundant record, is located within 50 m of the proposed GCO One. Additionally, the ZoN of an enclosure (AH04) is within 50 m of the proposed GCO One. A total of six archaeological sites, or groups of sites, are located within 50 m of the assessed TDR.

Within the 10 km study area of the proposed wind farm site there are two National Monuments that are under State Care. This includes Clonamery Church (KK033-021001; NM No. 77) located c. 9.7 km to the north-northeast, as well as St. Mary's Church, c. 9.7 km east in Wexford town (WX029-013002; NM No. 443). There are no archaeological monuments within the 10 km study area that are subject to Preservation Orders.

Please note that the AH sites recorded in Table 15-6 are listed in terms of the closest sites to the furthest sites from the proposed wind farm site.

Table 15-6: Recorded Archaeological Sites within the Study Area.

AH NO.	RMP NO.	LOCATION	CLASSIFICATION	DISTANCE FROM PROJECT
<b>Proposed Grid Connection Option One</b>				
AH02	KK036-014----; KK036-014001-; KK036-014002-; KK036-014003-	Mullennakill	Redundant record; Church; Graveyard; Mill - unclassified	Immediately east of proposed GCO One
<b>Proposed Turbine Delivery Route</b>				
AH43	KK040-003----	Ballynoony West	Castle - unclassified. No upstanding remains.	Immediately to the west of proposed TDR
AH44	KK040-004----	Ballynoony West	Ringfort - rath. Upstanding remains.	Immediately to the east of proposed TDR
AH72	KK040-052001; KK040-052002; KK040-086	Scart (Knocktopher By.)	Ringfort - rath; Souterrain; Kiln - corn- drying. Excavated.	Immediately to the east of proposed TDR
AH91	KK040-085	Scart (Knocktopher By.)	Kiln - corn-drying. Excavated	Immediately to the west of proposed TDR
AH92	KK040-087; KK040-088; KK040-089; KK040-090	Scart (Knocktopher By.)	Pits; Timber circle; Structure; Post holes. Excavated.	Immediately to the east of proposed TDR
AH94	KK040-096; KK040-097	Glendonnell	Fulacht fia x 2. No upstanding remains	Immediately to the east of proposed TDR
<b>Proposed Wind Farm Site</b>				
AH69	KK036-014; KK036-014001; KK036-014002; KK036-014003	Mullennakill	Redundant record; Church; Graveyard; Mill - unclassified	390 m to the north of proposed wind farm site
AH19	KK040-037	Ballymartin (Knocktopher By.)	Megalithic tomb - unclassified	880 m to the northeast of proposed wind farm site
AH52	KK036-039	Darbystown	Ringfort - rath	940 m to the south of proposed wind farm site
AH45	KK040-012	Ballinlammy	Ringfort - rath	1 km to the northeast of proposed wind farm site

AH46	KK040-005	Darbystown	Ringfort - unclassified	1.1 km to the northeast of proposed wind farm site
AH53	KK040-006	Ballywairy	Ringfort - rath	1.3 km to the south of proposed wind farm site
AH23	KK040-013	Knockbrack (Ida By.)	Ringfort - rath	1.4 km to the north of proposed wind farm site
AH17	KK036-062	Ballymartin (Fassadinin By.)	Standing stone	1.5 km to the north of proposed wind farm site
AH50	KK036-037	Smithstown (Knocktopher By., Jerpoint West Ed)	Ringfort - unclassified	1.6 km to the west of proposed wind farm site
AH16	KK040-010	Ballyquin	Ringfort - rath	1.6 km to the north of proposed wind farm site
AH73	KK036-036001; KK036-036002	Smithstown (Knocktopher By., Jerpoint West Ed)	Moated site; Building	1.6 km to the south of proposed wind farm site
AH57	KK040-056	Haggard (Ida By.)	Castle - unclassified	1.9 km to the south of proposed wind farm site
AH54	KK040-021	Knockbrack (Ida By.)	Ringfort - rath	1.9 km to the southeast of proposed wind farm site
AH15	KK040-014	Haggard (Ida By.)	Ringfort - unclassified	1.9 km to the north of proposed wind farm site
AH49	KK036-035	Smithstown (Knocktopher By., Jerpoint West Ed)	Stone row	1.9 km to the west of proposed wind farm site
AH111	KK040-009	Ballynakill (Gowran By.)	Ringfort - rath	2 km to the east of proposed wind farm site
AH67	KK041-050	Ballyvoulera Or Moulertown	Mound	2.1 km to the southeast of proposed wind farm site

AH51	KK040-034	Haggard (Ida By.)	Mound	2.1 km to the east of proposed wind farm site
AH18	KK040-011001; KK040-011002; KK040-011003; KK040-011004; KK040-011005; KK040-011007; KK040-011008	Kilbride (Ida By.)	Church; Graveyard; Enclosure; Graveslab; Font; Architectural fragment; Ballaun stone	2.1 km to the north-northeast of proposed wind farm site
AH48	KK036-038	Listerlin	Moated site	2.1 km to the west of proposed wind farm site
AH36	KK040-008	Killandrew	Ringfort - unclassified	2.4 km to the northeast of proposed wind farm site
AH56	KK037-047	Ballalog	Enclosure	2.3 km to the southwest of proposed wind farm site
AH78	KK040-020001; KK040-020002	Farnoge	Megalithic tomb - court tomb; Enclosure	2.4 km to the southwest of proposed wind farm site
AH71	KK040-063	Farnoge	Standing stone	2.5 km to the southwest of proposed wind farm site
AH08	KK040-049	Ballynakill (Gowran By.)	Church	2.5 km to the north of proposed wind farm site
AH63	KK036-024	Ballymackillagill	Ringfort - rath	2.7 km to the south of proposed wind farm site
AH13	KK040-030	Knockbrack (Ida By.)	Fulacht fia	2.7 km to the northwest of proposed wind farm site
AH85	KK036-033	Ballynoony West	Ringfort - unclassified	2.7 km to the southwest of proposed wind farm site
AH58	KK040-071	Glendonnell	Ringfort - unclassified	2.7 km to the southeast of proposed wind farm site
AH09	KK040-022	Haggard (Ida By.)	Ringfort - rath	2.8 km to the north-northeast of proposed wind farm site



AH95	KK036-025	Listerlin	Enclosure	2.8 km to the east of proposed wind farm site
AH55	KK041-001001; KK041-001002; KK041-001003; KK041-001004	Weatherstown	Church; Graveyard; Ballaun stone; Ballaun stone	2.8 km to the southwest of proposed wind farm site
AH14	KK040-019	Farnoge	Cairn - unclassified	2.8 km to the northwest of proposed wind farm site
AH65	KK036-034	Ballynoony East, Ballynoony West	Enclosure	2.9 km to the south of proposed wind farm site
AH11	KK040-032	Rathaglish	Barrow - ring-barrow	2.9 km to the northeast of proposed wind farm site
AH44	KK036-027001; KK036-027002	Listerlin	Church; Graveyard	2.9 km to the northwest of proposed wind farm site
AH62	KK040-004	Ballynoony West	Ringfort - rath	2.9 km to the south of proposed wind farm site
AH27	KK040-029	Rathnasmolagh	Ringfort - rath	2.9 km to the northeast of proposed wind farm site
AH40	KK037-012001; KK037-012001	Listerlin	Ringfort - unclassified; Church	3 km to the northeast of proposed wind farm site
AH10	KK037-051	Listerlin	Fulacht fia	3 km to the northeast of proposed wind farm site
AH64	KK036-026	Listerlin	Castle - motte	3 km to the south of proposed wind farm site
AH61	KK040-031	Rathaglish	Fulacht fia	3 km to the southwest of proposed wind farm site
AH59	KK040-028	Ballyhomuck	Ringfort - rath	3 km to the southeast of proposed wind farm site
AH28	KK040-023	Ballynaraha	Ringfort - unclassified	3.1 km to the northeast of proposed wind farm site

AH87	KK037-013	Brownstown (Gowran By.)	Ringfort - rath	3.1 km to the northwest of proposed wind farm site
AH21	KK040-074	Ballynoony West	Standing stone	3.2 km to the northwest of proposed wind farm site
AH102	KK036-059	Ballynoony West	Ringfort - rath	3.2 km to the southeast of proposed wind farm site
AH47	KK041-015001; KK041-015002	Flemingstown (Iverk By.)	Ritual site - holy well x 2	3.2 km to the west of proposed wind farm site
AH43	KK040-007001; KK040-007002; KK040-007003; KK040-007004	Garrandarragh (Knocktopher By.)	Church; Graveyard; Enclosure; Ballaun stone	3.3 km to the northwest of proposed wind farm site
AH96	KK040-003	Ballynoony West	Castle - unclassified	3.3 km to the east of proposed wind farm site
AH74	KK041-002	Weatherstown	Enclosure	3.3 km to the west of proposed wind farm site
AH104	KK040-059	Ballynoony West	Standing stone	3.3 km to the southeast of proposed wind farm site
AH39	KK041-017001	Mullennahone	Castle - unclassified	3.4 km to the northeast of proposed wind farm site
AH66	KK037-050	Listerlin	Settlement cluster	3.4 km to the south of proposed wind farm site
AH42	KK040-033	Ardbeg	Ringfort - rath	3.5 km to the northwest of proposed wind farm site
AH108	KK040-002001; KK040-002002; KK040-002003	Ballynoony West	Megalithic tomb - unclassified; Cairn - unclassified; Enclosure	3.5 km to the southeast of proposed wind farm site
AH112	KK041-022	Ballynaraha	Ringfort - rath	3.5 km to the east of proposed wind farm site
AH105	KK041-051	Ballycrony	Fulacht fia	3.6 km to the southeast of proposed wind farm site

AH113	KK041-018; KK041-019	Mullennahone	Ringfort - rath; Enclosure	3.6 km to the southeast of proposed wind farm site
AH106	KK041-052	Robinstown	Fulacht fia	3.6 km to the southeast of proposed wind farm site
AH30	KK041-020	Robinstown	Ringfort - rath	3.7 km to the northeast of proposed wind farm site
AH20	KK037-015	Brownstown (Ida By., Dysartmoon Ed)	Enclosure	3.7 km to the northwest of proposed wind farm site
AH77	KK036-051	Ballynoony West	Megalithic tomb - wedge tomb	3.7 km to the southwest of proposed wind farm site
AH82	KK040-062	Rahillakeen	Ringfort - unclassified	3.8 km to the southwest of proposed wind farm site
AH29	KK040-067	Scart (Knocktopher By.)	Standing stone	3.8 km to the northeast of proposed wind farm site
AH103	KK037-014	Brownstown (Ida By., Dysartmoon Ed)	Enclosure	3.8 km to the southeast of proposed wind farm site
AH81	KK041-016	Rickardsland South	Ringfort - rath	3.8 km to the southwest of proposed wind farm site
AH41	KK040-066	Scart (Knocktopher By.)	Ringfort - rath	3.9 km to the west of proposed wind farm site
AH89	KK040-001	Ballylusky	Ringfort - rath	3.9 km to the west of proposed wind farm site
AH68	KK040-078	Garrandarragh (Ida By.)	Fulacht fia	3.9 km to the south of proposed wind farm site
AH97	KK040-035	Ballyhomuck	Redundant record	4 km to the east of proposed wind farm site
AH94	KK041-003	Busherstown	Ringfort - rath	4 km to the southwest of proposed wind farm site

AH05	KK040-096; KK040-097	Glendonnell	Fulacht fia x 2	4.1 km to the north-northeast of proposed wind farm site
AH109	KK036-018	Ballyconnaught	Ringfort - rath	4.1 km to the southeast of proposed wind farm site
AH22	KK041-023; KK041-024	Ballynaraha	Fulacht fia x 2	4.1 km to the northwest of proposed wind farm site
AH86	KK036-061	Coolanimod South	Fulacht fia	4.1 km to the southwest of proposed wind farm site
AH90	KK040-072; KK040-073	Scart (Knocktopher By.)	Standing stone x 2	4.2 km to the northwest of proposed wind farm site
AH93	KK040-079; KK040-080; KK040-081; KK040-082; KK040-083; KK040-084	Earlsrath	Enclosure; Early Neolithic pits; House - Neolithic x 2; Pits; Field boundary	4.2 km to the west of proposed wind farm site
AH79	KK040-091; KK040-092; KK040-093; KK040-094; KK040-095	Ballylusky	Fulacht fia x 4; Furnace	4.2 km to the southwest of proposed wind farm site
AH115	KK040-064	Rahard West	Ringfort - rath	4.2 km to the south of proposed wind farm site
AH88	KK043-004	Ballinorea	Moated site	4.2 km to the southwest of proposed wind farm site
AH114	KK040-075	Deerpark (Knocktopher By.)	Penal Mass station	4.3 km to the southeast of proposed wind farm site
AH80	KK041-055	Robinstown	Standing stone	4.3 km to the southwest of proposed wind farm site
AH03	KK040-065	Rahard West	Ringfort - rath	4.3 km to the north of proposed wind farm site
AH01	KK036-015	Mullennakill	Ringfort - rath	4.3 km to the north of proposed wind farm site

AH110	KK036-013	Mullennakill	Redundant record	4.3 km to the southeast of proposed wind farm site
AH04	KK041-025	Ballinclare	Fulacht fia	4.3 km to the north of proposed wind farm site
AH99	KK036-016----	Glenpipe	Enclosure	4.3 km to the east of proposed wind farm site
AH12	KK041-005; KK041-006	Ballycrony	Fulacht fia x 2	4.4 km to the northwest of proposed wind farm site
AH107	KK036-032	Earlsrath	Moated site	4.4 km to the southeast of proposed wind farm site
AH31	KK041-021	Kilmakevoge	Fulacht fia	4.4 km to the northeast of proposed wind farm site
AH98	KK037-016	Brownstown (Ida By., Dysartmoon Ed)	Enclosure	4.4 km to the east of proposed wind farm site
AH25	KK041-004	Ballycrony	Ringfort - rath	4.4 km to the northeast of proposed wind farm site
AH24	KK037-008	Brownstown (Ida By., Dysartmoon Ed)	Ringfort - rath	4.5 km to the northwest of proposed wind farm site
AH83	KK036-064	Earlsrath,Manse Iscourt	Midden	4.5 km to the southwest of proposed wind farm site
AH37	KK040-068	Deerpark (Knocktopher By.)	Ringfort - rath	4.5 km to the northeast of proposed wind farm site
AH75	KK037-048	Slievecarragh	Fulacht fia	4.5 km to the southwest of proposed wind farm site
AH72	KK040-060	Rahard West	Enclosure	4.5 km to the southwest of proposed wind farm site
AH92	KK040-052001; KK040-052002; KK040-086	Scart (Knocktopher By.)	Ringfort - rath; Souterrain; Kiln - corn-drying	4.5 km to the southwest of proposed wind farm site

AH100	KK040-087; KK040-088; KK040-089; KK040-090	Scart (Knocktopher By.)	Pits; Timber circle; Structure; Post holes	4.6 km to the east of proposed wind farm site
AH07	KK041-007001; KK041-007002; KK041-007003; KK041-007004	Jamestown (Ida By.)	Church; Graveyard; Graveslab; Font	4.6 km to the northeast of proposed wind farm site
AH26	KK036-020	Tullagher	Fulacht fia	4.6 km to the northeast of proposed wind farm site
AH70	KK037-009	Brownstown (Ida By., Dysartmoon Ed)	Moated site	4.6 km to the west of proposed wind farm site
AH32	KK040-047	Inchacarran	Castle - unclassified	4.6 km to the northeast of proposed wind farm site
AH38	KK037-017	Slievecarragh	Castle - unclassified	4.7 km to the northeast of proposed wind farm site
AH116	KK037-049	Slievecarragh	Fulacht fia	4.7 km to the south- southeast of proposed wind farm site
AH60	KK043-005	Grogan	Ringfort - rath	4.7 km to the southwest of proposed wind farm site
AH76	KK040-027	Rahard West	Ringfort - rath	4.7 km to the southwest of proposed wind farm site
AH35	KK040-061	Rahard West	Ringfort - unclassified	4.8 km to the northeast of proposed wind farm site
AH101	KK037-021	Slievecarragh	Ringfort - unclassified	4.8 km to the east of proposed wind farm site
AH91	KK041-008	Ballycrony	Ringfort - rath	4.8 km to the southwest of proposed wind farm site
AH117	KK040-085	Scart (Knocktopher By.)	Kiln - corn-drying	4.8 km to the southeast of proposed wind farm site

AH34	KK044-001	Gaulstown (Ida By., Kilcolumb Ed)	Ringfort - rath	4.9 km to the northeast of proposed wind farm site
AH84	KK037-020	Slievecarragh	Enclosure	4.9 km to the southwest of proposed wind farm site
AH33	KK040-069	Rossinan	Ringfort - rath	5 km to the northeast of proposed wind farm site
AH06	KK037-019	Slievecarragh	Ringfort - unclassified	5 km to the northeast of proposed wind farm site
NM site	KK036-019	Tullagher	Enclosure	9.7 km to the north-northeast of proposed wind farm site
NM site	KK033-021001/NM No. 77	Clonamery	Church	9.7 km to the east of proposed wind farm site

#### 15.4.4.2 Record of Protected Structures

The Kilkenny City and County Development Plan (2021–2027) recognises the value of the built heritage to the county and is committed to the protection and enhancement of this heritage by providing measures for the protection of architectural heritage (see Appendix 15-2). These include the establishment of a Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and the designation of Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs).

There are 15 protected structures within the 5 km study area of the proposed project. These are listed in Table 15-7 and shown in Figures 15-2a–e (see Appendix 15-5). The proposed project does not contain any ACAs.

Please note that the sites recorded in Table 15-7 are listed in terms of the closest sites to the furthest sites from the proposed wind farm site.



Table 15-7: Recorded Architectural Heritage Sites within the Study Area

BH NO.	RPS/ NIAH NO	DESCRIPTION	TOWNLA ND	DISTANCE FROM DEVELOPMENT	STATUTORY PROTECTION
BH23	1240400 5	Farm house	Ballyfasy Upper	800 m to the south of proposed wind farm site	No
BH24	C991/ 1240400 7	Ballyfasy National School	Ballyfasy Lower	1.3 km to the southeast of proposed wind farm site	Yes
BH26	1240400 8	Farm house	Kilbride	2 km to the southeast of proposed wind farm site	No
BH25	1240400 9	Kilbride church graveyard	Kilbride	2.1 km to the southeast of proposed wind farm site	No
BH02	1240360 6	Saint David's Catholic Church	Listerlin	2.5 km to the north of proposed wind farm site	No
BH22	1240400 3	Kilbeacon Church graveyard	Garrandarr agh	3.2 km to the west of proposed wind farm site	No
BH01	1240360 5	Glenpipe Bridge	Ballyconna ught, Glenpipe	3.6 km to the north of proposed wind farm site	No
BH20	C953/ 1232601 1	House	Garrandarr agh	3.8 km to the west of proposed wind farm site	Yes
BH21	C200/ 1232601 2	Saint Beacon's Catholic Church	Garrandarr agh	3.8 km to the west of proposed wind farm site	Yes
BH14	C947/ 1232600 1	Bridge	Garrandarr agh, Mullinavat	3.9 km to the west of proposed wind farm site	Yes
BH04	1240400 2	Mount Saint Joseph convent	Ballylusk	4 km to the northwest of proposed wind farm site	No
BH13	C948/ 1232600 2	Outbuilding	Mullinavat	4 km to the west of proposed wind farm site	Yes
BH09	C950/ 1232600 5	House	Garrandarr agh	4 km to the west of proposed wind farm site	Yes
BH10	C202/ 1232600 4	Terraced house	Garrandarr agh	4 km to the west of proposed wind farm site	Yes

BH11	C949/ 1232600 3	Terraced house	Garrandarr agh	4 km to the west of proposed wind farm site	Yes
BH12	C201	Public house	Mullinavat	4.1 km to the west of proposed wind farm site	Yes
BH17	D95/ 1232601 0	Mullinavat Railway Station	Mullinavat	4.1 km to the west of proposed wind farm site	Yes
BH15	1232601 8	Saw mill	Glendonne ll	4.1 km to the west of proposed wind farm site	No
BH16	1232601 7	Park Bridge	Glendonne ll, Mullinavat	4.1 km to the west of proposed wind farm site	No
BH08	C951/ 1232600 6	Corn mill	Mullinavat	4.2 km to the west of proposed wind farm site	Yes
BH07	D124/ 1232600 9	Mullinavat Bridge	Clonassy, Inchacarra n	4.3 km to the west of proposed wind farm site	Yes
BH18	1232601 6	Bridge	Deerpark	4.3 km to the west of proposed wind farm site	No
BH03	C396	Vernacular House	Earlsrath	4.4 km to the northwest of proposed wind farm site	Yes
BH28	1240410 2	House	Robinstow n	4.5 km to the southeast of proposed wind farm site	No
BH27	1240410 3	Water pump	Robinstow n	4.6 km to the southeast of proposed wind farm site	No
BH06	C952/ 1232600 7	Walsh's Bridge	Ballyknock beg, Inchacarra n, Mullinavat	4.6 km to the west of proposed wind farm site	Yes
BH30	1240410 4	Saint James's Catholic Church	Robinstow n	4.6 km to the southeast of proposed wind farm site	No
BH19	D63	Corn mill	Deerpark	4.7 km to the west of proposed wind farm site	Yes
BH05	1232600 8	House	Inchacarra n	4.7 km to the west of proposed wind farm site	No

BH29	1240410 5	House	Robinstow n	4.7 km to the southeast of proposed wind farm site	No
BH31	1240410 6	Glenmore Bridge	Cappagh, Carrickclo ney	4.9 km to the southeast of proposed wind farm site	No

## 15.4.5 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

### 15.4.5.1 NIAH Building Survey

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) survey of County Kilkenny was carried out in 2004–2005. A review of the architectural survey was undertaken as part of this assessment. A total of 28 structures are listed in the NIAH within the 5 km study area of the proposed wind farm site, which includes the 50 m study area associated with the GCO One and TDR. The closest consists of a farmhouse (BH23), c. 800 m southeast of the proposed wind farm site. Structures are included in Table 15-7 above and shown in Figures 15-2a–e (see Appendix 15-5).

### 15.4.5.2 NIAH Garden Survey

The first edition Ordnance Survey maps of County Kilkenny (1842) shows the extent of demesne landscapes as shaded portions of land within the 5 km study area. These were established as a naturalised landscaped setting for the large houses of the landed gentry.

There are four designed landscapes shown on the first edition OS map of 1842 within 5 km study area of the proposed wind farm site, including two gardens recorded within the NIAH Garden Survey. These designed landscapes have been assigned DL reference numbers for the purposes of this assessment. These are listed in Table 15-8 and shown in Figures 15-2a–e (see Appendix 15-5). Please note that the DL sites recorded in Table 15-8 are listed in terms of the closest sites to the furthest sites from the proposed wind farm site.

**Table 15-8: Designed landscapes within the 5 km study area.**

DL NO.	NIAH SURVEY NO	NAME	TOWNLAND	DISTANCE FROM DEVELOPMENT
DL01	1821	Ballyquin House	Ballyquin	c. 391 m to the west- northwest of the proposed wind farm site
DL04	-	Glebe House	Listerlin	c. 2.7 km to the northeast of the proposed wind farm site
DL03	-	Glenpipe House	Glenpipe	c. 3.4 km to the north of the proposed wind farm site
DL02	1822	Earlsrath House	Earlsrath	c. 4.2 km to the northwest of the proposed wind farm site

### 15.4.6 Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland

Information on stray archaeological finds from the study area in County Kilkenny has been recorded by the National Museum of Ireland since the late 18th century. Location information relating to these finds is important in establishing prehistoric and historic activity in the study area.

The recorded stray archaeological finds from within the 5 km study area of the proposed wind farm site, TDR and GCO One are detailed in Table 15-9.

**Table 15-9: Stray finds recorded by the National Museum of Ireland.**

NMI REF.	FIND	TOWNLAND
RSAI252.1	Stone axehead	Ballynamona
IA/105/2017	Spandrel mould	Ballynoony West
1940, 157	Flanged bronze axehead with stop-ridge	Cappagh
1942:1828	old clay pipe	Clonassy
1936:1882	Large polished stone axehead	Farnoge (West?)
1941:1536	Silver coin	Jamestown
IA/163/1975	Utilised stone tool	Knockbrack
IA/172/2010	Polished altar stone	Mullinavat
IA/113/2000	Polished axehead fragment	Smithstown
1937,1	Stone axehead	Smithstown

### 15.4.7 Aerial Photographic Analysis

Inspection of the aerial photographic coverage of the proposed wind farm site, TDR and GCOs held by Tailte Éireann (1995–2013), Google Earth (2015–2024), and Bing Maps (2023) confirmed that large areas of the proposed wind farm site are forested and therefore the ground level was not visible within the coverage.

No previously unrecorded cultural heritage features were identified from aerial photography.

### 15.4.8 Cultural Heritage

Cultural heritage assets can incorporate both archaeological and built heritage remains, which do not have statutory protection or which have not been previously recorded as heritage assets in any known datasets. Cultural heritage can also incorporate more ephemeral aspects of the heritage environment, including folklore. A number of sources were reviewed in order to identify cultural heritage assets within the 2 km study area of the proposed wind farm site and

the 50 m study area of the proposed GCOs and TDR (as laid out in Table 15-1). These included the historic Ordnance Survey mapping, aerial photographic coverage and field inspection.

A total of 37 cultural heritage sites have been identified within the study areas of the proposed project. These are listed below in Table 15-10 and shown in Figures 15-2a–e (see Appendix 15-5). Of these, three sites are located within the proposed wind farm site. This includes CH01, which comprises ruinous remains of a substantial vernacular building; CH35, the upstanding remains of a lime kiln, and CH36, the site of two vernacular buildings.

In addition, the ruinous remains of a National School (CH05), a vernacular farmyard complex (CH06) and two unlisted bridges (CH32 and CH37) are located within 50 m of GCO One. One site of cultural heritage significance has also been identified within the proposed TDR (CH34).

Please note that the CH sites recorded in Table 15-10 are listed in terms of the closest sites to the furthest sites from the proposed wind farm site.

**Table 15-10: Cultural Heritage Sites within the Receiving Environment.**

CH NO	TOWNLAND	DESCRIPTION	DISTANCE FROM DEVELOPMENT
CH01	Bishopsmountain	Two buildings shown on 1842 OS map. One further building has been added by the time of the 1903 OS map. The main house is a substantial two storey structure, which may be 18 <sup>th</sup> century in date but is now ruinous.	Within proposed wind farm site, c. 210m southwest of T10
CH35	Bishopsmountain	Upstanding remains of lime kiln. Depicted on the historic OS maps.	Within proposed wind farm site, c. 46 m south of T10
CH36	Ballyfasy Upper	Site of buildings marked on 1842 OS map. One building present by time of 1903 OS map, labelled 'Sheepfold'. No upstanding remains.	Within proposed wind farm site, c. 16 m north of T9
CH32	Glenpipe	An unnamed bridge marked on the 1842 OS map. It appears to have been modernised, although the historic structure may survive.	Within proposed GCO One
CH37	Glenpipe	An unnamed bridge marked on the 1842 OS map. It appears to have been modernised, although the historic structure may survive.	Within proposed GCO One
CH34	Ballynoony West	Complex of buildings shown on 1842 OS map, with alterations shown by the time of the 1903 OS map. Buildings upstanding and enclosed by stone boundary wall.	Within TDR oversail

CH05	Mullennakill	Three buildings depicted on the 1842 OS map, labelled 'National School Ho.' One building has been removed by the time of the 1903 OS map. Aerial imagery shows the ruinous remains of at least one building.	Immediately west of proposed GCO One
CH06	Mullennakill	Farmyard buildings are depicted on the 1842 OS map and replaced/enlarged by the time of the 1903 OS map. Aerial imagery shows that upstanding remains survive.	Immediately west of proposed GCO One
CH27	Ballinlammy	Three buildings are shown on the 1842 OS map. One building has been removed by 1903. Aerial imagery shows that some buildings may remain extant and incorporated into a modern farm.	670 m southeast of proposed wind farm site
CH33	Ballyquin	Ballyquin House, depicted on the 1842 OS map. Building extant in a ruinous condition. Within DL01.	720 m west of proposed wind farm site
CH30	Ballymartin	A farmyard complex, first depicted on the 1842 OS map. Minor alterations to the complex are shown on the 1903 OS map. Aerial imagery shows upstanding remains, although the principal structure appears to have been replaced.	730 m northwest of proposed wind farm site
CH18	Ballyfasy Upper	Several buildings labelled 'Ballyfasy' are shown on the 1842 OS map, which are largely retained by the time of the 1903 OS map. Several buildings appear to be upstanding and incorporated into a modern farm.	800 m south of proposed wind farm site
CH23	Ballyfasy Upper	A group of buildings is depicted on the 1842 OS map and remains unchanged by the 1903. These buildings are shown on aerial imagery.	900 m northeast of proposed wind farm site
CH21	Ballyfasy Lower	A house is depicted on the 1903 OS map, and remains upstanding.	1.1 km east-northeast of proposed wind farm site
CH29	Ballynoony East	Two buildings are shown on the 1842 OS map, with three present by 1903. Upstanding remains of at	1.1 km northwest of proposed wind farm site

		least one building are shown on aerial imagery.	
CH17	Ballyfasy Lower	Two buildings are depicted on the 1842 OS map, which were later expanded into a farmyard complex by 1903. Upstanding remains of at least one 1903 building are shown on aerial imagery.	1.1 km southeast of proposed wind farm site
CH19	Ballyfasy Upper	A 'Smithy' is first depicted on the 1903 OS map, and remains upstanding.	1.1 km south-southeast of proposed wind farm site
CH24	Parkstown Upper	Two buildings originally depicted on the 1842 OS map, which were later replaced by two buildings by 1903. Aerial imagery shows that these are extant.	1.2 km east-southeast of proposed wind farm site
CH08	Smithstown	A farmyard complex is shown on the 1842 OS map. By the time of the 1903 OS map some buildings have been removed and some replaced. Aerial imagery shows the upstanding remains of several buildings.	1.2 km north of proposed wind farm site
CH09	Smithstown	Two buildings are shown on the 1842 OS map. A third building is shown by the time of the 1903 OS map. Ruinous remains of the two original buildings appear to be shown on aerial imagery.	1.2 km north of proposed wind farm site
CH11	Darbystown	A cluster of buildings is shown on the 1842 OS map, with further buildings added to the west by the time of the 1903 OS map. Aerial imagery appears to show that two of the original 1842 buildings are upstanding.	1.2 km north-northeast of proposed wind farm site
CH20	Ballyfasy Lower	A group of buildings is depicted on the 1842 OS map, and remain largely unchanged by the time of the 1903 OS map. Aerial imagery shows that these buildings remain extant.	1.3 km east-northeast of proposed wind farm site
CH15	Ballywairy	A single building is shown on the 1842 OS map, and a farmyard complex is depicted on the 1903 OS map. Upstanding remains of the 1903 buildings are shown on aerial imagery, as well as the	1.4 km east of proposed wind farm site



		ruinous remains of the 1842 building.	
CH25	Haggard	Two buildings are depicted on the 1842 OS map, with at least one being replaced by 1903. Aerial imagery shows that two buildings remain upstanding.	1.4 km southeast of proposed wind farm site
CH12	Guilkagh Beg	A farmyard complex is depicted on the 1842 OS map and is shown to have expanded by the time of the 1903 OS map. Several extant buildings are shown on aerial imagery.	1.6 km northeast of proposed wind farm site
CH28	Ballintlea	A farmyard complex is first depicted on the 1842 OS map, labelled 'Ballintlea'. It remains largely unchanged by 1903 and aerial imagery shows that several buildings are extant.	1.6 km west of proposed wind farm site
CH07	Smithstown	A group of buildings is shown on the 1842 OS map, which appear to have been replaced by the time of the 1903 OS map. Upstanding remains are visible on aerial imagery.	1.7 km north of proposed wind farm site
CH10	Listerlin	A cluster of buildings is shown on the 1842 OS map, which are still present by the time of the 1903 OS map. One building appears to be shown on aerial imagery.	1.7 km north-northeast of proposed wind farm site
CH03	Knockbrack	A farmyard complex is shown on the 1842 OS map and has expanded by the time of the 1903 OS map. Aerial imagery indicates that several buildings remain upstanding.	1.7 km south of proposed wind farm site
CH22	Ballyfasy Lower	A farmyard complex is first depicted on the 1842 OS map, and has expanded extended by 1903. The complex appears to be upstanding and incorporated into a modern farm.	1.7 km southeast of proposed wind farm site
CH04	Knockbrack	A farmyard complex is shown on the 1842 OS map and has expanded by the time of the 1903 OS map. Aerial imagery indicates that several buildings remain upstanding.	1.8 km south of proposed wind farm site

CH16	Ballyvoulera or Moulurstown	Two buildings are shown on the 1842 OS map, and the site has expanded by the time of the 1903 OS map. The complex originally had access to the southwest through plantation. Some buildings are shown on aerial photography and have been incorporated into a modern farm.	1.9 km east of proposed wind farm site
CH26	Haggard	A group of buildings is shown on the 1842 OS map, with some later replaced by the time of the 1903 OS map. Several buildings are shown on aerial imagery.	1.9 km southeast of proposed wind farm site
CH02	Farnoge West	A farmyard complex is shown on the 1842 OS map and is relatively unchanged by the time of the 1903 OS map. Aerial imagery shows that several of these buildings remain upstanding.	1.9 km southwest of proposed wind farm site
CH13	Guilkagh More	Two farmyard complexes are shown to either side of a road on the 1842 OS map. By the time of the 1903 OS map some buildings have been removed and some built. The complex to the east of the road appears to be extant. The road that formerly extended to the south is no longer present, but is marked by a field boundary.	2 km east-northeast of proposed wind farm site
CH14	Guilkagh More	A farmyard complex is depicted on the 1842 OS map and has expanded by the time of the 1903 OS map. Aerial imagery shows that the complex is extant, with a modern farm located to the east.	2 km east-northeast of proposed wind farm site
CH31	Smithstown	Three buildings are depicted on the 1842 OS map, with four shown by the time of the 1903 OS map. One building appears to remain upstanding.	2 km north of proposed wind farm site

#### 15.4.8.1 Toponymy of Townlands

Townland and topographic names are an invaluable source of information on topography, land ownership and land use within the landscape. They also provide information on history; archaeological monuments and folklore of an area. A place name may refer to a long-forgotten site and may indicate the possibility that the remains of certain sites may still survive below the ground surface. The Ordnance Survey surveyors wrote down townland names in the 1830's and 1840's, when the entire country was mapped for the first time. Some of the townland names in

the proposed wind farm site and GCOs are of Irish origin and through time have been anglicised. The main references used for the place name analysis is Irish Local Names Explained by P.W Joyce (1870) and logainm.ie. A description and possible explanation of each place name within the proposed wind farm site, GCOs and TDR accommodation areas are provided in Table 15-11.

**Table 15-11: Townlands within the proposed wind farm site, GCOs and TDR accommodation areas.**

TOWNLAND	DERIVATION	POSSIBLE MEANING
Ballyfasy Upper	An Baile Fásaigh	Town of the wilderness. Likely divided into 'Upper' and Lower at some point.
Ballymackillagill	Baile Mhic Giolla Ghil	MacGillagil's townland.
Ballymartin	Baile Mháirtín	Martin's or O'Martin's or MacMartin's townland.
Ballynoony West	Baile an Inneonaigh	Townland of the anvils.
Ballywairy	Baile an Mhaoiririgh	Mhaoiririgh's townland.
Bishopsmountain	-	English name
Cappagh	An Cheapach	Plot of land, tillage plot
Castlebanny	Caisleán an Bhainne	Castle of the milk, i.e. surrounded with rich grazing land.
Coolnahau	Cúil na hÁithe	Back of the kiln
Garrandarragh	An Garrán Darach	Grove of the oak trees
Glenpipe	Gleann an Phíopa	Glen of the pipe
Granny	An Ghreanach/Greanagh	Gravelly place
Kilmurry	Cill Mhuire	Mary's church
Knockbrack	An Cnoc Breac	Speckled hill
Mullennakill	Muileann na Cille	Mill of the church
Rathpatrick	Ráth Phádraig	Patrick's rath
Smithstown	-	English name

#### 15.4.8.2 Townland Boundaries

The townland is an Irish land unit of considerable longevity as many of the units are likely to represent much earlier land divisions. The term townland was not used to denote a unit of land until the Civil Survey of 1654. It bears no relation to the modern word 'town' but like the Irish word baile refers to a place. It is possible that the word is derived from the Old English tun land and meant 'the land forming an estate or manor' (Culleton 1999, 174).

Gaelic land ownership required a clear definition of the territories held by each sept and a need for strong, permanent fences around their territories. It is possible that boundaries following ridge tops, streams or bog are more likely to be older in date than those composed of straight lines (ibid. 179).

The vast majority of townlands are referred to in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, when land documentation records begin. Many of the townlands are mapped within the Down Survey of the 1650s, so called as all measurements were carefully 'laid downe' on paper at a scale of forty perches to one inch. Therefore, most are in the context of pre-17<sup>th</sup> century landscape organisation (McErlean 1983, 315).

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, some demesnes, deer parks or large farms were given townland status during the Ordnance Survey and some imprecise townland boundaries in areas such as bogs or lakes, were given more precise definition (ibid.). Larger tracks of land were divided into a number of townlands, and named Upper, Middle or Lower, as well as Beg and More (small and large) and north, east, south and west (Culleton 1999, 179). By the time the first Ordnance Survey had been completed a total of 62,000 townlands were recorded in Ireland.

Although not usually recorded as archaeological monuments in their own right, townland boundaries are important as cultural heritage features. It remains unclear how old some of these land units actually are, though it has been convincingly argued that many may date to at least the medieval period and, in some cases, may be significantly older than this (McErlean 1983; MacCotter 2008).

Ten townland boundaries are located within the proposed wind farm site and a further seven are crossed by the proposed GCO One and GCO Two. Three townland boundaries within the proposed wind farm site are wholly or partially defined by streams (TB02, TB05 and TB09). In many cases there is no physical boundary, and it is also difficult to discern any surviving townland boundaries as large parts of the proposed wind farm development are forested.

Two townland boundaries within GCO One have a physical expression: TB17 is marked by a field boundary and TB16 is marked by a stream. The townland boundaries are shown on Figures 15-2a-e (see Appendix 15-5).

#### 15.4.9 Field Inspection

The field inspection assessed the proposed wind farm site, TDR and GCOs, its previous and current land use, the topography and any additional information relevant to the report. During the course of the field investigation, which was carried out in February 2025, the proposed project elements and their immediate surrounding environs (where accessible) were inspected.

Field inspection is necessary to determine the extent and nature of archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage remains and can also lead to the identification of previously unrecorded or suspected sites and portable finds through topographical observation and local information.

The field inspection commenced in the western portion of the proposed wind farm site, at the location of Turbines 1, 2 and 10 and associated infrastructure. Turbine 2 and the associated proposed access road is located in dense commercial forestry, which precluded access on foot (Plate 15-3, Appendix 15-6). Turbine 1 is located between Turbine 2 and 10 and is also located in mature commercial forestry. Further proposed access will travel across pasture between

Turbines 1 and 10, with the southern section crossing waterlogged and marginal lands (Plate 15-4, Appendix 15-6). CH01 is located to the southwest of Turbine 10. This comprises a substantial stone house, with two storeys, which has now become ruinous and is surrounded by mature trees and heavy vegetation. There are a number of single storey ruined outbuildings to the west of the main house (Plates 15-5/6, Appendix 15-6).

Turbine 10 itself occupies a field of improved pasture that slopes slightly to the south (Plate 15.7, Appendix 15-6). To the immediate east of the proposed access is the remains of an upstanding lime kiln, which is marked on the historic maps (CH35). The structure is overgrown, but survives relatively intact, although the northern edge has been affected by recent widening of an adjacent agricultural track (Plates 15-8/9, Appendix 15-6).

The southern portion of the proposed wind farm site is formed by Turbine 8. This will be accessed via a road from the north, which runs in a north-south direction through mature commercial forestry and was not accessible on foot. Turbine 8 is located in two fields of improved pasture that occupies a slightly elevated area (Plate 15-10, Appendix 15-6). The field is divided by a denuded field boundary, which is formed by a bank revetted with partially collapsed stone walls (Plate 15-11, Appendix 15-6).

The central portion of the proposed wind farm site is formed by Turbines 3, 4, 7 and 9 along with a number of borrow pits, access roads, compounds and a substation. Many of the proposed access roads already exist as access to the commercial forestry that characterises the majority of the proposed wind farm site (Plate 15-12, Appendix 15-6). Turbine 4, the proposed substation and both compounds are located in commercial forestry (Plates 15-13/14, Appendix 15-6). Turbine 3 is located in an elevated, but level area, which is surrounded by commercial forestry but the site itself comprises extremely waterlogged pasture and was difficult to access on foot (Plate 15-15, Appendix 15-6).

Turbine 7 and a borrow pit that is proposed to the immediate south of the turbine, is located on a slight south facing slope and comprised an area of waterlogged and rough pasture, with the borrow pits located in improved pasture, bounded to the south by an access track. Turbine 9 is also located in improved pasture on a slight west facing slope to the immediate east of commercial forestry (Plate 15-16, Appendix 15-6). No remains associated with the vernacular structures noted at this location on the first edition OS map were present during the field inspection (CH36).

The eastern portion of the proposed wind farm site is formed by Turbines 5 and 6, which will be accessed via roads from the commercial forestry to the west. A borrow pit is also proposed to the south of Turbine 6. Both turbines are located in improved pasture that slopes moderately to the east and southeast (Plates 15-17/18, Appendix 15-6).

GCO One will be within approximately 8.45 km of public road and approximately 3.55 km of third party lands. As the route leaves the public road to approach Castlebanny substation, the route will turn west-southwest across a greenfield area. The route crosses four fields of scrubby pasture that slopes to the east. The route also crosses an area of commercial forestry that has recently been felled (Plate 15-19, Appendix 15-6) and a local road. From this point the cable route runs west-northwest through several fields of pasture occupying a west facing slope before reaching commercial forestry and access tracks.

GCO Option Two is a shorter route and runs from the proposed substation along access tracks proposed as part of the proposed wind farm site, before crossing a short section of pasture to the south of Turbine 6.

#### **15.4.10 Limitations and technical difficulties**

Significant sections of the proposed wind farm is under dense commercial forestry, which is physically not accessible on foot. The baseline analysis did not suggest that any features of archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage significance were located in these areas, as they are, by definition marginal ground that is not attractive for settlement. In addition the ground disturbance that occurs in association with commercial forestry, including existing access tracks and associated drainage channels greatly reduces the potential to identify any possible cultural heritage surface remains.

No further limitations or technical difficulties were encountered during the assessment and compilation of this chapter.

### **15.5 POTENTIAL EFFECTS**

Appendix 15-3 and 15-4 presents the results of the assessment of impacts on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage resource, following the application of the methodology described in 15.3. Appendix 15-3 and 15-4 describe the sensitivity of the receptor, magnitude of potential effects and the significance of effect. Further description of effects and mitigation measures is outlined in Sections 15.5.1 – 15.6.4 below.

#### **15.5.1 Do-Nothing Scenario**

If the proposed project were not to proceed, the existing land-use of coniferous forestry plantation and pastoral agriculture would continue. Effects upon the archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage resource as a result of continued farming, are unlikely. It is possible that continuing commercial forestry activities may affect the archaeological resource in the future. The opportunity to harness the wind energy resource of County Kilkenny would be lost, as would the opportunity to contribute to meeting Government and EU targets for the production and consumption of electricity from renewable resources and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

There will no effects on the archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage resource if the proposed GCR or TDR do not go ahead.

#### **15.5.2 No Predicted Effects**

Following the application of the methodology described in 15.3, no predicted direct or indirect effects have been identified at the following receptors. These receptors are not directly impacted by the proposed infrastructure of the proposed project and the ZTV mapping indicates that the proposed turbines will not be visible from these sites.

- AH01, AH10, AH11, AH22, AH26, AH29, AH30, AH31, AH32, AH33, AH34, AH37, AH38, AH40, AH61, AH68, AH76, AH77, AH83, AH84, AH90, AH91, AH92, AH93, AH96, AH107, AH112, AH115, AH116
- BH27, BH29

- CH05, CH06, CH32, CH37.

### 15.5.3 Construction Phase

There are no archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage sites that are subject to statutory protection located within the proposed wind farm site, GCOs and TDR accommodation areas. As such, there are no predicted direct effects on any such sites within the footprint of the development that requires excavations and groundworks.

Three cultural heritage sites have been identified within the proposed wind farm site, comprising vernacular buildings (CH01), (CH36) and a lime kiln (CH35). CH01 is not located within areas required for construction as part of the proposed wind farm site and will not be subject to direct negative effects. All potential effects are detailed in Appendix 15-3.

The lime kiln (CH35) is located within the area of proposed hardstand to the south of Turbine 10. Construction activities will directly impact the structure. Effects, prior to mitigation, would be moderate.

The site of vernacular buildings (CH36) is located within areas of hardstand associated with Turbine 9. Ground disturbances would result in a direct, negative (permanent) effect on any buried remains associated with the structures. Prior to the application of mitigation this effect will be moderate.

Much of the proposed wind farm site has been disturbed by commercial forestry activities and the overall archaeological potential is considered low. It remains possible that some previously unknown archaeological sites and features may survive below the current ground level across the area, particularly in areas of pasture which have not been disturbed by commercial forestry (Turbines 10, 9, 5 and 6). Ground disturbances associated with the proposed project, such as the construction of access roads and excavations for turbines bases and borrow pits, have the potential to result in direct and negative (permanent) effects on any such remains that may be present. Prior to the application of mitigation these effects have the potential to range from moderate to very significant negative, depending on the sensitivity of any such archaeological features.

The construction of the proposed GCO One will involve the excavation of a trench through the ZoN for one group of recorded monuments: AH02 (a church, graveyard, mill and redundant record). Whilst the construction of the current road (L3418) through these areas, within which the cable will be laid, is likely to have impacted on the potential archaeological resource, it remains possible that excavation activities may have direct and negative (permanent) effects on currently unknown associated archaeological remains. Prior to the application of mitigation these effects have the potential to range from moderate to very significant negative, depending on the sensitivity of any such archaeological features.

The proposed GCO One passes through the location of two unnamed bridges (CH32 and CH37). The proposed GCO One will be carried beneath the bridges by Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD). The HDD method will avoid direct effects to bridges CH32 and CH37.

The proposed GCO One passes through c. 2.5 km of previously undisturbed greenfield. Ground disturbances associated with the excavation of the GCO One trench have the potential to result in direct and negative (permanent) effects on any currently unknown archaeological remains that may be present. Prior to the application of mitigation these effects have the potential to



range from moderate to very significant negative, sensitivity of any such archaeological features.

The construction of the proposed GCO will utilise trenchless techniques to carry the cable beneath any watercourses and as such no direct effects are predicted upon watercourse channels.

As described in 15.2, the proposed TDR will include accommodation works and oversail. The section of the TDR that follows the existing M9 road corridor (see Appendix 2-2 for full description) has been screened out of the assessment, as the M9 road corridor has been subject to previous archaeological investigation during the N9/N10 Waterford to Powerstown scheme. The section of the TDR that follows the R704 and L7498 is included in the assessment. It includes two areas of proposed groundworks (Locations 10 and 14) and six areas of proposed oversail (Locations 9–14), as described in the Swept Path Analysis report (Digital Land Surveyors 2025).

Groundworks are proposed at Location 10, within the ZoN of the site of a castle (AH43). There are no upstanding remains of the castle, although sub-surface remains of the building or related features may survive. Groundworks are also proposed at Location 14, at a small area of grass at where the L7498 meets the R704. Groundworks to accommodation works at all locations along the TDR may potentially have a direct and negative (permanent) effect on unknown archaeological remains that may survive beneath the current ground level. Effects have the potential to range from moderate to significant negative, depending on the sensitivity of any such archaeological features.

The areas of proposed oversail will not have direct effects to archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage receptors.

The proposed wind farm will result in seven direct, negative impacts (permanent) on townland boundaries that separate Ballyfasy Upper/Knockbrack, Bishopsmountain/Ballyfasy Upper, Ballyfasy Upper/Ballymartin, Ballymartin/Ballywairy and Ballyfasy Upper/Ballywairy. Direct impacts comprise groundworks at small sections of the townland boundaries, which will result in the removal of above-surface and potential sub-surface elements of the boundaries. However, given the small-scale nature of the impacts and retention of adjacent sections of the townland boundaries, the significance of effect is considered slight.

#### **15.5.4 Operational Phase**

All sites of archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage significance identified within the 2 km and 5 km study area of the proposed wind farm site are listed in Appendix 15-4. Each site has been assessed in conjunction with the Theoretical Zone of Visibility mapping (Tip Heights) and photomontages produced by the Landscape and Visual specialists in Chapter 13. In some instances, there are no predicted effects due to the fact the proposed turbines will not be visible from certain places in the surrounding landscape, due to the topography.

A number of indirect moderate negative effects (medium term) have been identified, but no significant (or higher) negative effects. The assessment of all sites within the relevant study areas is included in Appendix 15-4. Moderate indirect (medium term) effects are predicted in relation to CH01 (vernacular structures), CH35 (Lime kiln), AH19 (ringfort), AH45 (ringfort), AH52 (ringfort) and AH69 (megalithic).



No effects are predicted upon the archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage resource as a result of the operation of both of the proposed GCOs.

No effects are predicted upon the archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage resource as a result of the operation of the proposed works on the proposed TDR.

### **15.5.5 Decommissioning Phase**

As stated previously the wind turbines are expected to have a lifespan of 35 years. Following the end of their useful life, the wind turbines may be replaced with a new set of machines, subject to planning permission being obtained, or the site will be decommissioned fully, with the exception of the electricity substation, site roads, drainage and cables.

Upon decommissioning of the proposed wind farm site, the wind turbines will be disassembled in reverse order to how they were erected. All above ground turbine components will be separated, cut up to allow them fit on a standard articulated lorry and removed off-site for recycling.

Turbine foundations will remain in place underground and along with hardstands will be allowed to revegetate naturally. Leaving the turbine foundations and hardstands in-situ is considered a more environmentally prudent option, as to remove that volume of reinforced concrete and stone from the ground could result in potentially needless environment nuisances such as noise, dust and/or vibration. There would be no real environmental benefit from removing the foundations, as the concrete is underground, stable and inert if untouched. The site roadways will be in use for additional purposes to the operation of the wind farm (e.g. for forest/agricultural access) by the time the decommissioning of the project is to commence, and therefore it is more appropriate to leave the site roads in situ for future use.

The on-site substation and 110 kV grid connection will not be removed at the end of the useful life of the proposed wind farm project as it will form part of the national electricity network. Therefore, the substation will be retained as a permanent structure and will not be decommissioned.

The decommissioning of the proposed project will not have any negative effects on the archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage resource as no new ground disturbances will be introduced that may affect buried archaeological remains.

## **15.6 MITIGATION MEASURES**

### **15.6.1 Embedded Mitigation**

As part of early project design and constraints identification, all recorded and known archaeological and architectural features were identified. These features were purposefully avoided in the wind farm layout design development.

### **15.6.2 Construction Phase**

Prior to the commencement of construction, a programme of archaeological test trenching will be carried out at the greenfield locations of the proposed wind farm development and cable route. Additionally, the area required for accommodation works for the TDR within the ZoN of AH43 will be subject to archaeological testing, in advance of construction. This work will be carried out under licence to the National Monuments Service of the DHLGH. Dependent on the

results of the testing assessment, further mitigation will be implemented as required and agreed with the National Monuments Service.

Lime kiln (CH35) is located within the proposed hardstand for Turbine 10, and will be demolished during construction of the proposed project. The lime kiln will be subject to a detailed photographic and written record prior to the construction of the proposed project, carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist.

All stripping of topsoil across the proposed project, including excavations as part of the proposed GCO One within the ZoN of AH02 (church, graveyard, mill, redundant record), the c. 2.5 km section of greenfield included in GCO One, accommodation works along the proposed TDR and townland boundary crossings will be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist.

Should any features of archaeological potential be discovered during the course of the works further mitigation will be implemented as required and agreed with the National Monuments Service.

### **15.6.3 Operational Phase**

As detailed in Appendix 15-4, potential indirect effects have been identified upon the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage resource within the study area of the proposed project, although none are deemed to be significant negative or higher. Due to the constructed form of the proposed turbines, it is not possible to mitigate indirect effects on the setting of archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage sites.

### **15.6.4 Decommissioning Phase**

No mitigation is required for the decommissioning phase, as no effects are predicted.

## **15.7 RESIDUAL EFFECTS**

Following the implementation of the above construction mitigation measures, there will be no significant residual effects on the previously unrecorded archaeological resource. This is due to the fact that any archaeological remains that are encountered during the course of monitoring or test trenching will be subject to preservation by record or preservation in-situ. Residual effects will remain with regards to the setting of archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage sites, due to the fact that the effect on the setting of the sites cannot be mitigated, but these effects will not be significant or permanent.

## **15.8 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS**

With regards to the proposed project, the assessment is required regarding the potential cumulative effect that may arise from permitted developments within the study area of the proposed wind farm site, GCOs and TDR and how the construction and operation of this infrastructure (in combination with the proposed project) may cumulatively impact upon archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage sites.

Within 20 km of the proposed project there is one consented wind farm and one active wind farm application.

Castlebanny Wind Farm is a consented wind farm (21 turbines), located c. 1.8 km to the north-northwest of the proposed project, with the nearest turbine c. 3.6 km to the northwest (Planning

Ref. ABP-309306). No cumulative impacts have been identified upon the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage resource that are greater than impacts already predicted as part of each development individually.

An application for a single wind turbine at Dawn Pork and Bacon, c. 11 km to the south-southwest of the proposed project, is currently active. No cumulative impacts have been identified upon the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage resource that are greater than impacts already predicted as part of each development individually.

No other proposed developments have been identified within the study area of the proposed wind farm site, TDR or GCOs that will result in cumulative effects on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage resource. This is due to the fact that if any archaeological remains are identified during the construction of the wind farm, TDR and GCOs, they will be preserved either by record or in-situ.

## 15.9 CONCLUSION

In summary, following the application of mitigation measures there will be no significant residual effects on the previously unrecorded archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage resource as a result of the construction proposed project. This is due to the fact that any remains that are encountered during the course of monitoring or test trenching will be subject to preservation by record or preservation in-situ.

Residual effects will remain with regards to the setting of archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage sites, due to the fact that the effects on the setting of the sites cannot be mitigated. These effects will not be significant or permanent, and will be removed following the decommissioning of the turbines.

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